



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

Newsletter No. 281

September 7, 2008

Taking Care of Wild Places

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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!

11. ACTION SUMMARY

#No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
4A	Mountaintop removal	Gov. Brodesen	"Support legislation to protect our mountaintops and vistas!"
5	November-4 election	#5, and information sources	Acquaint yourself with record and positions of candidates. Vote!
6A	Drilling on fed. lands & offshore	Legislators/candidates/media	"Drilling can be very harmful – and will <u>not</u> yield touted benefits!"
7A	Endangered Species Act	Sec. Kempthorne, by Sept. 15	"Your proposed rules change would eviscerate the Act!"
7C	Danger to small streams, wetlands	US senators and rep.	"Support quick passage of HR2421/S.1870!"
4C	River Hero Award	TN Clean Water Network	Return the enclosed card; contact TCWN
8A	North Ridge Trail	TCWP	Volunteer for Adopt-A-Section Program
9A	TCWP's part-time position	TCWP	Spread the word

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

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

Pres. George W. Bush
The White House
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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Brodesen
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bob Corker
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-0566
e-mail: <http://corker.senate.gov/contact.cfm>
Local: 865-637-4180 (FAX 637-9886)
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Sen. Lamar Alexander:
Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3398
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Local: 865-545-4253 (FAX 545-4252)

Rep. Zach Wamp:
Phone: 202-225-3271
FAX: 202-225-3494
Local: 865-576-1976
Web: www.house.gov/wamp

To call any Rep or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772
URLs: <http://www.house.gov/lastname/> and <http://lastname.senate.gov/> General contact info: <http://www.tcv.org>
With mail to Congress still slow following the anthrax scare, consider faxing, phoning, and other modes of communication.

There is much contact information in our up-to-date Political Guide. Visit the TCWP web site (<http://www.tcvp.org>)

WHAT IS TCWP?

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

TCWP: 130 Tabor Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830 President: Jimmy Groton, 865-483-5799 (h)
Executive and Membership-Development Director: Sandra Goss, 865-522-3809; Sandra@sandrakgoss.com
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1. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

1A. Acquisition of Obed Inholdings

discussed with NPS Regional Office

On August 11, five representatives of TCWP and two other organizations traveled to Atlanta to meet with the director and staff of the National Park Service's Southeast Regional Office (SERO). Our objective was to acquaint the SERO leadership with the urgency for NPS to acquire private inholdings that remain within the boundaries of the Obed Wild & Scenic River and that render the resource highly vulnerable to damaging developments. We distributed copies of the illustrated booklet "Obed Wild & Scenic River in Peril" that we produced last year, which summarizes the situation and includes a list of properties and a map.

Another major concern that we brought to the attention of Regional Director David Vela and staff of NPS's Land Resources Program Center is the fact that when park boundaries were drawn soon after passage of the 1976 authorizing legislation, an error led to omission of bluff land along a 2.5-mile-long stretch of the Obed gorge. We brought with us a copy of NPS's Land Management Plan for the Obed WSR, which states that the needed boundary adjustment can be made through administrative action and does not require legislation. We strongly urged that this be done.

Director Vela and his staff gave us over an hour of their time and listened attentively to our case. As all of us were already aware, NPS has virtually no acquisition funds at this time (not even emergency funds to take care of imminent threats), but we urged that SERO place Obed tracts on their acquisition-priority list to give them a chance as funds become available. We were asked to provide a list of what we consider to be the three or four most important tracts to be purchased, and also to get the owners to write letters of intent to sell. TCWP will be following through with these suggestions and will keep our contacts with SERO active.

1B. US 127N widening will follow existing route,

spring Clear Creek watershed

(Information from SOCM Sentinel)

This is good news, because an alternative alignment, which was seriously considered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), would have done serious damage to headwater streams in the Clear Creek and Obed watersheds – streams with their own little scenic gorges – not to mention the Clear Creek itself (upstream from the Obed WSR boundary). The realignment was originally proposed in 2001, as part of the plan to

convert a 14-mile section of US 127 just north of Crossville to a four-lane roadway.

Prior to his election in 2002, Gov. Bredesen promised to clean up TDOT's practices so as to allow more public input. His new TDOT Commissioner, Gerald Nicely, soon initiated case studies of 15 controversial road projects around the state. Hwy 127N was one of these. The subsequent 5 years saw a UT study, creation of a Citizens Resource Team (consisting primarily of residents from the affected communities), several hearings, and a DEIS. At the end, Commissioner Nicely announced that the widening project would "move forward, following the alignment of the existing route." SOCM's Cumberland County Chapter and the local people deserve a great share of the credit for this outcome.

1C. No new superintendent yet at BSNRRA

After 8 years in the job, Superintendent Reed Detry left the BSNRRA in mid-June, to become superintendent of the Ozark National Scenic Waterway (NL280 T3A). Upon his departure, Stuart Johnson, superintendent at Stones River National Battlefield, became acting director (while continuing his job at Stones River). Johnson has much past and present familiarity with the Big South Fork. On August 15, he was replaced by Jim David, superintendent of the Ocmulgee National Monument. It appears that these temporary appointments may be on a 60-day rotation.

1D. Obed WSR activities

(From Joe Zagorski, Chief of Interpretation)

For further information, call 423-346-8901, ext.24.

- Sept. 27, National Public Lands Day clean-up of several sections of the park. Phone the number above for particulars.
- Oct. 24 (Friday), Owl Prowl. Meet at Lilly Bluff Overlook parking lot at 7 p.m. (EDT) to learn about the habitat and mannerisms of the owls of the Obed (Screech Owl and Barred Owl). Recorded owl calls will be used in an attempt to locate and view these owls. Bring a flashlight and wear sturdy shoes.

2. THE GREATER FROZEN HEAD

(Section contributed by Cindy Kendrick)

2A. Work continues on the Emory Tract management plan

As part of the collaborative "Connecting the Cumberland" initiative last year, nearly 11,000 acres in the upper Emory River Valley were added to the Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area in Morgan County. Tennessee State Parks has enlisted a diverse stakeholder team, including TCWP's Executive Director Sandra Goss, to help

define parameters for the management plan that will guide use of the new tract (NL280 ¶2A). The team concluded its pre-plan discussions in mid-June and is now awaiting a draft management document for review.

Meanwhile, TDEC is drafting "Frequently Asked Questions," which will be published on a state web site to provide convenient answers to some basic inquiries: Where is the land? Is hunting allowed? Are there safety zones? May I drive my vehicle/ATV/OHV there? Once these questions and answers are approved and posted, the stakeholder team will begin reviewing the management plan that TDEC is drafting. Eventually the public will have ready access to both documents.

2B. Remaining Frozen Head Work Days

Volunteer Trail Work Days, start at 8:45 a.m. and last until about 3:00 p.m.

September 20
October 18
November 15
December 6

Meet at the Visitor Center. Bring daypack, lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots, and weather-appropriate clothing. (For more information, call 423-346-3318.)

3. THE CUMBERLANDS

3A. Do mineral rights include surface rocks? Favorable outcome of the recent law suit

Background [from NL280 ¶1A, abbreviated].

Last year, a Florida-based company that owns mineral rights in the Deep Creek Gorge section of the Cumberland Trail State Park began removing 40-60 tons per day of sandstone surface rocks from that area of the park (and from the trail itself), causing heartbreaking devastation. The state sued, but the Hamilton County Court ruled in April 2007 that the company was legally within its mining rights and could continue mining (though not the trail itself). In October 2007, the state appealed this decision to the Tennessee Court of Appeal. TCWP was among several groups that filed an *amicus curiae* (Friend of the Court) brief in support of the state.

Outcome of the recent law suit

[From information provided by Sarah Francisco and Greg Supper, attorneys for the *amicus* groups.]

In late July, the Tennessee Court of Appeals ruled in our favor in the Cumberland Trail State Park rock "harvesting" case. In a strong, well-reasoned, and clear opinion, the Court stated that "general mineral reservations in a deed will not be construed so broadly as to include extraction methods that destroy the surface rights conveyed in the same deed. If a grantor wishes to retain the

right to obtain minerals through destructive surface extraction, he must explicitly reserve that right within the deed; a general mineral reservation will not suffice." This opinion confirms the case that our attorneys advanced in the *amicus* brief.

The Court went on to explain that the case-law, "as well as basic common sense and equity, compel the conclusion" that the mineral owner does not have the right to destroy the state's surface rights by depriving the state of the reasonable use of its land by, for example, destroying the trees in the park. The opinion showed clear signs of our *amicus* brief's influence.

The Court of Appeals remanded the case back to the trial court in Hamilton County for further proceedings consistent with the opinion. Our attorneys will discuss how the state plans to proceed with the Attorney General, and will consider whether and how the *amicus* groups can participate effectively to achieve a favorable judgment in the Hamilton County court and bring the case to a successful close.

This is a great outcome for our effort to keep the Cumberland Trail State Park free of rock harvesting and goes a long way towards establishing clear law on the rock-tuning issue in Tennessee for all land owners. The *amicus* are strategizing about follow up actions. The outcome of this case could have broad implications, since many land owners on the Cumberland Plateau and other East Tennessee mountain regions do not own their mineral rights to their property.

3B. TPGF completes protected corridor in Scott's Gulf

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

Thanks to the recent purchase of 689 acres near Virgin Falls by Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation (TPGF), a 55,000-acre corridor of protected land now connects Fall Creek Falls and Scott's Gulf. This latest tract, TPGF's fourth in the corridor, includes a spectacular view from Welch Point of the Caney Fork River and its deep gorge. Preservation of this large tract of wild land will also protect the water that winds through the gorges and eventually flows into Center Hill Lake.

The 10-year corridor project has been conducted in cooperation with several state agencies and non-profit groups, including Friends of Scott's Gulf and the Scott's Gulf Wilderness Association. The new tract overlooks 10,000 acres that was previously donated by Budgestone Firestone in 1998 and 2000. TPGF is in the process of transferring the new tract to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), which, along with the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund, is providing funds. The land will be open to the public for hiking and hunting, protected in perpetuity from development. Visitors can access Scott's Gulf and Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness from Scott's Gulf Road, off Eastland Road in White County.

3C. Burgess Falls Park adds 45 acres

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

Burgess Falls State Park has expanded its acreage to approximately 395 acres, with the recent acquisition of 45 acres near the Park's largest waterfall. State land-acquisition funds were used for the purchase, which was closely monitored by State Representative Henry Fincher. Fincher professed not only a strong commitment to preserving a natural legacy for future generations, but also a personal connection to the land.

"Burgess Falls State Park is actually the old family farm. My great-great-grandfather was Winfield Scott Burgess," he said. "It's neat to see this park that means so much to me on a personal level ... get expanded." The recently added tract was purchased from seller Treva Luke. Current plans leave the land as is - mostly woodlands. The Park's officials envision further expansion in the future.

(Herald-Citizen: <http://www.herald-citizen.com/index.cfm?event=news.view&id=A6B50D4F-19B9-E2E2-67A7C-1F21841F8A>)

3D. Alliance for the Cumberlands meeting to focus on OHVs

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

In recognition of the growing use of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) in the Cumberlands, the Alliance for the Cumberlands will focus its next meeting on this subject. The fall meeting, which is scheduled for October 23 at the Scott County Administration Building in Huntsville, TN, will include speakers and an optional field trip. Contact Katherine Medlock (kmedlock@tnc.org or 865-546-5998) for more information.

The Alliance is a partnership of public and private organizations with a mission "to bring people together to achieve the ecological and economic sustainability of natural and human communities in the Cumberland region." The scope includes the Cumberland Mountains and Plateau Region of Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, West Virginia, and Virginia. TCWP helped catalyze the formation of the Alliance and has served a key role in its coordination and growth. Supported by The Nature Conservancy, the Alliance is now taking definitive steps toward independent operation, with the nomination of board members/officers and transition from operating guidelines to by-laws under way (see 3D, this NL). Read more about the Alliance at <http://www.allianceforthecumberlands.org>.

3E. Your feedback needed on Cumberlands marketing logo

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

To educate the public on the natural and historic wealth of the Cumberlands and help promote a sustainable regional economy, the Alliance for

the Cumberlands has created a Regional Marketing Committee. This Committee, along with a consulting firm, has developed a logo and slogan for publicizing the region. For a sneak preview and to share your feedback on this and a collection of additional catchy slogans, take the short survey found

at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=OYr19r26bUCABHx2bG55A3d3d>.



4. OTHER TENNESSEE NEWS

4A. Governor's Support Sought for Scenic Vistas Protection Legislation

[Information from Sandra Goss and LEAF website]

Mountain-top removal coal mining is conducted by blowing the tops off forested mountains to expose a thin layer of coal. The overburden is pushed over the side, filling the creeks and streams at the bottom of valleys.

The practice is spreading from West Virginia and Kentucky into the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee. With rising coal prices, companies are proposing new areas for mining, including 53,000 acres in the headwaters of the Big South Fork watershed. Much of the economy of East Tennessee and the Cumberland Mountains is based on the value of the scenic vistas of the region. Travel and tourism employs over 177,000 Tennesseans, while surface coal mining currently only employs 327.

During the past session of the General Assembly, there was a considerable effort to pass HR.3348 (McDonald)/SB.3822 (R. Finney), the Scenic Vistas Protection Act, which would not permit surface coal-mining operations that alter or disturb any ridgeline that is above 2,000 ft elevation, or that result in waste or fill within 100 ft of any waters of the state.

Efforts are now underway to get a similar bill introduced in the 2009 session of the General Assembly. The bill does not eliminate coal mining; but it protects our mountains from the ruinous practices of mountaintop removal or cross-ridge mining (another version of the same). It is believed that early, overt support of such legislation by Governor Bredesen would significantly improve its chance of passing.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: We urge you tell Gov. Bredesen (address p.2) that you value Tennessee's mountains, and to encourage him to support legislation that would protect them from mountain-top-removal and cross-ridge coal-mining techniques.

4B. The state looks for a sound energy policy

Earlier this year, Gov. Bredesen signed executive orders to create the Governor's Task Force on

Energy Policy, charged with advancing Tennessee toward a state energy plan for developing clean technologies. Making up the task force are experts from the public and private sectors, including our friend John Noel. John, who recently received the 2008 Governor's Lifetime Conservation Achievement award (NL280 ¶5E), chairs an *ad hoc* committee of the Task Force that will make recommendations on achieving energy efficiency for state buildings and state vehicles.

4C. TCWP member chosen as 2008 River Hero

[Contributed by TCWN]

The Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN) invites you to a night of celebration as we present Dr. Liane B. Russell with the 2008 Bill Russell River Hero Award.

Join us on Thursday, October 2, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at The Foundry at World's Fair Park in Knoxville, as we honor Lee for her amazing accomplishments and dedication to protecting beautiful scenery of East Tennessee for generations to come.

Tickets are \$50 per person and include heavy hors d'oeuvres and a drink ticket. There will also be a cash bar. WATE 6 News Anchor Gene Patterson will once again be the Master of Ceremonies.

Tickets may be purchased by returning the enclosed reply card or by calling TCWN at 865-522-7007. Tickets, along with more information about the event, are also available online at <http://www.tcwn.org/riverhero>.

We would love to hear from you any interesting stories, thoughts, comments or photos of and about Lee that we can incorporate into the ceremony. Please forward your personal messages to TCWN (Kristina@tcwn.org or 865-522-7007) so we can make this evening even more special.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Return the enclosed reply card or contact TCWN (info above). Also, send personal messages.

4D. Important Tennessee organizations make changes SOCM name change

For many years, SOCM has stood for Save Our Cumberland Mountains. Since the organization has grown in geographic area as well as in the scope of issues addressed, members felt the need to change the name. At the same time, they were overwhelmingly in favor of retaining the acronym. The solution? Statewide Organizing for Community Empowerment.

Alliance for the Cumberland

This alliance of numerous organizations was originally started as a result of a TCWP initiative. Following an initial period during which Sandra

Goss carried out many of the coordinating functions for the young Alliance, the Tennessee chapter of The Nature Conservancy funded the position of an executive director, which was filled by Katherine Medlock. Now, the Alliance is moving toward becoming a stand-alone organization. The steering committee, of which Sandra is a member, has chosen a 3-men nominating committee to select and present a slate of 8 persons for the board of the new organization. The Alliance will vote on this slate at its October meeting.

4E. Local Parks & Recreation Fund grants are awarded

Earlier this year the General Assembly essentially terminated the Local Parks & Recreation Fund (LPRF), which had been enacted in 1991 and is derived from a small percentage of the real-estate transfer tax (NL280 ¶4A). Some remaining moneys were apparently involved in the grants recently announced by Gov. Bredesen. A total of \$11.9 million are being awarded for 87 projects across the state, among them an upgrade of Clinton's Town Springs Park, for which the city received \$100,000. All LPRF awards require a 50% match by the recipient.

Grants totaling \$2.2 million were also awarded by the federally funded Recreation Trails Program. Recipients, who must provide a 20% match, were chosen through a scoring process. RTP funds may be used for maintenance, construction, acquisition, development, or rehabilitation of trails or trailside facilities.

4F. Prescribed burns for Cherokee NF

[Contributed by Tim Bigelow]

Draft Decision Memos have been released by the Nolichucky/Unaka Ranger District describing five proposed controlled burns during the coming dormant season. A total of ~ 5400 acres is included in these burns. The primary need for the burns is to reduce fuel accumulations and stimulate new growth that is beneficial to wildlife. Several objectives for the controlled burn process are outlined such as restoring the historic role of fire in maintaining natural fire-dependent species. More information can be obtained or comments submitted to: comments-southern-cherokeenolichucky-unaka@fs.feds.us or by calling Vern Maddux at 423-735-1500

5. RECORDS & POSITIONS OF CANDIDATES

In the upcoming November election, the stakes are huge on almost every issue – and they are enormous on the environment. Because the mainstream media rarely cover this latter field of inter-

est, we are providing the following information, gleaned from the public record.

5A. Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates

i. Voting record

Of the four candidates, three are members of the US Congress and have compiled a record on environmental matters. The non-partisan League of Conservation Voters publishes an annual rating of Congress on such issues and publishes the *LCV Scorecard*. Ratings represents the consensus of experts from about 20 respected organizations who select the votes on which Members of Congress are graded. These votes pertain to the most important environment/conservation issues of the year, and they are of a type that presents legislators with a real choice.

The 2007 scores for Senators were calculated on the basis of 15 votes; the 2005+06 scores (109th Congress), on 27 votes. It should be noted that, in the computation of averages, absence for a vote counts the same as an anti-environmental vote. In 2007, McCain was absent for every one of the 15 key votes, while Obama and Biden were absent for only 4 each.

	2007	2005+06	Lifetime
Obama	67	96	86
Biden	67	93	83
McCain	0	41	24

Sarah Palin (McCain's running mate), never having served in the US Congress, has no voting record. She does, however, have numerous environmental positions (see ii, below).

ii. Sarah Palin's environmental positions

As the newest addition to the list of candidates, and with a background not comparable to that of the other three, Palin has positions and a record that are here reported separately.

- She does not believe that global warming is man-made. (In a *Newsmax* interview on August 29, she said: "A changing environment will affect Alaska more than any other state, because of our location. I'm not one, though, who would attribute it to being man-made.") Palin has done almost nothing to promote non-carbon energy sources.
- She is a strong proponent of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and in drilling offshore, including in areas that are beluga-whale and polar-bear habitat. She has proposed giving an Italian oil company a major financial break on its planned Beaufort Sea oil field, where polar bears are under great stress.
- Under Palin's leadership, the State of Alaska filed suit against the Department of Interior to undo the listing of the polar bear as threatened

(NL280 ¶9C). She was worried this listing would interfere with more oil drilling in Alaska. (Note: five industry groups have also sued USDI for this listing.)

- Palin also opposed listing beluga whales, which are threatened by seismic testing and potential oil spills.
- As governor, she endorses and defends the aerial shooting of wolves and bears in her state (http://www.defenders.org/programs_and_policy/).
- She opposed a ballot measure that would have prohibited the construction of mines that contaminate salmon streams. This ballot measure was proposed because foreign mining companies want to open one of the world's largest gold and copper mines at the headwaters of two major rivers that drain into Bristol Bay, America's most productive salmon fishery. Toxic chemicals used in the mining process pose a major threat to salmon by interfering with their ability to migrate.

iii. Positions on climate change

(Based primarily on a 12/07 compilation by LCV)

- Palin does not believe global warming is man-made (see ii, above). She thus has no record or position on addressing this problem.
- Obama and Biden are co-sponsors of the most stringent climate bill in the Senate (Boxer-Sanders); McCain co-sponsored one of the least stringent climate bills.
- Limiting greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions: Obama and Biden support a mandatory cap on emissions, and 100% auction of pollution permits (i.e., polluters pay for permits). McCain supports a cap-and-trade system but has no articulated position on auctions; he opposes any carbon tax.
- Amount of GHG reductions: Obama and Biden support 80% reduction by 2050. McCain proposed 65% reduction (considered insufficient by experts).
- Renewable energy standard (RES) (currently, the US gets only 2% of its electricity from renewable sources). Obama supports 25% by 2025; Biden, 20% by 2020; McCain voted against an RES of 10% by 2020 and wants state and local governments to create their own RES. In 2008, McCain missed (i.e., effectively voted "no" on) all 8 votes on renewable energy legislation, thus helping to defeat a bill to extend tax credits (which expire in December) for solar energy, wind turbines, and energy-efficiency systems (see 16A, this NL). Campaign commercials, however, showed McCain in a field of spinning wind turbines.
- Fuel efficiency for vehicles: Obama, 52 mpg standard by 2026; Biden, 40 mpg standard by 2017; McCain supports increased mpg, with no standard specified.

iv. Positions on other selected issues

- Energy supply: McCair has reversed himself and now vocally supports lifting the long-standing Congressional moratorium on offshore drilling (see ¶6A, this NL). He is making increased oil drilling, rather than innovation in renewable energy, the centerpiece of his energy policy. Obama and Biden support development of a variety of alternative energy sources. McCain supports nuclear as prominent among non-carbon energy sources (see ¶6B, this NL).
- Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Obama and Biden, in addition to opposing opening the Refuge to drilling, support permanent protection for the area. McCain has to date opposed opening the Refuge, but has not consistently voted for permanent protection. (His running mate wants to drill in the Refuge – see ¶5Aii, above.)
- Reinstatement of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (for national forests): Obama and Biden support this. McCain did not answer this question on the LCV Presidential Candidate Questionnaire.
- Protection of water resources (including intermittent streams and isolated wetlands – see ¶7C, this NL): Obama and Biden support this. McCain did not answer this question on the LCV Presidential Candidate Questionnaire.
- Reinstatement of the Superfund “polluter pays” program: Obama and Biden support this; McCain voted against it in 2003, but voted for some fees in 2004.

5B. US Congress

Below, we list scores for the present Tennessee delegation. These will be the incumbent candidates on Nov. 4 (with the exception of Sen. Corker, who is not up for election this year, and Rep. D. Davis [1-R] who lost the primary). Unfortunately, we have no information at this time on the environmental positions of the challengers.

Name	Distr.	2007	2006	Lifetime
SENATE				
Alexander	--	33	19	16
Corker	--	27	--	27
HOUSE				
Davis, D	1-R	10	--	10
Duncan	2-R	10	3	14
Wamp	3-R	10	7	10
Davis, L	4-D	75	37	54
Cooper	5-D	80	80	74
Gordon	6-D	80	67	64
Blackburn	7-R	5	3	2
Tanner	8-D	70	47	41
Cohen	9-D	95	--	95

5C. State Legislature

We urge you to consult TCV's (Tennessee Conservation Voters) scorecard for 2008, which we distributed with NL280. TCV evaluated our state legislators' performance on 22 matters (bills and resolutions) that came up during the 2008 session of the Tennessee General Assembly.

In the House, top positive scorers were Kernell (D-93) and McDonald (D-44), each with a score of +10. There were six **negative** scorers (5 Republicans, one Democrat), with Baird (R-36) and Nicely (R-17) having the worst record on the list with scores of -6 and -5, respectively.

In the Senate, top positive scorers were R. Finney (R-8, score +6), Kurita (D-22, score +6), and Jackson (D-25, score +5). The single **negative** scorer was Kilbey (D-12, score -2).

Check the scorecard for the performance of candidates from your district. (If you have lost the scorecard, request a copy from Sandra Goss, sandra@sandrakgoss.com).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Acquaint yourself with the environment/conservation record and position of all candidates, and VOTE. Be sure that you are registered to vote on Nov. 4.

6. ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

6A. "Drill, drill, drill" is not a solution

You've all heard the story: high gas prices at the pump have caused some politicians (e.g., Presidential candidate McCain) to call: "Drill, drill, drill!" – especially, drill offshore and drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (a major objective of Sarah Palin, McCain's running mate). Unfortunately, these drilling proposals are beginning to sound like a very good idea to many uninformed people who are being deliberately misled by advertising, media reports, and pandering politicians. Oil lobbyists are circulating a pro-drilling petition that they say has more than 1.4 million signatures.

Some of the following facts may be familiar to you, but they need to become more generally known. We hope you will communicate them as widely as you can.

Why drilling proposals won't solve our problems

- Even if we opened all our coasts and drilled every last drop of oil out of the Outer Continental Shelf, we couldn't significantly influence the price of oil since we possess less than 3% of the world's reserves but consume nearly one-fourth of the world's oil. Additionally, any new drilling initiatives would not result in marketable product for a couple of decades (Source: Energy Information Administration). Even then, the

drop in gas prices would be minimal (less than 4 cents/gal. for ANWR drilling, according to DOE).

- The oil companies already have access to huge federal underwater and land oil resources that remain untapped. Some 90+ million acres of federal lands -- onshore and offshore -- are currently under lease by oil companies, and of these, 68 million (i.e., 75%) are not being used to produce energy (Sources: studies by the House Natural Resources Committee and by The Wilderness Society). As to offshore oil alone, of the estimated 89 billion barrels that are recoverable, 80% are NOW open to industry, mostly in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaskan water (Source: the federal Mineral Management Service). -- Evidently, what the oil companies are trying to do is to exploit the high-gas-price outrage to help them lock up every last acre of federal land before Bush/Cheney leave office.
- Burning more gas will just exacerbate our global-warming crisis. Other strategies are needed to address our energy problems.

Short history concerning the regulation of offshore drilling.

- Responding to disastrous oil spills, like the one off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, Congress in 1981 enacted a moratorium on offshore drilling in many areas off our coasts. These spills devastated local economies through their impact on tourism and valuable fisheries. Their effect on wildlife was tragic. The Congressional moratorium must be renewed annually in the Interior Appropriations bill.
- In 1990, after the Exxon Valdez disaster off the coast of Alaska, Pres. Bush, Sr., put in place an executive ban on offshore drilling. This catastrophic oil spill has still not been adequately cleaned up.
- Even without oil spills, offshore drilling adversely impacts the economies of regions whose coasts become cross-hatched with oil-industry infrastructure.
- On July 14 of this year, Pres. Bush lifted the executive ban and challenged Congress to end the legislative moratorium imposed in 1981.
- On August 4, Presidential candidate McCain challenged Congress to come back from vacation to authorize drilling. It is noteworthy that he provided no alternative solution for weaning us from our dependence on foreign oil. On the contrary, he chose to be absent from the Senate on all 8 occasions in 2008 when bills were debated that addressed alternative energy solutions that could have an immediate impact on America's energy profile. (Note that a missed vote counts as a "no" vote, see 15A, this NL).

Alternatives to "drill, drill, drill"

- We need to invest in alternative and renewable sources for transportation and other energy

needs. Repealing even a portion of the \$18 billion in tax-payer subsidies for oil companies could pay for renewable energy incentives. Through his repeated absences (see above and 95A, this NL) Sen. McCain helped to defeat S.3335 (Baucus, D-MT; Bingaman, D-NM) and similar bills, which would have extended investment tax credit for installing solar energy, and production tax credits for building wind turbines and energy-efficiency systems. These vital credits are set to expire in December, removing the impetus for developments such as plug-in hybrid cars that could diminish the impact of high gas prices.

- There is a proposal to repeal tax breaks for the oil and gas industry and use the money to provide a gas-price rebate and to fund programs to improve auto and home energy efficiency.
- *New York Times* columnist Thomas L. Friedman has written (8/12/08) "Without taxing fossil fuels so they become more expensive and giving subsidies to renewable fuels so they become more competitive ... we will not get innovation in clean power at the scale we need."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your senators and Representative (addresses on p.2), our candidates, and our media that the "drill, drill, drill" strategy can be very harmful to our economy, our environment, and our climate, without yielding any benefits for the American public in terms of meaningful relief from high gas and energy prices. Instead, expending our efforts on alternative energy solutions would, provide meaningful and lasting relief.

6B. Nuclear waste disposal may be hugely expensive

Sen. McCain has proposed building 45 new nuclear-power reactors by 2030. The resulting waste-disposal program would greatly exceed the scope of Yucca Mountain, NV, which itself has been controversial.

The Department of Energy has recently estimated that, even if no new reactors are built, it will cost \$96 billion to store nuclear waste, and will require major expansion of the Yucca Mountain facility. Yucca cost estimates are: \$57.5 billion (original 2001 estimate) + \$38.7 billion (cost overrun and inflation) = \$96.2 billion. This covers waste from *existing* reactors plus the defense program.

6C. Beware of this clever deception!

An outfit named The Heartland Institute is widely distributing a 40-page, professional-looking report entitled "Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate" -- Summary for Policymakers." It is designed to deceive by being labeled the "Science and Environmental Policy Project, April 2008" of the "Nongovernmental Inter-

national Panel on Climate Change," a clever imitation of the United Nation's "Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change". Thus, it steals the initials, IPCC, and even has a fancy seal. The mailing also includes a DVD.

They are sending it to any address they can lay their hands on (e.g., those listed in the National Wildlife Federation's nationwide directory of conservation groups) and, undoubtedly, to glib members of the media.

And this is only one of their toxic publications. They also put out a magazine in tabloid format, called "Environment & Climate News: the Monthly Newspaper for Common-Sense Environmentalists," which is now up to vol. 11, No. 8, and of which we published a sample list of contents in our last Newsletter (NL280 19E). The latest mailing includes a brochure entitled "Ten Principles of Energy Policy," "written especially for elected officials and other opinion leaders."

The Heartland Institute's address is 19 South LaSalle Street #903, Chicago, IL 60603, www.heartland.org. Please inform your friends of this very clever deception.



7. OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES

7A. Administration's last-ditch effort to and protection for endangered species. Comments due by 9/15.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has led a hard life during the Bush Administration, which has time and again done its best to rig the science behind the listing of species (e.g. NL270 18E) and to ignore court orders. Now, in its waning days, the Administration is attempting to have a more fundamental impact on the workings of the ESA by changing the original rules that govern evaluation of plans submitted by federal agencies.

Agencies that propose to conduct, fund, or authorize an action with potential harm to at-risk species (e.g., building a dam, constructing a highway, opening a mine) have always been required to submit their plans to either the Fish & Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service. These consultations have rarely stopped projects but have occasionally resulted in project modifications.

In early August, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne moved to eliminate this requirement for independent scientific review. The agency that is proposing to conduct, fund, or authorize an action would decide on its own whether the project poses a threat to any species. The dam-building or road-building agencies in question of course want to do the project, and permit-granting agencies (e.g., OSM) are often beholden to the industries they regulate.

The Bush Administration also intends to stop consideration of global warming impacts on species that are imperiled by climate change. In announcing the new rules, Kempthorne said the regulatory changes were needed to ensure that the ESA would not be used as a "back door" to regulate the gases blamed for global warming.

The proposed rules were drafted by legal staff, and agency scientists were not consulted until a few days before the announcement. Even more troubling is the fact that the Administration is limiting the comment period to just 30 days (deadline September 15), thus keeping the public out of the decision-making process. You can go to the [web site](http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/compoent/main?main=DocumentDetail&0-0900064806-5826) <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/compoent/main?main=DocumentDetail&0-0900064806-5826>, or see the box, below

The Bush Administration's aim is to get the rules finalized before the November 4 election. This will make it much harder and more time-consuming for the new administration to overturn them. To overturn them through legislative action by the new Congress will take even longer. In the meantime, some species may bite the dust.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Before September 15, contact Sec. Dirk Kempthorne, US Dept. of the Interior, in opposition to the proposed regulatory changes that would eviscerate the Endangered Species Act. Urge, also, that the public comment period on this vital matter be extended to a minimum of 90 days.

Submit your comments through the web site listed in the above article, or mail them (to arrive by 9/15) to:

Public Comment Processing, Attention: 1018-ATSD, Division of Policy and Directives Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 222, Arlington, VA 22203.

7B. Gray wolves get temporary respite after Administration exposes them to extermination

[Information from BioGem News, 8/12/08]

The comeback of gray wolves in the Northern Rockies has been one of America's greatest wildlife success stories; moreover, the wolf's restoration has revived the ecosystems of the area. In March, however, the Bush Administration stripped gray wolves of federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. In the four subsequent months, 110 wolves were killed in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming -- about one per day. Under the government's plan, all but 300 could be slaughtered, which would push them back to the brink of extinction.

Several national groups (NRDC, EarthJustice, and others) filed suit and requested a preliminary injunction in order to put a stop to the slaughter of

the wolves. In early August, a federal judge ordered the Bush administration to restore endangered species protections for gray wolves in Greater Yellowstone and the northern Rockies until the full case can be heard in court. Thousands of Yellowstone visitors have signed a petition urging a long-term recovery plan for wolves.

7C. Clean Water Restoration Act would protect ALL waters

[Based on information from the NY Times, 8/18/08]

A highly confused, 3-way-split, Supreme Court ruling of 2006 has led to misinterpretations of the 1972 Clean Water Act, which clearly intended to protect all the waters and wetlands of the United States. As a result of the confused ruling, thousands of miles of streams and millions of acres of wetlands have become exposed to pollution and damaging development.

An internal document, obtained by Congress, revealed that the EPA dropped or delayed more than 400 cases involving suspected violations of the Clean Water Act. The reason cited in almost every instance was that regulators did not know whether the streams and wetlands in question were still covered under the act. The current interpretation has been that seasonal, intermittent streams and remote wetlands deserve protection only if regulators can show a "significant nexus" to a navigable body of water. In the meantime, we've had to fight several state bills that remove all protections from small "upstream" waters (e.g., NL276 ¶4A, NL278 ¶6A).

Rep. Oberstar (D-MN) is the chief sponsor of The Clean Water Restoration Act, HR.2421/S.1870, which would cut through this mess by establishing, once and for all, that federal protections apply to all waters, reaffirming the broad federal protections that Congress intended more than 30 years ago. That makes good hydrological sense, since few water bodies are truly isolated and nearly all are part of a larger watershed.

There is not a lot of time left in the legislative calendar, but both House and Senate have already held hearings, and a lot is at stake. Gov. Bredesen wrote a strong letter of support to our senators (NL278 ¶8A).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your U.S. senators and representative to support quick passage of HR.2421/S.1870, the Clean Water Restoration Act.

7D. National Park Service caves in to Jet Ski lobby

During the Clinton Administration, NPS heeded the voices of conservation groups and prohibited jet skis from operating within aquatic units of the National Park System. These "personal watercraft" injured or displaced turtles, manatees,

manatees, and other marine life, damaged sea grasses, disturbed park visitors' sense of peace and quiet – in short, they disrupted the natural qualities of parks. Additionally, they are every polluting; one jetski can discharge 3 gallons of gasoline and oil during a 2-hour ride, and produce as much air pollution as a 1998 vehicle driven 100,000 miles. By 2002, almost all jetskis had been phased out at most parks.

Following pressure by the jet ski lobby, NPS decided in 2006 to allow reintroduction of jet skis at

- Gulf Island National Seashore (along FL and MS coastlines)
 - Pictured Rocks Nat'l Lakeshore (Michigan's Upper Peninsula)
 - Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC.
- Conservation groups have gone to court to seek reinstatement of the jet ski ban at the first two of these locations. The case is pending.

8. OAK RIDGE and VICINITY

8A. North Ridge Trails

Adopt-A-Section Program

[Contributed by TCWP Trail Steward, Susan Donnelly]

What is the Adopt-A-Section Program?

This is a volunteer program that gives hikers, trail runners, nature enthusiasts, and anyone who loves the trail the chance to assist the Trail Steward in monitoring, maintaining, and enhancing the trail, access trails, and trailheads.

What's in it for me?

You can make sure your section stays in good shape, improve it where necessary, and quickly identify any problems. You ultimately help ensure the trail is around for a long time to come. It's a great way to give back to the environment and the community, while enjoying time outdoors and the personal satisfaction that comes from volunteering to improve something you already enjoy.

When do I adopt a section?

Individuals, families, groups of individuals, school and youth groups, scout troops, church, community, and service organizations, and businesses can adopt a section. Anyone with an interest in the trail and the outdoors is welcome to help preserve this unique asset and provide safe, enjoyable access to the outdoors.

What would I do?

Adopt-A-Section volunteers assist the Trail Steward in maintaining the trail. Activities include keeping the trail surface free of fallen branches and other debris, pruning small limbs and undergrowth from the trail corridor, picking up litter, and maintaining the trailhead area.

(Please provide any hand tools, etc. you may need. Chainsaws are not permitted.) Other responsibilities include notifying the Trail Steward of larger maintenance issues such as fallen trees, erosion problems, trail sign maintenance, misuse of the trail, and trail hazards or safety issues.

How do I get started?

If you have a specific section in mind, let us know. If the section you choose is available for adoption, we'll get you set up right away. If you don't have a specific section in mind, we can help you find the right one. Once you've chosen a section, the Trail Steward will set a date that is convenient for both of you to meet and discuss the benefits and requirements of section adoption.

Adoption Period

A trail section is adopted for a period of one year, renewable annually thereafter upon approval by the Trail Steward. This agreement may be terminated at any time by the volunteer or the Trail Steward.

Frequency of visits

Volunteers are asked to inspect their adopted trail section at least 4 times per year (approximately once every 3 months). Choose the days and times that are convenient for you to visit the trail. You may wish to check with the Trail Steward prior to your inspection and send a written report after each visit, so that we may keep track of your efforts and of trail conditions.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Volunteer for the Adopt-A-Segment program for the North Ridge Trail. Contact Sandra at sandra@sandrakgoss.com or 865-522-3809.

8B. Groups discuss land-use practices with DOE staff

Concerned by reports that the Department of Energy (DOE) was planning to transfer yet another parcel from the Oak Ridge Reservation into other ownership, the Southern Environmental Law Center, on behalf of several organizations (including TCWP), wrote to DOE requesting that the agency generate a land-use EIS before making any more land-use decisions (NL280 ¶10A). On July 31, DOE's director of Oak Ridge Operations (ORO), Gerald Boyd, and other DOE staff met with representatives of AFORR (Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation) and TCWP, who expressed concern about fragmentation/segmentation resulting from DOE's land-use decisions.

Mr. Boyd believes that ORO is appropriately addressing the segmentation issues in its Environmental Assessment process for specific projects on the ORR, and he offered to convene a workshop to explain how DOE is implementing the EA process. He made a commitment that, should any new programmatic or economic development ini-

tiatives arise that would involve significant change to present land uses, DOE would convene a land-use planning effort to consider stakeholder concerns.

Concerning Three Bends, Mr. Boyd said that the area was safe for 15-20 years, and he repeated his earlier promise that nothing would happen there unless the community came to him with a consensus plan for action.

8C. ORNL constructing very large solar panel

Oak Ridge National Laboratory is constructing one of the largest and most efficient photovoltaic arrays in Tennessee (only two others of comparable size exist elsewhere in the state). The solar panel, which will be 288' x 10' in size and operate at 18.7% efficiency, will generate 51.25 kilowatts at peak power. Its output will help power a large two-story office building that, with the help of various energy-efficiency features, aims to become a zero-energy building.

9. TCWP NEWS

9A. TCWP offers part-time position

TCWP is seeking candidates for a part-time position that is expected to require about 20 hours of work per month, with weekly work hours varying with scheduled events. Work will involve recruiting/coordinating volunteers and organizing events. Applicants should have people skills, some knowledge of (or willingness to learn about) environmental issues, and the ability to express themselves in writing.

Please forward this announcement to anyone whom it might be suitable and interested. Candidates should send resumes or questions to Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or call 865-522-3809.

9B. TCWP encouraging a program for maintaining North Ridge Trail

TCWP's Trail Steward, Susan Donnelly, has developed an Adopt-A-Segment Program to encourage a broader effort for maintaining our great North Ridge Trail. See ¶8A, above.

9C. Volunteers

- Carol Gramelbauer and Cindy Kendrick once again contributed major portions of this Newsletter. Thank you!
- We thank Cindy Kendrick for producing an attractive color flyer of TCWP summer and fall events that was widely distributed.
- Many thanks to Mary Lynn Dobson, Dennis Gregg, Frank Hensley, Lee Russell, and Sandra

Goss for driving to Atlanta for the meeting with NPS about Obed WSR land acquisition (¶1A, this NL).

- We still need volunteers badly for numerous specific tasks, some quite small and easy. Please refer to NL277 ¶8A. If you've lost it, contact Sandra Goss at 865-522-3809, or at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com

9D. Upcoming activities

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

National Public Lands Day cleanup — Saturday, September 27

Come help remove invasive exotic plants at the TVA Ecological Study Area at Worthington Cemetery on the east side of Oak Ridge, and enjoy a pizza picnic afterwards. This area depends on us annually removing exotic pest plants that threaten the native plants. The cleanup will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude with lunch around noon. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and gloves, and bring loppers or shears if possible. Tools will also be available at the worksite.

Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement hike — Sunday, October 19

There are new opportunities for the public to hike on the Oak Ridge Reservation, and you can join us to explore them. We will walk a loop of about 3.5 miles on rough gravel roads with some steep hills. This will be a chance to enjoy the last wildflowers of the year with botanist and TCWP Board member Larry Pounds. We will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the trailhead parking on Blair Road, north of the East Tennessee Technology Park (formerly K-25). (Blair Road comes off the Oak Ridge Turnpike near EITP.) NOTE that both the time and the meeting place represent a change from what was announced in NL 280.

TCWP Annual Meeting — Saturday, November 1

Mark your calendar now for a day of talks and hikes featuring the Cumberland Trail State Park. Bobby Fulcher, Park manager; Tony Hook, manager of the Cumberland Trail Conference; and Del Truitt of Friends of the Cumberland Trail will update us about the park, and the challenges and opportunities it presents. The meeting, to be held at the Ridge BBQ restaurant at Cove Lake State Park, will get underway with coffee and breakfast snacks at 9:30 a.m.; the program will start at 10. We'll conclude with a brief business session, followed by lunch at the restaurant. After lunch, there will be a choice of hikes for those who are interested. Watch for an upcoming mailing with more information about the hikes and registration details!

Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Cleanup — Saturday, November 15

The Oak Ridge Cedar Barren, adjacent to Jefferson Middle School, will be the site of exotic invasive plant removal. Saved from development by TCWP, the Barren has been protected by designation as a registered state Natural Area and by a 20-year partnership between the state, the City of Oak Ridge, and TCWP. One of only a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee, the area is subject to invasion by Chinese lespedeza, leather leaf ligustrum (Japanese privet), autumn olive, mimosa, Nepa grass, multiflora rose, and woody plants that threaten the system's prairie grasses. Our efforts will help to eliminate the invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sun.

Volunteers should meet in the Jefferson Middle School Parking lot at 9 a.m., with sturdy shoes, loppers, gloves, and water. The work session will conclude at noon.

TCWP Holiday Party — Thursday, December 11

Save the date! Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen will once again open their lovely home to TCWP members and friends to celebrate the holidays. This annual affair has become the highlight of many holiday calendars. Look for more details in the next newsletter.

Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or at 865-522-3809.

9E. Recent events

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

Head of the Sequatchie outing — July 19

TCWP board member and naturalist Mary Lynn Dobson and Cumberland Trail State Park Ranger Anthony Jones led a group of 26 on a visit to Devilstep Hollow Cave and Head of the Sequatchie Spring. Although the cave is not open to the public to protect its 1,000-year-old cave drawings, the group hiked to the cave entrance, had lunch by a stream, and learned more about the history of this "jewel in the neck of the Cumberland Trail."

Lyn Bales' talk on Ijams Nature Center — July 24

About 30 people heard nature writer, illustrator and Ijams Nature Center naturalist Lyn Bales discuss the 70-year history and current programs of Ijams. Lyn brought a corn snake and an Eastern screech owl along to his talk. He referenced his TCWP presentation in the July 21 entry to his blog, "Nature Calling." You can read it by going to <http://stephenlynbales.blogspot.com/> and clicking on "July" in the blog archive.

10. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

(Contributed by Carol Grametbauer)

•• CALENDAR(For details, check the referenced NL item or contact Sandra Goss, 865-522-3809, or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com)

- Sept. 13, Woodland wildflower walk at U.T. Arboretum, Oak Ridge, led by Kris Light, naturalist and photographer. Meet 10 a.m. at the Program Shelter (Hwy 62).
- Sept. 13, Citico Creek Wilderness hike, 7 miles, strenuous. Contact Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, nicole@safc.org or 828.252.9223.
- Sept. 15, deadline for Endangered Species comments (see ¶7A, this NL).
- Sept. 20, Bandy Creek Campground, BSNRRA, Annual Storytelling Festival. Contact Friends of the BSA at 423-663-4556.
- Sept. 20, John Muir Trail Hike, Hiwassee State Scenic River, led by Tenn. Division of Natural Areas. RSVP required by September 18 to David Lincicome at 615-532-0439 or david.lincicome@state.tn.us; or to Andrea Bishop at 615-741-9141 or andrea.bishop@state.tn.us.
- Sept. 20, Frozen Head State Park Volunteer Trail Work Day (see ¶2B, this NL).
- September 22-23, Raleigh, NC, Biomass South 2008: Charting a Course for Biofuels, Biopower, and Bioproducts. For info, contact John Bonitz, bonitz@cleanenergy.org.
- September 27, National Public Lands Day cleanup, Worthington Cemetery (see ¶9D, this NL).
- September 27, Obed clean-up (see ¶1D, this NL).
- October 2, River Hero Award and reception, Tennessee Clean Water Network, Knoxville (see ¶4C, this NL).
- October 14-17, Nashville, Natural Areas Association's 39th National Conference, joined by the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils. Discussion of ecological management will feature an emphasis on invasive exotics species and the anticipated influence of climate change. Visit www.naturalarea.org for more information.
- October 18, Frozen Head State Park Volunteer Trail Work Day (see ¶2B, this NL).
- October 19, Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement hike (see ¶9D, this NL).
- October 24, Owl Prowl at Lilly Bluff (see ¶1D, this NL).
- November 1, TCWP Annual Meeting (see ¶9D, this NL).
- November 13-15, Nashville, Second Annual Meeting for a Sustainable TN. For info, visit www.sustainable.org.
- November 15, Oak Ridge Cedar Barren cleanup (see ¶9D, this NL).
- November 15, Frozen Head State Park Volunteer Trail Work Day (see ¶2B, this NL).
- December 6, Frozen Head State Park Volunteer Trail Work Day (see ¶2B, this NL).
- December 11, TCWP Holiday Party (¶9D, this NL).

•• RESOURCES

- A complete listing of upcoming events in Tennessee's state parks is available online. Visit www.tnstateparks.com/events.
- A growing number of websites offer "carbon calculators," a way to estimate your personal annual production of carbon dioxide. Some to check out are sites produced by the Global Footprint Network (www.footprintnetwork.org/calculator); the Nature Conservancy (www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator); and Redefining Progress (www.myfootprint.org). (Source: Sierra magazine, September/October 2008)
- "Forests as Carbon Sinks" is the title of the latest factsheet published by the Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA, 185 Hood Drive, Crossville, TN 38555, 931-484-9033). Forests contain nearly 75% of the Earth's biomass, so it is crucial to understand the role forests play in the carbon cycle and climate change.

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