



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

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1. OAK RIDGE NEWS

1A. *Motorsports Park Proposal Update*

The Horizon Center, site of the proposed Motorsports Park Center, was the site of an informational hike early last month. This outing, cosponsored with TCWP by Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) and Oak Ridgers for Responsible Development (OR4RD), attracted about 3 dozen people who wanted to see the Natural Areas under threat.

TCWP, AFORR, and many others submitted comments and cards to DOE about the Addendum to the Environmental Assessment that proposes to remove the Natural Area status from the special areas of the Horizon Center.

According to the City of Oak Ridge website, the developer has up to 180 days, and two 90-day options, to perform due diligence as to whether to go forward with purchasing the property

To proceed, Planning Commission would need to create the new district and rezone the property. Recommendation would then go to City Council for two readings. There is opportunity for public comments at each business meeting, and a formally advertised public hearing in front of City Council. The best way to learn about upcoming public meetings is to check the City's website. Agendas are posted online 5-7 days before each meeting.

If Mr. Bittle (the developer) proceeds with the development of the motorsports park, the following steps are required:

- Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to establish regulation for a motorsports park use. A text amendment requires a recommendation from the Planning Commission, a public hearing and approval from City Council.
- Rezone property to establish the district and allowable uses. A rezoning requires a recommendation from the Planning Commission, a public hearing and approval from City Council.
- Approve a Site Plan for site development. A site plan must be approved by the Planning Commission.

City Council can be reached through the City's website or by mailing City Clerk,
P.O. Box 1, Oak Ridge, TN 37831

1B. *Environmental Assessment for Oak Ridge Enhanced Technology and Training Center Results in Finding of No Significant Impact*

The Training Center "to train first responders and other experts who are currently receiving training at Y-12 and other locations across the country" that is proposed for the land across the street from the Horizon Center was the subject of a recently released Final Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact. The proposed site is on the Oak Ridge Reservation,

approximately 5 miles west of the Y-12 National Security Site and approximately 1.5 mile east of the State Route 95 – SR 58 interchange.

Copies of the documents are available on the NNSA NEPA web page (<https://www.energy.gov/nepa/docea-2144-oak-ridge-enhanced-technology-and-training-center-oak-ridge-reservation-tennessee>) and/or the DOE NEPA web page (<https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doc-environmental-assessments>).

This decision is regrettable, given that it is likely the fire suppression training will lead to the release of "forever chemicals" perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. The persistence of these chemicals in the environment and in our bodies is an emerging environmental problem. Department of Defense facilities have contaminated water supplies due to fire training activities; DoD faces financial liability.

1C. *UTK Tickle College of Engineering Students Design Pedestrian Crossings Near Oak Ridge Cedar Barren*

(Contributed by Nicholas Coates,
OR Design Services team member)

Civil engineering Senior Design students at University of Tennessee Knoxville are collaborating with the City of Oak Ridge on the design of a Rails-to-Trails greenway, which will come to serve as a major link between several residential and business regions of the city. The future greenway will be built over the existing alignment of an abandoned CSX rail line, beginning at Scarboro Road and running west to east alongside several major roads to Elza Gate Park. The UTK Senior Design team's goal is to design safe pedestrian and bicycle access to the Cedar Barrens Natural Area and Jefferson Middle School for greenway users crossing Fairbanks Road, and are working directly with TCWP to ensure that the ecological value of the Barrens is preserved upon construction of the project.

The team encourages Oak Ridge community members to follow the link below to learn more about the project and provide input directly to the team.

<https://ordesignservices.wixsite.com/oakridge>

1D. *Beech Sugar Maple Forest (or there's interesting reading in Environmental Assessment documents)*

A feature of the October 3 outing to Horizon Center (site of the proposed Motorsports Park Center) was the easement with a mature beech maple forest.

The 1996 Environmental Assessment (pg. 3-34) described the mature beech-sugar maple forest as an unusual forest type for the Ridge and Valley Physiographic Province that's representative of the *Fagus grandifolia*-*Acer saccharum*-*Liriodendron tulipifera* forest alliance. In

the Midwest, forests of this type are considered extremely rare. As is typical of mature forests, the mature beech-sugar maple forest has an open understory, relatively large-diameter trees, and a closed canopy.

The forest predates the acquisition of the Oak Ridge Reservation (based on TVA aerial photography from 1942) and has experienced minimal direct impact since government acquisition. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation commented that the forest represents a nationally rare community type and appears to be one of the only undisturbed forest communities throughout the Reservation.

The open understory is aesthetically pleasing. The forest is a positive attribute to this property.



1E. *Healthy Waters Newsletter Launched*

The City of Oak Ridge Stormwater Management Program, Healthy Waters, is starting a quarterly e-newsletter to keep the community up to date on the stormwater program and volunteer opportunities. You can subscribe to the at the link below.

<https://oakridgetn.us19.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=c2c15e2245a7f6d359ffde838&id=1cd81294e4>

1F. *Openings of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board*

The Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management is seeking candidates as potential members of its citizen advisory board in Oak Ridge. The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) is a citizens' panel that provides independent advice and recommendations to the department on environmental cleanup issues on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

ORSSAB and its committees meet most months of the year at the DOE Information Center in Oak Ridge. Board members are volunteers who will spend about 4 hours a

month on related activities such as meetings, tours of relevant projects, and drafting recommendations.

Members are chosen to reflect diversity of gender, race, occupation, and interests of persons living in the multi-county area surrounding Oak Ridge. Technical expertise is not required for membership, as a wide range of backgrounds and viewpoints is preferred. Federal employees are not eligible, but contractors may become members of ORSSAB subject to our conflict of interest rules – generally that means they are not directly involved with cleanup projects and/or with duties that touch on procurement/financials.

Additional information may be obtained by visiting our website at www.energy.gov/orssab, emailing orssab@orem.doe.gov or by calling (865) 241-4584 or 241-4583. The deadline for submitting applications is December 28, 2020. Completed applications may be emailed to orssab@orem.doe.gov, sent to ORSSAB at P.O. Box 2001, EM-90, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, or dropped off at the DOE Information Center at 1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge, TN 37831.

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. *Bob Fulcher and Dodd Galbreath Receive the Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award*

Bobby Fulcher, manager of Cumberland Trail State Park and noted folk music historian and promoter, and Dodd Galbreath, founding Director of Lipscomb University Institute for Sustainable Practice and Associate Professor of Sustainability were named winners of the Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award.

Both Fulcher and Galbreath are well known to Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. Fulcher attended many meetings with TCWP folk where the subjects were land, land acquisition, and how to protect wild lands and waters. Likewise, Galbreath attended meetings with TCWP folks to discuss water quality policies as well as conservation and sustainability. They have served as speakers for TCWP informational programs.

This is a richly deserved honor for each gentleman. Their contributions to Tennessee's pure drinking water and adequate habitat for all creatures have been many and significant. Bobby and Dodd, thanks to each for all you do.



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e-mail alerts on
our website at
<http://www.tcwp.org>

2B. Frozen Head State Park Named State Park of the Year

[Tennessee State Parks Press Release]

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has recognized Frozen Head State Park in Wartburg as the 2020 State Park of the Year.

“This is a tribute to the dedication of the hard-working staff at Frozen Head,” TDEC Deputy Commissioner Jim Bryson said. “It says a lot to stand out among 56 state parks, but Frozen Head State Park has earned this recognition, and Tennesseans can be proud to have such an excellent park in our system.”

State parks considered for the Park of the Year honor are those that have demonstrated excellence in the areas of innovation, sustainability, interpretation, resource management, facility management, and customer engagement, as well as fiscally responsible operation.

Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area encompasses more than 24,000 acres of wilderness and is named for a 3,324-foot peak in the Cumberland Mountains, the top of which is often shrouded in ice or snow in the winter months.

The park has three shelters, 28-front-country campsites, 10 backcountry campsites, and 60 miles of hiking/biking trails. The park has seen an increase in programs and visitors and has strong community engagement.

In 2006, the park replaced an aging Civilian Conservation Corps fire tower at the summit of Frozen Head with an observation deck. A scenic seven-mile trail leads to the observation deck, which rises just above the tree line and allows for a 360-degree view of the surrounding terrain. The Great Smoky Mountains and the Tennessee Valley span the eastern horizon, and Walden Ridge, where the Tennessee Valley meets the Cumberland Plateau, is visible to the south.

The 2020 Tennessee State Parks Awards of Excellence were awarded on September 29 at Montgomery Bell State Park as part of an in-person and virtual annual park management meeting. Managers had an option of attending in person with social distancing or participating virtually.

Other winners included: Norris Dam State Park for customer engagement; Montgomery Bell State Park for facilities management; Cummins Falls State Park for innovation; Booker T. Washington State Park for interpretation; Fall Creek Falls State Park for resource management; and Warriors’ Path State Park for sustainability.

3. OTHER NEWS

3A. Corridor K Stecoah to Robbinsville EA Update

In August, the North Carolina Department of Transportation released an Environmental Assessment of proposed improvements from Stecoah to Robbinsville, a Corridor K project.

The DoT used a “fresh look” approach to this project: early and continuous input and participation of local elected officials and government staffs, Tribal staff and federal and state regulatory agencies. Contrary to earlier Corridor K project development processes with divided 4-lane highways as the design ideal, these alternatives are two lane highways with passing and climbing lanes.

The NCDOT’s preferred alternative is a good approach. It improves the existing route, rather than going through the mountains. This option minimizes damage and disruption to wildlife, streams, residents, and businesses. TCWP commented on this EA in support of the preferred alternative, with appreciation to Department of Transportation for this thoughtful, strategic approach.

3B. EPA Eases Restriction on Coal Ash Ponds and Wastewater

(Contributed by Russ Manning)

In 2018, a D.C. Circuit Court determined that even a 2015 Obama-era coal ash rule was not sufficiently in compliance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The Obama Administration rule was issued in response to ash pond spills in some states, the most egregious being the coal ash spill at the TVA Kingston Plant that sent a billion gallons of coal ash water across 300 acres and into the Emory River and which reportedly cost more than a billion dollars to clean up. Coal ash dust and leaking contaminants from dumps at the Bull Run Plant in Claxton are also a concern as TVA plans on closing the plant and must make a final decision on what to do with the coal ash.

While the 2015 rule set requirements for management of coal combustion residuals, the rule did not specifically require closure of unlined surface impoundments. The 2018 Circuit Court decision strengthens the coal ash rule by requiring the Environmental Protection Agency to shut down all coal ash ponds that do not have a plastic liner. Ponds that may only have a clay liner are notorious for leaching toxic elements into groundwater.

However, a new EPA rule finalized in October 2020 will allow utilities to store toxic waste from coal in unlined pits in clear violation of the Circuit Court ruling. According to EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, “This will allow coal ash management to be determined based on site-specific conditions.” Earlier, Wheeler had extended the closure initiation deadlines of unlined coal ash ponds another five years, which according to the organization Accountable, was in response to a request from the Utility Solid Waste

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Activities Group that includes Xcel Energy, a former Wheeler client.

The current rule makes the operation of unlined coal ash ponds virtually indefinite. The rule provides 20 days for public comment on any petition for an unlined coal ash pond to remain in operation. However, the EPA does not specify a time by which it must review and rule on the petition, thus allowing the unlined pond to remain in operation indefinitely.

Using the characteristic doublespeak of the Trump Administration, an EPA statement says the new rule would “accurately reflect the decision by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.”

In a related action, EPA finalized a rule in August loosening requirements for treating discharges of toxic pollution in wastewater from coal-fired plants. The rule will delay implementation of pollution controls and even exempt some plants. The strategy of the Trump Administration is to pick apart regulations rather than drawing attention by attacking the entire 2015 coal ash rule.

In both instances, environmental groups will be suing to stop these changes. But given that court cases take months and sometimes years, perhaps a rollback of Trump’s EPA regulations by the Biden Administration next year will occur first.

Sources:

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/521409-epa-may-violate-courts-with-new-rule-extending-life-of-unlined-coal>

<https://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2020/07/30/wheeler-weakens-epa-coal-ash-rules-former-client>

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/524074-epa-sued-over-coal-plant-wastewater-rollback>

3C. EPA Weakens Air Pollution Rule

(Contributed by Russ Manning)

One of the latest attacks by the Trump Administration finalizes an Environmental Protection Agency rule that will reduce the number of industries that are defined as major sources of pollution, surely leading to increased emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAP).

The Clean Air Act, originally passed in 1963, includes 1990 amendments that define a “major source” of HAP as emitting 10 tons per year of any single HAP and 25 tons per year of any combination of HAP. Any air pollution emitted below those thresholds was termed an “area source.”

Almost immediately, industries requested clarification, including whether they would continue to be defined as major sources if they install pollution control measures that reduce the emitted pollution to below the defined thresholds. EPA issued a memorandum in 1995 that stated any source required to comply with major-source requirements must do

so permanently, a policy that came to be known as “once in, always in.”

The new EPA ruling dispenses with the OIAI policy and allows major-source emitters to request reclassification to “area source” once they have complied with major-source requirements by reducing their emissions below the defined thresholds. At first glance, this does not seem to pose a problem. However, the issue is that area-source emitters are not subject to major-source standards included in Section 112 of the Clean Air Act.

CAA Sec. 112 (d) states that the EPA must promulgate regulations establishing emission standards for each category of major sources of HAPs. The standards must require the maximum degree of emission reduction achievable by existing technology.

So, under the new EPA ruling a major-source emitter, once having achieved the maximum degree of emission reduction, perhaps far below the threshold limits, may request a reclassification to “area source.” As an area-source emitter, the facility may then relax its pollution control and allow up to 10 tons per year of any single HAP and 25 tons per year of any combination of HAP.

Obviously, this will likely result in more hazardous air pollutants emitted into the atmosphere. As quoted in The Hill, John Walke, a senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council, stated “Is industry going to try and save money and pollute more, or spend more money and pollute less? I think that question answers itself.”

EPA in its ruling joins the rest of the Trump Administration in obfuscation by stating, “allowing major sources to reclassify to area source status after the first substantive compliance date may create an incentive for sources to evaluate their operations and consider changes that can further reduce their HAP emissions...”

If the EPA ruling is not quickly overturned under a Biden Administration, environmental groups will likely sue on the grounds this violates the Clean Air Act.

Sources:

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/519181-epa-finalizes-rule-allowing-some-major-polluters-to-follow-weaker>

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-10/documents/frn_mm2a_2060-am75_final_rule.pdf

<https://www3.epa.gov/airtoxics/overview.html#:~:text=The provisions in Title I that address the programs to enhance and support the NESHAP program>

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joining, or renewing
your membership
at <http://www.tcwp.org>**

3D. More Issue with Tissue

(Contributed by Russ Manning)

The July 2020 Newsletter (NL 352) discussed the report, *The Issue with Tissue*, by Stand.earth and the Natural Resources Defense Council. The report detailed the impact to Canada's boreal forest by the producers of tissue—a “tree-to-toilet pipeline” that converts old-growth forest to paper towels, napkins, facial tissue, and TP that is thrown or flushed away.

Stand.earth and NRDC have continued their campaign to wean us away from the use of virgin tree fiber. In the weeks leading up to Procter & Gamble's annual general meeting earlier this month, the coalition met with some of P&G's biggest investors to outline the problem. Among its many products, P&G makes Charmin®, Bounty®, and Puffs® from old-growth forest. The coalition held a webinar to expose the ways indigenous and frontline communities have been historically impacted by P&G's destructive forest sourcing. Stand.earth organizers also held a 72-hour vigil outside P&G headquarters in Cincinnati along with interfaith leaders and youth climate activists.

As a result, two-thirds of P&G's shareholders at the general meeting voted in favor of a proposal to protect the boreal forests of Canada and also tropical forests in Southeast Asia. Now it's up to the CEO and other P&G executives to implement the proposal. Specifically, P&G needs to commit by the end of the year to respect Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), a specific right recognized by the United Nations for indigenous peoples to withhold consent for a project on their ancestral lands or using resources within their territory unless given voluntarily without intimidation. In addition, P&G should stop working with suppliers who are clearcutting habitat for woodland caribou, a threatened species in Canada and virtually nonexistent in the U.S.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Sign the petition at <https://act.stand.earth/page/23613/petition/1> to ask P&G to commit to respecting the sovereignty of indigenous communities and to stop working with suppliers sourcing pulp from caribou habitat. And, of course, whenever you can, buy recycled tissue or tissue made from alternative fiber (e.g., bamboo).

3E. Wetlands and Ephemeral and Intermittent Streams Need our Help!

Earlier this year, thanks to implementation of the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, the federal government is no longer regulating isolated wetlands and groundwater. It is widely believed that the Tennessee State Legislature will consider taking steps during the upcoming Legislative session to remove protective measures that prevent pollutant dumping and wetland destruction.

Working with sister groups, TCWP is seeking photos and stories of isolated wetlands, head waters, ephemeral and intermittent streams that matter to you. A compelling package about the importance of protecting these waters in under development. Let us see your photos and hear your stories!

4. TCWP NEWS

4A. 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.]



Virtual TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 3

Our annual Holiday Party must go virtual in this pandemic year! Grab a holiday snack and the beverage of your choice and join us on Zoom between the hours of 7 and 9 p.m. to catch up with TCWP friends you might not have seen since last December. TCWP President Mark Bevelhimer will greet party-goers and make a few remarks at 8 p.m. Watch for Zoom link details in an upcoming email alert or contact Sandra at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

Whites Creek Workday – Saturday, January 9

TCWP will sponsor a day of trail maintenance work at Whites Creek Small Wild Area in Rhea County at 10 a.m. as part of our ongoing stewardship activities for this TVA Small Wild Area trail. The trail loops onto land that TCWP purchased from Bowater several years ago, thanks to the generous support of our members.

Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring work gloves, loppers, and small bow saws or folding saws. Some hand tools will be available at the event. Please be sure to bring clothing appropriate for weather conditions, water, snacks, and/or a lunch.

Participants can meet for caravanning in Oak Ridge at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's). We will leave Oak Ridge at 9 a.m., or volunteers can join the crew at the trailhead at 10 a.m.

We plan to spend three or four hours at the site, but volunteers may come and go as they wish. If the weather is uncooperative—excessive rain, or snow and ice—we will reschedule for the following Saturday.

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.

For additional information, contact Jimmy Groton at 865-805-9908 or at groton87@comcast.net.

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

4B. Recent events

Horizon Center Natural Area Interpretive Hike – Saturday, October 3

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On October 3 TCWP led a hike to visit the three parts of the Horizon Center natural area that would be affected by a proposed motorsports park in Oak Ridge. DOE recently prepared a draft Environmental Assessment Addendum with recommendations to relax or remove environmental protections for these sections of the Horizon Center natural area.

TCWP cosponsored the hike with Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation and Oak Ridgers for Responsible Development.

Thirty-four interested citizens participated in the hike, which gave them experience with and an opportunity to learn about the ecological importance of these special areas from people familiar with them.

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 17

More than 30 people turned out for the TCWP annual meeting, held via Zoom. Bobby Wilson, the new director of

the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, was the keynote speaker.

Director Wilson provided background information on TWRA's mission, goals, and core functions, including wildlife management, law enforcement, outdoor recreation, and information and education. He pointed out that TWRA gets its funding from federal excise taxes, boat registration fees, and hunting and fishing licenses, and noted that the purchase of a hunting and fishing license is a good way to help fund TWRA's programs. The number of licenses sold is also used to calculate how much federal money is sent to the state.

Following his presentation, Wilson responded to questions from attendees on topics including TWRA's management scope for the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation, the current Motorsports Park proposal and related concerns for the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement, Clark Center Park, and ATV use in the New River Valley.

The talk was followed by our annual business meeting, which included the election of 2021 board members and officers, conducted by Nominating Committee member Ellen Smith. Attendees also elected the Nominating Committee for 2021. TCWP Treasurer Tim Bigelow presented a Treasurer's report, and President Mark Bevelhimer presented a "State of TCWP" report covering events of the past year and the diverse list of issues TCWP has worked on, including land acquisitions at the Obed Wild and Scenic River and Recreation Area, the proposed Motorsports Park at Horizon Center, a Rails-to-Trails effort in the New River Valley in Anderson County, and support for the designation of a Blueway at Melton Hill Lake.

Video of the meeting can be seen at <https://youtu.be/JFK7KAWznGw>.

Pellissippi Blueway Freels Bend Section Paddle and Trash Pickup – Saturday, October 31

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

Eleven paddlers realized the cold would fade quickly on such a nice sunny day and brought their kayaks and canoes out to enjoy the morning on October 31. There were wonderful fall colors and reflections on glass-like water in the coves. We had several new participants who were interested in community service projects, including three brothers from UT.

The group spotted an osprey and a blue heron, along with a number of smaller birds. At the end of the quiet coves the clear sandy bottoms were crisscrossed with interesting lines in the sand that were traced to underwater snails.

The starting point was Clark Center Park, and the group paddled mainly upstream toward Freels, checking out several coves and clearing them of trash. One small tire was picked up, along with several bags of bottles and other items, including a trash can and plastic bins. Farther up in a larger cove, a major find included an old rusty grill, several rusting lawn chairs, large plastic items, and several more bags of bottles and cans.

It was a very nice morning to paddle and clean up a good section of the Blueway at the same time.

Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® – Saturday, November 7

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

Weather-wise, this was one of the best work days in memory at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren, and the turnout of at least 33 volunteers was also one of the best ever. Several people working on community service projects participated, including a number of students from UT and others connected through the VolunteerETn.org website.

The group worked primarily on the ellipse area, where lots of small Lespedeza bicolor plants were removed by hard-working and inspired volunteers. Remnant stalks of blazing star and other wildflowers could be seen, indicating once again that we'd had a nice display of flowers and that the ongoing removal of invasives is paying off! Many bush honeysuckle, privet, and other invasive plants were removed from around the periphery; they are constantly encroaching on all sides and need some more aggressive action. Off-season mowing of the open areas and trimming and treating the woody invasives are being planned.

Larry Pounds and Jimmy Groton gave the group a nice tour of the front triangle area, which is remaining clear of larger invasives but does have several fire ant mounds now. The replacement cedar fence installed by the City is holding up well, although it is not clear if the entire original span is to be reinstalled.

Jimmy Groton is working with group of UT Civil Engineering students whose senior project involves designing several crosswalks across Fairbanks Road, including a connector between the anticipated new rails-to-trails greenway and the Cedar Barren entrance.

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

4C. Friends and Members in the News

An Oak Ridger article and picture about the Calvary Lighthouse Church's Historic Preservation Award included Mick Wiest.

Jeff Mellor's letter about Bob Woodward and COVID 19 was in the September 23 News Sentinel.

On, September 25, an Oak Ridger letter to the editor from Eileen Neiler mentioned treatment of Native Americans since about 1620 as a point to be considered by a guest columnist.

The September 28 issue of the Oak Ridger carried a letter to its editor from Harriett McCurdy about the Board of Zonings approval of a transition home for recovering addicts.

A letter to the editor about criminal justice reform written by Ann Strange appeared in the October 7 Knox News.

Anne Child's letter to the Knox News editor about COVID Relief Bill appeared in the October 11 issue.

Bob Compton was speaker to ORION meeting on October 21, the October 16 Oak Ridger announced.

Hal Hoyt is pictured and quoted in an article about Habitat for Humanity in the October 19 Oak Ridger.

The November 2 issue of Knox News carried a letter to the editor written by Janice Spooone about the Knox County shadow Health Committee.

David Brill penned an article titled Constancy Amid Chaos in the Fall 2020 National Parks magazine.

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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4D. Two Ways to Support TCWP While Shopping

With the holidays approaching you will be spending more at the grocery store and shopping online. Your shopping can help support TCWP simply by taking a few extra steps before you check out.

Kroger has a program known as Community Rewards in which Kroger donates to TCWP based on the shopping you do. All you have to do is link your Kroger Plus card to TCWP.

Instructions on how to link your Kroger Plus card and a link to create an account or log-in to your account can be found on this page:

<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>
 TCWP's Community Rewards number is 26906.

Once the process is completed, every time your Kroger Plus card is used at the check-out, TCWP will receive a credit. Kroger will send TCWP a check each quarter that reflects a percentage of all purchases made by TCWP shoppers.

Amazon purchases can also support TCWP. Login to Amazon through their AmazonSmile storefront at <https://smile.amazon.com> and select Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning as your supporting organization. TCWP will receive 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible AmazonSmile purchases at no additional cost to you.

4E. TCWP Welcomes New Board Members

During the TCWP Annual Meeting, three new board members were elected to the board. We hope you'll join us in welcoming Anne Child, Michelle Campanis, and Chris DeRolph. We look forward to what each of them will bring to the board.

Of course, welcoming new board members also means that we lose some. We ask that you join us in thanking Don Barger, Melanie Mayes, and Warren Webb for their service and contributions to the board over the years.

Start 2021 as a member of TCWP!

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning:

- ✓ Issues the most informative environmental newsletter in the state
- ✓ Secures special lands in Obed River Gorge
- ✓ Maintains Whites Ck. Trail (Rhea Co.)
- ✓ Provides TCWP E-lets on timely environmental issues
- ✓ Conducts regular invasive plants cleanup at Oak Ridge Cedar Barren
- ✓ Monitors and comments on Big South Fork NRRRA management

- ✓ Sponsors informative presentations
- ✓ Is long-time adopter of Alley Ford segment of Cumberland Trail
- ✓ Takes active role in oil and gas rules formulation
- ✓ Sponsors yearly exotic pest plant removal at Worthington Cemetery
- ✓ Advocates for pure drinking water
- ✓ Built and maintains the North Ridge Trail (Oak Ridge)
- ✓ Fights for healthy state and national forests
- ✓ Comments on timbering and gold mining extraction

Our "dues" year is the calendar year, Jan 1 to Dec 31. Contributions to TCWP are tax-deductible. Please visit www.tcw.org for secure contribution or send form, and check (payable to TCWP), to: Tim Bigelow, Treasurer, TCWP; 10626 Forest Crest Rd., Knoxville, TN 37922

Name(s) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail: _____
 PHONES: Home _____ Work _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Student or Senior (low budget)..\$15.00 | 2. Regular (individual).....\$25.00 |
| 3. Family \$35.00 | 4. Sustaining Member.....\$100.00 |
| 5. Supporting Member.....\$200.00 | 6. Supporting Member.....\$500.00 |

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- Michele Thornton.....V. Pres.
- Carol Grametbauer.....Secretary
- Tim BigelowTreasurer
- Don Barger.....Director
- Johnny Cosgrove.....Director
- Jimmy Groton..... Director
- Melanie Mayes.....Director
- Larry Pounds.....Director
- Hannah TippettDirector
- Warren Webb.....Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 3 – TCWP Annual Holiday Party*
- January 9 – Whites Creek Workday*

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