

# 55th Anniversary TCWP Annual Meeting At Cove Lake State Park



**Guest Speaker:**  
**Bobby Fulcher**

*manager of the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland  
Trail State Scenic Trail State Park*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**  
**9:30 AM COFFEE & MINGLE; 10:00 AM KICK-OFF**

*COVID-19 precautions will be encouraged. Please dress appropriately for the weather.*

TCWP will hold its 2021 Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 23, at Cove Lake State Park Pavilion 3 in Caryville with Bob Fulcher, manager of the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail State Park, as our keynote speaker. The meeting will include a business meeting to elect TCWP officers and board members for 2022, lunch, and a birthday cake to celebrate the 55th anniversary of TCWP's founding. After lunch Bob, who is also a folklorist and musician, will play a few tunes. He invites any meeting attendee who plays an instrument to join in!

Registration is \$17 per person and begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and bagels; meeting will kick off at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be pork barbecue sandwich, slaw and pickle or Falafel wrap with cucumber salad.

COVID-19 precautions will be encouraged. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

RSVP with the below form or online at [tcwp.org](http://tcwp.org).

## Annual Meeting RSVP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch Preference: \_\_\_\_\_ Barbecue Sandwich \_\_\_\_\_ Falafel Wrap

## TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING NOMINEES for OFFICERS and DIRECTORS for 2022

### OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT: Mark Bevelhimer** - After 30 years as an aquatic ecologist/fish biologist in the Environmental Sciences Division of ORNL Mark retired in 2019. For years he researched the effects of environmental stressors from hydropower dams, coal fired powerplants, and toxic contaminants on fish and aquatic ecosystems. He has been filling his retirement with lots of whitewater kayaking, hiking, camping, fishing, spending time at his cabin on Watts Bar, and TCWP!

**VICE PRESIDENT: Michele Thornton** - GIS Analyst at ORNL with the Environmental Sciences Division. Master's degree in Biology with an emphasis in stream ecology. BS in Biological Sciences. Taught secondary science in public schools in Michigan and natural science programs in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. Michele spends her free time hiking, biking, and shuttling and volunteering within her children's various interests.

**SECRETARY: Carol Grametbauer** - Retired public affairs manager for Lockheed Martin and BWXT Y-12. TCWP member since the early 1970s. Chairs the Program Committee. Served as one of TCWP's representatives to the Alliance for the Cumberlands. An amateur naturalist, values wilderness, enjoys hiking and the outdoors.

**TREASURER: Tim Bigelow** - - Electrical Engineer working on fusion energy at ORNL. Serves on the Program Committee and as the Oak Ridge Barrens Steward. Interested in land preservation, exotic species control, hiking, camping. Also, an active member of Smoky Mountains Hiking Club and supporter of Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, Foothills Land Conservancy, Cherokee Forest Voices.

### DIRECTORS:

**Michelle Campanis** - Michelle, degreed in Agriculture and Natural Resources, and longtime Belmont University staffer, is education coordinator for the UT Arboretum. She is on the board for the Tennessee Bluebird Society and a facilitator for the Project Learning Tree program as well as the planning board for Oak Ridge's Flatwater Tales Storytelling Festival. Michelle loves all things outdoors and when not at work can be found hiking, cycling, camping, or kayaking.

**Anne Child** - After growing up in Oak Ridge, was software engineer in Austin, Texas until retirement. As Texas Master Naturalist volunteered in trail maintenance and invasive removal. Serves as a regional coordinator for RESULTS, lobbying Congress to end U.S. and global poverty. Member and officer in Toastmasters.

**John Cosgrove** - Avid hiker, biker, fisherman and general outdoorsperson and conservationist. Passionate about the preservation and conservation of our outdoor resources, environment, and public lands. Supporter of several local, regional, and national conservation and advocacy groups, including National Parks Conservation Association, Tennessee Clean Water Network, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation.

**Chris DeRolph** - Geospatial Scientist at ORNL in the Environmental Sciences Division. M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences. B.S. in Environmental Science. Certified GIS Professional. Enjoys mountain biking, small stream fly fishing, hiking, paddling, and laughing.

**Jimmy Groton** - Works on environmental issues (wetlands, threatened and endangered species management and exotic species control) with a Knoxville environmental consulting firm. Worked for National Park Service for six years. Has M.S. in forestry; B.S. in natural resources. 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. Active on trails, water, program, Obed, and Cherokee National Forest issues. Enjoys hiking, paddling, and being outdoors.

**Larry Pounds** - Botanical consultant, particularly for TVA and ORNL. Ph.D. in plant ecology. Member of the TCWP Program Committee and Tennessee Native Plant Society

**Hannah Tippett** - Partner with Mostoller, Stulberg, Whitfield & Allen in Oak Ridge. Born and raised in Malawi, Africa, Hannah has loved nature from a young age. She has researched the effects of mountaintop removal mining on local communities and on the environment. Enjoys running, biking, hiking, camping, and basically just being outdoors.

**2022 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Anne Child, Harriett McCurdy,

# TCWP Newsletter

## 1. OAK RIDGE NEWS

### 1A. Bittle Racetrack Project finds a home in Cumberland County

In July, Flatrock USA, née Oak Ridge Motorsports Park, announced it will locate at the Plateau Park Partnership property near the I-40 Westel exit. The 773-acre tract, a joint economic development effort among Cumberland, Morgan, and Roane counties, is more than double the amount of land that project developer Rust Bittle had sought in Oak Ridge.

Bittle had originally identified the former DOE property now known as Horizon Center as the site for a racetrack and several amenities. That proposal was met with a mix of reactions, culminating in a Department of Energy decision that an Environmental Impact Statement (conducted at Bittle's expense) would be necessary before such use could be considered for approval.

Bittle began a new search for a more "shovel-ready" site. According to an article in the July 21 Morgan County News, such a site would already have zoning necessary to accommodate the motorsports park concept and offer at least 300 acres unencumbered by governmental bureaucracy. The property, located south of I-40 and west of Westel Road exit, lies on the edge of Cumberland County with ready access from I-40. Ground-breaking is projected for this year.

## 2. OBED/BIG SOUTH FORK NEWS

### 2A. Improvements Throughout the BSF Park Continue

Thanks to the Great Outdoors Act, funds became available to the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area to take care of some needed repair work. Staff re-decked the entire Tipple Bridge at Blue Heron and rebuilt the Gazebo at Blue Heron Overlook. Other projects include: rebuilding the porch at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center, rehabilitating Station Camp Creek Trail, replacing guard rails along the Blue Heron Road, and replacing safety railing along Mine 18 Trail.



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## 3. TENNESSEE NEWS

### 3A. Park Service Seeks Public Input on Regulation of Smokies Helicopter Flights

A public input session has begun as part of a joint effort between the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Park Service to establish limited helicopter tour routes over Great Smoky Mountains National Park along with protocols geared to reduce the environmental and visitor impact of the flights.

The flights are already occurring, and have been for years; park service officials said in a news release that 946 flights per year would be allowed under the Air Tour Management Plan, in line with current levels of helicopter tours conducted each year by two operators outside the park.

The park service and FAA plan a virtual public meeting on the proposed tour routes at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 16. Public comment is accepted through Oct. 3, and can be entered into the record at the Smokies Air Tour Management Plan website, <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=100689>

"Great Smoky Mountains National Park is among 24 parks of the National Park System developing air tour management plans in cooperation with the FAA," park officials said in a press release.

"The agencies hope to complete all air tour management plans by the end of August 2022. The schedule is part of a plan approved by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for the agencies to comply with the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000 within two years." - *Hellbender.org*

### 3B. Will You Support Mack Prichard's Legacy?

Mack Prichard spent his life working tirelessly to advocate for the preservation of Tennessee's landscapes and stories. If you've marveled at the deep rocky canyons, soaring cliffs, and big timber forests at South Cumberland State Park, you've done so thanks to the work of Mack Prichard.

Mack knew motivating others to care for Tennessee's natural places was an important step in securing their protection. He did so by presenting photographs and stories about the natural wonders he'd encountered with anyone who would listen. To continue Mack Prichard's legacy and inspire the next generation of conservationists, Tennessee State Parks is working with the Tennessee State Parks Conservancy to create a mobile exhibit about his life.

This exhibit will display objects Mack used to inspire the protection and preservation of Tennessee's essential places, such as his extensive photograph collection and text composed by people who knew him best. The exhibition will travel among Tennessee's parks, including places Mack worked to preserve, to ensure as many people see the exhibit as possible.

You can support Mack's legacy by donating at <https://tnstateparksconservancy.networkforgood.com/projects/136821-mack-prichard-legacy-exhibit>.

#### Contributors

**Tim Bigelow** Steward of Oak Ridge Cedar Barren and member of Smoky Mountains Hiking Club. Electrical engineer with focus on fusion energy.

**Michelle Campanis** Board member of the Tennessee Bluebird Society, a facilitator for the Project Learning Tree program and the planning board for Oak Ridge's Flatwater Tales Storytelling Festival. Education coordinator for the UT Arboretum.

**John Beaudet** Long time wilderness and hiking advocate, particularly Rocky Fork State Park and Cherokee National Forest

**Marion Burger** Nature enthusiast and long-time turtle whisperer

**Carol Grametbauer** TCWP Program Committee Chair and published poet. Retired public affairs manager for Lockheed Martin and BWXT Y-12.

**Jimmy Groton** President of Emory River Watershed Association and board member of Tennessee Invasive Plant Council. Works on environmental issues (wetlands, threatened and endangered species management and exotic species control) with a Knoxville environmental consulting firm.

**Larry Pounds** Botanical consultant, particularly for TVA and ORNL. Ph.D. in plant ecology. Member of the TCWP Program Committee and Tennessee Native Plant Society

**Russ Manning** well known outdoors and science writer for many years. Many Tennessee trails have been reviewed in his guide books.

**Sandra Goss**, Editor

**Ken Mayes**, Layout and design.



### 3C. A Bear-Raising Experience to Benefit East Tennessee Trail Association

East Tennessee Trail Association (ETTA) is a newly formed trail group in upper east Tennessee organized to provide trail maintenance work primarily on hiking trails in Cherokee National Forest that do not benefit from the work of any other volunteer organization. ETTA needs to raise some funds to purchase equipment like loppers, hand saws, weed eaters, and chainsaws.

As a fundraiser, ETTA's "sawyers" (folks who work with chainsaws) are carving a big ol' bear out of a white pine log to be sold to the highest bidder. This fundraiser will allow ETTA to incorporate into a nonprofit 501c3 organization and seek donations and grants to support trail work projects. Bidding starts at \$700 and ends at midnight on the autumnal equinox, September 22.

ETTA exists to promote an appreciation of nature primarily by building and maintaining hiking trails and promoting the proper use and management of those trails and the public lands they pass through. ETTA believes that, while the Appalachian Trail enjoys adequate care, and some secondary trails are adopted by various hiking clubs, many secondary trails do not have a caretaker other than the USFS and thus the region benefits from a service organization to provide needed assistance. ETTA seeks to achieve its purpose and fulfill its mission by recruiting and training a public volunteer force in the skills of general trail maintenance, trail rehabilitation, and trail construction and coordinate with Cherokee National Forest and other land management agency staff.



When finished, the ETTA bear will be displayed at ACE Hardware in Greeneville, TN, until someone buys it, and it is delivered to its new home. If you would like more information about the bear or are interested in volunteering as a trail maintainer with ETTA, you can email [bodaciousat@gmail.com](mailto:bodaciousat@gmail.com). - John Beaudet

### 3D. Appalachian Public Interest & Environmental Law Conference on September 25

The 12th annual APIEL Conference will be held on Saturday, September 25 via ZOOM. Among topics to be covered are Byhalia Pipeline, Environmental Justice, and the Law; Ethics and Environmental Regulation; Mass Toxic Tort Litigation; Promoting Social Change through Litigation; and Environmental Lobbying and Legislation.

APIEL planners have indicated that details are being finalized. An outdoor social event is slated for that Saturday evening. CLE's are available for this event. RSVP by following this link > <https://bit.ly/APIEL-2021-RSVP> or write [apiel.info@gmail.com](mailto:apiel.info@gmail.com).




**Did you know that you can support TCWP while shopping at amazon.com?**

Simply start at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning as your charity to support.

AmazonSmile will donate .05% of your eligible purchases.

## 4. NATIONAL NEWS

### 4A. National Park Service Director Nominated

In August, President Biden nominated Charles “Chuck” Sams III to be the director of the National Park Service. Sams is a long-time tribal leader in Oregon and U.S. Navy veteran.

Sams would be the service’s first full-time director since the Obama administration. Former President Donald Trump’s nominees were never confirmed by the Senate, and the agency has been overseen by a series of acting directors for the past four years.

### 4B. Returning Bison to the Prairie



The American Prairie Reserve is asking for help in getting permission from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to return bison to nearly 70,000 acres of prairie on America’s public lands.

Prairie ecology is big—expansive grasslands are needed to restore habitat for bison, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, perhaps eventually grizzly bear, wolf, and mountain lion. In 2004, the Northern Plains Conservation Network, a collaboration of non-profit and tribal organizations working to preserve the plains, released a report, *Ocean of Grass*, that suggested “Areas as large as 3.2 million acres (5,000 sq mi/12,500 sq km) ... are necessary to sustain wild bison on ecologically meaningful scales.”

The non-profit American Prairie Reserve has taken up the challenge to reestablish a reserve of 3.2 million acres in northern Montana. The process is to purchase land and associated grazing leases on public land to assemble the prairie. The leasing of public land originates with the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, which was intended to control overgrazing of the land. Grazing districts were created that were treated like open range.

However, by the 1950s, with the influence of the ranching lobby, the open range districts morphed into individual plots of thousands of acres, fenced with taxpayer money, and each leased by a single rancher. These leases were attached to the land a rancher owned; so when a ranch is sold, the leases go with it. What had become an obstacle to public oversight of public lands, with little control of grazing, has now become an advantage for those with restoration in mind if one has the resources to buy a ranch with its leased acres.





American Prairie has done just that—raised the funds and purchased ranches that include leases to graze cattle on public lands. However, those leases do not include permission to graze bison, which is the goal of the organization.

In 2019, American Prairie submitted a revised proposal to BLM to expand bison grazing on some federal and state lands

where they have grazing privileges for cattle. Conducting an assessment (*American Prairie Reserve Bison Change of Use*, DOI-BLM-L010-2018-0007-EA), the BLM found that the grazing proposal will have no negative impact on the environment and will actually benefit local wildlife, improve land and water quality, and create new local jobs—all without impacting the value of the ranching economy.

*It is anticipated that, with the introduction of bison, existing vegetation communities could experience improvements in vegetation community species richness and diversity ... Transition from cattle grazing to bison pasturing is thus not anticipated to result in measurable adverse effects on uplands, riparian areas, water quality, or habitats for native plant and animal species.*

APR says, “It’s time to push this proposal over the finish line by demonstrating public support.” With the comment period ending on September 28th, “we need your help.”

#### What You Can Do:

Tell the BLM why you support American Prairie’s proposal, identified in the BLM’s assessment as ‘Alternative B.’ <https://www.americanprairie.org/supportbison>.

- Russ Manning

## 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 ask that unvaccinated participants practice social distancing, maintain at least 6 feet of separation between themselves and other unvaccinated participants.
- We ask that unvaccinated participants continue to wear a mask especially when social distancing is not possible.
- We will organize activities into group of 20 or fewer.
- 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 for unvaccinated participants, rather than carpooling.
- Keep in mind that restrooms may be unavailable at activity locations.

**DON'T FORGET!**



**TCWP  
ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**OCTOBER 23**  
**at Cove Lake State Park**

*See insert for details  
or online at [tcwp.org](http://tcwp.org)*

### In living color!

TCWP Newsletter is now appearing with color and active links for those who opt for electronic delivery.

Still want snail mail? No prob! Til we hear otherwise, you'll continue to receive TCWP Newsletter through the U. S. Postal Service.

Ready to get your newsletter electronically with live links and color? Email

[tcwp.contact@gmail.com](mailto:tcwp.contact@gmail.com)

- 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.]**

National Public Lands Day Event at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, September 25

On Saturday, September 28, the Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area will be the site of multi-events, including a program about the pre-Civil War cemetery and the Worthington family's life centuries ago, a tour of the ESA, and treating some pesky non-native, prolific buckthorn to a good Weed Wrangle®. This frequently-held annual event, co-hosted by TVA and TCWP, helps to eradicate wisteria, privet, and other pest plants and to heighten awareness of the historically and ecologically significant land.

Volunteers should meet at Oak Ridge's Elza Gate park at 9:00 a.m.; the event will end about noon. Bring loppers and/or clippers if available, and wear sturdy shoes and clothes. There likely will be insects and ticks in abundance. Take precautions.

BTW, ticks are arachnids, not insects. *Sandra Goss*

Three Bends Melton Lake/Pellissippi Blueway Scenic Paddle Trip and Cleanup Event – Saturday, October 9

TCWP and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation are organizing another scenic paddle trip to promote and help maintain the Three Bends and Pellissippi Blueway on Melton Lake. We plan to paddle out from the cove and enjoy tranquil inlets, birds and other wildlife, early fall wildflowers, and the fabulous scenery the Three Bends area has to offer. We'll visit a portion of Solway Bend and Freels Bend. Along the way we'll do our part in cleaning up the shoreline by picking up and hauling back manageable trash we encounter.

Participants should meet at 9 a.m. at the gravel parking area by the lake just past the turnoff to Clark Center Park off Pumphouse Rd. Those needing a kayak or canoe can rent one from Adventure Outdoors ([Adventureoutdoors.com](http://Adventureoutdoors.com)); we will provide assistance in transporting boats to the put-in place.

Please bring a life jacket and wear it whenever you're in the boat! Be prepared for sun, and bring a lunch and water. For additional information contact Tim Bigelow, 865-607-6781 or [Bigelowt2@mindspring.com](mailto:Bigelowt2@mindspring.com). *Tim Bigelow*

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 23

TCWP will hold its 2021 Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 23, at Cove Lake State Park in Caryville with Bob Fulcher, manager of the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail State Park, as our keynote speaker. The meeting will include a business meeting to elect TCWP officers and board members for 2022, lunch, and a birthday cake to celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TCWP's founding. After lunch Bob, who is also a folklorist and musician, will provide entertainment. He invites any meeting attendee who plays an instrument to join in! (See insert for more information)

Norris Watershed Hike – Saturday, October 30

This year's hike in the Norris Municipal Watershed will explore the history of the Watershed at the time TVA purchased the property, in 1933. We'll begin the hike on Clear Creek Trail and travel up to Lower White Pine Trail, then up Upper White Pine to Hi Point Trail. We'll make a side trip up to High Point, the highest point in the area. A short hike down Hi Point will take us to Freeway Trail and then to Ridgecrest Trail. It is all downhill from this point, and we'll join Hi Point Trail again for a short distance to the pump house.

The hike will cover about 3.8 miles with a couple of hills and is rated easy to moderate (see Norris Watershed Trail map at: <http://www.cityofnorris.com/id336.html>). Along the way we'll see some old home sites, the original and still extant city spring, old water weirs put in by TVA, the site of a CCC camp, and more.



Participants will meet at 9 a.m. the Norris City Water Treatment Plant (pump house), located on Lower Clear Creek Road. (Turn right heading toward Norris Dam on US 441, turn right at the Rice Grist Mill, and go to the blue tower just up from the creek ford.) Those who would like to carpool or caravan from Oak Ridge can meet in the Gold's Gym/Books-a-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's). Wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring water and snacks or a lunch. For more information, contact Joe Feeman at 865-457-8191 or [jcfeeman@comcast.net](mailto:jcfeeman@comcast.net).  
- Joe Feeman

#### Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® – Saturday, November 6

The Oak Ridge Cedar Barren will again be the site of exotic invasive plant removal as we conduct our fall cleanup, our third and final cleanup of the year. Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, the Barren 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 woody plants that threaten the system's prairie grasses. Our efforts help to eliminate invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sunlight.

Volunteers should meet in the Jefferson Middle School Parking lot at 9 a.m., with sturdy shoes, loppers, gloves, and water. For more information, contact Tim Bigelow at 865-607-6781 or [Bigelowt2@mindspring.com](mailto:Bigelowt2@mindspring.com).

*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

#### Hike on Cumberland Trail in New River Valley – Saturday, July 24

Nine hikers participated in this nice hike on a very warm day. The trail crosses the New River and turns upstream until it crosses, then follows, Lick Creek drainage. There were many plants to check out along the way, so the group ended up splitting into two groups. The trail was a bit overgrown so several downed trees and branches were removed and quite a bit of weed-whacking was done along the way.

Several ATV trails cross the path, which is fortunately fairly well marked with blazes. After crossing Lick Creek at a very pleasant small waterfall, the trail begins a slow then steep climb to the ridge top. After many stops for breath and more weed whacking the first group reached the top where the trail joins another ATV road. That road leads a short way to a wonderful view at the top of the New River valley and surrounding mountains. - Tim Bigelow

#### "Ranavirus: What It Is, and Why It Matters to Our Box Turtles in East Tennessee" – Tuesday, August 17

On August 17 we were treated to an expansive and fascinating Zoom program, centered on box turtles, by Dr. Matt Allender, University of Illinois wildlife veterinarian. Co-sponsors with TCWP were the UT Arboretum and Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization of East Tennessee (CRESO), where Dr. Allender collaborates regularly in studies of Tennessee's box turtle population and its condition.

The prevalence of ranavirus, its spread through wildlife populations, and methods of its diagnosis in individuals are critical aspects of Dr. Allender's investigations, as this virus has a 90% mortality rate within about three weeks from infection, and no treatment exists. He has developed bioassays for classifying individual turtles according to health status, i.e. normal vs. abnormal.

We saw pictures of a variety of fungal and other viral infections which afflict turtles, and heard about normal turtles' range of personalities. The species extends north to Cape Cod; individuals can live at least 60 years; each turtle spends its entire life in a one- to five- acre range. On a discouraging but familiar note: 90% of Tennessee turtles show resistance to antibiotics.  
- Marion Burger

*(Editor's Note: Dr. Allender said that box turtle gender can NOT be determined by eye color.)*

Summer Cedar Barren Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® – Saturday, August 28

Fourteen volunteers participated in our Summer Cedar Barren Cleanup, including some new volunteers and many seasoned veterans. We were able to remove much Chinese lespedeza, and trimmed flowers from most that were in bloom. The ground was moist enough that our weed wrenches could pull a good bit of the lespedeza roots, which in some cases are amazingly long. Several buckthorn trees around the perimeter area were removed, as well as the usual privet, bush honeysuckle, and autumn olive.

A yellow jacket nest was discovered by Ken Mayes, who received multiple stings but kept right on working! This is another type of invasive to deal with during a summer work day. The hive area was flagged for now. A small baby box turtle discovered by Harriet McCurdy.

Margaret Cumberland, a botanist from the NEON (National Ecological Observatory Network) Project, and her husband Riley participated in the work day. Margaret is working on a proposal to involve scientists and local users in a collaborative local program on ecology and would like to include the Cedar Barren. She described the program to other volunteers and also identified many plants.

Larry Pounds and Jimmy Groton led a wildflower walk to the front Triangle area. Purple blazing stars were just emerging. A small-leafed rose vine growing close to the ground was seen. Several more fire ant colonies have set up shop in the area.

*Tim Bigelow/Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Committee*

## 5C. Members in the Print Media

Peter Thornton was pictured and quoted in a June 22 Oak Ridger article about RamSat, a small student-built satellite that was launched from Cape Canaveral.

Joe Feeman was named 2021 Norris Lions Club Norris Day honoree as described in the July Norris Bulletin.

The July 12 issue of the Oak Ridger included an article about Mick Wiest's contribution of a leather-bound record of the Anderson County Fair and Stock Association to Anderson County archives.

Eileen Neiler's letter to the editor about the founding of the Children's Museum appeared in the July 15 edition of the Oak Ridger.

The July 22 Norris Bulletin quoted Chuck Nicholson and Harry Shatz in an article about the Norris Commons Elm tree.

Michelle Campanis was pictured and mentioned in an announcement of Stephen Lyn Bales presentation about screech-owl boxes.

A letter about the availability of COVID vaccinations was written by Anne Child to the August 2 News Sentinel editor.

The August meeting of Friends of Oak Ridge National Laboratory featured John Bates as speaker. This was announced in the August 6 issue of the Oak Ridger.

John Todd Waterman's letter to the editor (and to TVA) of the Oak Ridger about the future of the Kingston Steam Plant appeared in the August 6 issue.

The rural hospital crisis was the topic of letter to the August 15 News Sentinel that was written by Judy Roitman and others.

Frances Figart's column reported on a new podcast series about Black Appalachian music the August 24 Citizen-Times.

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on our website at  
<http://www.tcwp.org>

## 5D: By-law Change Proposed; Vote Will Be at Annual Meeting

In order to align the by-laws more closely with our new membership records software, TCWP By-Laws need an amendment.

The by-laws currently read:

*Article VII Section B*

*Membership dues shall be paid annually due on January 1. Members joining after July 1 of any year shall be assessed only half the year's dues. Dues include subscription to the Newsletter.*

*A change in the various membership categories and change in the amount of annual dues requires approval of at least two-thirds of the Board of Directors.*

Proposed changes:

*Membership dues shall be paid annually. Dues include subscription to the Newsletter.*

*A change in the various membership categories and change in the amount of annual dues requires approval of at least two-thirds of the Board of Directors.*

In accordance with the Article on amendments & revisions (see at end of this article), four members (Michelle Campanis, Carol Grametbauer, Jimmy Groton, and Hannah Tippet) approved this amendment, and that was sent to Secretary Grametbauer on August 31.

This will be voted on at the October 23 Annual Meeting.

*ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS The Constitution may be amended or revised by a two-thirds vote of members voting at the Annual Meeting. The Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of members present at the Annual Meeting. Proposed amendments must have the documented approval of at least four members, be submitted to the Secretary by September 1, and be communicated to the membership at least two weeks before the Annual Meeting.*

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

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

**President:** Mark Bevelhimer, mbevelhimer@gmail.com

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**TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR  
WILDERNESS PLANNING**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- September 25, National Public Lands Day Worthington Cemetery Cleanup
- October 9, Three Bends Melton Lake/Pellissippi Blueway Scenic Paddle Trip and Cleanup
- October 23, TCWP Annual Meeting at Cove Lake State Park
- October 30, Norris Watershed Hike
- November 6, Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup/Weed Wrangle®

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