



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

The BIG stories

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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
1A	Obed appropriation	US senators and rep.	"Support Obed appropriation!" – HIGH PRIORITY
3A	Wilderness in Cherokee NF	Rep. Chuck Fleischmann	"Please co-sponsor the Tennessee Wilderness Act"
3B	Morgan Cy. natural resources	--	Participate in Mountain Laurel Walks
5A	Land & Water Conservation Fund	Your Members of Congress	"Strongly support reauthorization of LWCF!"
5B	Assault on public lands	Your Members of Congress	"Do not transfer our public lands to states!"
5G	Environmental voting scores	Your Members of Congress Sen. Alexander	"I commend you for/I'm disappointed in your score!" "Thanks for your votes on some of the S.1 amendments!"
7A	Award for Manhattan Project NHP	Sen. Alexander and Rep. Fleischmann	"Congratulations to both! Rep. Fleischmann, please sponsor Tenn. Wilderness Act!"
8D,J	Volunteering for TCWP	Sandra Goss	"I'll try!"
8F	Kroger Community Rewards	Kroger	Enroll to help TCWP's finances

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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

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Dear Mr. President
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Dear Gov. Haslam
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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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1. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

1A. *Help us get an Obed appropriation!*

We found out a couple of months ago that the President's budget for FY 2016 includes funds for land acquisition (451 acres) at the Obed Wild & Scenic River, and that these funds are item #2 in the National Park Service's priority list of 23 items (NL320 ¶1A). The budget is essentially a request, and the funds must now be appropriated by the Congress. The appropriations process is ongoing, and we must make sure our members of Congress give their fullest support to the proposed Obed appropriation. Sen. Alexander and Rep. Fleischmann are members of the Senate and House Committees, respectively, on Appropriations. Everyone can help (see action box) – won't you take just a few minutes to do so?

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please contact your Congressman and both senators (contact information on p.2 and in Political Guide – e-mail, phone call, or letter) and strongly urge 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. *Obed rangers receive highest award for valor*

Many of us know one or more of the three Obed WSR rangers who, in early May, received the Valor Award, the National Park Service's highest honor for bravery. A year ago, Matt Hudson (chief ranger), Brett Painter, and Thomas Hall rescued a young man who was stranded on a small rock above a major rapid in the Big South Fork. It was after dark, the victim did not have a life jacket, and the rock on which he was stranded was just upstream from a powerful Class-IV rapid. According to the award description, he would have succumbed to hypothermia if he had remained on the small rock, or would probably have drowned if he had attempted to swim and been swept into the rapid.

We are very proud of our rangers and should let them know this.

1C. *The Nature Conservancy to dedicate tract vital to Clear Creek viewshed* Background.

A knoll above the Clear Creek bluff line that is a prominent part of the view from Lilly Bluff overlook suffered a large clearcut a few years ago, significantly spoiling the experience of visitors for many of whom the park experience is limited to a walk to Lilly Bluff. The property involved, the so-called Sills Tract, was unfortunately located outside the National Park Service's authorized purchase boundary. TCWP, which nine years ago had purchased an adjacent cliff-top parcel in order to protect it, had for some time been monitoring the ownership situation of the Sills Tract. Anonymous donors who learned of

these efforts contacted TCWP, and TCWP connected them with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which then managed to purchase the tract in January 2014 (NL314 ¶1A).

TNC will now be dedicating the Sills Tract and connecting people with the Park. Their announcement follows (contributed by Matt Jagnow).

TNC announcement

Join The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee to celebrate the Obed WSR and honor Dr. Liane "Lee" Russell and her contribution to conservation efforts in East Tennessee.

When: Saturday, June 6, 2015, 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time

Where: Morgan County Visitor Center (on Hiway 62, at the east end of Wartburg)

The morning will begin with a ceremony and reception at the Morgan County Visitor Center to dedicate the recently protected "Sills Tract" in honor of Dr. Russell. Coffee and pastries will be provided and this event is open to all.

Following the reception, friends and family are encouraged to explore the Obed Wild and Scenic River. The Lilly Bluff Overlook provides a beautiful view of the newly dedicated bluff, and a short, moderate hike for the entire family. Please visit the National Park Service for hiking options (www.nps.gov/obed/planyourvisit/hiking.htm, or call 423-346-6294).

In addition to her role as a prominent geneticist, Lee is an avid conservationist. Her role in establishing the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) led to 1970s legislation that created the 125,000-acre Big South Fork National Recreation Area and the Obed National Wild and Scenic River, and to the continuing and ongoing protection of these resources by TCWP and others. In addition to this work, Lee and her late husband, Bill, donated approximately 226 acres to the Nature Conservancy including tracts in the Obed, Clear Creek, and Clifty Creek gorges.

1D. *First annual photo contest for Big South Fork NRR*

The deadline is July 21 for submitting digital entries to the BSNRRA's first photo contest. Photos may be submitted into one of seven categories. Each person may enter only three photos in the competition, accompanied by an entry form. These forms can be downloaded from <http://www.nps.gov/biso/photosmultimedia/biso-photo-contest.htm>.

Selected images will be printed for an exhibition at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center that will open on Saturday, September 5, 2015. The photos may also be displayed on the internet and other venues. For more information, call 423-286-7275.

2. THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE

The first half of the 109th General Assembly is over. The Legislature went home on April 24 (but will reconvene next January). Summary: bad, but could have been worse. Here is a selection.

2A. Bad bills and resolutions that failed to pass (but may come back next year)

- The stripmine “primacy” bill, SB.0842 (Yager)/HB.0833 (Powers), authored by the Tennessee Mining Association, would have returned regulation and oversight of surface mining and reclamation from the federal government to the state, resulting in less effective permitting and enforcement, and thus greater environmental damages. The budget adopted by the legislature failed to include money to fund this bill.
- The “Non-commercial Gold Mining” bill, SB.390 (Nicely)/HB.442 would have allowed “amateur” miners to operate motorized dredges to tear up stream beds in search of gold that does not exist in any meaningful quantity in Tennessee. The bill was taken off notice in a Senate committee.
- SJR.2 (Norris) called for a federal Constitutional amendment requiring Congressional approval of federal regulations (details in NL320 ¶3B). Passed the Senate, but not the House.
- HJR.92 asked the US Congress to give our western public lands (including National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and Bureau of Land Management lands) to the states in which they're located. This resolution passed the House, but was not voted on by the full Senate.

2B. Bad bills that did pass

- SB.467/HB.216 gives the Government Operations committee more authority over rules, thus weakening the Administration’s ability to enforce them. It *requires*, instead of *authorizes*, the Government Operations committees to review every rule promulgated pursuant to the UAPA (Administrative Procedures); decreases, from 25 to 10, the number of persons that must petition an agency to compel a public hearing on a proposed rule; requires the committees to consider the effect of a rule on small business and the arbitrariness and capriciousness of a rule.
- SB.1325 (McNally)/HB.0868 (Keisling) puts many roadblocks into the development of a state plan for reducing CO₂ emissions from power plants in accordance with EPA limits (see NL320 ¶8A), e.g., by prohibiting TDEC from submitting any state plan to the EPA until both houses of the General Assembly have adopted a joint resolution to approve the plan. This bill passed with an extensive amendment that is considered by many to make it fairly meaningless.

3. OTHER TENNESSEE NEWS

3A. Tennessee Wilderness Act Redux

[Contributed by Sandra Goss and Laura Hodge]

As long-time readers will recall, the Tennessee Wilderness Act would designate six special places (totaling about 20,000 acres) in the Cherokee National Forest as wilderness, providing them the highest level of conserva-

tion protection (NL314 ¶4; NL292 ¶4A). This March, Senators Alexander and Corker introduced the bill for the fourth time since 2010.

To have a chance of moving through congress this term, the Tennessee Wilderness Act, championed by our senators, needs sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives, specifically the representatives from the congressional districts in which the areas are located. These congressmen are Fleischmann (3rd District) and Roe (1st District). Rep. Roe has indicated that he will join Fleischmann in cosponsoring this bill. Fleischmann, however, remains “neutral.”

In responding to a constituent who had written him on this topic, Congressman Fleischmann wrote “Please know that I am carefully monitoring this legislation and will continue to consult my constituents on this important matter.... You may rest assured that I will support policies which allow our citizens to continue enjoying the Cherokee National Forest and protect its environmental integrity.”

Residents of the 3rd Congressional District should contact Rep. Fleischmann (see Action Box, below, for contact information) with the message: “I am your constituent and urge you to sponsor the Tennessee Wilderness Act. I hope you will live up to the spirit of the award bestowed on you by NPCA in April (¶7A, this NL) and protect these special areas in your district of our state.”

The following facts may be of interest to the congressman. The six Cherokee NF areas were recommended for wilderness designation by the U. S. Forest Service in its most recent Management Plan. Because the property is *already* federal land, no additional land acquisition is required and no additional expenditures are needed for the Forest Service to manage the proposed Wilderness Areas.

All of these points, and others, were mentioned in an OpEd by former Oak Ridge mayor Tom Beehan (*Oak Ridger* 3/27/15) and in an excellent editorial in the *Maryville Daily Times* (3/19/15). The editorial ends thus: “In the end, Congressman Fleischmann and Congressman Roe will need to step up. There are plenty of tough issues that Congress has to wrestle with in Washington. This is not one of them. This is an easy test of leadership. Come on, guys, stand up and represent. Lead the way in the House and pass the Tennessee Wilderness Act.”

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Help us communicate to Rep.

Fleischmann the importance of the Cherokee NF Wilderness designation, and of his sponsorship of the bill. The following are phone numbers for Rep. Fleischmann’s offices:

Washington, DC: 202-225-3271

Athens, TN: 423-745-4671

Chattanooga, TN: 423-756-2342

Oak Ridge, TN: 865- 576-1976.

His internet address is:

<http://fleischmann.house.gov/office/>, followed (after the last slash) by washington-dc, or athens, or chattanooga, or oak-ridge, respectively.

Please contact the Congressman without fail.

3B. Morgan Cy. Mountain Laurel Walks to celebrate and publicize the county's beauty

Morgan County is a truly unique place. Located in the heart of the Cumberland Mountains and Plateau, a significant part of its area is home to national park units, state parks, and other state lands – the Obed WSR, BSFNRRRA, Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area, the Cumberland State Scenic Trail, Lone Mountain State Forest, and Historic Rugby.

The Morgan County Tourism Alliance has organized a 22-day-long Mountain Laurel celebration to spread recognition of the county's beauty and opportunities for outdoor recreation. The acid soil of the area encourages growth of wild azaleas, mountain laurels, and rhododendrons, which bloom in succession during the spring and early summer. The timing of the inaugural festival, May 16 to June 6, is set for the middle period, when mountain laurels will bloom in profusion.

Throughout the 22-day period, guided walks will be available on 24 designated trails. The kick-off festival took place this past Saturday at the Obed Visitor Center in Wartburg, with live music, a 5k benefit run/walk, food, and crafts. Next Saturday, May 23, will be Rugby Roots Day. Other events planned include a craft competition and a photography competition.

For the full schedule and other details, visit www.mcrta.com/mountainlaurelwalks, or call 423-628-6293, 628-5252, or 423-663-7503. The goal is to make the Mountain Laurel Walks a regular seasonal event, to start in the third week of May of future years.

Incidental information (from a *News Sentinel* article by Morgan Simmons): old-timers referred to mountain laurel as ivy, and to rhododendron as mountain laurel.

3C. Tennessee rivers make it onto two national lists

(1) Most endangered (#3 and #9 on list)

The 2015 American Rivers list of the country's 10 most endangered rivers includes *two* from Tennessee, the Holston River and the Harpeth, in East and Middle Tennessee, respectively. The Tenn. Clean Water Network cites the steadily declining number of enforcement actions regarding clean water law violations by the TDEC as one of the main reasons (see ¶3C, below).

American Rivers Rivers

(www.americanrivers.org/endangered-rivers/) cites the following explanations for inclusion of these two rivers in the list:

- Holston (#3): toxic chemicals from the Holston Army Ammunition Plant are putting local water supplies and the community's health at risk.
- Harpeth (#9): sewage pollution and water withdrawals are putting clean water, fish and wildlife, and recreation at risk.

The #1 position in the Most Endangered list goes to the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon (outside Park

boundaries), which is threatened by an industrial-scale construction project.

(2) Best whitewater rafting (#1 and #3).

According to a rating by the American Outdoor Association, the Ocoee tops the list of whitewater rafting rivers in the U.S. The Pigeon River, which is said to have rebounded from its former pollution by a Canton, NC, paper mill, is #3. The Ocoee draws over 25,000 rafting customers each year, and the Pigeon is said to have had 160,000 rafting passengers in 2011.

3D. Clean-water enforcement actions near all-time low.

[From TCWN E-News, May 6]

A biennial report released by the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN) on May 6 (www.tcwn.org), shows that surface water enforcement orders by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) remain at near historic lows. The "State of Tennessee Water Pollution Report – 2014-2015" documents only 53 enforcement actions in 2014, down over 75% from the high of 231 in 2008, the first year TCWN issued the Report. There are still 13,000 stream miles and 181,000 lake acres designated as polluted in Tennessee. According to TCWN "just 53 [enforcement] orders for more than 17,000 active water permits is clearly insufficient." There are literally hundreds of sites throughout Tennessee currently in violation of our water laws.

Another area of concern cited in TCWN's report is that the amount of fines to be paid is too low to deter violations. Water pollution violators are typically paying only a quarter of the total assessed fines as an upfront penalty, while the balance only becomes due if the enforcement order is violated. "Enforcement is not and should not be an end in itself, but instead a means to achieve compliance and environmental protection. Enforcement should not only serve to protect water quality, but also to deter future violations," says TCWN.

3E. Discovery of bat-hibernation caves to aid bat protection.

[Information from TNC's Field Notes]

The White Nose Syndrome (WNS), which has killed more than 6 million bats since 2006, reached Tennessee in 2010. The Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy (TNC) is engaged in an effort to understand bats and how to protect them.

The WNS affects only *cave-dwelling* bats, and thus TNC set about to discover as many as possible of the state's *bat* caves. Tennessee has over 10,000 caves – the largest number in any state – so, existing cave data (some from NPS, TWRA, and TVA) were used in conjunction with TNC's wildlife habitat computer model to narrow the field.

This resulted in the discovery of 134 caves, *in addition* to the previously known 38, where bats hibernate in Tennessee – a nearly 4-fold increase. Knowing where bats

hibernate will help in learning more about the spread of WNS, and how the disease can be fought.

4. TVA NEWS

4A. Comments on TVA's

Integrated Resource Plan

The comment deadline for TVA's integrated Resource Plan (IRP) ended April 27. TCWP commended TVA for including energy efficiency as a source of energy, and applauded the increased role of solar and wind power as energy sources. The reduced costs of solar power presented TVA with an opportunity to chart a new path for this renewable energy source. For wind and for energy efficiency, however, the draft Plan used outdated information that led to an overestimate of costs and an underestimate of performance. As a result, greatly insufficient amounts of these energy resources are included in the Plan.

4B. More lawsuits to force TVA to clean up coal ash at Gallatin

In November, the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), on behalf of TCWN and TSRA, sent a notice of intent to sue TVA over decades-long coal-ash contamination of the Cumberland River and surrounding groundwater, in violation of the Clean Water Act (NL318 ¶5B). The state (TDEC), which had failed to address this problem for years, was challenged, and sued TVA in state court in January (NL320 ¶4C). Noting that TDEC's January lawsuit fails to address the full problem, the groups have now filed their lawsuit against TVA in federal court

5. NATIONAL NEWS

5A. Land & Water Conservation Fund must be reauthorized this year

The Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is 50 years old this year, and expires on September 30, unless reauthorized. The Fund derives from royalties paid by oil companies for drilling offshore in waters owned by the American people — not from tax-payer dollars. Even so, there is a danger that this vital program could fall victim to partisan politics. The LWCF is the chief source of money for land acquisition for parks, forests, wildlife refuges, rivers, lakes, and green spaces, and for conservation easements for farms and ranches. To date, the fund has conserved iconic landscapes in every county in America, including about 41,000 state and local outdoor recreation projects.

Nearly \$17 billion has gone to these various projects over the years. (Another \$19 billion was diverted by Congress to other purposes.) The LWCF is far and away our nation's most important conservation program. Congress *must not* let this critical fund expire. It has enjoyed bipartisan support over the years. The LWCF ensures that all

Americans have access to open spaces and their favorite pastimes in the great outdoors.

Somewhat encouraging is the fact that, in January, the Senate almost passed an amendment to S.1 (see ¶5G(2), below) that would have reauthorized the LWCF; it passed 59:39, but 60 votes were needed. Both Senators Alexander and Corker voted for the LWCF.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Members of Congress to give strong support to reauthorization of the vital LWCF. Of special interest to Tennesseans is the need for the Fund to complete essential land acquisition for the Obed WSR, the Big South Fork NRR, and the Cherokee National Forest, among other things. Legislation that will finance and reauthorize the LWCF is HR.1814 in the House, and S.338 and S.890 in the Senate.

5B. The multifaceted assault on our Public Lands

Special interest groups are working on several fronts to mount a dangerous assault on our public lands.

³ (1) In the U.S. Senate

In late March, Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski*, the new Republican chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, introduced Amendment 838 to the Senate Budget Resolution, that calls for selling or giving away all federal lands -- other than the national parks and monuments -- to states (and potentially other buyers). These lands include national forests, BLM lands, wildlife refuges, etc., etc. The amendment, which passed 51:49, is now part of the Senate's official budget to fund state efforts to seize America's public lands and then sell them off to the highest bidder.

*[Murkowski described President Obama's decision to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (NL320 ¶7B) as "a stunning attack on our sovereignty."]

(2) In the House of Representatives

Even prior to the Murkowski vote in the Senate, the House approved 228:119 an amendment by House Natural Resources Committee chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) that would spend \$50 million of taxpayers' money to transfer America's public lands to states for private sale. The resolution states: "the federal estate is far too large" and voices support for reducing it and "giving states and localities more control over the resources within their boundaries." Doing so, the resolution adds, "will lead to increased resource production and allow states and localities to take advantage of the benefits of increased economic activity."

But there's some good news: Because Congress's budget is *non-binding*, the Senate and House proposals would need further legislation to actually take effect. That's why it's incredibly important to step in *now* to let Congress know exactly where Americans stand on this terrible idea.

(3) In western State legislatures

In 11 western states (AK, AZ, CO, NM, MT, WA, ID, NV, OR, UT, WY), a coalition of special interest groups is lobbying state governments to seize America's

public lands so they can be privatized or auctioned for drilling, mining, and logging.

³ (4) In the State of Tennessee

HJR.92 asked the US Congress to give our western public lands to the states in which they're located. This resolution didn't make it this year, but may resurface in the second half of the 109th General Assembly (§2A, above).

³ If these measures are implemented, *hundreds of millions* of acres of national forests, rangelands, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, and historic sites will revert to the states or local governments. These lands constitute much of what's left of the nation's natural and historical heritage. Under state control, these public lands are likely to be sold off for real estate or for resource exploitation. Pristine public lands in the American West that are the cradle of future national parks, monuments, and preserves could be sacrificed to logging and/or to oil drilling and fracking.

[Information from *The Wilderness Society*.] There are 618 million acres of public lands in the U.S., about 2 acres for every man, woman, and child. Among the important values of public lands is outdoor recreation, which creates 6.1 million jobs each year, generating \$646 billion into the economy.

5C. Fracking rules are finalized for public lands

[Information from EarthJustice e.Brief]

On March 20, the US Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) finalized a new set of rules governing hydraulic fracturing on public lands nationwide. The final rules appear stronger than the 2013 draft, about which more than 1 million people raised concerns. They do not, however, address several recommendations by the Obama Administration's own task force on shale-gas development.

Two improvements of importance incorporated into the rule are, (a) a move to use tanks instead of pits to store produced water, except in very limited circumstances, and (b) removal of the "type-well" concept, which is replaced with a requirement for a well-integrity test on *every* well drilled on public lands. Still, the BLM rules fail to ensure that sensitive, valuable, and unique lands are kept off limits to drilling. And there is insufficient requirement for disclosure of key fracking-chemicals.

5D. It's official: earthquakes are linked to oil and gas extraction

[Information from NYTimes 4-23-15]

In April, the US Geological Survey released its first comprehensive assessment of the link between thousands of earthquakes and oil and gas operations, identifying and mapping 17 regions where quakes have occurred. In Oklahoma, earthquakes are hundreds of time more common than they were until a few years ago. That state used to experience one or two earthquakes per year of magnitude 3 or greater, and now they're experiencing one or two *a day*. This is associated with the disposal of wastewater (left

over from extracting fuels and from drilling wells) by injecting water into the earth. The report also mapped parts of eight other states, from Lake Erie to the Rocky Mountains, where that practice has caused quakes, and said most of these states were at risk for more significant shaking in the future.

5E. Natural gas has been useful, but . . .

[Information from Union of Concerned Scientists]

Sixteen states generated more than 1/3 of their electricity from natural gas in 2013. There are undeniable near-term benefits from the growth in natural-gas-fired electricity. Smokestack emissions are cleaner than those of coal plants, and some regions of the country have received an economic boost. BUT, the extraction, distribution, and combustion of natural gas result in the leakage of methane, which presents serious environmental, public health, and climate-change challenges. (Methane is 34 times stronger than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere.) And, now we learn (§5D, above) that extraction can increase the rate of major earthquakes by a multiple of several hundred, in addition to causing the numerous damages attributable to fracking.

A recent UCS analysis reveals that the growing reliance on natural gas carries with it complex risks, and that a strategy of prioritizing investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency would result in numerous benefits. By 2020, UCS (ucsusa.org) found the net societal benefits from the emissions reductions under this scenario to add up to \$36 billion. By 2040, the annual benefits grow to nearly \$170 billion.

5F. The Earth's water is very special -- and very threatened

[From EDF on World Water Day, March 22]

The Earth is the only known planet with large, stable bodies of liquid water on its surface. Water covers 71% of our planet's surface (but only 2.5% is fresh water).

As a society, we use a tremendous amount of water to generate electricity, and a tremendous amount of electricity to pump and purify our water. Demand for water is expected to grow 40% by 2030; and as climate change makes water more scarce in many regions, it's absolutely critical that we use water with maximum efficiency.

For various ways of generating electricity, the number of gallons of water used to power one home for a month are as follows:

Wind	0
Solar	26
Natural gas	198
Coal	687

5G. Environmental Scorecards

[Information from League of Conservation Voters]

(1) Congressional scores for 2014

For 2014, LCV again published one of its annual, carefully researched and clearly presented, environmental scorecards. (You may view past scorecards, as well as the current one, at <http://scorecard.lcv.org/>.) The scorecard

represents the consensus of experts from about 20 respected environmental and conservation groups who selected the key votes on which members of Congress should be scored. The 2014 results are based on 35 House votes and 5 Senate votes. In explaining the low number of Senate votes that was analyzed, LCV notes that, in 2014, Democrats were in the majority in the Senate, able to keep most of the anti-environmental House bills from reaching the Senate floor, but numbered fewer than the 60 needed (because of the filibuster) to get their own bills to the floor. See below for a special Senate score for 2015.

	Repub.	Dem.
Senate committee leaders* (5)	8	73
House committee leaders (6)	5	70
Senate party leaders** (3)	20	80
House party leaders (4)	2	92

*Committee leaders are chairs (Repub.) or ranking members (Dem.).

**Party leaders are majority/minority leaders, whips, caucus chairs, etc

The scores for our Tennessee delegation are shown in the following table.

	Dis- trict	Party	2014	2013 + 2014	Lifetime
Senate					
Alexander	NA	R	20	28	19
Corker	NA	R	20	17	16
House					
Roe	1	R	0	0	3
Duncan	2	R	3	5	11
Fleischmann	3	R	3	3	5
DesJarlais	4	R	0	2	3
Cooper	5	D	91	90	80
Black	6	R	0	0	5
Blackburn	7	R	0	0	3
Fincher	8	R	0	2	5
Cohen	9	D	97	97	96

Our state has the dubious honor of scoring worse than average. While members of the Tennessee delegation constitute only about 2% of the House membership, about 11% of the 47 zero scores can be attributed to Tennesseans.

(2) Senate scores for 2015 (Special Edition)

For only the second time in its 45-year history, LCV has issued a *special* scorecard. The first bill taken up by the new Republican Senate, S.1, would circumvent the normal review process and force approval of the Keystone XL tar-sands pipeline (NL320 ¶6). The very large number (approaching 200) of amendments considered during debate on S.1 offered senators an opportunity to take a stand on important environmental issues, such as climate change, clean energy, clean water, public lands, and endangered species. The Special Edition *Scorecard* includes votes on

18 of the most critical amendments, as well as the vote for the bill itself (scored double).

The Special Edition score for Tennessee's senators was as follows:

Alexander, 30

Corker, 5

Among Senate Republicans, Sen. Alexander was the third-highest scorer, exceeded only by Senators Collins (R-ME) and Ayotte (R-NH), who scored 55 and 50, respectively. Here are some of the issues on which he voted the pro-environment alternative: affirming that man-made pollution is a significant contributor to climate change; warding off an attack on the Antiquities Act of 1906; defeating a Murkowski attack on public lands (similar to her budget resolution, see ¶5B(1), this NL); and reauthorizing the Land & Water Conservation Fund (see ¶5A, this NL).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your representative and both senators that environmental issues matter to you, and that, based on their score, you either commend them or are disappointed in them. Sen. Alexander deserves thanks for his 2015 performance, when he bucked his party 30% of the time to vote in favor of the pro-environment alternative on important issues. He can do even better.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE

6A. EPA's Clean Power Plant rule under wide-ranging attack before it's even finalized

[Information from EDF, *The Hill*, and NYTimes 4/17/15]

EPA's rule for reducing carbon emissions from existing power plants is due to be finalized this summer. But this hasn't stopped its numerous enemies from attacking it every way possible. It started in January 2014, when Sen. Inhofe (R-OK) attempted a last-minute amendment to the Senate's must-pass unemployment insurance extension bill; it did not succeed. Two months later, the House passed a bill that would allow virtually unlimited carbon pollution from power plants—thankfully it failed in the Senate. State lawsuits began to be filed in the summer of 2014 (see below).

A draft bill by Rep. Whitfield (R-KY) and other House Energy Committee members would delay the EPA rule until all court challenges are over, and would let governors block any plans to implement the regulation if they think this would significantly increase electricity rates. Some legislative offices are coordinating with lawyers and lobbying firms to try to ensure that the state plans are tangled up in legal delays.

The first legal challenge to the EPA rule was heard in mid-April by the U.S. Court of appeals for DC. The suit, which was argued by lawyers for the nation's two largest coal companies and 14 states, petitioned the court to block EPA from finalizing the proposed rule. (Note: 13 other states and DC are backing the rule.) Two of the three judges on the panel noted that there was no legal precedent

for stopping a regulation before it is final. If the panel dismisses the case because the regulation is not yet finalized, the petitioners are expected to return to the court once the final version is released.

Here are some interesting quotes from politicians.

- Sen. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY): “This is just another EPA power grab in their ongoing crusade to shut down our nation’s coal mines, and it must be stopped.”
- Sen. Cruz (R-TX): “Stop EPA overreach and the war on coal. Exclude greenhouse gases from regulation by EPA . . .”
- Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH): “The idea that CO₂ . . . is harmful to our environment is almost comical. Every time we exhale, we exhale CO₂. Every cow in the world, you know, when they do what they do, you’ve got more CO₂.”

6B. Government agencies ordered to cut GHG emissions

[From *The Hill* 3/19/15]

Pres. Obama signed an executive order March 19 ordering federal government agencies to slash their greenhouse gas emissions, so as to “lead by example.” The goal is to reduce the nation’s GHGs 26%-28% below 2005 levels by 2030. Since the federal government is the largest single consumer of energy in the country, its actions can make a major difference. As of FY2013, the government, in response to a 2010 order, had dropped emissions 17.2% from 2008 levels. Several major companies that supply goods to the federal government have announced their own voluntary effects to cut greenhouse gases.

6C. Global warming causes weather extremes

[Information from *NYTimes* 4/28/15]

Global warming doesn’t just make each day a little warmer. A study published April 27 in *Nature Climate Change* (Erich M. Fischer et al.) has linked weather extremes to global warming. Although weather extremes have always existed, the odds have changed and there are many more of them, even though the global warming that has occurred so far is only moderate compared to what’s in store if emissions continue unabated.

Since the 19th century the Earth has warmed by about 1.5°F. Computer models suggest that this has driven up heat-extreme days 4- to 5-fold. If global warming can be kept below 3°F (which requires a *major* worldwide reduction in carbon emissions), heat extremes would increase 14-fold by the end of this century. But if the planet warms more than 5°F (a probable scenario if emissions are not significantly controlled), there would be a 62-fold increase in heat extremes. By mid-century, if emissions continue at the current rate, all continents will be able to attribute at least 93% of heat-extreme days to global warming.

Extremes of heavy rain would also greatly increase since warmer air takes up more moisture from the ocean. But the proportion of rain extremes that is attributable to

overall warming is smaller than the proportion of heat extremes. At the same time, higher temperatures are drying out the soil and worsening the effects of droughts when they do occur.

6D. “Climate intervention” can’t substitute for reducing carbon emissions

[Information from National Academy of Sciences online, and from *NYTimes* 2/12/15]

The National Research Council (NRC, the working arm of the US National Academies), is publishing a two-volume report that concludes proposed climate intervention technologies are not ready for wide-scale deployment, if not downright dangerous, and that reducing emissions is still the most effective way to combat climate change. It concludes that there is “no substitute for dramatic reductions in the emission” of greenhouse gases to slow global warming and the acidification of our oceans.

The report analyzes two types of technologies sometimes grouped under the term “geoengineering,” but very different with respect to objectives, risks, impacts and costs. They are, (a) carbon dioxide removal, and (b) albedo modification.

Strategies to *remove* carbon dioxide address the cause of climate change (high concentration of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere). But current technologies would take decades to achieve even moderate results, and be cost-prohibitive at scales large enough to have a sizeable impact. Large-scale deployment would cost as much or more than replacing fossil fuels with low carbon-emission energy sources.

Albedo modification technologies aim to increase the ability of Earth or clouds to reflect incoming sunlight. They would only temporarily *mask* the warming effect caused by high CO₂ concentrations. Albedo modification presents serious known, and possible unknown, environmental, social, and political risks and should NOT be deployed at this time.

The NRC committee’s chairwoman told Associated Press that the public should read this report “and say, ‘This is downright scary.’ And they should say, ‘If this is our Hail Mary, what a scary, scary place we are in.’” Even scarier is the fact that some people promote these technologies as a *substitute* for cutting emissions. Among them are Newt Gingrich, some conservative think tanks (e.g., the Hoover Institution), and, paradoxically, the Heartland Institute, whose work is devoted to attacking the very idea of human-caused global warming.

7. OAK RIDGE/KNOXVILLE AREA

7A. Alexander and Fleischmann receive NPCA award for supporting Manhattan NHP

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The Manhattan Project National Historical Park (NHP) was one of seven new National Park units design-

nated by the National Defense Authorization Act (HR.3979) that passed Dec. 12 (NL319 ¶5A). During the past several weeks, AFORR (Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation) and TCWP representatives have attended meetings with National Park Service, Department of Energy, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory representatives about the implementation of this legislation.

The Park, to be established by December of this year, will be located at three sites: Oak Ridge; Los Alamos, NM; and Hanford, WA. In Oak Ridge, several historical buildings are included. NPS and DOE personnel are soliciting ideas and comments from the public, and citizens are developing suggestions for the inclusion of cultural landscapes that tell the Manhattan Project story.

On April 28, Senator Lamar Alexander and Congressman Chuck Fleischmann were among 81 Members of Congress awarded the National Park Heritage Award by the National Parks Conservation Association. The award was presented to those Members who supported the major public lands bills in the National Defense Authorization Act that created seven new national park sites, of which the Manhattan Project NHP was one.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Congratulate Sen. Alexander and Rep. Fleischmann for being honored for their part in designating public lands. Tell Rep. Fleischmann that you hope he'll honor the spirit of this award by co-sponsoring the Cherokee Wilderness bill (see ¶3A, this NL).

7B. Climate Knoxville group addresses climate protection

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Early last year, a diverse group of organizations formed *Climate Knoxville* in order to create nonpartisan opportunities for Knoxville social justice, environmental, health, ecological, education, research, business, and faith communities to work together for climate protection and resiliency.

TCWP has recently joined the group, which works to “support the City of Knoxville’s Smarter Cities Partnership to weatherize inner-city homes and EPA’s draft Clean Power Plan.”

Over the past few months, *Climate Knoxville* has successfully encouraged City Council to pass a resolution in support of federal, state, and local climate protection; several *Climate Knoxville* partners now serve on one or more Smarter Cities initiative planning groups; and held organizational meetings that will lead to the formation of the Greater Knoxville Tree Council to promote planting trees on private land.

Climate Knoxville is now engaged in the following climate-policy work:

- Supporting the City of Knoxville’s initiatives to weatherize inner-city homes, develop green jobs, and educate the larger community about how to save energy.
- Partnering with the City of Knoxville in its Georgetown University Energy Prize contest to mobilize city residents, public schools, and government to save energy.

- Supporting Knoxville Utilities Board efforts to reach out to lower income customers.

Among the Partner groups of *Climate Knoxville* are Alliance to Save Energy, American Meteorological Society/Smoky Mountain Chapter, Appalachian Voices, East Tennessee Episcopal Diocese, Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club, NAACP/Knoxville Chapter, SOCM, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Temple Beth El, Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light, United Mountain Defense, and others.

7C. Oak Ridge named Green Power Community of 2014

[From *The Oak Ridger*, 12/1/14]

Oak Ridge is one of 19 Green Power Partners from across the country receiving Green Leadership Awards that are given annually by EPA. The awardees were chosen from more than 1,300 organizations that comprise EPA’s Green Power Partnership. Partners use more than 7.6 billion kilowatt-hours of *green* power annually, power that does not produce fossil-fuel-based greenhouse-gas emissions.

8. TCWP NEWS

8A. New Board member, Jamie Herold

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Jamie Herold, ORNL Plant Ecologist, has agreed to serve on the TCWP Board, effective April. In accordance with the Bylaws, the Board appointed Jamie to fill the seat left vacant by the passing of Charlie Klabunde.

Jamie, who studied in Illinois and Indiana, has much experience in vegetation and habitat studies. She’s responsible for expanding current flora, plant-community, and habitat data on the Oak Ridge Reservation, as well as for overseeing the Reservation Herbarium and plant lists.

Jamie’s experience with citizen scientist teams and interpretive programs is an asset to TCWP’s leadership skills. Welcome, Jamie!

8B. Upcoming activities

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

Big South Fork raft trip with trash collection – rescheduled to May 30

[Contributed by Sandra Goss and Jimmy Groton]

This event is rescheduled from April 11. The water levels that day were too high.

Paddlers are STILL invited to join TCWP, in cooperation with the National Park Service, for a whitewater rafting/cleanup trip down the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River on Saturday, May 30. The outing will include trash collection coordinated with the Park Service along the river.

The outing will be from Burnt Mill Bridge to Leatherwood Ford. The weather and river conditions are unpredictable, and decisions about the nature of the trip or its actual occurrence will be made the morning of the event.

There are some seats available on guided rafts. Rafters must be 18 years old or older, and have a moderately high level of physical fitness and stamina. This is the most rugged and scenic part of the Big South Fork gorge with some of the biggest rapids, including Double Falls, Washing Machine, The Ell, Rion's Eddy, Jake's Hole, and O&W Rapid. The scenic values of the gorge are of the highest order. The difficulty level of this outing is high, and participants are encouraged to consider carefully their fitness and stamina before undertaking the outing.

Participants should wear wicking fabric (not cotton) and will need to bring a lunch and water. A small number of wet suits are available to loan participants, if needed.

We welcome other kayakers to join this trip. Safety boaters are needed for the excursion. If frequent paddlers have spare equipment and clothes, please consider bringing that along to loan others for the day.

Pre-registration by May 25 for a raft seat is required. Participants will meet at the Fire Cache Building (opposite from BSF HQ on Leatherwood Road) at 9:30 a.m., with a caravan/carpool leaving Oak Ridge at 8. For more information or to pre-register, contact Sandra Goss at 865-583-3967 or at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com

Workday on North Ridge Trail - Saturday, June 6

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

New North Ridge Trail Stewards Ray and JoAnn Garrett (¶8E, below) announce that the annual National Trails Day maintenance event will focus on the west portion of the trail, west of Illinois Avenue. Volunteers should meet at the Garrett's home at 101 Windham (just off West Outer Drive) at 9:00 a.m.

Participants will carpool from the Garrett's to the trail head of the focus area and return to the Garrett's about noon. Trail maintainers should wear protective clothing (against poison ivy) and shoes, sun block, and bug spray. Clippers and loppers are useful implements to bring, along with water.

All North Ridge Trail fans are asked to join the trail maintainers for a complimentary (and celebratory) pizza and beer lunch at the Garrett's about noon. Soft drinks will also be available. This is a part of Ray's effort to attract maintenance volunteers to adopt North Ridge Trail segments for the coming year. For more information, call or write Ray at 865.483-4466 or garrett.ray1@att.net.

Kayak Outing at Oak Ridge Marina - Sat., June 20

We'll celebrate the approach of the Summer Solstice with a morning kayak outing at the Oak Ridge Marina, where we've reserved 20 single and double kayaks and one canoe with Outdoor Adventures. Rental cost is \$25 for a single or

double kayak, including paddles and personal flotation devices. Participants are welcome to bring their own kayaks and canoes as well.

Tentative plans are to paddle along the shores of the inlet under the guidance of some of our members who are knowledgeable about the wildflowers that might be encountered at the water's edge, then across the channel to investigate the backwaters areas. We'll meet at Outdoors Adventures (former site of the New China Palace) at 9 a.m. The event will wrap up by 1 p.m., when our half-day rental agreement expires. Participants should bring a lunch; we can eat in the boats or have a picnic when we return to the marina.

Participants must pre-register by June 12 with Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967, or via email to sandra@sandrakgoss.com. All participants will need to sign waivers; a parent must sign for those under 18 years old. Waiver forms are available from Sandra or from the rental agency.

Information Program by Kodak Butterfly Keepers - Thursday, June 25

Glenna and W.C. "Dub" Julian and their Kodak neighbor Lois English, Master Gardeners, share a passion for butterflies. On June 25, TCWP will host a program in which the three—the "Kodak Butterfly Keepers"—will discuss butterfly habitat preservation, as well as the beauty and complex lives and needs of butterflies. The program will begin at 7 p.m. in the City Room (A-111) at Roane State Community College-Oak Ridge.

The Julians garden at their pre-1850 home on two-plus acres. They plant for butterflies and hummingbirds; their garden is certified by the National Wildlife Federation and is a Monarch Way Station. They have been presenters at Wilderness Wildlife week since 2006, doing programs on butterflies, herbs, and backyard birds. Their garden has been featured in the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, the *Mountain Press*, *Tennessee Conservationist*, and *Blue Ridge Country* magazine.

Picnic/Outing at Gibbons Property on the Obed - Saturday, July 25

Save the date for this family-friendly outing to and exploration of the Jack and Mary Ann Gibbons farm on the Obed River across from Alley Ford. Former TCWP Executive Director Bill Chandler and his wife Holly, friends of the Gibbons family, will be there to show us around the property; some Gibbons family members may join us as well. We'll have a picnic lunch, and hope to visit the river from their property. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share; TCWP will provide plates, silverware, cups, and beverages. Meeting time, carpool information and directions will be provided in an email alert closer to the date, as well as in the July newsletter.

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.

8C. Recent events

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

Alley Ford/Cumberland Trail Workday -- March 21

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

On Saturday, March 21, TCWP volunteers coordinated with National Park Service staff for a trail maintenance work day at the Alley Ford segment of the Cumberland Trail at the Obed Wild and Scenic River in Morgan County. The workday was rescheduled from its original date (February 21) due to the ice and snow we had in February.

February's winter weather provided us with plenty of downed trees and limbs to deal with. Fortunately, the Obed rangers brought a chainsaw, which helped a lot. We were able to open the trail all the way to the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area boundary. Volunteers cleared downed trees, cleaned out water bars, and removed brush from the trail. TCWP adopted the 2.5-mile section of the Cumberland Trail in 1998 as part of our ongoing stewardship efforts and support for the Obed and the Cumberland Trail Conference.

Garlic mustard pull/wildflower walk -- April 11

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The Greenway behind Oak Ridge's Rolling Hills Apartments (formerly known as the Garden Apartments) is one of the best wildflower trails in Anderson County, but it is threatened by garlic mustard, a very invasive exotic that crowds out native plants. Our annual garlic mustard pull/wildflower walk, held April 11, was attended by 16 people and led by Wildflower Greenway Steward Roger Macklin and Kris Light. Donna Kridelbaugh (grant writer and Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board member) kindly hauled off the more than 30 bags of garlic mustard that were collected. In recent years TCWP and Greenways Oak Ridge have been making some headway in ridding the Wildflower Greenway of this harmful plant.

Joint Outing with TNPS at Roaring Creek -- April 18

[Contributed by Larry Pounds]

On April 18 about 20 plant lovers walked and talked along Roaring Creek, enjoying a new section of the Cumberland Trail (CT) on this joint outing with the Tennessee Native Plant Society. One-flowered cancer root, a perennial root parasite, was a highlight of the outing. Finding it led to a discussion of parasitism, which in turn led to participants' wondering about what happens under the ground between the plants and the fungi. Then we came to a group of "hybrid" shrubby buckeyes with flowers varying between yellow and red. This led to discussion of, among other things, pollen on hummingbird beaks.

After lunch, some climbed the CT up from the old road; others started back. Some of the trail climbers reached an overlook above the creek gorge, where they were rewarded for their effort by southern pinxter azalea in full flower and by a vast view.

Potters Falls cleanup and Save the Hemlocks day -- May 2

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

Emory River Watershed Association and TCWP sponsored the Second Annual Potters Falls Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatment Workshop and Litter Cleanup in Wartburg on May 2. The event focused on protecting the hemlock trees around Potters Falls and cleaning up the trash around the falls on the beautiful Crooked Fork creek.

Heather Slayton with the Tennessee Division of Forestry, and Justin Coffey with the Obed Wild and Scenic River, provided instruction for volunteers wishing to learn about how to protect hemlocks from attack by the hemlock woolly adelgid. In all, volunteers treated 72 trees. A TVA Reservoir Community grant provided funds to help with the litter pickup, including safety equipment and other supplies used for the cleanup and lunch for the volunteers. Twenty-three volunteers helped treat trees and pick up trash. Next year we plan to treat the rest of the trees at the falls.

Joint Outing with TNPS at Little Cedar Mountain -- May 9

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

On Saturday, May 9, TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society cosponsored an outing to Little Cedar Mountain near Jasper, Tennessee. The outing, another in our series of cooperative events with TNPS, was organized by TCWP and TNPS board member Larry Pounds. Unfortunately, Larry was unable to lead the walk, but botanist Paul Durr did a splendid job as leader, even though he had never been to the site.

The trail is a three-mile loop on TVA land along Nickajack Reservoir. We explored the rocky limestone woods and a barrens area. Little Cedar Mountain is one of a very few places on earth where one can see a newly described species, John Beck's leafcup (*Polymnia johnbeckii*). We got to see two other state endangered plants -- spreading rock cress (*Arabis patens* or *Boechera patens*) and Nevius' stonecrop (*Sedum nevii*) -- plus some beautiful overlooks above the reservoir. We saw several other unusual plants along the trail, along with many other delightful spring wildflowers; altogether we identified more than 100 species. The outing included about 20 people from all over Tennessee, as well as from Huntsville, Alabama.

8D. TCWP needs volunteers

Editor's note

TCWP is fortunate in enjoying the services of many good people. But we could be even more effective if more of our members were to participate in our work. The type of help needed varies greatly -- from sit-down indoor jobs, to outdoor activities of various degrees of strenuousness. The amount of time spent can also be tailored to your wishes and abilities.

In her column (§8J, below), our Executive Director, Sandra Goss, lists a few examples. These, and additional ones, include:

- taking actions on issues, e.g., by contacting your Member(s) of Congress (from once a year to frequently);
- helping prepare the TCWP Newsletter for mailing (2-4 hours, one to six times a year);
- writing thank-you letters to donors (text provided);

- joining the committee that brainstorms upcoming activities (2-3 hours a month);
- helping set up and/or staffing a TCWP exhibit or booth (2 hours or more a year);
- adopting a segment of the North Ridge Trail (four inspections per year, see ¶8E)
- helping maintain one of the areas or trails for which TCWP is a steward;
- leading an outing.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you feel like giving one or more of these a try, contact Sandra (Sandra@sandrakgoss.com, or at 865-583-3967). You may meet interesting new people, see interesting new places, get out of doors.

8E. New TCWP stewards for the North Ridge Trail: Ray and Jo Ann Garrett

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Long-time TCWP members and Oak Ridge leaders JoAnn and Ray Garrett have agreed to co-steward the North Ridge Trail. They are filling the big shoes of outgoing Trail Steward Susan Donnelly, who is stepping down due to increased work and life commitments.

JoAnn and Ray are reaching out to North Ridge Trail fans, former and current section adopters, and students with service commitments to attend an event on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 6 (¶8B, this NL).

Trail-section adopters are needed. A trail section is adopted for a period of one year, renewable annually. Adopters are asked to inspect their trail sections four times/year. The Garretts want to accent social aspects of trail adoption and are looking forward to enhancing the trail user experience.

8F. Kroger shoppers, help TCWP through Kroger Community Rewards!

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TCWP is a member of the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Through that program, TCWP receives a percentage of the purchases made by enrolled shoppers, and that can be a substantial amount.

Please take a few moments and enroll in the Rewards Program. After your initial effort, *nothing further* is required of you (except annual re-enrollment). Your contribution is automatic every time you check out with the Kroger affinity card that you are already using.

You can enroll either online or by phone. If you visit the Kroger website, click on community, then community rewards. Alternatively, you can call 1-800-KROGERS (576-4377) Option 3. Have the number from your Kroger affinity card handy.

If you find you need help with your website or phone enrollment, please don't give up. Call or e-mail Sandra at 865.583-3967 or sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

8G. Friends and Members in the news

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- Grimes Slaughter was mentioned in the March 11 *Morgan County News* article about Obed Memories of the Obed program. Dick Gammage and Grimes spoke about some of the earliest whitewater boating trips down the park's streams.
- Linda and Sam Pearsall were mentioned and pictured in a March 15 *News Sentinel* article about the Organ Pipe Cactus National Park.
- Stephanie Durman wrote a letter to the *News Sentinel* editor on March 15 about the danger of the state taking over the federal coal mining program.
- Dr. Mary Headrick wrote a letter to the editor in the March 15 *News Sentinel* about Insure Tennessee.
- Ellen Smith is pictured in a March 20 *News Sentinel* article about a company locating in Oak Ridge.
- Liane Russell and her recent notification of the Lifetime Achievement Award from WildSouth were featured in a March 17 *News Sentinel* article.
- Liane Russell's Lifetime Achievement Award from WildSouth was given a "Grin" in the March 21 *News Sentinel*.
- Jan Lyons wrote a letter to the editor of the *News Sentinel* on March 27 about recreational gold mining.
- Ben Pounds authored several articles in the *News Sentinel*: Turkey Creek Greenway, March 13; Melton Lake Greenway, March 20; Disc Golf at Victor Ashe Park, March 27; Hikes in Frozen Head State Park, April 10; and Gallaher Bend Greenway April 24.
- Big South Fork Deputy Ranger Noel Mays won the Southeast Region National Park Service 2014 Harry Yount Award, as reported in the March 3 *Morgan County Today* and the March 24 *Crossville Chronicle*.
- Chuck Estes saw a surf scoter and a white-winged scoter at the Oak Ridge marina, according to Marcia Davis's March 8 column in the *News Sentinel*.
- Patrice Cole authored articles in the March 19 and April 9 issues of the *Knoxville Mercury*.
- The March 17 *Crossville Chronicle* reported that Dennis Gregg has been honored by a Dimpled Globe Award nomination.
- Linda (Laforest) James and her new veterinary clinic in Morgan County were featured in the April 8 *Morgan County News*.
- Joe Feeman led a hike for the Norris Hiking Group; this was announced in the March 11 *Norris Bulletin*. Joe also penned an informative article about wildflowers in the Norris Watershed in the March 25 *Norris Bulletin*.
- Janice Spoone was pictured in the April 16 *News Sentinel* with participants in the Knoxville Martin Luther King Jr. Parade.
- Marty Adler-Jasny wrote a letter to the editor of the April 1 *Oak Ridger*.

- Whitey Hitchcock was featured in an article about morel mushrooms in the April 21 *News Sentinel*.
- Antone Davis, the Director of Vol for Life Program, is a 2015 inductee to the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame as reported in the May 3 edition of the *Knoxville News Sentinel*.
- Donna Reichle won an award at the Tennessee Mountain Writers Conference for inspirational writing, as reported in the May 3 *News Sentinel*.
- Tim Bigelow and Patrice Cole were among cocktail supper attendees listed in the March 12 *Knoxville Mercury*.
- The May 12 *News Sentinel* reported that Obed Wild and Scenic River Rangers Thomas Hall, Matt Hudson, and Brett Painter had received the National Park Service Valor Award for a river rescue in 2014.
- Ben Pounds's feature article about Lee Russell was in the April 16 *Oak Ridger*.
- Catherine Murray wrote a letter to the editor in the April 29 *Johnson City Press*, supporting passage of the Tennessee Wilderness Act.
- Rob Weber, Executive Director of Cumberland Trail Conference was pictured in the *Morgan County News* and the *Crossville Chronicle*, accepting a contribution to the Conference.
- Lucy Gibson and LaVance Davis are pictured in the April 1 *Shopper News*.
- Byron Jorjorian, Kirk Eddlemon, Matt Hudson, and Elizabeth and Jerry Olson were pictured in the April 29 *Morgan County News*.

8H. Thanks, and a tip of the hat to ...

[From Sandra Goss]



- Annetta Watson, Jimmy Groton, Carol Grametbauer, Cindy Kendrick, Larry Pounds, and Tim Bigelow for contributing to the March 2015 TCWP Newsletter 320, written and edited by Lee Russell.
- Jean Bangham, Frank Hensley, Dick Raridon, and Marti Salk for preparing TCWP Newsletter 320 for mailing.
- Marion Burger, Jean Bangham, and Harriett McCurdy for writing thank-you notes to TCWP contributors.
- Tim Bigelow and Michele Thornton for improving our membership data base.
- Roger Macklin, Kris Light, Jimmy Groton, and Donna Kridelbaugh for their leadership and support of the April 11 Wildflower Greenway Tour/Garlic Mustard Pull.
- Larry Pounds for his planning and leadership of the April 18 Roaring Creek Wildflower Walk, and Jimmy Groton and Paul Durr for helping with plant identification.

- Jan Lyons, Jean Bangham, Carole Franklin, Jimmy Groton, and Frank Hensley for their help installing and staffing the TCWP booth at the April 25 Oak Ridge Earth Day Festival.
- Jimmy Groton, and our sister organization Emory River Watershed Association, for the efforts involved in a very successful clean up and hemlock wooly adelgid workshop on May 2.
- Paul Durr and Jimmy Groton for their leadership of the May 9 Little Cedar Mountain hike; and Larry Pounds and sister organization and cosponsor Tennessee Native Plant Society for planning the event.
- Francis Perey for his invaluable help with the TCWP website.
- Tim Bigelow for his ongoing efforts on TCWP Treasurer responsibilities.
- Jan Lyons for her ongoing representation of TCWP with Community Shares.
- Frances Lamberts for her coordination and information about newspapers in Northeast Tennessee.

8J. Note from the Executive Director

[By Sandra Goss]

I am so proud of TCWP! Thanks to the Herculean efforts of the Board, Program Committee, and others, we are providing regular outings that improve or maintain trails and wild areas, or educate about our marvelous natural world. There have been educational programs, comment letters, and outreach on important issues.

The May 9 hike to Little Cedar Mountain concluded a long run of consecutive Saturday events that TCWP has sponsored, cosponsored, or *tried* to sponsor.

The *tried* part references our cancelled Obed and Big South Fork cleanups from rafts. The former was cancelled due to the upper-40's *highs* that day, and the latter because the water flow was too high.

By the way, that Big South Fork clean-up from rafts has been rescheduled to May 30, on the slim chance that there'll be adequate water flow. See separate article (§8B, this NL).

We've got a dynamite program about butterfly gardening coming up in June. These Kodak folks have a lot of butterfly wisdom and experience that they'll be sharing on Thursday, June 25 at the City Room at the Oak Ridge Roane State Campus.

We could use your help! There's a place for Program and Mailing Committee members, friends on Facebook, action takers on issues, North Ridge Trail segment adopters, Kroger Community Rewards enrollees, and much else (see §8D, above).

Thank you for all you do to Take Care of Wild Places, and hope to see you this summer.

Sandra

9. 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 16 to June 6, Morgan County Laurel Walks celebration (§3B, this NL).
- June 6, National Trails Day workday on North Ridge Trail. Pizza at Garretts (§8B, this NL).
- June 6, TNC's dedication of Sills Tract, honoring Liane Russell (§1C, this NL).
- June 20, Kayak outing at Oak Ridge Marina (§8B, this NL).
- June 25, Information Program by Kodak Butterfly keepers (§8B, this NL).
- July 21, deadline for submitting entries for BSFNRRR photo contest (§1D, this NL).
- July 25, Picnic/Outing at Gibbons Property on the Obed (§8B, this NL).
- Sept. 30, LWCF expires, unless reauthorized (§5A, this NL).

•• RESOURCES

- (See §6D, this NL) Pre-publication copies of *Climate Intervention: Carbon Dioxide Removal and Reliable Sequestration* and *Climate Intervention: Reflecting Sunlight to Cool Earth* are available from the National Academies Press on the Internet at <http://www.nap.edu> or by calling 1-800-624-6242.
- A historical photo collection of the Smokies now includes videos. The Derris collection at UT Libraries, which had previously contained 334 photographs taken from the 1940s to 1960s on the Tennessee side of the Smokies, has now added 12 film clips created from several reels of 8mm movie film. Visit <http://digital.lib.utk.edu/derris/>
- Michael Frome's new book, *Rediscovering National Parks in the Spirit of John Muir*, will be available in June. (University of Utah Press, 272 pp., \$24.95; also available as ebook 978-1-60781-419-1).

TCWP MEMBERSHIP

New Joiner or RENEWAL for 2015

(circle one)

Our dues year is the calendar year, 1/1-12/31. Contributions to TCWP are **IRS tax-deductible**. Your address label is coded **M** showing dues class paid for '13 & '14. Numbers correspond to those in form below. "X" = none. Other contributions coded c. New Joiners half price after Aug 1; full price after Nov 1 to include next year.

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning 1/1 - 12/31/15 - Membership
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 _____

DUES:

2. ☐ Student, Correspond, Senior (low budget) \$15.00
5. ☐ Sustaining member \$100.00**
3. ☐ REGULAR (individual) \$25.00
6. ☐ Supporting member \$200.00**
4. ☐ Family (husband, wife) \$35.00
7. ☐ Life member (new) \$500.00**
1. ☐ Name your own Intermediate Rate (>\$15). \$ _____

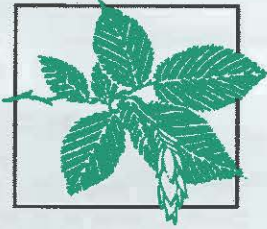
☐ I prefer delivery of Newsletters as PDF attached to an e-mail instead of paper copy via USPS.

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

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Coming Events

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Frank Hensley Director
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Larry Pounds Director
Liane (Lee) Russell Director
Michele Thornton Director
Warren Webb Director
Sandra Goss Executive Director

May 30, Sat.	Big South Fork River Cleanup from Rafts
June 6, Sat.	North Ridge Trail Cleanup
June 20, Sat.	Summer Solstice Flatwater Paddling Outing
June 25, Thurs.	Butterfly Gardening Presentation
July 25, Sat.	Obed Riverside Picnic