Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

Taking Care of Wild Places Since 1966



TCWP September 2026 Newsletter

September2026-Newsletter No.389

INSIDE TCWP

1. TCWP Annual Meeting - Saturday, October 31 | Frozen Head State Park

Mark your calendar and join us for TCWP's Annual Meeting at beautiful **Frozen Head State Park.** Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. ET, with the program starting at 9:30 a.m. Depending on attendance, we will meet in either the Emory Room or Shelter A; everyone who RSVPs will receive the final location by email.

This year's featured program will focus on one of TCWP's most ambitious conservation efforts: the **41-mile Rails to Trails project.** Joining us from the Echoes of the Rail Foundation will be Mayor Lori Phillips-Jones, John McCracken, Virginia Bruce, and New River community member Jimmy Byrge. Together, they'll share the story of this remarkable rail corridor, the progress being made toward its future as a trail, and what this project could mean for the communities along the route. Meet our speakers in the bios at the back of this issue.

TCWP President Mark Bevelhimer will also give us a look back at TCWP's work and accomplishments in 2026. Members will vote on the slate of board candidates, and after lunch, everyone is invited to enjoy Frozen Head with one of two guided hikes. See the Events section for hike details. Discover who the receipient of the TCWP Founder's Award will be!

This year's Annual Meeting is generously sponsored by Bob Richards ("Trail Bob") of Bob's Trails, Trees and Gardens, allowing us to offer lunch at no cost to our members. A big TCWP hug to Bob! Lunch will be catered by Chef Sarah Shanks and the Culinary Arts Program at Morgan County Career and Technical Center

Bob's Trails, Trees & Gardens

Please RSVP by October 16. Submit your name, contact information, number attending, and food choices using the Google RSVP form.

- Complete the Google RSVP form: **https://forms.gle/ZAZZFRAn2NXUwfFe7**
- Email your information to Nancy Manning at **nancymanning@tcwp.org**.
- Mail your RSVP to TCWP, P.O. Box 6873, Oak Ridge, TN 37831 **(must arrive by October 16th).**

Inside this issue

INSIDE TCWP.....1
1. Save theDate: TCWP AnnualMeeting – 10/31/26 at Frozen Head State Park
2. A Major Milestone for Rails to Trails
3. Protecting the Obed as Crossville Plans for the Future
4. Train Derailment Takes Environmental Toll on Obed Waters
5. New Tools for Advocacy

NUCLEAR NEWS.....3
1. TCWP Calls for Public Input Before Nuclear Campus Decision
2. NRC Proposes Dozens of Rule Changes — Here's How to Weigh In

NEWS CAPSULES.....4

OAK RIDGE.....4
1. With EMDF Lawsuit Still Pending, Construction Moves Ahead
2. Demolition Set to Begin on ORNL's Historic Isotope Row
3. Fusion Energy Company Selects Oak Ridge for U.S. Operations
4. Kairos Breaks Ground on Advanced Nuclear Reactor in Oak Ridge
5. DOE Turns to AI to Assist Environmental Cleanup

STATE of TENNESSEE.....5
1. Federal Funding Will Keep TVA's Cumberland Coal Plant Burning
2. TVA Energy Plan Favors Coal, Gas and Nuclear Over Renewables4. Duck River Conservation Funding Revoked
3. Groups Challenge TVA Over Operating Coal and Gas Plants Together
4. xAI Data Center Rivals TVA's Largest Coal Plant for Climate Pollution
5. East Tennessee Communities Move to Rein in Data Centers

FEDERAL.....6
1. Roadless Rule Protections for 45 million Acres at Risk
2. EPA Backs Away from Limits on PFAS-Contaminated Sewage Sludge
3. EPA Moves to Reduce Federal Oversight of Data Centers
4. FERC Expands Use of Exemptions from Environmental Review
5. Citizen Suits That Enforce Environmental Laws Face Legal Challenge

TCWP Events.....7
1. UpcomingEvents
2. Recent Events
3. 2025 Calendar

SPEAKER BIOS.....11

SLATE OF CANDIDATES.....12

TCWP SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS.....13



Support TCWP
by donating, joining, or renewing your membership



TCWP Board Meeting

The Officers and Directors of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning meet the third Thursday of each month.

Members are welcome to call, email, or attend a board meeting to raise issues that TCWP needs to address. We welcome your input.

2. A Major Milestone for Rails to Trails

We have exciting news for the Rails to Trails project! Trust for Public Land and Echoes of the Rail Foundation have been awarded $11.9 million from the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund to help make the trail a reality.

The funding will support acquisition of the rail corridor as well as remediation, trail construction, and other improvements needed to transform the former railroad into a public recreational trail. The long-term plan calls for Echoes of the Rail Foundation to own and steward the corridor as a permanent public asset.

This is an enormous step forward for a project TCWP has worked on for more than six years—and one that brings the vision of a trail through Scott, Campbell, and Anderson counties much closer to reality.

3. Protecting the Obed as Crossville Plans for the Future

TCWP has been involved in protecting the Obed watershed from proposed water-supply dams for decades, and today we once again find ourselves engaged in a Crossville water-supply debate with potentially significant consequences for the Obed. This November, Crossville voters will decide whether to authorize the City Council to transfer the city's water and sewer system to the Cumberland Plateau Water Authority (CPWA). CPWA's CEO has publicly stated that damming Daddy's Creek or Clear Creek could be considered as a future water source to meet projected demands associated with continued development. Because both streams are part of the Obed watershed, the outcome of this referendum is of particular concern to TCWP.

TCWP is working with a coalition of concerned citizens to help voters understand what is—and is not—being decided. We have developed a one-page information flyer for voters, and by the time you receive this newsletter, an Action Alert for impacted citizens will be available on the TCWP website. Our coalition will also co-host a Crossville City Council candidate forum in October, giving residents an opportunity to hear directly from candidates about water supply and other important community issues.

But our work will not end with the referendum. Defeating the proposed merger would leave important questions about Crossville's future water needs still to be answered. TCWP wants to continue working constructively with the City Council and the community to encourage decisions based on accurate information, careful evaluation of alternatives, conservation and improved infrastructure—and protection of the Plateau's streams. Whatever happens in November, we want to help ensure that Crossville has a reliable water supply without sacrificing the headwaters of the Obed to another dam.

4. Train Derailment Takes Environmental Toll on Obed Waters

TCWP members often serve as our eyes and ears across the region, and the June train derailment near Lancing was a striking example. Within hours of the derailment, several members contacted TCWP to make sure we knew what had happened and were aware of its potential impact on the Obed watershed.

New information provides a clearer picture of the June Norfolk Southern train derailment near Lancing in Morgan County and its impacts on waters associated with the Obed Wild and Scenic River. According to a preliminary National Transportation Safety Board report, several tank cars carrying ethanol and other alcohol-based flammable liquids derailed and breached, releasing an estimated 107,000 gallons. Some of the material ignited, producing large fires, while concerns about spilled fuel and firefighting runoff reaching nearby waterways prompted the National Park Service to issue temporary advisories for portions of the Obed system. The NTSB investigation into the cause of the derailment and the performance of the tank cars is continuing.

The environmental effects became more apparent when dead fish were discovered in the Emory River near Harriman on June 24. Morgan County emergency management officials, citing EPA information, attributed the fish deaths to low dissolved oxygen levels. As ethanol is broken down by microbes and bacteria in the river, the process consumes oxygen needed by fish and other aquatic life. EPA, TDEC, TWRA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Norfolk Southern have continued monitoring the river, with aeration being used to increase oxygen levels. Officials reported that measured ethanol concentrations in surface water were well below human-health advisory levels, but the fish kill demonstrates that a spill can harm aquatic life even when contaminant concentrations do not pose an identified human-health risk.

5. New Tools for Advocacy

When Tennessee's wild lands and waters are threatened, sometimes we need our members to speak up—and quickly. TCWP now has a new tool to make that easier.

With support from a grant from Appalachian Voices, TCWP has added Action Network, an online advocacy platform that allows us to alert you when your voice can make a difference. Even better, our Action Alerts can give you a quick and easy way to submit comments directly to legislators, government agencies, and other decision makers.

Visit our new Action Alert page here: **https://tcwp.org/take-action/**

Because opportunities for public comment sometimes come with very short deadlines, don't wait for the next newsletter to find out when action is needed. Watch our Facebook page and TCWP eblasts for timely Action Alerts—and when you see one, please lend your voice.

NUCLEAR NEWS

1. TCWP Calls for Public Input Before Nuclear Campus Decision

In the March issue of ***TCWP* News**, we published **"Who's Who in Oak Ridge's Nuclear Energy Landscape (with Locations),"** an effort to help our readers understand the extraordinary pace of nuclear energy development underway in Oak Ridge. Soon afterward, TCWP became the host of a monthly Zoom meeting bringing together representatives of Harpeth Conservancy, Sierra Club, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, and other individuals involved in conservation. The group has been working to better understand the new industries coming to Tennessee and, more recently, how low-level radioactive waste is handled in the state.

That discussion took on new urgency in late July when the U.S. Department of Energy announced that Tennessee is one of five states being considered for a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus (NLIC). Unlike an individual reactor or manufacturing facility, an NLIC could encompass much of the nuclear fuel cycle, including fuel fabrication, uranium enrichment, reprocessing of used nuclear fuel and waste disposal, as well as advanced reactors, manufacturing and data centers. Tennessee's proposal centers the campus in the Oak Ridge area, and DOE has projected that the initiative could ultimately bring as much as $50 billion in investment and 25,000 jobs.

The waste component of the proposal has begun drawing concern from both sides of the political aisle. State Sen. Heidi Campbell, D-Nashville, has called for disclosure of proposed locations and greater public involvement, noting that portions of Tennessee's proposal, including potential locations for waste storage, were redacted from the version released to the public. State Rep. Ed Butler, R-Rickman, whose district includes portions of Anderson, Morgan and Roane counties, has also written Gov. Bill Lee opposing nuclear waste storage in Tennessee. Butler said the potential economic benefits do not outweigh what he sees as the environmental risks.

For TCWP, however, one of the most important developments came from DOE itself. Members of our nuclear energy working group watched an interview with DOE Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Marla Morales explaining how the five states were selected and what comes next. Morales made clear that willingness to discuss waste disposal was central to becoming a finalist: many states expressed interest in nuclear development, but fewer were willing to include disposal in the conversation. She described disposal as the "main course" of the lifecycle campus concept, with other nuclear activities more like an "appetizer" from which states could pick and choose. She also said all five finalist states had agreed to consider reprocessing.

Just as striking was what Morales said about the public. She repeatedly emphasized that DOE expects potential host states to engage their communities through roundtables, town halls and other public outreach and said a successful campus requires a "willing and informed host community." She acknowledged that selecting a host is not simply a science or engineering question but also a matter of public acceptance and said that public trust must be earned "slowly and intentionally." Yet TCWP is unaware of any meaningful public discussion in the Oak Ridge region in which residents have been told clearly what Tennessee is proposing and given an opportunity to ask questions, hear from technical experts and discuss the potential benefits and risks.

That disconnect prompted TCWP's Board of Directors to act. On August 21, TCWP President Mark Bevelhimer and Executive Director Nancy Manning sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright asking DOE to delay its planned September 30 host-state decision until meaningful public engagement can occur. **TCWP is not currently taking a position for or against Tennessee hosting the campus.** Instead, we are asking that people who may live near, travel near or draw drinking water downstream from facilities associated with nuclear materials storage, transportation, reprocessing or disposal have an opportunity to understand and discuss what is being proposed before a decision is made. As we wrote to Secretary Wright, "Public engagement should help inform the decision—not simply explain the decision after it has largely been made."

TCWP also pointed out that DOE itself acknowledges that the federal legal framework necessary for the disposal component is not yet in place and that legislative changes are being pursued. If the legal framework remains unsettled, we see little reason to rush the public process. We have asked DOE to postpone the September 30 deadline and provide time for substantive public meetings involving DOE and state officials, local governments, technical experts, community organizations and citizens. **Read TCWP's letter to Secretary Wright here. https://tcwp.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Request-to-Chris-Wright-Secretary.pdf** Our nuclear energy working group will meet again before publication of this newsletter to discuss the rapidly developing proposal and determine next steps.

2. NRC Proposes Dozens of Rule Changes — Here's How to Weigh In

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has recently proposed approximately 70 rule changes, many with short public comment periods. TCWP was able to provide information and an Action Alert on one of those proposals, giving our members an opportunity to submit comments directly to the NRC. Within just 24 hours, 66 letters were sent.

With so many proposed changes moving forward at once, TCWP encourages members who want to follow these proceedings and submit comments to visit Protect Better, which provides helpful guidance on NRC rulemakings, including talking points and suggestions for writing effective comments.

We have been advised that the NRC may give less consideration to large numbers of identical comments, making it especially important to put comments into your own words. Protect Better offers guidance that can help you do that.

Helpful Resources

- Protect Better – NRC Comments: Guidance and talking points for submitting comments. **https://www.protectbetter.org/nrc-comments**

- ·NRC Planned Rulemaking Activities: View the rule changes currently being proposed. **https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/rulemaking-ruleforum/active/ruleindex**

- NRC Rulemaking Tracker: See the status of the proposed rules at a glance. **https://nrc-tracker.netlify.app/**

NEWS CAPSULES

OAK RIDGE

1. With EMDF Lawsuit Still Pending, Construction Moves Ahead

Work on DOE's proposed Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) in Oak Ridge continues to advance even as a lawsuit challenging the project remains unresolved. TCWP and other conservation groups filed suit against DOE and EPA in July 2025 over the planned radioactive and hazardous waste disposal facility; the federal defendants responded in October, and the groups filed their response that same month, but the court has yet to issue a decision. Meanwhile, DOE's Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management and contractor UCOR have completed a two-year groundwater study at the site, where groundwater levels declined more slowly than expected, prompting engineers to raise the floor of the first two disposal cells to maintain the required 15-foot separation between groundwater and waste. According to Nuclear News, the project is now preparing to enter a major construction phase this fall, including site grading, utility extensions and foundations for support facilities. With the lawsuit still awaiting a ruling, the continued progression toward construction raises an obvious concern for TCWP: how far will DOE proceed with the EMDF before the court has ruled on the legal challenge to the project?

2. Demolition Set to Begin on ORNL's Historic Isotope Row

DOE's Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management is preparing to demolish Isotope Row, a group of 10 highly contaminated buildings on Oak Ridge National Laboratory's central campus that date from the late 1940s through the early 1960s. The facilities supported production, processing and research of radioisotopes for medical, industrial, scientific and national defense purposes before operations ended in the early 1990s. Since 2020, workers have undertaken extensive deactivation and hazard-reduction work, including removal of large krypton tanks, contaminated ventilation systems and lines containing high levels of transuranic materials. Demolition was scheduled to begin in July, removing remaining hazards while freeing space for future ORNL research facilities and other missions.

3. Fusion Energy Company Selects Oak Ridge for U.S. Operations

Japan-based Kyoto Fusioneering will relocate its U.S. subsidiary from Seattle to Oak Ridge, bringing a planned $47 million investment and 51 jobs to the area. The fusion-energy company will receive a grant from Tennessee's state fund supporting nuclear development, with the amount still to be announced, and also plans to develop a nuclear test facility at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Kyoto Fusioneering joins Type One Energy in pursuing fusion technology in East Tennessee, alongside a growing number of companies involved in advanced nuclear development. The move also adds to Tennessee's substantial Japanese investment, which state officials say already includes hundreds of Japanese-owned businesses representing roughly $21 billion in capital investment.

4. Kairos Breaks Ground on Advanced Nuclear Reactor in Oak Ridge

Kairos Power has broken ground in Oak Ridge on **Hermes 2**, a 50-megawatt advanced nuclear demonstration plant expected to begin operating in 2030 and provide power through TVA as part of an agreement supporting Google's growing data-center electricity needs. The reactor will use molten salt as a coolant and TRISO uranium fuel rather than the pressurized-water technology and conventional fuel rods used by most existing U.S. reactors. Hermes 2 represents the first 50 megawatts of a broader agreement calling for as much as 500 megawatts from multiple Kairos reactors. Supporters see the technology as a promising source of reliable, carbon-free electricity. Some research, however, has raised questions about the quantities and more complex forms of radioactive waste that could be produced by advanced reactor designs, many of which have not yet been tested at commercial scale.

5. DOE Turns to AI to Assist Environmental Cleanup

The Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management (EM) is increasingly using artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics and advanced sensors to assist with environmental cleanup at nuclear sites, including Oak Ridge. DOE says these technologies can analyze large amounts of historical data, improve environmental monitoring, reduce worker exposure to radiation and hazardous materials, and make cleanup operations more efficient. At Oak Ridge, AI-enabled sensors and mercury-monitoring networks are being used to help determine safer times for workers involved in demolition of contaminated legacy buildings. Similar technologies are being tested elsewhere to monitor groundwater, manage radioactive tank waste and allow robots to perform work in high-radiation environments. DOE views these applications to accelerate cleanup while improving worker safety and reducing costs, although this reflects the agency's own assessment of the technology and its potential benefits.

STATE OF TENNESSEE

1. Federal Funding Will Keep TVA's Cumberland Coal Plant Burning

The Cumberland Fossil Plant, which TVA had planned to retire in 2026 and 2028, will receive more than $46 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to help keep its coal units operating, following TVA's decision earlier this year to reverse the retirement plan. The plant has a long pollution history, including EPA air-pollution violations cited in 2017 and 2023 and concerns about groundwater contamination from its coal-ash site.Internal TVA documents obtained by the Southern Environmental Law Center estimated that bringing Cumberland into compliance with current regulatory standards could cost $738 million, although TVA maintains that continuing to operate the plant will save money and help meet growing electricity demand. SELC says the public had no opportunity to comment before TVA reversed its closure decision, while local and regional conservation advocates argue that extending the life of the aging coal plant will prolong air and water pollution and associated health and climate impacts.

2. TVA Energy Plan Favors Coal, Gas and Nuclear Over Renewables

TVA's revised Integrated Resource Plan, which guides how the utility expects to meet electricity needs through 2050, represents a significant shift toward nuclear, natural gas and continued coal use while sharply reducing expectations for renewable energy. TVA now projects no more than 5 gigawatts of potential solar development, compared with as much as 20 gigawatts in its earlier plan, and wind energy has been removed from its projections entirely. At the same time, TVA plans to nearly double its anticipated investment in gas, pursue extensions for its existing nuclear plants and keep coal plants operating longer, citing changes in federal policy and the need for reliable power during periods of peak demand. Rapidly growing electricity demand from data centers is also influencing the plan; they already account for as much as 20% of TVA's industrial load, which the utility expects could double by 2030. Critics question both the environmental and economic wisdom of extending aging coal plants, arguing that they remain expensive to maintain regardless of changing federal policies.

3. Groups Challenge TVA Over Operating Coal and Gas Plants Together

The Southern Environmental Law Center, representing Appalachian Voices, the Center for Biological Diversity and Sierra Club, has notified TVA of its intent to sue over alleged Clean Air Act violations at the Cumberland site. TVA originally planned to retire the Cumberland coal plant as it brought a new methane gas plant online, allowing the new facility to be permitted as a "minor modification" based partly on the reduction in coal emissions. ButTVA reversed course in February and decided to operate both plants simultaneously; TVA acknowledges it now needs a "major source" permit, yet construction was completed and the gas

plant began operating before that permit was obtained. A major-source permit would also have required a public hearing and opportunity for public comment. “The Tennessee Valley Authority’s decision to continue running the Cumberland coal plant alongside its new gas plant is more than a broken promise to the millions of people who rely on TVA for power — it caused the federal utility to violate federal law while putting communities in Middle Tennessee at risk in the process,” said SELC Associate Attorney Delaney King. “If TVA doesn’t fix its Clean Air Act violations, we’ll take them to court.” The groups’ 60-day notice is the required first step before a Clean Air Act lawsuit can be filed.

4. xAI Data Center Rivals TVA’s Largest Coal Plant for Climate Pollution

Elon Musk’s xAI data center complex in the Memphis area is generating air pollution on a scale comparable to some of the region’s largest fossil-fuel power plants. In addition to receiving about 300 megawatts of TVA electricity, xAI is using dozens of on-site gas turbines to power its Colossus data centers, including 59 turbines with 1,400 megawatts of capacity just across the Mississippi state line. The Southern Environmental Law Center estimates those turbines could produce 7–8 million tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions annually if operated full time—an amount exceeded regionally only by TVA’s massive Cumberland coal plant. The turbines are also estimated to produce more nitrogen oxide pollution than any facility in Tennessee, Mississippi or Arkansas, with many reportedly lacking pollution-control equipment. The NAACP, represented by SELC and Earthjustice, has sued xAI over allegations that some of the Mississippi turbines have operated without required permits and pollution controls.

5. East Tennessee Communities Move to Rein in Data Centers

As data centers expand across Tennessee, several East Tennessee communities are moving proactively to regulate them amid concerns about heavy electricity and water use, noise, air pollution and impacts on nearby residents. Bristol has adopted a two-year moratorium, Washington County has paused approvals through June 2027, Kingsport has limited data centers to heavy industrial zones with residential setbacks and noise limits, and Jonesborough has established a 1,500-foot residential setback. Johnson City, where more than 5,000 of 6,000 survey respondents said they were “extremely concerned” about a potential data center, has extended its moratorium through December while developing more comprehensive regulations. Draft Johnson City requirements include residential setbacks and noise limits as well as environmental impact studies, contingency plans for abandoned facilities, public reporting and annual compliance reviews—an approach intended to protect the community while stopping short of an outright ban.

FEDERAL

1. Roadless Rule Protections for 45 million Acres at Risk

The Trump administration has proposed ending the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which protects more than 45 million acres of undeveloped national forest lands from most new large-scale logging, road construction, oil and gas development, and other extractive activities. The rule has helped preserve large, connected forest landscapes while still allowing activities such as wildfire prevention and other forest management. Nearly 30 percent of the lands covered by the rule are within 30 miles of national park lands, meaning changes to these protections could affect ecosystems extending well beyond national forest boundaries.

Conservation groups warn that removing the rule could open currently protected areas to increased roadbuilding, drilling, mining, and development, with consequences for wildlife habitat, water and air quality, and nearby national parks. Roadless forests provide important habitat and travel corridors for wildlife while also supporting hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, grazing, and other recreational uses. The National Parks Conservation Association is urging that the Roadless Rule remain in place, arguing that protecting these undeveloped forests is important not only for national forests themselves but also for neighboring parks, watersheds, wildlife, and communities.

2. EPA Backs Away from Limits on PFAS-Contaminated Sewage Sludge

The EPA has backed away from proposed regulations that would have sharply limited the use of sewage sludge, or “biosolids,” as fertilizer on agricultural land because of contamination with PFAS “forever chemicals.” The agency discarded scientific research conducted less than two years earlier that had supported tighter restrictions, concluding that sludge does not pose a widespread public threat because it is applied to only a small percentage of U.S. cropland. Public health and environmental advocates strongly disagree, pointing to testing that has repeatedly detected PFAS in sewage sludge and warning that the chemicals can contaminate soil, water and food produced on treated farmland. The Southern Environmental Law Center cited research showing potentially serious risks to farm families and consumers, including children drinking milk produced on farms where PFAS-contaminated sludge has been spread.

3. EPA Moves to Reduce Federal Oversight of Data Centers

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin told a Tennessee infrastructure summit that the agency intends to limit its regulatory role and leave more decisions about rapidly expanding data centers to states and local communities. EPA has said it will not establish nationwide environmental standards specifically for data centers, even as communities raise concerns about their enormous electricity and water demands and potential air and noise pollution. The agency is also considering eliminating federal requirements for public input on some "minor" sources of air emissions, which can include gas-powered generators used by data centers, and has proposed allowing portions of new facilities to be built before all required Clean Air Act permits are secured. Zeldin urged communities to evaluate proposed data centers based on their effects on electric bills and the grid and their water use, while criticizing statewide moratoriums as "cop outs."

4. FERC Expands Use of Exemptions from Environmental Review

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has expanded the use of Categorical Exclusions for certain actions associated with hydropower projects, allowing them to proceed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) without preparation of an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). One change applies to termination or revocation of hydropower licenses involving little or no ground disturbance or changes to reservoir conditions and downstream flows. FERC also adopted two existing TVA exclusions covering development of recreation and public-use areas near hydropower projects—including parking areas, campgrounds, stream access points and other facilities—with some projects involving up to 10 acres of physical disturbance. FERC says the changes will speed approvals and allow staff to concentrate on larger projects; from a conservation perspective, however, expanding the circumstances in which projects can proceed without an EA or EIS raises concerns about whether potentially significant environmental effects will receive adequate scrutiny before work begins.

5. Citizen Suits That Enforce Environmental Laws Face Legal Challenge

A series of federal court cases is challenging the decades-old right of individuals, organizations and local governments to bring "citizen suits" when environmental and other federal laws are violated. The challengers, backed by the Trump administration, argue that enforcement of federal law should rest primarily with the president and federal agencies rather than private citizens. Environmental advocates counter that Congress deliberately included citizen-suit provisions in laws such as the Clean Water Act because government agencies have limited resources—and sometimes may be unwilling to pursue violations. Citizen suits have been used to stop illegal pollution, force compliance with environmental laws and secure penalties that are paid to the U.S. Treasury. With four federal cases now advancing, legal experts say the issue could eventually reach the Supreme Court.

Two of the current challenges have direct connections to Tennessee. In one, the Pacific Legal Foundation is representing Springfield, Tennessee, against a Clean Water Act citizen suit brought by Tennessee Riverkeeper over alleged sewage discharges into a creek. In another, Elon Musk's xAI is challenging an NAACP citizen suit alleging that the company operated gas turbines powering its Memphis-area data center without required permits; the Trump administration has intervened in support of xAI and argued that the suit should be dismissed. Environmental attorneys warn that weakening or eliminating citizen suits could have far-reaching consequences, particularly when federal or state agencies choose not to pursue pollution violations, leaving communities with fewer ways to enforce protections already established by law.

TCWP Events

TCWP's Guidelines for Activities

- We ask that you stay home when you are sick.
- We ask that you know what you're capable of, and that you communicate that to the group leader.
- We recommend that you bring plenty of water and snacks.
- We ask that you not bring pets.
- NOTE: Events advertised as cleanups or workdays could involve a brisk pace, steep grades, and/or uneven terrain, and might not be appropriate for inexperienced hikers or those with physical limitations. For more information or if you have specific questions, contact the TCWP event leader.

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

Upcoming Events

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

Summer Cedar Barrens Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® - Saturday, September 19

This will be the second of our three annual workdays at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens. Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, the barrens 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 barrens.

Volunteers should meet in the Jefferson Middle School parking lot at 9 a.m.; wear sturdy shoes, and bring loppers, gloves, and water. A pizza lunch will be provided. For additional information, contact Jimmy Groton at 865-805-9908 or **groton87@comcast.net**

Register here: **https://forms.gle/XREft2Ker1KQ9sk59**

BioBlitz with TVA and Discover Life in America - September 25-26

Celebrate **National Public Lands Day** with TCWP and friends! Join **TCWP, Discover Life in America**, and the **Tennessee Valley Authority** for a free, family-friendly BioBlitz in Oak Ridge's two cedar barrens. A BioBlitz is an opportunity for people of all ages and skill levels to learn about local animals and plants while contributing to science! We will explore what lives along the Worthington Cemetery Trail at Melton Hill Reservoir and in the Oak Ridge Barrens Natural Area.

Two chances to 'blitz':

Friday, September 25 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Eastern: Throughout the evening, we will survey for plants, insects, and more! At dusk, we will set up black lights to monitor insect populations, and we may hear bats with our echolocation detector!

Meeting location (Friday): Jefferson Middle School, 200 Fairbanks Rd, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 37830

Register here: **https://forms.gle/MGxQuAowPzc38NcJ6**

Saturday, September 26 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Eastern: We will start by looking and listening for birds, then continue to look for other flora and fauna throughout the morning. Participants can also remove invasive species to expand the cedar barren habitat along the trail.

Join us for pizza after we finish!

Meeting location (Saturday): Elza Gate Park. Worthington Cemetery .75 Mile Loop, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 37830
https://tinyurl.com/mvzu35as

Register here: **https://forms.gle/WUKWz2UYmJkAB5jBA**

Norris Municipal Watershed Hike – Saturday, October 3

This year's hike at the Norris Watershed will explore the eastern part, primarily on woods roads that are not open to vehicles and will focus on forest management. The loop hike will go through a variety of forest situations including old, reverted fields, mixed mesophotic forest, and small patches of white pine. We will see examples of forest management activities that were implemented over a 50 to 60-year timespan. These include forest control burns, wildlife openings, crop tree release area, and clearcuts that were harvested in 1971, 1975, and 2014.

We will meet in front of Norris Middle School, across from the library near the pavilion, at 9 a.m. (Participants can meet in Oak Ridge for carpooling or caravanning at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge, at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's, in time to leave Oak Ridge by 8:15 a.m.) From the Middle School, we'll caravan to the trailhead along Upper Clear Creed Road. The hike begins on Arnie's Trail, then follows Benny's trail to the Boundary Trail. This will take us to Foresters' Trail, which we will follow down to Belmont Trail. At the end of Belmont, we will reach Benny's Trail and then to Arnie's and back to the start. The hike will cover about 4 miles and is rated easy to moderate, with a couple of short climbs (see Norris Watershed Trail map at:
https://www.cityofnorris.com/uploads/1/4/3/7/143740943/norriswatershed_tralmap_251106front[1].jpeg.

Although the roads and trails are well graded, sturdy shoes or boots are recommended. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather and bring water and any snacks you may want. For more information, contact Joe Feeman at **jcfeeman@comcast.net**.

Secret City Pride Festival – Sunday, October 11

PFLAG Oak Ridge is proud to have a **TCWP** table at our second annual Secret City Pride event, to be held at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, on Sunday, October 11, from noon to 4 p.m. All are welcome to attend and enjoy a fun afternoon of comradeship with the wide diversity of folks from our community. There will be entertainment, a kids' play area, community connections, and a Make Your Own Pride Sign for our parade! Hope to see you all there. *John Jaruzel*

Clark Center Conservation Gathering – Saturday, Oct. 24

Join a celebration and exploration of the concept of Clark Center Park in Anderson County becoming a state park. This 40-acre parcel is small but rich with opportunities for birding, boating, biking, fishing, hiking, paddling, picnicking, star gazing, swimming, and wildlife viewing.

While the concept for this new state park is exciting, some steps must be followed for Clark Center State Park to come to fruition. The Cèilidh will provide opportunities for all to provide comments on ideas, and options for the park will be discussed. We also want to thank those who initiated the request for establishment of the new state park

Location
7620 Bull Bluff Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830
1 to 4 pm on Saturday, October 24

"Let's Botanize" Program with Jacob Suissa and Ben Goulet-Scott – Thursday, October 29

At 7 p.m. on October 29 TCWP will co-sponsor with the UT Arboretum Society a Zoom program titled "Let's Botanize," featuring Ben Goulet-Scott, Ph.D., and Jacob Suissa, Ph.D. Scott and Suissa are the cofounders and directors of Let's Botanize, an educational non-profit that promotes the hobby of botanizing by sharing plant stories. Their motto is "A care for plants is a care for the planet."

Goulet-Scott and Suissa earned their doctorate degrees in evolutionary biology at Harvard University. Goulet-Scott currently designs and manages higher education programming at Harvard Forest, the ecology-focused research station of Harvard University in Massachusetts. Suissa is currently an Assistant Professor of evolutionary biology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Find them teaching at in-person school events, presenting hands-on seminars and lectures, and on social media **@letsbotanize**.

The program is free, but you will need to register to receive the Zoom link and a video of the program to watch at your convenience. Register at: **www.utarboretumsociety.org/programs**. For questions or registration issues contact Michelle at **mcampani@utk.edu**.

TCWP Annual Meeting Afternoon Hikes – Saturday, October 31

After lunch at TCWP's annual meeting (see meeting announcement in this newsletter) we will offer a choice of two hikes in Frozen Head State Park, one easy, the other somewhat longer.

The easy hike, to be led by Margaret Cumberland, will be the Park's Interpretive Trail. Margaret says "This short but beautiful trail goes along Judge Branch for half a mile before looping back. There are a couple of bridges, but the trail is otherwise very flat. The total distance from the trailhead is 0.8 miles. The Interpretive Trail is a wonderful wildflower trail in the spring."

The other, longer hike, possibly Panther Branch or Judge Branch, will be led by Chuck Estes and Jimmy Groton. This hike will be chosen and announced the day of the annual meeting, as trail conditions vary based on weather conditions and maintenance.

For Registration and menu information: See Page One of this newsletter. Need RSVP by Oct. 16.

Fall Cedar Barrens Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® - Saturday, November 7

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

Volunteers should meet in the Jefferson Middle School Parking lot at 9 a.m., with sturdy shoes, loppers, gloves, and water. We will also have some Uprooters, loppers, and gloves to share. The work session will conclude at noon with a free pizza lunch for volunteers. For more information, contact Jimmy Groton at 865-805-9908 or groton87@comcast.net.

Owl Ridge Raptor Center In-person Program – Saturday, November 21
On Saturday, November 21, Lisa Thomison, co-founder of the Owl Ridge Raptor Center, and the Raptor Center staff will introduce the work of this federal- and state-licensed raptor rehabilitation center at the UT Arboretum Auditorium, 901 S. Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge. The program, cosponsored by **TCWP,** the **UT Arboretum Society**, and T**he American Museum of Science and Energy**, will run from 10 a.m. until noon.

Owl Ridge will bring some very special winged "ambassadors" for us to meet. The Owl Ridge Raptor Center is a nonprofit organization that takes care of injured and orphaned birds of prey, including owls, hawks, falcons, vultures, and eagles. The goal with each bird is full recovery and re-release back into their native habitat whenever possible.

The program is free, but registration is required to confirm your seat. Please make sure to register for all members of your group so that seats will be available. Seating is limited to 100. We will have a donation box available to benefit the work at Owl Ridge Raptor Center.

Register at: www.utarboretumsociety.org/programs. Parking will be available at the auditorium. Please follow the signs to the auditorium, which is .5 miles from the arboretum's main entrance. For additional information, contact mcampani@utk.edu.

Recent Events

TCWP 60th Birthday Party – Saturday, Aug. 1
TCWP celebrated its 60th anniversary at Iams Nature Center on August 1 with a very special gathering that brought our history to life through the people who helped make it. Rather than simply recounting six decades of conservation work, we heard personal stories from Evie and Ace Russell, children of founders Liane and Bill Russell, along with former executive directors and longtime TCWP members and conservation leaders who shared memories of the people, campaigns, and determination behind some of TCWP's greatest successes.

For newer members especially, the stories offered an inspiring glimpse into what ordinary citizens working together can accomplish—and reminded all of us that the work we do today is part of a remarkable 60-year legacy that continues. *Nancy Manning*

Connect With Us

Follow us on social for real-time updates, behind-the-scenes photos, event reminders, and ways to take action.

@TCWPOR
Follow us

@TCWP
Follow us

@TCWP, INC.
in Follow us

SPEAKER BIOS

Lori Phillips-Jones – Mayor, Town of Oneida



Lori Phillips-Jones is Mayor of Oneida and an attorney and former District Attorney with a long history of public service in Scott County. As mayor, she focuses on economic growth, community partnerships, tourism, recreation, and downtown revitalization. She is a strong supporter of the Rails to Trails project and sees outdoor recreation, heritage preservation, and entrepreneurship as important tools for creating new opportunities for Oneida and the surrounding region.

John McCracken – President, Echoes of the Rail Foundation



John McCracken is President of Echoes of the Rail Foundation, the grassroots nonprofit working to preserve the historic rail corridor and transform it into the 41-mile Rail Trail connecting Scott, Campbell, and Anderson Counties. John has helped build community support and partnerships, advance fundraising efforts, and guide the long-term vision for the trail. He sees the project as both a recreational asset and an opportunity to strengthen rural communities and local economies.

Virginia Bruce – Community Development Coordinator, Town of Oneida



Virginia Bruce serves as Community Development Coordinator for the Town of Oneida, where she works to advance economic development, tourism, community initiatives, and grant-supported projects. With experience in small business ownership and retail management, she brings a practical understanding of rural businesses and communities. Virginia has helped champion the Rails to Trails project through regional collaboration, fundraising, grant development, and her work with Echoes of the Rail Foundation.

Jimmy Byrge – Echoes of the Rail Foundation Board of Directors



Jimmy Byrge is an East Tennessee writer, storyteller, songwriter, and craftsman whose work is deeply rooted in the Appalachian Mountains and the New River community he has called home throughout his life. Raised in a coal-mining community, Jimmy draws on its people, history, faith, and traditions in his stories, songs, poetry, and creative work. His deep connection to the land and community also informs his service on the Echoes of the Rail Foundation board.

SLATE OF CANDIDATES

Mark Bevelhimer - Mark retired in 2019 after 30 years as an aquatic ecologist/fish biologist at Oak Ridge National Lab. While at ORNL, he researched environmental impacts of hydropower dams, coal fired powerplants, and toxic contaminants on fish and aquatic ecosystems. He has been filling his retirement with whitewater kayaking, camping, fishing, refinishing furniture, spending time at his cabin on Watts Bar, and of course TCWP!

Hans Christen - has been living in Knoxville since 2000. He retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 2023 after a career spanning materials science, nanoscience, and neutron scattering, where he served in various research and leadership positions.
Hans grew up in Switzerland, where he studied physics and developed an early love of hiking in the Alps. Since moving to East Tennessee, he has developed a deep appreciation for the region's natural beauty through hiking, backpacking, biking, and beekeeping, while becoming strongly committed to its conservation.
In addition to his work with TCWP, Hans volunteers with Inspiring Connections Outdoors (Sierra Club), serves as a trail keeper at the Obed Wild and Scenic River, participates in environmental education programs for youth and adults, and is a graduate of the Tennessee Naturalist Program.

Joel Freund | MST, CPA, CFF, CVA, CFE -Joel graduated from Auburn University with a degree in accounting and graduated from the University of Central Florida with a master's in taxation. Joel has been a Certified Public Accountant for 30 years and is also a Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Valuation Analysis, and Certified in Financial Forensics. Joel spent 10 years in public and private accounting before joining the FBI as a Special Agent and Supervisory Special Agent for 16 years. Joel has recently begun his own business JF Accounting & Forensic Services, LLC where he provides Tax, Bookkeeping, Consulting, Family Law, Business Valuation, Forensic, and Litigation Support services for a variety of clients. Joel has been married for 29 years and has twins, one boy and one girl. Joel also has one dog and four cats. Joel loves all things outdoors and has been camping in Gatlinburg since he was 10 years old. His favorite hike is Chimney Tops and Mt. Leconte. When he lived in California, he hiked Half Dome and is always looking for a new adventure. Joel has completed 3 marathons, 12 half marathons, and over 50 5K and 10K races. Joel is committed to helping preserve wildlife and making sure his kids and grandkids can continue enjoying the outdoors.

Margaret Cumberland - is the Flora Field Ecologist at the Appalachians and Cumberland Plateau Domain (D07), and has been part of Battelle's National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Program for 9 years. Her role involves leading a team of technicians to collect ecological data, and, in particular, ensures the accuracy and integrity of the flora-related data products. She has an M.S. in Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development from the University of Georgia, and B.S.'s in Biological Sciences, Botany, and Zoology from NC State University. Outside of NEON, Margaret enjoys participating in environmental education and citizen science programs (particularly ones involving plants or birds), as well as camping in the local parks or doing various DIY projects.

Jimmy Groton - Works on environmental issues (wetlands, threatened and endangered species management and exotic species control) with a Knoxville environmental consulting firm. He worked for the National Park Service for six years. He has an M.S. in forestry and a B.S. in natural resources. He has been a TCWP Board member since 1993; President 1999-2002, 2006-2014; currently President of Emory River Watershed Association and board member of Tennessee Invasive Plant Council; served on O.R. EQAB for 18 years. Jimmy is active on trails, water, program, Obed, and Cherokee National Forest issues. He enjoys hiking, paddling, and being outdoors.

Kirk Eddlemon - A Native Knoxvillian and East Tennessean, Kirk has been exploring Blue Ridge Mountains and Cumberland Plateau for most of his life. He met his wife, Laura, at an Oak Ridge roll practice over 20 years ago, and they began to explore rivers around the world together. After earning his B.S. in Geology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Kirk worked for a seismic consulting firm, during which time he and his wife brought a son, Alex, into the world. Following his time spent as a geologist, and a brief stint as an adventure guide at Blackberry Farm, Kirk turned his passion into his life's work, by writing and publishing a comprehensive, two volume whitewater guide to the region titled Whitewater of the Southern Appalachians. From here he began a full-time career as a whitewater kayaking instructor and guide, which he has been lucky enough to be doing for the last 10 years. Working mainly in the Obed and Big South Fork watersheds, as well as during the summer on the west coast, back home on the Ocoee, and elsewhere, Kirk shares his passion for the art of engaging moving water, and the special environs that rivers wind through. From this experience he has cultivated a desire to be involved in the effort to promote and protect our wilderness areas and is honored to be working with TCWP.

Eva Myrth Robbins - grew up in Oak Ridge walking the trails all over east Tennessee. After graduating from Indiana University, she began what would be 30 years living abroad from Hong Kong and Norway to Mexico. The last years in Mexico were in a very rural location with almost no state influence or budget. She worked with local residents to build roads, to bring in electrical lines and to encourage educational participation through a nonprofit organization started by Eva. Back in Tennessee for a new chapter she brings a growth-based approach to TCWP communications and branding.

Erin Cunningham - is a Data Scientist at Tombras and a former Geophysicist at ORNL. She earned her PhD in Geology from the University of Maryland in 2019, where she spent her time imaging the subsurface geologic structures beneath the southeastern United States. Along the way, she's also worked with community leaders on groundwater contamination projects and has a passion for using science to solve real-world problems.
Originally from northern Illinois, Erin grew up camping, hiking, and generally getting muddy outside. She's led invasive plant pulls, guided geode-hunting field trips, and is always up for a good outdoor adventure. Now based in eastern Tennessee, she's excited to dive into the work with TCWP and explore all the wild places the region has to offer!

Jacob King - is an Associate Attorney at Young, Williams & Theiss. He graduated from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville with his degree in accounting in 2018 and from Arizona State University with his JD in 2021. As a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, Jacob spent time in his youth exploring the East Tennessee wilderness. Because of these experiences, Jacob's mission is to ensure that the beauty of East Tennessee is preserved for future generations so that they may enjoy its wonders as he did. In his free time Jacob enjoys hiking, traveling to National Parks, and relaxing with his dog, Hulk.

Tim Partridge - Tim is a Certified Public Accountant and works as a senior manager at PYA, P.C. where he provides audit and accounting services to companies in a variety of specialized industries including governmental and not-for-profit organizations. Tim earned a Master of Accountancy degree and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of New Mexico. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants. Tim grew up in the southwest and relocated to east Tennessee in 2018. He enjoys spending free time with his family exploring the wonderful outdoor spaces that east Tennessee has to offer through activities including hiking, camping, paddling, mountain biking and horseback riding. Tim is interested in making sure that the natural beauty and recreational opportunities he shares with his family are available for generations to come.

Lindsey Hayter - is the Lead Fauna Ecologist for the Appalachians and Cumberland Plateau Domain (D07) of NEON (National Ecological Observatory Network). Lindsey has over two decades of experience in wildlife conservation science and management through state and federal agencies, universities, and non-profit organizations. Her long-term interests have included research and outreach most often related to amphibians, reptiles, wetlands, and cave-obligate fauna. As a former park interpretive naturalist and the principal investigator of the Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization, she enjoys connecting people with the overlooked and less appreciated aspects of nature. Lindsey holds a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and Conservation from Ball State University.

NOMINEES FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2026 - 2027 : Susan Prince Havens ~ Chuck Estes. ~ Nancy Manning

TCWP SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS



Chuck Estes's video presentation starts at 1:03:07 on YouTube,, from the TCWP 60 Years Celebration **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLNzDU9fF6o&t=30s**

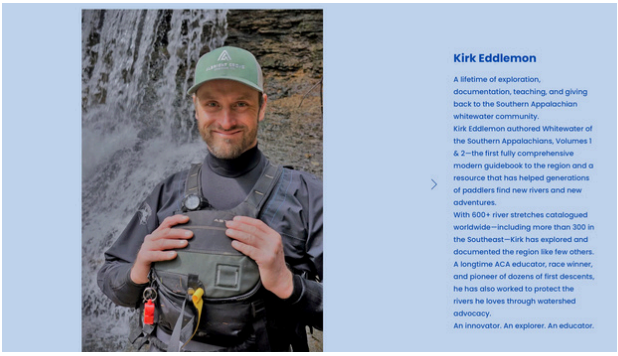
Congratulations to Chuck Estes, the 2025 Recipient of the TCWP Founder's Award!

We are thrilled to celebrate Chuck Estes as the second recipient of the TCWP Founder's Award! Presented at our 60th Anniversary celebration, this honor recognizes individuals who best reflect the vision set forth in TCWP's founding charter.

From expertly guiding complex, seemingly unmanageable projects to doing hands-on work in the field, Chuck embodies true dedication to our mission.

As inscribed on his award plaque:
"In recognition of your tireless advocacy for the protection of wildlands and waters. Your commitment to imaginative planning, public education, and cooperative stewardship reflects the vision set forth in TCWP's charter and continues to guide our work today."

Please join us in thanking Chuck for his remarkable service and leadership!



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XlX5iSiHJQ



Congratulations to Kirk Eddlemon on His Induction into the Southern Appalachian Whitewater Hall of Fame!

We are thrilled to congratulate TCWP Board Director Kirk Eddlemon on his well-deserved induction into the Southern Appalachian Whitewater Hall of Fame!

An innovator, explorer, educator, and author of Whitewater of the Southern Appalachians (Volumes 1 & 2), Kirk has cataloged over 600 river stretches worldwide and achieved dozens of first descents. Beyond his legendary paddling contributions, Kirk is a passionate watershed advocate who works tirelessly to protect the regional rivers and wild spaces he loves.

We are proud to have Kirk on the TCWP Board! Join us in celebrating this outstanding achievement!

For more on Kirk's background in paddlesports and instruction, check out this podcast episode discussing What Decades of Teaching Whitewater Taught. This video provides insightful context into his long-standing dedication as an educator in the Southeast whitewater community.

TCWP NEWSLETTER 389 September 2026

TENNESEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESSS PLANNING
P.O BOX 6873
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37831
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
Taking Care of Wild Places Since 1966

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
OAK RIDGE, TN
PERMIT NO. 179

Board of Directors
Mark Bevelhimer.....President Michele Thornton.....V Pres.
Hans Christen.....Secretary
Joel Freund.....Treasurer
Margaret Cumberland.....Director
Kirk Eddlemon.....Director
Jimmy Groton.....Director
Eva Robbins.....Director
Tim Partridge.....Director
Erin Cunningham.....Director
Jacob King.....Director

Calendar:

- **September 19** – Summer Cedar Barrens Cleanup/Weed Wrangle®
- **September 25/September 26** – Discover Life in America Bioblitz
- **October 3** – Norris Municipal Watershed Hike
- **October 11** – Secret City Pride Festival
- **October 24 -** Clark Center Conservation Gathering
- **October 29** – "Let's Botanize" Progra
- **October 31** – TCWP Annual Meeting – Afternoon Hikes
- **November 7** – Fall Cedar Barrens Cleanup/ Weed Wrangle®
- **November 21** – Oak Ridge Raptor Center In-person Program

[These events are subject to cancellation. Call ahead to verify the event will occur.]

Tennessee Citizens of Wilderness Planning (TCWP)

The mission of TCWP is to: Preserve wild places and waters through protection, advocacy, stewardship, and education.

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

President: Mark Bevelhimer, mbevelhimer@gmail.com

Executive Director: Nancy Manning, nancymanning@tcwp.org

Development Assistant and Outreach Coordinator: Geri Fox, tcwp.contact.org

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