



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

10. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
5B	Coal leasing on public land	By 7/23, BLM May 26, Knoxville hearing	"Public land should benefit public, not coal industry!" Attend hearing
5C	Methane emissions	EPA Admin. McCarthy	"Thanks for standards for new facilities. Add existing ones!"
5F	Carbon pollution from aviation	Sec. of State, Kerry	"Urge UN to cap carbon emissions at 2020 levels!"
8E	Participating in TCWP activities	Sandra Goss	Pick activities from ¶6A and participate.

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
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The Hon. John Doe
U.S. House of Representatives
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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
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Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3398
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Rep. Chuck Fleischmann:
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<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.

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

1. OBED; BIG SOUTH FORK; THE CUMBERLANDS

1A. *Progress on Obed land acquisitions*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Some privately owned properties in the Obed Wild and Scenic River have been identified for purchase. This was made possible by last year's Department of Interior appropriation, funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, that designated \$1.2 million for Obed WSR land acquisition (NL325 ¶1A).

Several steps are involved in such purchases. Niki Nicholas, Obed Superintendent, reports that the process has progressed to the regional level. It is our experience that the NPS Regional office is responsible for surveys, assessments, appraisals, and other paperwork.

1B. *Mountain Laurel Festival draws attention to the beauties of the Cumberlands. Hike May 21.*

[Contributed by Marta Monroe and Jimmy Groton]

Sponsored by the Morgan County Tourism Alliance, the Tennessee Mountain Laurel Festival will hold a celebration at the Courthouse Square in Wartburg on May 21, 10-4 Eastern Time. Festival events include live music segments, a large variety of food choices offered by six food vendors, sixty vendor spaces offering their arts and crafts for sale, a quilt show, a Kidzone Area with games and outdoor-skill lessons, and much else. There'll be horse-and-buggy rides, and, for outdoor enthusiasts, a bird walk and guided trail walks.

In an effort to get people to experience the natural beauty of our region for themselves the Mountain Laurel Festival has identified nine Designated Mountain Laurel Walking Trails at various parks and natural areas in Morgan, Pickett, and Scott Counties. These trails are mostly rated easy to moderate difficulty but include a few rated difficult. They are located at the Big South Fork NRRRA, the Obed WSR, Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail, Frozen Head State Park, Pickett State Park, and Rugby State Natural Area.

The festival also includes the Tennessee Mountain Laurel Hiking Marathon which is intended to bring people back to the parks during the most beautiful part of the Spring wildflower season (April 22 to May 21) – mostly past, alas, by the time you read this. The Hiking Marathon is not a foot race, but instead includes 12 trails covering a total distance of 26.97 miles in Colditz Cove State Natural Area, Pogue Creek State Natural Area, Lone Mountain State Forest, the Big South Fork and Obed Rivers, and Frozen Head, and Pickett State Parks.

Celebrate the Festival with a Healthy Hike on Saturday, May 21st. Meet at Nemo Picnic Area at 10 am (ET) for a ranger-led 2.6 mile hike along the Nemo to Wartburg section of the Cumberland Trail. This moderate to strenuous hike follows the Emory River and participants will enjoy the beautiful white & pink floral clusters of blooming Mountain Laurel along the trail.

For more information, check the links at: <http://www.tennesseeemountainlaurelfestival.com/>

1C. *Obed WSR and BSFNRRRA participate in Parks In Focus project*

Starting this summer, the Obed WSR and BSFNRRRA will be partnering with the Udall Foundation (www.udall.gov) on the Parks in Focus Project. This new project is designed to connect middle-school youth to the outdoors through photography, environmental education, and creative expression.

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. *What the Tennessee legislature did*

[Based on information from TCV]

The Tennessee Legislature adjourned April 22, after a session that TCV (Tennessee Conservation Voters) describes as making it “clear that we have a long way to go with a General Assembly that, for the most part, is simply not speaking our language when it comes to environmental matters.” The following short report summarizes a couple of really bad bills that passed, a bad bill that didn't make it, and a good one that did.

SB.2389(Bell)/HB.2068(Daniel), while not *specifically* anti-environmental, was one of the potentially most harmful pieces of legislation passed. It makes it more difficult to promulgate rules and regulations and makes clear that the Legislature has absolute authority to reject any rule that a majority of lawmakers wants to overturn. These could very well be rules to protect the environment. Under the bill passed, a government agency does not have authority and must establish that the rule is necessary through “convincing” evidence. This is an unprecedented revision to the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, a model law that has been adopted to govern administrative operations in all states. SB.2389/HB.2068 passed by huge majorities in both Houses and was signed by Gov. Haslam.

SB.1830/HB.1892, the Storm-water Run-off bill (NL326 ¶2A) is a good example of legislation (as enacted by HB.2068, above) that circumvents regulatory oversight. It says state standards on storm water runoff can be no stricter than federal standards, and otherwise puts restrictions on what TDEC and local governments can and cannot do with their rules. One impact is elimination of the so-called “1-inch rule,” which mandates that the permit applicant assure that up to 1 inch of rainfall be absorbed within the development property without any runoff. The bill passed 31-0 in the Senate, and 71-18 in the House. It became law without Gov. Haslam's signature.

SB.842(Yager)/HB.833(Powers), the Primacy and Reclamation Act of Tennessee did not pass. Tennessee would have “assume(d) primacy over the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations.” With the state (which has very limited funds), instead of the

feds, regulating surface mining, enforcement would have suffered greatly. In mid-April, the bill was taken off notice in both the Senate and House Finance Committees.

SB.2520(Yager)/HB.2566(Travis), designates a portion of Soak Creek beginning in Bledsoe County (at its confluence with Georgia Branch) and ending in Rhea County as a Class-III scenic river.

2B. *State land-acquisition funds suffer (hopefully, temporary) setback*

[Contributed by Stewart Clifton]

Late session changes occurred that impact real-estate transfer-tax dollars -- dedicated funds for land acquisition, wetlands, etc. The adopted budget, and changes to the Tennessee Code, now provide that some of these funds are to be distributed annually for historical site acquisition and maintenance. The remainder is to be allocated as originally specified in the Tennessee Code. Advocates have already spoken with the sponsors of this effort, who are also quite supportive of funding for land acquisition, wetlands, agricultural conservation and local parks, the traditional beneficiaries of the dedicated funds. They have pledged to help us increase dedicated funds for these traditional purposes.

2C. *Tennessee Wilderness Act update*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The bill that would designate wilderness areas in the Cherokee National Forest has repeatedly been introduced in the Senate by both Tennessee senators, but only recently in the House by Rep. Roe (1-R). The House bill (HR.4545) includes only the two proposed wilderness areas in the *northern* portion of the Cherokee NF, which lie in Rep. Roe's 1st Congressional District.

Speaking at a recent meeting of the Watauga group of the Sierra Club, Tennessee Wild Coalition Coordinator Laura Hodge said there was lots of great support there. Other efforts to solidify support for HR.4545 include expanding the network of supporters in his district and editing outreach materials to reflect the introduction of the bill in the House.

In Congressman's Fleischmann's 3rd District, there will soon be an organizer working to further public support for including in HR.4545 the proposed four special areas in the South Cherokee National Forest in. To date, Congressman Fleischmann has not sponsored or supported such designations.

2D. *Another protected area for the North Cherokee NF*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Thanks to The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund, the undeveloped 488 acres of the former Buffalo Mountain Camp and Retreat Center near Johnson City are now protected from wildlife destruction. A portion of the property ranks high as forest habitat in the Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan.

The long-range plan for the property is to transfer it to the US Forest Service for inclusion in the Cherokee National Forest. The Forest Service will nominate the property to be purchased with LWCF appropriations.

2E. *The Nature Conservancy has new state director for Tennessee*

In November, Gina Hancock, TNC's Tennessee director, was promoted to conservation-strategies director for The Nature Conservancy's global lands program (NL324 ¶2B). The vacancy has now been filled by the appointment of Terry Cook, who most recently served as TNC's northeast regional director. Prior to that, Cook worked for TNC as staff ecologist, regional director of science, and Kentucky state director.

In the four decades since its establishment, the TNC's Tennessee chapter has created or expanded 29 state natural areas, 12 state wildlife management areas, and two national wildlife refuges. The chapter's Tennessee projects include Savage Gulf, the Walls of Jericho, Roan Mountain, Doe Mountain, the Tennessee River Gorge, Pogue Creek, Canyon, the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and a number of important preserves created from land donations or purchases. A major achievement was the collaborative effort with the Bredesen Administration that resulted in the 130,000-acre *Connecting the Cumberlands* project.

Cook has described Tennessee as "a special place, with a deep-seated conservation ethic and tradition."

2F. *TDEC conducting Stream Restoration Site Survey*

The Tenn. Department of Environment & Conservation is seeking assistance in identifying potential stream-restoration projects. The agency is asking citizens to report streams where banks are eroding, or that have been channelized, or denuded of trees.

To this end, TDEC has created a short questionnaire on the following website: <http://tdec.maps.arcgis.com/apps/GeoForm/index.html?appid=b6f46c9317e54962aa20a7dffee3cc74>. It is hoped that information gained by this route will lead to substantial stream restoration.

3. TVA News

3A. *TVA Board addresses floating houses policy*

[Contributed by Warren Webb]

In its May 5 meeting, the TVA Board of Directors approved a Floating Houses (FHs) Policy based on the preferred alternative (Alternative B2) in its February 2016 Final EIS (<http://www.tva.gov/floatinghouses>). Under that alternative, TVA would prohibit new FHs and would approve existing FHs that meet new minimum safety and environmental standards and allow

mooring within permitted marina harbor limits. The updated regulations would contain a sunset date by which time all FHs must be removed from TVA reservoirs. In the FEIS, the sunset date was 20 years, a time frame that TCWP endorsed in its comments on the draft EIS.

After hearing considerable opposition from floating-house owners and marina operators, the TVA Board changed the phase-out period to 30 years. Nonetheless, it appears that even this longer period is unlikely to satisfy FH owners and marina operators, and continuing opposition can be expected.

Why is a new policy needed? TVA statistics indicate that approximately 1,800 of these non-navigable structures are on TVA reservoirs. More than 50% of these do not have permits and do not meet the minimum safety and environmental standards. The presence of FHs entails negative impacts to public health and safety, water quality, scenic values, and recreational use. Moreover, the number of FHs is expected to increase dramatically in coming years. There are already proposals for subdivision-scale FH developments on some TVA reservoirs.

In an email, TVA spokeswoman Rebecca Tolene issued the following statement: “We look forward to working with marinas, floating house owners, and the general public to implement TVA’s policy on Floating Houses. Our goal is to continue creating better access to the reservoirs and facilitating more recreational opportunities for all, while slowly moving the habitation back to the shoreline on private property. It took a while to get to this point and it will take a several decades to completely resolve the situation. The sunset date was the most difficult part of the policy, but a necessary part to stop the current trend and get to where we want to be in the future. In the end, TVA’s goal is to be better stewards of the public lands and waters that we help manage.” TCWP will keep members informed.

3B. *TVA’s energy mix and renewable-energy generation*

The current average mix of energy resources TVA has generated or purchased is as follows:

- 32% coal
- 33% nuclear
- 14% natural gas
- 11% hydroelectric
- 10% other (renewables)

In 2015, TVA generated the following amounts of renewable energy

- 102,383 MWh solar power
- 45,339 MWh wind
- 56,071 MWh biogas

The average home in the Tennessee Valley uses 1200 kWh per month

4. OUR PUBLIC LANDS

4A. *National Park Service Centennial*

Although national parks existed for more than four decades before then, the National Park Service was not created until August 1916. The centennial is being celebrated in various ways this year. Below, we report on a few of these, mostly local.

Smokies Centennial Challenge. Earlier this year, GSMNP Superintendent Cassius Cash announced the *Hike 100* Program. The goal is to hike 100 miles of Park trails in 2016, the centennial year. (Visit www.SmokyMountains.org for more information.)

Exhibit of National Park Service units at Knoxville (McGhee Tyson) Airport. A photographic exhibit of nine NPS units in this area was opened April 21 by Cassius Cash, superintendent of the Gt. Smoky Mtns National Park, and other dignitaries. Included are the GSMNP, BSFNRRRA, Obed WSR, Cumberland Gap NHP, Manhattan Project NHP, and four NPS sites in Tennessee that commemorate military or other historical events.

A National Parks Gallery at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center. opened on May 9, will display artifacts from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, BSFNRRRA, Obed WSR, Cumberland Gap NHP, and Andrew Johnson National Historic Site.

The Collections Preservation Center, the Heritage Center’s new neighbor, opened May 6. This building will house artifacts from the GSMNP, BSFNRRRA, Obed WSR, Cumberland Gap NHP, and Andrew Johnson National Historic Site. The climate-controlled building is a big improvement over the previous scattered collection sites. The curator is John McDade, and the archivist is Mike Aday.

National Park Adventure, a new Imax film, is a megascreen tour of our most iconic national parks, some 30 altogether, narrated by Robert Redford, who reminds us that “our country’s greatest natural wonders belong to no one – they belong to all.” Aside from omitting adequate documentation of how some of the areas were devastated in the past (e.g., by logging), and could again be (e.g., by global warming), the film is an inspirational celebration of the parks and their mission. (Check nationalparksadventure.com/theatres for screenings in your area.)

4B. *New and proposed National Monuments*

Following Pres. Obama’s designation in February of three National Monuments totaling 1.5 million acres of fragile and spectacular natural lands in the California Desert (NL326 ¶4A), the latest designation under the Antiquities was a historical one. In April, it established the Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument in Washington, D.C., just steps away from the U.S. Capitol Building and National Mall. This historic site was the headquarters for the National Woman’s Party,

founded by Alice Paul in 1916, to fight for women's equality, including the right to vote.

Numerous additional national Monument designations have been proposed. Among them are the following:

- The 12 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or at least its 1.4 million-acre Coastal Plain. Thanks to the 2015 action by the Obama Administration, all of ANWR is currently managed as a Wilderness-Study Area (NL320 ¶7B), and recently, for the first time ever, Congress voted on legislation to designate the Coastal Plain as Wilderness (NL326 ¶4C). Though the measure predictably failed, it was notable for numbering 9 Republicans among the yes votes. National monument designation would at last end the constant industry pressure for oil exploration destructive of the continent's richest haven for wildlife.
- Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument
The land surrounding America's most spectacular landscape -- the Grand Canyon -- ranges from desert grasslands to lush, coniferous forest. The region encompasses a wild, rugged array of towering cliffs, deeply incised tributary canyons, and numerous springs that flow into Grand Canyon National Park's Colorado River. In addition, the area hosts sacred sites and other lands of great significance to the region's indigenous people. Unfortunately, ill-conceived uranium mining and logging threaten this region.

4C. *A "red herring" used by enemies of public lands*

A battle cry of those who fight against federal public lands -- much repeated by the media -- is: "Take them back and return them to the states." The inconvenient fact is that the states never owned these lands in the first place. With few exceptions, America's public domain has always been in public ownership, held in trust by the federal government for all American citizens, no matter where they live. [*Wilderness Watcher*, Spring]

5. ENERGY; CLIMATE CHANGE

5A. *Clean Power Plan (CPP) – the next steps*

Implementation of Pres. Obama's Clean Power Plan (which limits carbon pollution from power plants) was put on hold when the Supreme Court in an unprecedented hasty action just four days before Justice Scalia's death overruled a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. On January 21 that court had unanimously *denied* motions to stay the CPP (NL326 ¶6A), motions filed by coal-industry allies and the attorney generals of 27 states (not including Tennessee). While the Supreme Court decision does not address the CPP's merits, it does affect its implementation since EPA can-

not enforce the rule until the litigation against it is finished.

Oral arguments in the case will be heard on June 2. Experts widely consider the CPP's merits to rest on a solid legal foundation. Big Coal will be pulling out all the stops to kill the CPP. A coalition of 54 cities, counties, and mayors have filed an *amicus* ("friend of the court") brief to *support* the CPP. We can be proud that Knoxville is among them. An additional six major municipalities have filed as intervenors in support of the CPP. Of the 60 cities, 27 are actually located in states with Attorneys General who are challenging the CPP in court.

5B. *A chance to change the future of federal coal leasing*

[Includes information from Bonnie Swinford, Sierra Club, and from *The New Yorker*, 12/7/15]

About 40% of all coal produced in the United States comes from public, taxpayer-owned land, most of it in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana, which is responsible for 13% of America's energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Coal companies can effectively pick out themselves what tracts they want to lease, and about 90% of the leases have just one bidder. With leasing prices thus held down, the coal industry effectively receives a subsidy of almost \$3 billion a year.

The federal coal-leasing program also does not consider the *social* costs of burning coal (air pollution, climate change, etc.); and while the US demand for coal is declining, the companies are shipping coal to China and India, so the GHG emissions continue.

Now there is hope that all this may change, thanks to a moratorium the Obama Administration has placed on federal coal leasing in order to study its various impacts (NL325 ¶5). (The moratorium does not affect leases that have been approved in the past; at least another 20 years of coal production could be achieved through such existing leases.)

BLM has prepared a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) of the Federal Coal Leasing Program and has solicited comments. Six public hearings are being held, including one in Knoxville (see action box). We hope you can add your voice to the phasing out of coal leasing on public land.

- Taxpayer-owned land should be used to benefit the public instead of subsidizing an activity that is so significantly adding to pollution and climate change.
- The social cost of carbon should be incorporated into the royalty rate that companies pay for right to mine taxpayer-owned coal.
- Underpriced federal coal prolongs the life of coal plants and crowds out clean energy.
- Transitioning to a clean-energy economy should entail protecting miners' livelihoods and replacing any lost tax revenues to aid coal communities.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: By July 23, 2016, send comments on BLM's Programmatic EIS to BLM_WO_Coal_Program_PEIS_Comments@blm.gov. Or, attend the Knoxville hearing, May 26, 10 AM - 4 PM, Tennessee Theater (604 S. Gay St.). At noon, there'll be a rally/press event, followed by lunch provided at the East TN History Center. For further information, contact Bonnie Swinford at bswinford1@yahoo.com, or 865 755-0095.

5C. *The urgency for reducing methane emissions. EPA gets partway there.*

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, 84 times more potent than carbon pollution in its first 20 years in the atmosphere, and responsible for 25% of the climate change we're experiencing today. On May 12, EPA announced final regulations for methane emissions from new and modified oil and gas facilities, for which it deserves our thanks.

Still to come are rules for existing facilities, the biggest part of the problem. According to EPA, writing rules for existing wells will take a long time. The agency is asking drillers to provide regulators with technical and cost information about how to cut down on methane leaks. That information-gathering process will take place this fall, and Administrator McCarthy has said the agency won't have a final rule done until next year, after President Obama has left office. Environmental groups have urged that regulation clearly require that all oil and gas companies *monitor* their facilities for dangerous methane leaks. At least on a quarterly basis, operators should be required to find and fix such leaks.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank EPA Administrator McCarthy (see Political Guide for address) for finalizing important methane standards for new and modified oil & gas facilities, and urge her to require operators of existing facilities as well to frequently search for and fix methane leaks.

5D. *The Paris Agreement is signed*

[Based on information from EDF]

On April 22, more than 130 developed and developing nations, including the USA, honored Earth Day by signing the Paris Agreement, a global commitment of almost 200 nations to stop climate change. This is the largest number of countries to formally sign an international agreement in a single day. States that did not sign on April 22 still retain the ability to join the Agreement later.

The USA does not need Senate action to join. Presidents from Washington onward — including Ronald Reagan, who did it 14 times in his second term — concluded agreements like this as “executive agreements,” based on existing executive authorities. These executive agreements have the same binding force domestically as any other international treaty or agreement the U.S. joins.

The Agreement will enter into force 30 days after at least 55 countries representing at least 55% of global GHG emissions have ratified it. (Note: U.S. and China together represent almost 38% of the world's emissions). The Paris Agreement is likely to enter into force well before 2020, and possibly by 2017. Every five years after the Agreement takes force, all signatories must submit new commitments and take part in a global stocktaking.

Many of the countries that participated in the New York signing ceremony are taking important steps to protect their forests, under an agreed international framework for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+).

5E. *The Energy Policy Modernization Act, a mixed bag*

On April 20, the US Senate passed S.2012 with bipartisan support in committee (where it passed overwhelmingly, 18-4), though with significant opposition. The bill, which is co-sponsored by the Republican chairwoman of the Energy Committee, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), and the ranking Democrat on the committee, Sen. Maria Cantwell (Washington), now goes to the House.

The *New York Times* wrote: “It is chiefly focused on modernizing energy infrastructure and improving energy efficiency. It does not include language to drastically increase fossil fuel production, as most Republicans would like, nor does it boldly address climate change, as most Democrats want.” The bill would create or improve several programs designed to increase energy efficiency in buildings, require significant upgrades to the electrical grid including large-scale storage systems for electricity, and provide subsidies for hydropower and geothermal.

Several environmental groups have gone on record opposing the bill. It would accelerate approval of permits to build coastal terminals for shipping liquefied natural gas abroad, and would further the development of fossil fuel extraction by expediting review of new mining permits, of oil and gas permitting and drilling, and of the approval of rights-of-way for natural gas pipelines through public lands. The bill's section on energy efficiency in buildings would actually roll back some existing efficiency standards.

The bill does contain some sweeteners. The most prominent one is: permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, although at only half the present level. It also establishes a National Park Centennial Challenge Fund for matching private donations.

5F. *Aviation emissions, a major source of atmospheric carbon*

[Based on information from EDF]

Aviation is among the top carbon polluters. Presently, the industry's climate impact is unchecked, and if nothing is done, emissions will triple by 2050. International aviation was not covered in the Paris Agreement,

but the UN’s aviation arm, scheduled to meet in October, is working on a deal that would limit emissions. A cap on aviation at 2020 levels could achieve 8 billion tons of emissions reductions in the next two decades – reductions that would otherwise not be obtained under the Paris Agreement. In addition to setting such a 2020 cap, the agreement should also launch a process to periodically review the emissions cap, so that over time, international aviation can ratchet its emissions down in line with the Paris targets of limiting the increase in global temperatures to 1.5° Celsius.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge Sec. of State John Kerry to work for an agreement that will accomplish the above purposes.
[\[https://register.state.gov/contactus/contactus/form\]](https://register.state.gov/contactus/contactus/form)

6. TCWP NEWS

6A. *Upcoming activities*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

[NOTE: Times listed for all events are Eastern Time, unless specified otherwise.]

Hike on New Section of Cumberland Trail (Crab Orchard exit, Daddy’s Creek) – Saturday, May 21

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

This is a TCWP/Tennessee Native Plant Society joint outing. This portion of the Cumberland Trail was built just last fall, so this will be its first spring botanizing event. We will see headwater wetlands and Daddy’s Creek with its cobble bars. Total walking distance will be about 5 miles, but some may choose to walk less.

Participants can meet for carpooling in the Gold’s Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita’s) at 9 a.m., or meet at the BP station at I-40 Crab Orchard exit 329 east of Crossville at 10 a.m. We will caravan from Crab Orchard to the trailhead.

For more information, contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 (cell, best bet), 865-816-3576 (home), or via email at PoundsL471@aol.com.

National Trails Day Workday on North Ridge Trail – Saturday, June 4

North Ridge Trail Stewards Ray and JoAnn Garrett are asking Trail-segment adopters to work on their respective sections on June 4. Each trail adopter should proceed directly to his or her trail segment, complete the work, and then proceed to the Garretts’ home at 101 Windham (just off West Outer Drive) in Oak Ridge for a pizza-and-beer lunch between 12:15 and 12:30. Any segment adopters who have already completed their trail work prior to June 4 can come just for the lunch.

Trail maintainers should wear protective clothing (against poison ivy), sun block, and bug spray. Clippers and loppers are useful implements to bring, along with water. For more information, contact Ray at 865-483-4466 or via email at garrett.ray1@att.net.

Additionally, a trail adopter is moving away and a section toward the west is available for adoption. Fans and potential section adopters are invited to the luncheon. Please rsvp to Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or 865.583-3967.

Summer Solstice Evening Hike on Cumberland Trail – Friday, June 17

The Summer Solstice will occur on Monday, June 20, but TCWP will help folks get in the mood early by sponsoring a Summer Solstice Outing on the Alley Ford section of the Cumberland Trail on Friday evening, June 17. We’ll walk a distance of 2.5 miles roundtrip, with one short uphill, then mostly level trail with a few ups and downs. Participants should bring a supper snack and something to sit on while eating; if it’s a nice evening we’ll relax at the overlook and enjoy the view of the Obed and Emory rivers. We’ll also walk out on Nemo bridge and enjoy the river for a while. The nearly-full moon should be up by the time we begin walking. Sunset on June 17 will be at 8:55 p.m.

Participants can meet for carpooling in the Gold’s Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita’s) at 5:30 p.m., or meet at the or Nemo parking area at 6:15. The hike will last about two hours; we expect to be back in Oak Ridge no later than 9:30.

“Kids in the Creek” Outing on the Emory River -- Saturday, June 25

Looking for a fun and educational summertime activity for the kids? On June 25 TCWP, TVA, TWRA and the Emory River Watershed Association will co-sponsor a “Kids in the Creek” outing at Reister Access on the Emory River, open to all kids who are rising third-graders or older. The event will start at 10 a.m. with a welcome and safety talk, followed by two breakout sessions on fish and insects, and will conclude between noon and 12:30.

Children must be accompanied by adults at all times; no unaccompanied minors will be permitted. Adults must be prepared to sign liability waivers on behalf of children. Participants should be prepared to get wet, and should wear shoes that are river-ready. Snacks are advisable, along with dry clothes, sunscreen, and bug spray.

Pre-registration is required for this event by Friday, June 17; to pre-register, contract TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or at 865-583-3967.

Creek Exploration Outing at Fall Creek Falls State Park -- Saturday, July 23

Join Randy Hedgepath, the State Naturalist for Tennessee State Parks, on July 23 for an adventure at Fall Creek Falls State Park. We will meet at the park Inn and carpool to the Piney Falls area. Randy says, "The plan is to hike out the Lower Cane Creek Loop Trail for about a half-mile and learn about the forest of this part of the Cumberland Plateau. Then the real adventure begins.

"We will not cross the suspension bridge, but go down under and explore the streambed down to the top of the falls. The forest along the stream is very different from that on the plateau top. There will be lots of chances to cool off in the stream, lots of scenic bluffs, and a dramatic view into the gorge. The return trip will backtrack to the bridge and out to the vehicles."

The two- to three-hour outing is rated moderate, involving short stretches of steep and rocky terrain.

Participants can meet for carpooling 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 a.m. EDT; meet at Common Ground, 405 Fourth St, Crossville, at 8:05 a.m. CDT; or meet in the lobby of the park inn by 9 a.m. CDT.

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.

6B. *Recent events*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

Garlic mustard pull/wildflower walk – Saturday, April 9

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

About 15 folks gathered on a chilly April morning at the Oak Ridge Wildflower Greenway. Led by Greenway Steward Roger Macklin and well-known naturalist Kris Harris Light, participants were treated to a profusion of wildflowers, including a breathtaking hillside display of dwarf larkspur (this writer's favorite!). The Greenway featured a spring brook gurgling over rocks, with sunlight shining through old trees on the hillsides. There were fiddlehead ferns, moss spore capsules in abundance, trillium, foamflowers, phlox, and celandine poppy.

The biennial garlic mustard is evidently undergoing an off year, with very few plants to pull. In recent years TCWP and Greenways Oak Ridge have been making some headway in ridding the Wildflower Greenway of this invasive exotic plant.

Information Program on Invasive Exotic Pests -- May 5

A crowd of nearly 50 showed up to hear Dr. Scott Schlarbaum, director of the University of Tennessee's Tree Improvement Program, speak on "Tennessee Wilderness Planning: What Is Really Being Protected?" The program, cosponsored by TCWP and the UT Arboretum

Society, was held in the new auditorium at the Arboretum.

Dr. Schlarbaum discussed the threat to Tennessee's forest ecosystems from biological pollution, which has been going on for many years—most recently involving things like the hemlock woolly adelgid, emerald ash borer, and dogwood anthracnose, plus nonnative invasive plants such as tree-of-heaven and stiltgrass. The cumulative effect is that Tennessee ecosystems are being transformed. Dr. Schlarbaum said the situation is analogous to the decimation of Native American populations when the Europeans brought infectious diseases to the New World. He discussed potential solutions, including prevention techniques, eradication and control, and restoration of impacted species to the landscape.

Protection of the land base is a first step, Dr. Schlarbaum said, but its ultimate protection isn't ensured without planning and further investment. He feels the best hope for the future, in addition to a political champion who would promote a balanced environmental policy, would be the integration of biological pollution topics into the K-12 curriculum.

6C. *TCWP has new mailing address*

Thanks to a diligent effort by Sandra, TCWP now has a Post Office Box for receiving mail. The new address is:

TCWP
P.O. Box 6873
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

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



From Sandra Goss

- Jean Bangham, John Bates, Bob Compton, Katherine Hensley, Eileen Neiler, Lise Neiler, Dick Raridon, Marti Salk, and Michele Thornton for TCWP Newsletter 326 assembly.
- Jimmy Groton for rendering the newsletter website-ready and e-mail-ready.
- Francis Perey for his excellent website work.
- Michele Thornton for her leadership on updating TCWP's website.
- Carol Grametbauer (chair), Jimmy Groton, Mark Bevelhimer, and Tim Bigelow for their work on staff evaluation and goals.
- Wildflower Greenway Steward Roger Macklin and well-known naturalist Kris Harris Light for their leadership for the Wildflower Walk/Garlic Mustard Pull.
- Jimmy Groton for his leadership on the Potters Falls Cleanup and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop.

- Obed WSR staff, Emory River Watershed Association, and Tennessee Division of Forestry for their help with the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop.
- Carol Grametbauer for her leadership of the TCWP Program Committee, and her service as Secretary of TCWP.
- Jimmy Groton, Reed Gryder, Jan Lyons, and Warren Webb for their help with staffing the TCWP exhibit at Oak Ridge Earth Day.
- Joe Feeman for suggesting and making arrangements for Scott Schlarbaum's informational presentation.
- Janet Bigelow, Marti Salk, and Kevin Hoyt for leading Friends of the Arboretum co-sponsorship of Scott Schlarbaum's presentation, especially the use of the Arboretum's beautiful new building.
- Tim Bigelow for his service as TCWP Treasurer, especially the recently completed 1099 return.

6E. *Friends and Members in the news*

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- Obed Wild and Scenic River's "Climb with a Ranger" program was featured in a March 10 *Knoxville Mercury* article that mentioned rangers Noel Mays and Thomas Hall.
- An Easter photo of Janet Bigelow and her sister in the early '50's appeared in the March 24 *News Sentinel*.
- Jeff Hunter's essay about the Tennessee Wilderness Act appeared in the March 26 *News Sentinel*.
- Carl Porter wrote a letter to the editor of the April 3 *News Sentinel* about the James White Parkway.
- TCWP's late Treasurer Charlie Klabunde was mentioned in an April *Blue Ridge Mountains* article about fellow off-trail hiker Jenny Bennett.
- Jimmy Groton's letter to the *News Sentinel* editor about the Tennessee Wilderness Act was published on April 7, 2016.
- Joe Feeman wrote articles about traveling to Hawaii in the March 30 and April 13 issues of the *Norris Bulletin*.
- Chuck Estes led a bird walk at Frozen Head State Park on May 1, according to an announcement in the April 6 *Norris Bulletin*.
- Donna Kridelbaugh authored an article in the March *Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education*, "The Use of Online Citizen-Science Projects to Provide Experiential Learning Opportunities for Nonmajor Science Students."
- Jan Lyons authored an article, "Using Good Bugs to Combat Bad Bugs in the Garden" in the April *Visions Magazine*.

- Don Safer and Sara Barczak co-authored an article about TVA's proposed small modular nuclear reactor on the Clinch River that appeared in the May 1 *News Sentinel*.
- Cumberland Trail State Park Manager Bobby Fulcher received the *Daughters of the American Revolution's* Historical Preservation Medal, as reported in the April 29 *News Sentinel*.
- Don Barger was mentioned in both the April 15 *News Sentinel* and the April 20 *Norris Bulletin* for his inclusion in the List of 100 Most Influential People in the History of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park by *Smokies Life Magazine*.

6F. *Executive Director's Column*

[By Sandra Goss]

Basics of TCWP Advocacy Work.

We're in the middle of a lovely, albeit warmish, spring, with the attendant opportunities and challenges of Mother Nature: wildflowers by the billions to see in our beautiful corner of the world; invasive plants by the millions, or at least hundreds of thousands that need to be removed for the sake of our native plant species. There are also plans to be made and executed, issues to research, and a nice summer to enjoy.

The needs of our natural world are many and diverse, and TCWP must focus efforts on issues pertaining to Obed Wild and Scenic River; Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area; other natural lands and waters in need of and worthy of protection; clean air; pure water; and adequate habitat for all creatures. We want to be advocates for the areas and topics that we know, or that have no other voice to speak for them. Collaboration with sister groups is not only welcomed; it is a key factor in success.

Parks, natural areas, scenic rivers, drinkable water, and breathable air didn't just happen because an elected official decided that it might be a good idea. NO! Our parks, our Clean Water Act, our Clean Air Act, all started with citizens, citizens like you and me. I thank each of you for your support for the work of TCWP. Thanks for your involvement in these important issues and efforts.

Please continue to read our newsletter and e-lets and reach out to officialdom with your concerns. Working together we have attained wonderful things, and in the same fashion we can further our natural lands and waters protection.

Please direct your attention to Carol Grametbauer's section of this Newsletter (Upcoming Activities). We've got a host of exciting outings over the next several weeks, something to appeal to every taste. Thanks for your participation, your e-mails and calls, and for your efforts for the environment.

Sandra

7. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

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

- May 21, Hike on New Section of Cumberland Trail (see ¶6A, this NL).
- May 21, Wartburg, Mountain Laurel Festival (see ¶1B, this NL).
- May 21, Hike, Nemo-to-Wartburg section of Cumberland Trail (see ¶1B, this NL).
- May 26, Knoxville, hearing on coal-leasing program (see ¶5B, this NL).
- June 4, National Trails Day Workday on North Ridge Trail (see ¶6A, this NL).
- June 17, Summer Solstice Evening Hike on Cumberland Trail (see ¶6A, this NL).
- June 25, "Kids in the Creek" Outing on the Emory River (see ¶6A, this NL).
- July 23, Creek Exploration Outing at Fall Creek Falls State Park (see ¶6A, this NL)
- July 23, comment deadline for coal-leasing program (see ¶5B, this NL)

•• RESOURCES

- A long-term TCWP Board member (Larry Pounds) and his "adult millennial" son (Ben) have hiked the Cumberland Trail. They share their observations and various fun facts along the way in "Wildly Strolling Along: Father-Son Nature Adventures on Tennessee's Cumberland Trail." . Author Website: www.benandlarryincumberland.com. Preview first 15 pages: <http://www.blurb.com/b/6917186-wildly-strolling-along>. Order at: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/1364316129/>
- The UT Tree Improvement Program (¶6B, this NL) is a 55-year-old research and development program with an emphasis on improving and protecting hardwood species. For more information on the program, see <http://treeimprovement.utk.edu/home.htm>
- Look for cleaning products bearing EPA's "Safer Choice" logo (coming soon). There are shockingly few federal ingredient disclosure requirements for cleaning products. A tiny fraction of the more than 80,000 industrial chemicals in use today, have ever been tested for safety. The EPA Safer Choice logo indicates that its ingredients have passed specific health and environment criteria. The product must also meet requirements around packaging, performance, and ingredient disclosure.

TCWP MEMBERSHIP

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Please send form and check to TCWP, Tim Bigelow, Treas., 10626 Forest Crest Rd., Knoxville, TN 37922

NAME(S) _____

e-mail: _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONES: Home _____ Work _____

Please add me to the e-lert list so that I get notified about events and issues.

I prefer delivery of Newsletters as **PDF** attached to an e-mail instead of paper copy via USPS.

Or— go to our website (<http://www.tcwp.org>) and use the **DONATE Button.**

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- Hannah TippettDirector
- Warren Webb.....Director
- Sandra GossExecutive Director

Coming Events

- Sat., May 21 Wildflower Walk on New Section of Cumberland Trail
- Sat., May 21 Mountain Laurel Festival
- Mon., May 30 TCWP Program Committee Meeting
- Sat., June 4 National Trails Day North Ridge Trail event
- Fri., June 17 Summer Solstice hike at Nemo
- Thurs., July 14 Manhattan Project National Historic Park manager Niki Nicholas presentation
- Sat., July 23 Randy Hedgepath leads a Fall Creek Falls State Park outing