



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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July, 15, 2018

1. Obed and Big South Fork	p. 3	
A. TCWP brings more acres under Obed WSR protection		
B. Obed and BSF capsules		
2. Tennessee news	p. 3	
A. Several significant areas protected		
B. Statewide water plan		
C. Degraded stream segments may be restored		
3. Smokies: N. Shore Road settlement completed ..	p. 4	
4. TVA news	p. 4	
A. Recommendations for Natural Resources Program		
B. Small Modular Reactors: Draft Early Site Permit		
5. National (and other) Forests	p.5	
A. Cherokee NF Wilderness: progress of bill		
B. Roadless Rule must not be abandoned for our largest Nat'l Forest		
C. New leadership for US Forest Service		
D. Urban forests are on the decline		
6. National issues	p.5	
A. Administration bent on emasculating NEPA		
B. Double jeopardy for the LWCF		
C. A bill to protect National Monuments		
D. Sec. Zinke allowing extreme hunting methods in Alaska		
E. The latest on ANWR		
F. Clean Water protection under siege		
7. Climate change; Energy	p. 7	
A. At least 400 consecutive months of above-average temperatures		
B. Subsidies proposed for outdated coal-fired power plants		
C. EPA rolling back fuel-economy standards		
D. Climate-change capsules		
8. TCWP news (Do not despair!; Upcoming and recent activities; Richard Raridon; Thanks; In the news; Exc. Director's column	p. 7	
9. Calendar; Resources	p. 10	
		10. ACTION SUMMARY
		p. 2

Taking Care of Wild Places

The BIG stories

TCWP adds protected acreage to Obed WSR ... ¶1A

Administration bent on destroying NEPA ¶6A

LWCF needs \$\$ and reauthorization ¶6B

USDI allowing cruel hunting methods ¶6D

DOE plans to subsidize aging coal plants ¶7B

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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
2C	Degraded stream segments	TDOT	Request restoration of the site
5A	Tenn. Wilderness Bill	Sens. Alexander & Corker	"Urge conference comm. to keep TN Wilderness in Farm Bill; reject House bill's anti-environmental riders!"
5B	Roadless Rule for Nat'l Forests	USDA Sec., Sonny Perdue	"Do not exempt Tongass Nat'l Forest from Roadless Rule!"
6A	Emasculation of NEPA	Council on Env't'l Quality	"NEPA must be preserved as currently implemented!"
6B	LWCF	Your U.S. rep. and senators	"(a) Appropriate at least \$425 million. (b) Reauthorize!"
6C	Protection of National Monuments	Your senators	"Support S.2354; bring it to the floor!"
6D	Extreme hunting methods	By July 23, USDI Sec.Zinke	"National Preserves are no place for extreme sport-hunting methods"
6F	Clean Water protections	protectsouthernwaters.com	Sign the petition

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The Hon. John Doe
U.S. House of Representatives
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The White House
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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

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To call any rep. or senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772.
US rep.: <http://www.house.gov/lastname/> US senator: <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 "take action" alerts
You can also choose to receive e-lets by contacting Sandra Goss (see below).

WHAT IS TCWP?

TCWP (Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning) is dedicated to achieving and perpetuating protection of natural lands and waters by means of public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector. While our first focus is on the Cumberland and Appalachian regions of Tennessee, our efforts may extend to the rest of the state and the nation. TCWP's strength lies in researching information pertinent to an issue, informing and educating our membership and the public, interacting with groups having similar objectives, and working through the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of government on the federal, state, and local levels.

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

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

1. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

1A. *More of the Obed River WSR land is now owned by the Park*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

A long-term goal of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning is the conservation of all lands in the Obed Wild and Scenic River authorized boundaries. In late 2009, the late Frank Hensley, TCWP Board member, heard that a Mr. Sampley owned land inside and beside the boundary and that he might be willing to sell the land inside the park boundaries.

TCWP's generous members responded to a fund-raising appeal with enough money to purchase the approximately 19 acres. What a happy day when Frank, Mr. Sampley and this writer met at Mr. Sampley's bank to purchase the property!

Thanks to land-acquisition funds appropriated for the Obed WSR, TCWP has sold the land to the park. President Mark Bevelhimer signed the deed last month.

This latest property transfer brings to more than 600 acres the total area of several tracts brought under Obed WSR protection in past years through actions of TCWP and its members. We have come quite a bit closer to the goal of conserving all acres (approximately 5000) inside the boundaries established by Congress in the authorizing legislation, but we're not there yet.

1B. *Obed and BSF capsules*

[From the superintendent]

- BSFNRRRA visitation has increased 18% over the past two years.
- Visitors to Obed WSR in 2017 spent \$3,700,000 in communities near the park.
- Obed WSR and TCWP recently received funding to start a volunteer water monitoring program. Details in next NL.

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. *Several significant areas protected*

i. Chestnut Mountain

On 4/25/18, Bridgestone Americas, Inc. announced the donation of all 5,763 acres of the company's Chestnut Mountain property to the Nature Conservancy (TNC). The new Nature Preserve abuts (a) the NW corner of the Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness WMA in Scott's Gulf along the Caney Fork River (which Bridgestone donated to the State of Tennessee in 1998-2000) and (b) the NW boundary of the Virgin Falls State Natural Area. A mosaic of other protected lands stretches SW to Fall Creek Falls State Park. TNC hopes to create connector trails between Chestnut Mountain and some of these areas.

The Nature Reserve provides habitat to more than 100 animal and plant species of conservation concern, and sustains healthy forests that have, however, lost some key components. TNC plans to do shortleaf-pine restoration, and to engage in sustainable management of the forest. TNC will also manage a carbon sequestration project on the property that will offset the carbon emissions of Bridgestone's corporate headquarters in Nashville.

ii. Walden Ridge/Piney River

In May, TNC purchased 377 acres on Walden Ridge, overlooking the scenic Piney River gorge, and adjacent to Piney Falls State Natural Area. The tract is close to the Cumberland Trail and to Soak Creek, a State Scenic River. TNC plans to transfer the new area to the State of Tennessee, which will almost double the size of Piney Falls State Natural Area (to more than 800 acres).

iii. Dry Creek Headwaters

In June, the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation (TennGreen), together with TDEC and TWRA, announced the acquisition of Dry Creek Headwaters, a 582-acre property located between the Lost Creek Cave State Natural Area and Virgin Falls State Natural Area (near Chestnut Mountain, see ¶2A*i*, above). The land, purchased by TennGreen (with funds partly provided by Dr. Stephen Stedman, in memory of his wife, Barbara) has been transferred to the State of Tennessee.

2B. *Statewide water plan*

Governor Haslam has assembled stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds to develop a plan for water use and availability. The plan, named TN H2O, will include an assessment of current water resources, and will recommend strategies for ensuring that the state has an abundance of water to support future population and economic growth. TDEC is leading the plan development. A draft of TN H2O will be available for public input by October of this year.

2C. *Degraded stream segments may be restored*

[Contributed by Laura Williams, TDOT]

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Environmental Mitigation Office is responsible for providing compensatory mitigation to satisfy Section 404 permits as required by the 1972 Clean Water Act. After all practicable measures have been taken to avoid altering aquatic features, compensatory mitigation is required to offset any unavoidable impacts to streams and wetlands through restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment, enhancement, and/or preservation methods.

TDOT is currently looking for degraded streams for restoration and enhancement projects across the state. Typically, a minimum of 1,000 linear feet of stream is required to make the restoration project feasible. An ideal restoration site would exhibit some or all of the following characteristics: channelized, degraded/eroding banks, little-to-no vegetation or canopy, and willing property owners on both sides

of the stream channel. If you know of a degraded stream and would like to discuss donating or selling a conservation easement for a restoration site, please send coordinates and photos (if possible) to Laura Williams at laura.d.williams@tn.gov.

2D. Tennessee's farming performance

A recent ranking of states according to their farming practices puts Tennessee as No. 42 out of 50. This is the average ranking for ten categories, which means Tennessee ranked even lower in some, though higher in others. The highest ranking (No. 11 out of 50) was in *Conservation practices*, which includes such factors as percentage of farmland under conservation easement, percentage of farmland managed with organic practices, and percentage of select animal products produced using organic management. The state earned a mid-high ranking (No. 22 out of 50) in *Reduced ecosystem impacts*, which includes agriculture climate emissions per farm acres, percentage of waters that are impaired, nutrient loss from watersheds per land area, etc.

3. SMOKIES

The North Shore Road settlement is finally completed

When Fontana Reservoir was filled in 1941, a road that accessed communities on the southern border of Great Smoky Mountains National Park was inundated. Under the so-called 1943 Agreement, Swain County, NC, was promised a replacement road. This 30-mile North Shore Road would have been severely damaging to the Park and was therefore strenuously opposed by conservation groups (including TCWP). In 2007, with the help of these groups, a settlement was reached by which the county agreed to accept a cash payment of \$52 million from the US Department of Interior (DOI) in lieu of the promised road.

Unfortunately, for years thereafter, DOI failed to appropriate these funds, and Swain County had received only \$12.8 million by 2017, with an additional \$4 million transferred through the efforts of NC Senator Thom Tillis. A few weeks ago, however, Sen. Tillis announced that DOI had informed Congress that Swain County will *this year* receive the remaining \$35.2 million owed to them. This sum was included as a part of Secretary Zinke's spending plan for 2018 construction projects by National Park Service.

4. TVA NEWS

4A. TVA conducts listening tour about Natural Resources Programs

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Four non-regulatory meetings were held across the Tennessee Valley the week of June 18 for property owners,

recreational enthusiasts, boaters, campers, nearby residents, local decision-makers, and interested citizens to share views on TVA's natural resources programs and opportunities. The Knoxville-area meeting was attended by nature educators, water quality professionals, marina owners, parks administrators, and this writer.

The group provided feedback in five broad categories: water quality; commercial and public recreation and ecotourism; public information and education; wildlife, land management, conservation, and public land protection; and cultural resources. According to TVA, "the result will be a summary report of strategies or recommendations that inform TVA's strategic planning efforts and its future decision-making."

The feedback was collected orally and on report forms. With help from Johnny Cosgrove, Joe Feeman, and Lee Russell, TCWP provided the following recommendations to TVA: work to reduce significant loss of land due to erosion caused by boat wakes; designate and manage more public land in the most protective management category; inform the public about the timing and nature of herbicide applications; hire qualified natural resource professionals to replace the many professionals who have retired in the past 10 years; develop a strategy and coalition to address the mussel die-off in the Clinch River; consider resuming the practice of planning and staffing at the watershed level as was done years ago.

4B. Small Modular Reactors at the Clinch River Breeder Reactor site

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Last month, two public meetings were held to discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Early Site Permit (ESP) of Small Modular Reactors proposed by TVA at the former Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staffers made explanatory comments, including the following:

- This is the Early Site Permit Review Process; the actual permitting process will take place after completion of the current two-pronged permitting process, with the Draft EIS in process as well as a Safety Review.
- An ESP does not authorize the actual construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant.
- TVA need not provide a detailed design of reactors; rather, the application will refer to a plant parameter envelope, a set of values of plant design parameters that will bound the design characteristics of the reactors.

The Draft EIS may be viewed at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/esp/clinch-river.html>.

TCWP's comments on the proposed project (as well as on this site in TVA's Shoreline Management Plan) dealt with the environmental values of the site.

5. NATIONAL (and other) FORESTS

5A. *Cherokee NF Wilderness: progress of bill*

The Tennessee Wilderness Act (which would designate 20,000 acres of additional wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest) has been included in the Senate version of the Farm Bill (a “must pass” bill). The House bill, but not the Senate bill, is loaded with anti-environmental riders. Obviously, the actions of the conference committee that will be convened to work out the differences between the two versions of the bill are of the greatest interest.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask Senators Alexander and Corker and your representative to urge the conference committee, (a) to retain the TN Wilderness language in the final Bill, safeguarding watersheds and preserving Tennessee’s outdoor legacy, and (b) to reject the House Bill’s anti-environmental riders and pass a workable, bipartisan Farm Bill.

5B. *Roadless Rule must not be abandoned for our largest national forest*

The 17-million-acre Tongass in Alaska is our largest national forest and the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world. Its towering trees have grown tall and thick for many centuries, most recently kept safe from the appetite of the timber industry by the Roadless Area Conservation Rule of 2001 (which was supported by 1.6 million comments).

Alaska Gov. Bill Walker recently petitioned the U.S. Department of Agriculture to create an exemption from the Roadless Rule for the Tongass.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge the USDA (Sec. Sonny Perdue, www.usda.gov) to keep the Roadless Rule in place for the magnificent Tongass National Forest.

5C. *New leadership for US Forest Service*

[Based on information from FSEEE]

In March, Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke resigned (following an accusation of sexual misconduct), and USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue named Vicki Christiansen as interim USFS chief. Christiansen, who, in the past, has served as State Forester for Arizona and Washington, has worked for the US Forest Service since 2010 (most recently as Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry).

In announcing Christiansen’s appointment, USDA Secretary Perdue outlined the Administration’s priorities for the Forest Service, which include allowing “state and local agencies to conduct logging and thinning projects on national forest lands in coordination with the Forest Service.” The agency touts “active forest management,” which it credits for creation of jobs and GDP. According to the Forest Service’s own budget, however, the vast preponderance of jobs and economic activity result from “recreation and wild-life visitor use” of national forests, not logging.

5D. *Urban Forests are on the decline*

According to US Forest Service research, tree cover in cities and towns dropped by about 175,000 acres between 2009 and 2014, i.e., a decline of 0.7%. That amounts to a loss of about 36 million trees per year. It was estimated that the economic loss from this decline in urban forests was about \$100 million annually.

The economic benefits of urban forests amount to \$18 billion annually. The benefits of urban forests include the lowering of air temperature, reduction of summer energy costs, mitigation of runoff and flooding, and reduction of air pollution and carbon levels.

6. NATIONAL ISSUES

6A. *NEPA threatened by Administration*

The nearly 50-year-old Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, has been called the Magna Carta of environmental law because it establishes the national legal framework for protecting our environment, and has paved the way for many of the environmental policies we have today. Under NEPA, federal agencies must consider the environmental impacts of planned projects and take public input into consideration. By requiring agencies to consider less-destructive alternatives to initial project proposals, NEPA has avoided countless environmental disasters and saved billions of dollars.

The Trump Administration is bent on at least emasculating NEPA, if not getting rid of it altogether. The President has now directed the White House Council on Environmental Policy to consider changes to NEPA regulations, claiming that NEPA makes government projects inefficient. Multiple expert studies have, however, shown that more than 95% of projects subject to NEPA go through a short review process of a few days to months. Less than 1% of NEPA projects ever end up requiring environmental impact statements

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell CEQ that NEPA, the bedrock of environmental law, must be preserved as currently implemented. (www.whitehouse.gov/ceq. Or call 202-395-5750.)

6B. *Double jeopardy for the LWCF*

The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides money for the acquisition and protection of federal lands (administered by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, or U.S. Forest Service), as well as making grants to states and local governments to create and protect urban parks and open space. For over 50 years, the program has protected more than two million acres of land and supported more than 40,000 state and local park projects. The LWCF doesn’t cost taxpayers a thing; it is funded entirely by royalties from the offshore oil and gas industry.

In Pres. Trump’s budget proposal for FY 2019, funding for the LWCF was cut so severely as to completely eliminate the Fund. (The President would, additionally, have rescinded

funds *already appropriated in the past.*) Congress has rejected complete elimination and rescissions; significant cuts could, however, be included in the upcoming appropriations bill. On June 20, the LWCF champions in the House and Senate rallied on the steps of the U.S. Capitol with conservation leaders and outdoor recreation advocates and vowed to save the LWCF.

The FY 2019 Interior Appropriations Bill marked up in mid-June by the Senate Appropriations Committee provides \$425 million for the LWCF — the same amount appropriated for FY 2018. The House Appropriations Committee, however, had in mid-May provided only \$360 million for the LWCF. If the final amount ends up to be less than the Senate version, millions of dollars for public lands will be cut off.

There is another problem. The LWCF will expire on September 30, 2018 unless Congress acts to reauthorize it.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your representative and both senators (address on p.2) to (a) appropriate at least \$425 million (as in the Senate bill) for the LWCF in FY2019, and (b) make sure the LWCF gets reauthorized before it expires.

6C. A bill to protect National Monuments

S.2354 has been introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) and 20 others to protect our current National Monuments from attack. The bill's acronym is the ANTIQUITIES (America's Natural Treasures of Immeasurable Quality Unite, Inspire, and Together Improve the Economies of States) Act of 2018. It will codify the boundaries of more than 50 national monuments established since Theodore Roosevelt passed the authorizing Antiquities Act in 1906. Our national monuments are among the greatest treasures owned by the American people, treasures that were preserved over the course of more than a century by presidents of both parties. Their boundaries have been carefully chosen for maximum protection of unique and valuable features and must remain inviolate.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your senators (address on p.2) to support bringing S.2354 to the floor.

6D. Sec. Zinke allowing extreme hunting methods in Alaska

[Information from NPCA]

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is allowing extreme "sport-hunting" methods in Alaska's national preserves, such as baiting grizzly bears, killing black bear mothers and cubs in their dens, and killing wolves and pups by trapping during denning season. These unethical, inhumane practices were banned three years ago, when over 70,000 Americans took a strong stand against them. The National Park Service has the authority to protect bears and wolves, but Sec. Zinke is ordering NPS to surrender this authority.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: National Park lands are no place for extreme sport-hunting methods. Comments are due by midnight EST on July 23. Send them to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow instructions for submitting comments.

The docket number is RIN (1024-AE38R). You must include the words "National Park Service" or "NPS" in your comments.

6E. The latest on ANWR

- In mid-May, a group of influential investors representing \$2.5 TRILLION in assets sent a letter to over 100 oil and gas companies (and the banks that fund them), warning that any drilling or development in the Arctic Refuge coastal plain, will trigger a massive public backlash with severe financial ramifications.
- Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA) has introduced the "Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act," which repeals Arctic Refuge drilling from the tax bill.
- About 200 species of birds depend on the Arctic Refuge. Species migrate from all six continents and all 50 states to breed in the Refuge. The Refuge was first protected by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and leaders from both parties have worked together for generations to stop attempts to open the biological heart of the Refuge — its pristine coastal plain — to oil and gas drilling. (From *Audubon Advisory*, May 14.)

6F. Clean Water protections under siege

[Contributed by Sandra Goss, with help from Riley Egger, SELC]

Clean water, fundamental to our health, is a way of life in Tennessee. The Clean Water Act, one of our longest-standing environmental laws, sets basic limits on pollution of streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands – guaranteeing that all Americans have clean water. The Clean Water Act provides the legal backbone for state and local environmental agencies to keep our waters free of unlawful and unlimited pollution.

At the bidding of industry and current governmental leadership, regulatory agencies in Washington, DC, are dismantling our water laws to protect big polluters instead of our people. This would allow more pollution into our rivers, lakes, and the drinking water sources that our families and communities use every day. Water-quality attacks are multi-pronged, including suspending and repealing the 2015 Clean Water Rule.

The agencies ultimately intend to replace the Clean Water Rule (WOTUS) with a very restrictive view of Clean Water Act jurisdiction. The expected rule would eliminate protections for many small streams and most wetlands, which flow into the rivers and lakes we love. It is estimated that more than 40% of streams and 90% of wetlands would lose protection. The comment period on the revised rule will begin in late summer.

Should the administration have its way, it is likely that federal clean-water protections will be gutted, allowing unregulated pollution to flow into the waterways that we love.

Removing the Clean Water Act's protection for streams and wetlands would take away the most important tool *local and state* agencies use to make sure our water stays safe and plentiful. The lobbyists now controlling Washington's agenda want to pretend that water and pollution don't flow

downhill — downstream to our drinking water sources, rivers, and lakes. Threats to water quality are greater than ever — now is not the time to go back to the days when rivers caught on fire and fish kills were a routine occurrence.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Go to www.protectsouthernwaters.com and sign the petition. Ask others to sign and use #protectcleanwater to show your support! Be on the lookout for more information.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE; ENERGY

7A. At least 400 consecutive months of above-average temperatures

As reported in NOAA's monthly global climate report for April (we don't have the information for May and June), the Earth's temperature has been above average for 400 consecutive months, i.e., for more than 33 years. "Average" is based on the 100 years of the 20th century (years 1901-2000). Eighteen of the warmest 19 years have occurred since 2000. NOAA began collecting records in 1880.

7B. Subsidies proposed for outdated coal-fired power plants

[Information from
Southern Environmental Law Center]

Southeastern states have been disproportionately harmed by the South's reliance on coal. Coal burning has polluted the atmosphere with toxics like mercury that then settle into water, and coal ash storage has polluted rivers, groundwater, and drinking-water sources across the region. In the past decade, more than 125 outdated coal plants in the south have been retired or will be by 2020. Utilities, driven by market forces, vastly reduced reliance on coal in favor of cheaper power sources, like natural gas and renewable energy.

Pres. Trump has now ordered his energy secretary to put a stop to this trend, claiming that closing the aging and polluting plants "is putting the nation's security at risk." (Note that this order comes from an administration that has characterized the Obama EPA's rule to control CO₂ pollution caused by coal-fired power plants as 'meddling in energy markets'.) The aging coal plants will not only be stopped from closing, but would actually be subsidized to continue operations. An additional aspect of this market intervention is that it takes aim at a thriving clean-energy industry.

7C. EPA rolling back fuel-economy standards

The gradual increase in vehicular fuel economy standards was a key feature of the Obama Administration's campaign to reduce greenhouse gases in the fight against global warming (extra important now, when vehicles in the USA have surpassed power plants and factories as sources of CO₂ — see ¶7D, below). But on May 31, the Pruitt EPA formally

started the process of rolling back CAFE ("Corporate Average Fuel Economy," or gallons per mile) standards, erasing all intended progress over the near future (and, incidentally, raising fuel costs for drivers). EPA didn't identify or account for the potential effect on greenhouse gas emissions, climate change, and public health and safety when it reopened the review.

Beyond rolling back CAFE standards, EPA is also attacking the rules (core features of the Clean Air Act) under which California is allowed to set its own standards for mileage and emissions -- standards that are often followed by other states.

7D. Climate-change capsules

[From *Sierra* magazine]

- After 3 years of holding flat, global emissions of greenhouse gases increased by 1.4% in 2017. In May, global CO₂ concentrations reached 410 ppm, the highest level in 15 million years.
- Vehicles are now the No.1 source of CO₂ in the United States, having surpassed power plants and factories in 2017. Emissions from new vehicles sold last year were 5% higher than back in 2013.

8. TCWP NEWS

8A. Do not despair!

These are rough times indeed for the environment (and for many other issues as well). We need to heed Congressman John Lewis's advice: "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime." Lewis knew 55 years ago (during the Civil Rights struggle), and knows now, that despair creates apathy, and apathy destroys activism. Giving in to despair is lazy surrender.

8B. Upcoming activities

Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

Summer Cedar Barren Cleanup - Saturday, August 25

This will be the second of our three annual workdays at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren. Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, the barren is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, the State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. One of just a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee, the area is subject to invasion by Chinese lespedeza, Japanese privet, autumn olive, mimosa, Nepal grass, multiflora rose, and woody plants that threaten the system's prairie grasses. Our spring, summer, and fall cleanups help to eliminate invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sun. The late-summer workday is optimum for viewing prairie wildflowers that flourish at the barren.

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

Fall Flowers of Daddy's Creek Cobble Bars - Saturday, September 15

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

For this third and final outing of the year with the Tennessee Native Plant Society, we will be in the scenic Devil's Breakfast Table area. As time and energy allows, we will make various walks into cobble-bar areas along this rocky stream. These are excellent areas for asters, goldenrods, and other fall wildflowers.

Total walking distance will be less than five miles, with opportunities to opt out at various points. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray, and a swimsuit if you want to cool off in the creek.

We'll meet to carpool 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 10 a.m. Eastern Time, or at the Marathon Gas Station at the I-40 Crab Orchard exit (Exit 329) east of Crossville at 10 a.m. Central Time. For more information, contact Larry Pounds at (865) 705-8516 or via email at PoundsL471@aol.com. Reservations are not required, but are helpful for planning purposes and for sending updates or cancelations.

National Public Lands Day Cleanup at Worthington Cemetery - Saturday, September 29

TCWP and TVA will partner again for our annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) celebration, to be held at TVA's Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area (ESA) on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. Joining us as cosponsor this year will be the Manhattan Project National Historic Park. A pizza lunch will follow our work session, which will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude around noon.

TCWP has for many years partnered with TVA to enhance and protect natural resources at Worthington Cemetery and other TVA lands throughout East Tennessee as part of our mutual stewardship efforts. Our yearly efforts in this area are helping to eradicate wisteria from the cemetery, and privet and other invasive exotics from the ESA. Additional details regarding the cleanup will be provided in the September newsletter and via email alert

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 27

Save the date! Tennessee Commissioner of Environment and Conservation, Shari Meghreblian, will be the keynote speaker at our annual meeting. Dr. Meghreblian, formerly Deputy Commissioner overseeing the department's environmental regulatory programs, was named to her current position in May of this year.

Additional details about the meeting will be provided in the September newsletter.

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

8C. Recent events

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

Whippoorwill Outing – May 26

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

A dozen folks gathered May 26 at Fort Loudoun State Historical Park to seek out singing whippoorwills. It was a cloudy Saturday evening that turned into a dark and stormy night. Savvy weather/radar interpreters said rain, lightning and thunder were bearing down on us, and the outing was terminated. Happily, outing participants made it safely home in heavy rain.

Many thanks to outing leader, State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath. We saw his favorite Fort Loudoun State Park tree, a huge white oak. At least 150 years old, the tree is on the site of an old home place. The oak's extensive spread, indicates that it had much light and little competition.

National Trails Day hikes on North Ridge Trail – June 2

Fourteen hikers, including two who were new to TCWP activities, turned out to hike the North Ridge Trail as part of our National Trails Day observance. Built decades ago by TCWP volunteers, the North Ridge Trail passes for more than 10 miles through the forests and across the creeks of Oak Ridge's Northern Greenbelt.

North Ridge Trail Section Adopter John Jaruzel led a short, easy hike from the Wedgewood access to Key Springs Road; many then joined TCWP Board member Jimmy Groton on a second, longer leg, from the Key Springs Road access east to the Delaware Loop. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Discover Life in America – June 28

In a program cosponsored by TCWP and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, Todd Witcher, Executive Director of Discover Life in America (DLIA), spoke to an audience of about 20 on June 28 about the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) and other work of DLIA.

Discover Life in America is a small nonprofit organization, now in its twentieth year, that coordinates the ATBI in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and beyond. Todd said the organization, working closely with Park Service scientists, is trying to answer four basic questions: What species are in the Park? How are they distributed? What is their relative abundance? and What are their ecological relationships with other species? He described DLIA's role in research, education, and conservation, noting that the program has discovered nearly 1,000 species in the Park that are new to science, including slime molds, springtails, algae, moths and butterflies, earthworms, and beetles.

He also discussed BioBlitzes, one-day or weekend events when scientists and interested citizens join to find out what species are in a specific area. (A Bioblitz held at the Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area in Oak Ridge on July 14 will be reported on in the September newsletter.)

8D. *Richard Raridon has passed away*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Long-time member of TCWP's Mailing Committee, Dick Raridon, passed away last month from severe pancreatitis. Dick, an Iowa native and Grinnell graduate, could be counted on for keen observations about current affairs, encyclopedic knowledge about trains and arboreta, and for having a kind word for everyone. Dick was able to explain scientific concepts in understandable ways, and took an endearing interest in people. He will indeed be missed.

8E. *Thanks, and a tip of the hat to*

[compiled by Sandra Goss]



- Michele Thornton for telling the story of TCWP at the Split-the-Plate Sunday held by Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church.
- Randy Hedgepath for his leadership of the May 27 whip-poorwill listening tour.
- Michele Thornton for her invaluable help with the TCWP website.
- Shelaine Curd, Virginia Dale, and Jimmy Groton for their nominating TCWP as a Split-the-Plate beneficiary.
- John Jaruzel and Jimmy Groton for leading the North Ridge Trail hike on National Trails Day.
- Southern Environmental Law Center for spearheading a letter to Senators Alexander and Corker about Coal Primacy funding.
- Johnny Cosgrove, Joe Feeman, and Lee Russell for their help with comments for the TVA Natural Resources Listening Tour.
- Tim Bigelow, Johnny Cosgrove, Jimmy Groton, Jamie Herold, and Jan Lyons for helping publicize TCWP events.
- Todd Witcher for making a very interesting presentation about Discover Life in America and All-Taxa Biodiversity.

8F. *Friends and members in the news*

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- Kris Harris Light was mentioned in an article about Science Camp in the May 9 *Oak Ridger*.

- Chet Hunt authored an op-ed column about TVA's leadership in the May 29 *News Sentinel*.
- Janice Spoone was pictured in the June 6 *Shopper News* with a group who cleaned the Karns Library garden in celebration of Earth Day.
- Chuck Nicholson authored an article in the June 20 *Norris Bulletin* about the designation of the Norris Commons a Level-I Arboretum. The article mentioned Harry Shatz and Chuck, members of the Norris Tree Council.
- Joe Feeman's article about his Wyoming travels appeared in the June 27 *Norris Bulletin*.

8G. *Executive Director's column*

Dear TCWP Friends,

There's good news to celebrate. It's the sale of the Sampley property to the National Park Service. Way back in 2009, TCWP Board members decided to take on the project of conserving the property from development. A fund-raising campaign was undertaken, and thanks to members' generosity we were able to purchase the land.

Frank Hensley, who played a major leadership role in the process, was very worried that we had paid too much for the land. He and all Board members feel their fiduciary responsibilities keenly, and want to be good stewards of contributions to TCWP.

The Sampley property purchase was a wise move, protecting about 18.5 acres inside the boundaries of Obed Wild and Scenic River. Now the park has some land acquisition funding, and they've purchased the property.

Note that this effort took 9 (!) years. This environmental/conservation business is the proverbial marathon, not a sprint.

We're definitely in a marathon for passage of the Tennessee Wilderness Act. Years ago, several of us met regularly at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church to strategize about how we could secure a legislative sponsor. At press time, the Bill has advanced further than it ever has. Not quite to the scoring line, but further than ever before.

TCWP is sponsoring outdoor activities soon. Not marathons, but outdoor activities. We'll be working at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren on Saturday, August 25 and at Worthington Cemetery Special Ecological Study Area on Saturday, September 29.

The TCWP Program Committee is the group in charge of activities, speakers, and events. Do you have ideas? Please let me or a Program Committee member know. The Committee will begin planning programs for 2019 in the next few months. We welcome your ideas and requests. Where do you want to hike? Is there someone or some topic that you'd like to hear about in a TCWP Program? Let us hear from you!

Thanks for your support, thanks for your help, and enjoy the steamy summer!

9. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• **CALENDAR**

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

- July 23, Comment deadline for extreme hunting (§6D)
- July 27, Ride (bicycle) with a Ranger along the Melton Lake Greenway, stopping along the way to discuss the rich history of Oak Ridge. Meet at 10 (EST) at Elza Gate Park.
- August 25, Summer Cedar Barren Cleanup (see §8B, this NL).
- September 15, Fall Flowers of Daddy's Creek Cobble Bars (see §8B, this NL).
- September 29 - National Public Lands Day Cleanup at Worthington Cemetery (see §8B, this NL).
- October 2 - 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (see NL337 §1B)
- October 27, TCWP Annual Meeting (see §8B, this NL).

•• **RESOURCES**

- More information about Discover Life in America, the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, and other DLIA activities [8C, this NL] is available at the DLIA website, <https://dlia.org/>.
- The Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), which works in six southeastern states (including Tennessee), is a trusted source for up-to-date news of the region. Its News Feed (at www.SouthernEnvironment.org/newsfeed) highlights breaking news, essential stories, and recommended articles.
- Greenpeace's *Guide to Greener Electronics* ranks companies that produce electronic devices on their use of toxic chemicals, energy use, and natural-resource consumption. The report may be downloaded at www.greenpeace.org/usa/Greenerguide
- Carol Grametbauer, who has long served TCWP as Secretary of the Board of Directors and in many other capacities, is also a published author of poetry. Her most recent publication, the chapbook *Homeplace*, was a finalist in a recent chapbook contest. It is available for \$12 plus shipping through the Main Street Rag Publishing Co.'s website at mainstreetragbookstore.com.

“We have fallen heir to the most glorious heritage a people received. Each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune.”

(Pres. Theodore Roosevelt, who helped preserve
230 million acres of land for public use)

18 Reasons to be a member of TCWP for 2018

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning:

- * Provides quick weekly info on current events thru E-lets
- * Issues the most informative environmental newsletter in the state
- * Secures special lands in Obed River Gorge
- * Maintains Whites Ck. Trail (Rhea Co.)
- * Provides TCWP E-lets on timely environmental issues
- * The TCWP Newsletter and E-lets can help you make a difference
- * Conducts regular invasive plants cleanup at Oak Ridge Cedar Barren
- * Monitors and comments on Big South Fork NRRRA management
- * Sponsors informative presentations
- * Is long-time adopter of Alley Ford segment of Cumberland Trail
- * Takes active role in oil and gas rules formulation
- * Sponsors yearly exotic pest plant removal at Worthington Cemetery
- * Works to stop Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining
- * Advocates for pure drinking water
- * Built and maintains the North Ridge Trail (Oak Ridge)
- * Fights for healthy state and national forests
- * Comments on timbering and gold mining extraction
- * Strong member of Coalition to Defend Water Quality

Our "dues" year is the calendar year, Jan 1 to Dec 31. Contributions to TCWP are tax-deductible.

To join after August 1, you may pay half the listed annual rates.

Please visit www.tcwp.org for secure contribution or send form, and check (**payable to TCWP**), to:

Tim Bigelow, Treasurer, TCWP; 10626 Forest Crest Rd., Knoxville, TN 37922

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

1. Student, Correspond, Senior (low budget)..\$15.00 2. REGULAR (individual)..... \$25.00

3. Family \$35.00 Other name(s) for mbr _____

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

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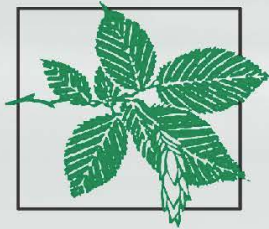
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 30 – TCWP Program Committee Meeting
- August 13, 14 – Tennessee River Basin Network meeting in Knoxville!
- August 18 - Community Shares Annual Meeting
- August 25 – Cedar Barren Summer Clean Up
- September 15 - Fall Flowers of Daddy's Creek Cobble Bars
- September 29 - National Public Lands Day - Worthington Cemetery