



**T**ennessee  
**C**itizens for  
**W**ilderness  
**P**lanning

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## 1. OAK RIDGE NEWS

1A. *Blueway on the Clinch River?*

TCWP and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) have teamed up to encourage the community to recognize and enhance an "Oak Ridge Blueway" from Melton Lake Park to Melton Hill Dam. The 26+ miles of the Clinch River cradles our most under-recognized natural asset: a blueway. The Blueway could provide greater opportunities for residents and visitors to appreciate the vast tracts of forested land bordering the Clinch River, while maintaining its treasured natural attributes.

The Clinch River corridor has significant scenic value, supports high natural biodiversity, and offers myriad opportunities for outdoor water recreation.

## 2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. ***TDEC Issues Advisory on Daddy's Creek, Extends Advisory on Emory River***

On July 1, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) announced a 6.7-mile extension of the existing precautionary fish consumption advisory on the Emory River in Morgan County due to mercury. Additionally, a new precautionary advisory was issued for a portion of Daddy's Creek in Morgan and Cumberland counties due to mercury in smallmouth bass. The press release from TDEC noted that Obed River fish were also tested on multiple occasion and were not found to have elevated levels of mercury.

Precautionary Fish Consumption Advisories are issued when contaminant levels are such that they would pose a risk to sensitive subpopulations such as children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers. All others should limit consumption of the named species to one meal per month. Recreational activities such as boating, swimming, wading, and catch-and-release carry no risk.

To read TDEC press release on the Advisories, visit:

<https://www.tn.gov/environment/news/2020/7/1/tdec-issues-precautionary-fish-consumption-advisory-on-daddy-s-creek--extends-advisory-on-emory-river.html>

For a complete listing of Tennessee's current fishing advisories plus additional information about the advisory issuance process, visit:

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/documents/water\\_fish-advisories.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/documents/water_fish-advisories.pdf)

2B. *State Legislature names 3 State Natural River Areas in Rhea County*

**[From Rhea Herald News]**

Last month, the State Legislature approved a bill (sponsored by Senator Ken Yager and Rep. Ron Travis) that designated three segments of the Piney River system as Natural River Areas. The designation is expected to enhance outdoor activity, particularly among whitewater enthusiasts, as well as increase the area's economic vitality by boosting ecotourism.

The areas designated by the bill are public lands in Rhea County and include: Piney River from its confluence with Moccasin Creek downstream to its confluence with Rockhouse Branch, Little Piney Creek in the Piney Falls State Natural Area downstream to its confluence with Soak Creek, and Duskin Creek from its confluence with Newby Branch downstream to its confluence with Piney River. There are Cumberland Trail routes and proposed routes associated with this area.

The State River Area designation (part of the Scenic Rivers Program) is intended to preserve and protect free flowing, unpolluted rivers or river segments with outstanding recreational, geologic, botanical, fish, wildlife, historic, or cultural values. Natural rivers provide shoreline and scenic vistas that are essentially primitive and generally inaccessible except by trail.


2C. *Potential Strip Mining in North Cumberlands*

(Contributed by Russ Manning)

Triple H Coal Company based in Jacksboro, Tennessee, requested a permit to mine about 400 acres in in the northern Cumberlands in 2012. While so far unsuccessful, the coal company filed an updated application in March 2019 to mine 150 acres of that land in Campbell County in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The WMA incorporates lands in Anderson, Campbell, Scott, and Morgan counties owned by the State and managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, or lands under easement or lease by TWRA.

In 2007, then-Governor Phil Bredesen spearheaded the State of Tennessee's acquisition of 127,000 acres on the northern Cumberland Plateau, which was included in the NCWMA the following year. Unfortunately, with the state's limited resources the purchase did not include the mineral rights. While Triple H and other coal companies own mineral rights throughout the Cumberlands, they still must receive a permit in order to access the coal.

In 2010, Gov. Bredesen requested 75,000 acres of the NCWMA be declared "unsuitable" for coal mining. The designation would not prevent mining in the area, but would protect the ridgeline view—about 570 miles of mountain ridges (600 feet to either side) that define the topography of the area. The Office of Surface Mining took six years but finally approved the State's petition for the lands "unsuitable" in 2016 during the Obama Administration. In addition to

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protecting the view of forested mountains, the designation ensures wildlife movement through the area.

Triple H recently obtained surface rights to the 150 acres in a quitclaim deed from the State to exercise their repurchase option for surface mining operations. The company then proceeded to amend its application to strip mine those acres. However, in the opinion of Elizabeth McCarter with the Tennessee Office of Attorney General, the change in ownership of the surface rights does not nullify the federal designation of lands unsuitable for surface coal mining.

An additional concern is that some of the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area gather on these mountain ridges. Silt and acid pollution from strip mines will undoubtedly end up in the Big South Fork if the permit is approved.

SOCM (now renamed to Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment) tells us that no decision on the Triple H permit has been issued, at least in part because OSM has asked for more information that the company has yet to provide. SOCM will let us know of any updates.

In the meantime, Senator Lamar Alexander has stated in an interview with *Inside Climate News* that he still backs the lands unsuitable designation. His spokesperson said he will “carefully review any decision by the federal Office of Surface Mining to change that designation.” If the Trump OSM moves forward with approval of the permit, we’ll need to appeal to the senator’s office to intervene. For more info see: <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/12022020/tennessee-coal-mining-trump-administration-cumberland-plateau> (the article contains a link to the TN Office of Attorney General letter to OSM stating that the LUM designation is not affected by a change in ownership).

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### 3. OBED/BIG SOUTH FORK NEWS

#### 3A. *National Park Service Visitor Spending Effects Report*

Last month the National Park Service released the 2019 National Park Service Visitor Spending Effects Report showing the economic impact parks have on their communities. Locally, the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area had over 750,000 visitors that spent \$23,600,000 in 2019 in the communities near the park. That spending supported 286 job in the area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$25,500,000. And the Obed Wild & Scenic River had over 221, 000 visitors that spent over \$4,100,000 in the communities near the park. That spending supported 47 jobs in the area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$4,000,000.

In the state of Tennessee, 10 million park visitors spent an estimated \$717 million in the communities that surround Tennessee’s National Parks. These expenditures supported 9,730 job and had a cumulative benefit of \$996 million to Tennessee’s economy.

The NPS has created an interactive tool that allows users to explore the 2019 report by national, state and local economies. Users can also view year-by-year trend data. The interactive tool and report are available at the NPS Social Science Program webpage:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>.

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### 4. OTHER NEWS

#### 4A. *Endangered National Parks and Great American Outdoors Act*

(Contributed by Russ Manning)

To emphasize the threats of underfunding and climate change to our national park system, Outside magazine has identified “8 Most Endangered National Parks,” including Great Smoky Mountains. The June article by Jon Waterman says, “From the Everglades in Florida to Glacier in Montana, here are the ones we stand to lose”:

- Rocky Mountain National Park—diseased trees, drought stress, and heat causing beetles to impact 90 percent of the forests.
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park—some of the highest measured air pollution of any national park in the U.S.
- Glacier National Park—shrinking glaciers with a warming climate, some to disappear by 2030.
- Indiana Dunes National Park—ornamentals planted outside the park have invaded and pollution from surrounding industries.
- Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve—higher temperatures leading to melting permafrost, increased fire, abnormal rain becoming ice that covers lichen caribou feed on.
- Saguaro National Park—cactus growth slowed with drought and heat but with invasives that are drought tolerant.
- Everglades National Park—most endangered national park of them all because of lack of fresh water.
- Joshua Tree National Park—rising temperatures and air pollution threatening the existence of the park’s namesake yucca plant.

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at <http://www.tcwp.org>



But help is on the way. On June 17th, the U.S. Senate in an unusual bipartisan vote of 73 to 25 passed S.3422, the “Great American Outdoors Act.” Senator Lamar Alexander voted yes, while Senator Marsha Blackburn voted no. The Act has two parts.

The National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund will be funded by an amount equal to 50 percent of all energy revenues from oil, gas, coal, or alternative or renewable energy development on Federal land and water in the preceding fiscal year for the years 2021 through 2025. As reported in the media, this will apparently amount to an estimated \$6 – \$9 billion to be used toward the more than \$12 billion maintenance backlog at primarily our national parks (70%) and forests (15%).

The Act also permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million per year beginning in 2021. At present, LWCF funding is at the whim of the President and Congress, and in fact Trump in earlier budgets sought to cut the LWCF by 97%. He now indicates he’ll sign the bill. Many speculate the about-face is an effort to help vulnerable Republicans in Colorado and Montana who face reelection this year. Mitch McConnell denies any political motivation. Whatever, we’ll take it.

While the NPPLRF monies may not be used for land acquisition, the purpose of the LWCF is the acquisition of land and water, including easements, for recreation and protection of natural resources. Land purchased under the LWCF will be part of the solution to climate change, creating corridors for plants and animals needing to migrate north with warming temperatures.

The Great American Outdoors Act has been introduced in the House and may have been voted on by the time you read this. With 198 bipartisan cosponsors in a Democrat-controlled House, passage is expected. Tennessee’s Representatives who are cosponsors are Steve Cohen (D), Jim Cooper (D), David Kustoff (R), and Chuck Fleischmann (R). Tim Burchett (R) is conspicuously absent.

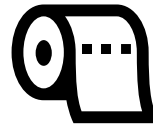
#### *4B. Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project is Scuttled; Third Natural Gas Pipeline Project this Year*

Earlier this month, Dominion Energy Inc. and Duke Energy Company announced the abandonment of the long-sought, controversial Atlantic Coast Pipeline project. The proposed pipeline’s route crossed North Carolina and Virginia with little regard for special waters and lands and species. There were several permits still to be obtained by the companies, and the likelihood of more lawsuits to stop the project.

The same day the pipeline project abandonment was announced, Dominion Energy announced the sale of most of its gas pipeline and storage assets to Berkshire Hathaway. Tulsa-based The Williams Cos. opted not to reapply for a permit in May for a \$1 billion pipeline extension after regulators in New York blocked it, following February cancellation of a pipeline that would have run from Appalachia to New York.

Stock market analysts cite lagging numbers for oil and pipeline operators and America’s efforts cut carbon emissions as indications that investor are moving away from natural gas and generally losing confidence in the fossil fuels market.

#### *4C. The Issue with Tissue (Toilet Tissue)* (Contributed by Russ Manning)



Last year, the Natural Resources Defense Council and Stand.earth issued a report, *The Issue with Tissue*, on the devastating effects of our reliance on toilet paper. Most folks understandably tend to buy the softest TP, which is produced from virgin fibers. This consumer demand is driving destruction of Canada’s boreal forest in what the report calls a “tree-to-toilet pipeline”—old-growth forests are clearcut, turned into pulp, converted to tissue, and either flushed or thrown away as facial tissue or paper towels. While we don’t think a lot about that tissue going down our drains, it has long-term consequences—damage to wildlife habitat, destruction of Indigenous Peoples lands, and when forest becomes a field of stumps, the loss of an important carbon store in our fight to counteract climate change.

The subtitle of the report frames U.S. responsibility: “How Americans Are Flushing Forests Down the Toilet.” Americans make up a little more than 4% of the world’s population, yet account for over 20% of the world’s use of tissue. The U.S. leads the world in annual per capita use of TP at 141 rolls. If there were any doubt about our reliance on tissue, remember the rush on toilet paper at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic that left grocery store shelves bare.

The three largest producers of tissue in the U.S. are Procter & Gamble, Georgia-Pacific, and Kimberly-Clark with readily recognized brands: Charmin, Angel Soft, Cottonelle, Brawny, Bounty, Kleenex, Quilted Northern, and Viva. These companies talk about environmental sustainability. “However,” the report says, “none of their flagship at-home brands contain recycled materials or alternative fibers, and each company misses other key commitments necessary to ensure their products do not come at the expense of the boreal forest. Given these companies’ substantial market shares, if they were to embrace recycled or sustainable alternative fibers throughout their product lines, it would lead to dramatic, positive changes in the industry.”

Until these companies change their ways, and Canada improves its commitment to preserving its boreal forest, there are alternatives. The report includes scorecards for toilet paper, paper towels, and facial tissue. The brands receiving an A grade on sustainability of their TP are Green Forest, 365 Everyday Value 100% Recycled, Earth First, Natural Value, Seventh Generation, and Trader Joe’s Bath Tissue.

For more information see the EcoWatch article <https://www.ecowatch.com/-anishinaabe-northwoods-2646165661.html>. For the full report, see <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/issue-tissue-how-americans-are-flushing-forests-down-toilet-report.pdf>

#### 4D. *The Nature Conservancy Adds Acreage to Cherokee National Forest*

(Contributed by Russ Manning)

The Nature Conservancy along with The Conservation Fund recently purchased 640 acres added to Cherokee National Forest. The acquisition protects 1.5 miles of French Broad River frontage from development and provides critical habitat for endangered bats and black bears. The parcel is in the Wolf Creek area of Coker County, near East Highway 25/70. As quoted in the Citizen Tribune, Gabrielle Lynch with TNC in Tennessee said, “The seller of the property was the Huff Family Partnership comprised of a number of Huff family members who had inherited the property. The purchase price was just over \$1.1 million. It was really a joy to work with them and it was a fun project, and the property is important for conservation and for public outdoor recreation as well.”

This acquisition in 2020 brings the total acreage permanently protected in Tennessee to more than 400,000 acres since TNC opened an office in the state in 1978.

#### 4E. *More Good News for Monarchs*

(Contributed by Russ Manning)



In addition to the appeal from conservation groups for Congress to increase funding for butterflies and their habitat (reported in the May 19, 2020 newsletter), a historic agreement has been reached with more than 45 transportation and energy companies,

as well as private landowners to protect monarch habitat. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service signed an agreement in April 2020 with the University of Illinois at Chicago for the university’s Energy Resources Center to administer the program. The monarch agreement encourages transportation and energy partners to participate in monarch conservation by providing and maintaining habitat on millions of acres of rights-of-way on both public and private lands across the country. Participants will carry out conservation measures to reduce or remove threats to monarchs and create and maintain habitat annually.

The nationwide program instituted by the agreement will combine Candidate Conservation Agreements and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances for monarchs in the lower 48 states. CCAs and CCAAs are voluntary agreements between Fish & Wildlife and landowners to conserve habitats that benefit at-risk species. A CCAA for non-federal partners only provides assurances that no additional conservation measures will be required if the covered species is later listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Service is currently evaluating whether the monarch should be listed and will make a determination in December 2020. A CCA for any participant (federal, state, local) affirms the commitment to conservation but provides no assurances about later conservation requirements.

The integration of the CCA and CCAA programs allows energy and transportation partners and private landowners to provide conservation seamlessly throughout their properties, where there may be a mix of non-federal and federal lands. Recommended conservation actions include adjusting the timing of mowing practices to avoid periods when monarch larva will be present, moving away from broadcast herbicide spray to targeted herbicide applications, replanting after a construction project on their right-of-way, and using a native seed mix across their system to grow plants to the monarchs.

The UIC Energy Resources Center will coordinate efforts between the landowner participants and the USFWS. The participants will be required to collect certain data and self-report annually to the Center, which will follow up on any discrepancies or concerns and submit an annual report to the Fish & Wildlife Service.

While the agreement will provide protections for monarch habitat along rights of way, conservation groups caution about CCAAs and whether the program will influence the decision for ESA listing. Entering into a CCAA with the Service will provide a landowner with assurances that conservation measures will be required only on their enrolled acres and, as a result, they can make plans and go about their business without further regulation on their remaining lands.

Tara Cornelisse, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity, stated in written comments to the USFWS, “The enrolled lands outside the adopted acres cannot be credited with benefiting monarchs. It is important that when the Service weighs the value of these lands in other contexts, such as the ESA-listing decision, that not all enrolled lands be considered to be providing habitat for monarchs.” She continued, “I think anybody who knows the science behind the monarch’s decline, and the extent of it would say, yes, this could provide some benefits, but it cannot preclude the listing of the species.”

The USFWS anticipates between 2 million and 26 million acres may be enrolled in the CCAA and CCA agreements, but the percentage of the enrolled land that will be managed for conservation is yet to be determined. While this agreement is a step in the right direction, an ESA listing will afford the species even greater protection across their range.

(For more information, see [https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=historic-agreement-will-conserve-millions-of-acres-for-monarch-b&\\_ID=36540](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=historic-agreement-will-conserve-millions-of-acres-for-monarch-b&_ID=36540) )

#### 4F. *Tracking the Deregulation Trends*

The Trump administration has worked to weaken environmental protections put in place by previous administrations. According to a New York Times analysis published on May 20, 2020, more than 60 environmental rules and regulations have been reversed, revoked, or rolled back and 30 more are in progress. Weakening protections for our nation’s wetlands, opening federal land for oil and gas leasing, and removing protections for wildlife in our

national parks are just a few examples of what these regulatory rollbacks have done.

You can read the New York Times article here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/climate/trump-environment-rollbacks.html>

Here are links to a few sources tracking the administration's regulatory rollbacks:

<https://eelp.law.harvard.edu/regulatory-rollback-tracker/>

<https://climate.law.columbia.edu/climate-deregulation-tracker>

<https://www.brookings.edu/interactives/tracking-deregulation-in-the-trump-era/>

## 5. TCWP NEWS

### 5A. Upcoming Activities

#### TCWP's Guidelines for Activities during the COVID-19 Pandemic

In an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, TCWP will be conducting its activities following CDC guidelines:

- We ask that you not participate if you are sick or were recently exposed to someone who is.
- We will practice social distancing, maintaining at least 6 feet of separation between participants. This will limit the amount of interpretation that can be done.
- We will organize activities into groups of 10 or fewer.
- We recommend that you bring a mask and wear it when around others.
- We recommend that you bring hand sanitizer or other ways to wash your hands.
- We recommend that everyone bring their own water, lunch, snacks, and sunscreen.
- We recommend caravanning to activities instead of carpooling.
- Keep in mind that restrooms may be unavailable at activity locations.
- Activities are subject to change or cancellation as we monitor and react to local, state, and federal data and guidelines.

Thank you for your patience while we work through ways to serve our community.

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

#### Pellissippi Blueway: Oak Ridge Marina Section Paddle Trip/Trash Pickup – Saturday, July 25

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

For this fifth in a series of paddle trips, we will meet at the Oak Ridge Marina at 9 a.m. Participants can bring their own canoes or kayaks, or rent from Adventures Outdoors. We'll paddle across to islands and inlets and a little distance downstream, picking up trash along the way to load into a

couple of canoes. We expect to enjoy birds, shoreline wildflowers, and scenery. At one point a rookery island can be seen.

Participants should wear swimming attire "just in case," and bring sunscreen and other sun protection. Lifejackets are required for all participants. The outing is expected to end at around noon.

Those interested in renting a watercraft should reserve online several days in advance through [Adventuresoutdoors.com](https://adventuresoutdoors.com). Canoes rent for \$39 for three hours, kayaks for \$34. Advance rental is recommended since the outing will be on a Saturday, and outdoor sports are becoming popular.

Pre-registration for the trip by Thursday, July 23, is requested. Participants can register with Sandra Goss at [Sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:Sandra@sandrakgoss.com) or at (865) 805-1470, or with Tim Bigelow at [Bigelowt2@mindspring.com](mailto:Bigelowt2@mindspring.com) or (865) 607-6781.



This activity will be conducted to protect participants from the COVID-19 virus. Please wear masks to the start of the event and during group mingling and try to maintain a six-foot distance from others whenever possible. This event may have to be reconsidered based on conditions at the time.

#### UT Arboretum Weed Wrangle® – Saturday, August 22

TCWP is cosponsoring a social distanced Weed Wrangle® at the UT Arboretum on Saturday, August 22 at the UT Arboretum from 9am-12 noon. Additional cosponsors are Tennessee Invasive Plant Council (TNIPC), the UT Arboretum Society, and the UT Arboretum.

Participants will meet at 9am at the UT Arboretum Auditorium Parking lot. The goal of this Weed Wrangle® is removing invasive plants from a plot close to the Auditorium. The plan for this plot is to remove large invasives, autumn olive, privet and other smaller invasives to prepare this area for meadow construction. This event is the first step in transforming the area from an invasive plant-infested plot as the first step to a meadow demonstration garden that increase wildlife and pollinators habitat and serve as a teaching tool.

There will be weed wrenches to help remove the larger invasives. Participants are encouraged to bring their own tools to prevent the cross handling of equipment, a mask, water, and sun and bug protection.

Attendees (must be 18 or older) are asked to pre-register for this event with Michelle Campanis at [mcampani@utk.edu](mailto:mcampani@utk.edu) or 615-310-6992 with your name, email, phone number and number in your party. Event updates may be sent closer to the event.

Summer Cedar Barren Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® – Saturday, August 29

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

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

This activity will be conducted to protect participants from the COVID-19 virus. This event may have to be reconsidered based on conditions at the time.

Crab Orchard Mountain Powerline Fall Flowers – Saturday, September 5

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)



In this joint outing with the Tennessee Native Plant Society and TennGreen, we will caravan from Crab Orchard to the powerline, then walk along the powerline right-of-way to see many species of goldenrods, asters, and other fall flowers. The walk will be less than four miles

round-trip, with opportunities to return early.

We will meet for 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) at 9 a.m. Eastern time, or meet at the Marathon station at I-40 Crab Orchard exit 329 east of Crossville at 10 a.m. Eastern time (9 a.m. Central).

An email or call to hike leader Larry Pounds ([PoundsL471@aol.com](mailto:PoundsL471@aol.com), cell 865-705-8516) saying you are likely to come is appreciated. This helps with planning and allows for participants to be contacted with any change of plans.

The walk will be conducted to protect participants from the COVID-19 virus. Please avoid carpooling, and maintain six-foot spacing between household groups (bubbles) or wear face masks. This event may have to be reconsidered based on conditions at the time.

*Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at [Sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:Sandra@sandrakgoss.com) or at 865-583-3967.*

*5B. Recent events*

Haw Ridge Bend Canoe/Kayak Trip - Saturday, May 23

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow and Ken Mayes)

Ten paddlers came out to enjoy a morning paddle during this new era of the virus. With a few adjustments from the original plan, things went pretty smoothly. Paddlers kept apart on shore and wore masks until underway. An out-and-back itinerary was chosen to avoid having to shuttle back to the starting point. Although thunderstorms had been forecast, we had a nice warming morning with a slight breeze from the west.

From the put-in spot at Haw Ridge inlet, we paddled around the point and along several interesting inlets going upstream. Several wildflowers were seen along the shore. Pairs of osprey were flying around their nests high above in the high-voltage transmission towers. Several great blue herons and even a green heron were seen, along with smaller shoreline birds. The group turned around just within sight of Bull Run and paddled back into the wind to the starting point.

A Guide to the Haw Ridge Canoe Trail, written by Chuck Estes, has been found in TCWP archives from 1992 and posted on the TCWP website. TCWP and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation hope to continue to promote the Four Bends Blueway with publicity, signs, and additional outings and trash pickup work days.



Gary Grametbauer Memorial Hike on Cumberland Trail – Saturday, May 30

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

On May 30 about thirty of us gathered on Peavine Road to remember Gary Grametbauer, who passed away in late January. We walked a section of the Cumberland Trail that Gary had put a lot of himself into. He had laid out the trail from the point of view of his great interest in nature and his care about how future hikers would experience the trail.

We came in many cars. Hopefully we will be able to go back to carpooling soon. Tim Bigelow was able to find good parking places for all. We divided into three groups lead by Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton and Larry Pounds, following social distancing guidelines.

All three groups stopped at a fossil along the trail. At this spot Carol Grametbauer scattered some of Gary's ashes. Gary loved to study fossils.

Everyone chose their own distance to walk, with many eating lunch on the shore above a small, delightful waterfall. Some walkers reached the Twin Towers; others got all the way to Moonshiners Bluff.

If you get a chance someday to do a car shuttle between Peavine Road and Devil's Breakfast Table, take it. Gary left us many things to enjoy on this section of the CT.



Whites Creek Trail Workday - Saturday, June 6

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

This year we postponed the annual workday at TVA's Whites Creek Small Wild Area on Watts Bar Reservoir in Rhea County, which usually takes place in January, due to restoration of the access road to the trailhead and boat ramp. Once we learned that the road restoration was complete, we rescheduled this year's event to June 5. The trail loops onto land TCWP purchased from Bowater several years ago, thanks to the generous support of our members.

Nine intrepid TCWP volunteers braved the threat of hot weather and ticks to spend a nice late-spring day doing trail maintenance. We concentrated on cutting back brush from the trail and removing a few small trees with handsaws. TVA employees had previously cut some downed trees across the main trail that leads to the loop. We'd also re-blazed the trail a couple of weeks earlier with paint provided by TVA. There were a couple of trees on the loop that were too big for handsaws, but they aren't really an issue for hikers. ATVs continue to access our property at the northwest corner and ride on the old road along the ridge on the west side of our property.

All in all, it was a wonderful day in the woods, despite the hot weather and ticks. At least this year we were able to cool off in the lake before heading home! TCWP has partnered with TVA since 1984 to enhance and protect natural resources at the Whites Creek SWA and many other places on public lands throughout East Tennessee as part of our ongoing stewardship efforts.

*Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at [Sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:Sandra@sandrakgoss.com) or at 865-583-3967.*

*5C. Meet a Member: Jean Bingham*

Jean Bingham, TCWP Program Committee Member, attended the first ever meeting of what became Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning at the home of Dick and Evelyn Lorenz. Jean was appointed Treasurer for the organization and took one dollar from each of the 47 people who attended.

Jean has a lifelong interest in the outdoors. Her father, a parasitology professor at Wooster College, took the family on field trips to study fish parasites in Lake Erie, northern Wisconsin, and the Tetons. Jean explained that she never looked at the parasites through a microscope and was able to eat fish (well cooked) in spite of the focus of the trip.

During a field trip to Florida one year, Jean met her first rattlesnakes. She reported to the parents that there were two friendly snakes in the yard, waving to her in greeting. She has fond memories of a birthday celebration that included a frog race, run by bullfrogs that her father had collected. Jean studied at Wooster College, and her major professor was a geneticist who had work on the Manhattan Project. It was his suggestion that she seek a position with Oak Ridge National Laboratory fruit fly (*Drosophila*) researchers. There were no openings in that department, but the mouse researchers were hiring. Thus, Jean became a denizen of the

Mouse House, where she worked for 43 years.

Characterizing her colleague as interested in conservation and very congenial, Jean formed lasting friendships.

Jean, an avid traveler, has visited about 35 countries, every state and several Canadian provinces. She attends Lady Vol games, hikes most Wednesdays and weekends, helps with mail preparation for the TCWP Newsletter and the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club Newsletter.

*5D. Thanks and a Hat Tip*

Jean Bingham, Bob Compton, Milinda Compton, Carol Franklin, Jimmy Groton, Lisa LaForest, Ken Mayes, Harriett McCurdy, Wade McCurdy, and Lise Neiler for preparing the *TCWP Newsletter* No. 351 for distribution.

Tim Bigelow for his leadership of the May 23 Haw Ridge water outing.

Larry Pounds for his leadership of the May 30 Gary Grametbauer Memorial Hike and to Jimmy Groton and Tim Bigelow for their help with the hike.

Jimmy Groton for his leadership of the June 6 Whites Creek Trail Maintenance Outing.

*5D. Positive Notes*

Jimmy Groton reblazed the White's Creek Trail in May, preparatory to the June 6 work day.

The Recreation and Parks Department of Oak Ridge sprang into action when notified about a downed tree on the North Ridge Trail (NRT). An NRT Section Adopter, Leah Craft, passed along the alert.

The May, 2020 *TCWP Newsletter* No. 351 was prepared for mailing by a dozen volunteers doing piece work at their homes. Some folded, some labeled, etc. Thanks to resilient volunteers for helping us respond to this need in a flexible way that kept all in compliance with social distancing, masking, and few people.



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<http://www.tcwp.org>



## 5 TIPS ON WRITING AN EFFECTIVE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

[From Tennessee Conservation Voters website]

Tip one, from the Sierra Club: "Choose local or national publications that you read or know reasonably well. If writing to a local publication, it may help to be a resident of the circulation area." This tip is particularly helpful when it comes to making sure your efforts are not wasted. After all, a publication such as the New York Times receives thousands of submissions daily and only around 15 are published. You may have a better chance of being published in a local newspaper or magazine, and in turn, you can focus on a local issue and perhaps effect more direct change in your community.

Tip two, from the New York Times editor Thomas Fayer: "Write quickly, concisely and engagingly. We're in an age of fast-moving news and virtually instant reaction; letters about an especially timely topic often appear within a day or two (and almost always within a week)." Make sure you are staying up to date with current issues and you will have a higher chance of being published. If you are directly responding to a published article, you only have a couple of days before it is no longer relevant. Also, most LTEs are quite brief, coming in at around 150-300 words. This means you will have to whittle down your argument and have a clear point of view.

Tip three, from the University of Kansas Community Toolbox: "Your opening sentence is very important. It should tell readers what you're writing about, and make them want to read more. Explain what the letter is about at the start. Don't make the editor or the general public wait to find out what you want to say. Tell them your key point at the beginning." As previously mentioned, these letters are brief, and therefore having an engaging and clear first sentence can allow you space to dive into nuance later.

Tip four, from FreeSpeechforPeople.org: "Don't use pejoratives (insulting your opponents), avoid jargon or acronyms, and omit needless words. Don't say "I'm writing to..." or "I think..." It's obvious." With such a small word count, it's important to use words strategically. You must be thoughtful with your choices, and remove non-essential words. As it is opinion based and authored by you, you are able to directly state your thoughts without clarifying.

Tip five, from the National Resources Defence Council: "Newspaper editors typically select letters to the editor that are authentic and personalized, so don't be afraid to open up and use your own voice as you draft your LTE. Making personal opening statements helps establish the writer's credibility as someone with firsthand knowledge of the given issue and grabs the reader's attention." If you have a personal story or experience directly relating to your argument, this can win over readers as well as an editor.

Source: <https://www.tnconservationvoters.org/news/2020/07/01/how-to-write-an-effective-letter-to-the-editor.4226683>

## HOW TO REACH ELECTED OFFICIALS

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Sen. Lamar Alexander  
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Rep. Chuck Fleischmann  
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<https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact.me>  
Local: 865-576-1976; FAX: 865-576-3221  
200 Administration Rd, Suite 100  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

To call any rep. or senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772.

Tennessee state legislators can be reached by calling 1-800-449-8366.

**You can find more contact information and links to how to find your legislators on our website, <https://www.tcwp.org> under "Tools for Action."**

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

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*July 25 – Pellissippi Blueway: Oak Ridge Marian Section Paddle Trip*  
*August 22 – UT Arboretum Weed Wrangle®*  
*August 29 – Summer Cedar Barren Cleanup Week Wrangle®*  
*September 5 – Crab Orchard Mountain Powerline Fall Flowers Hike*

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