



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Newsletter No. 346

July 30, 2019

Taking Care of Wild Places

The BIG stories

Lee Russell Dead... ¶1

More Obed Land
Conserved..... ¶2A

Fulcher Named Fellow...¶3B

Habitat Conservation Plan up
for Public Comment..... ¶4A

Proposed Oak Ridge
Mountain Bike Trail
Update..... ¶6

1. Lee Russell Dead at 95 p. 3
2. TCWP Conserves 9 More Acres in Obed.p. 3
3. Tennessee Newsp. 3
 - A. Trail Planned to Connect State Parks
 - B. Fulcher Named Fellow
 - C. Norris Dam State Park Has (Another) Development Proposal
4. Tennessee Valley Authority p. 4
 - A. Natural Resource Plan Comments Submitted
 - B. TVA River Notes Available
5. Cumberland Plateau p. 4
 - A. Habitat Conservation Plan Public Meeting Scheduled
 - B. Lone Star Tract on Crab Orchard Mountain Conserved
6. Other News p. 5
 - A. Clinch Valley Trail Alliance Update
 - B. North Carolina Corridor K Update
7. Climate-Change Capsulesp. 5
8. TCWP news (Upcoming and Recent Activities; Groton Named Conservation Hero for Salamander Ball; Community Shares Seeking Director Nominees, Thanks to Members) p. 6
9. Calendar and Resourcesp. 10
11. ACTION SUMMARY p. 2

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Shaded box or star means "Action Needed." Don't be overwhelmed -- check the ACTION SUMMARY on p. 2

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July 30, 2019

1. Lee Russell Dead at 95	p. 3	<p><u>The BIG stories</u></p> <p>Lee Russell Dead... ¶1</p> <p>More Obed Land Conserved..... ¶2A</p> <p>Fulcher Named Fellow...¶3B</p> <p>Habitat Conservation Plan up for Public Comment..... ¶4A</p> <p>Proposed Oak Ridge Mountain Bike Trail Update..... ¶6</p>
2. TCWP Conserves 9 More Acres in Obed.	p. 3	
3. Tennessee News	p. 3	
A. Trail Planned to Connect State Parks		
B. Fulcher Named Fellow		
C. Norris Dam State Park Has (Another) Development Proposal		
4. Tennessee Valley Authority	p. 4	
A. Natural Resource Plan Comments Submitted		
B. TVA River Notes Available		
5. Cumberland Plateau	p. 4	
A. Habitat Conservation Plan Public Meeting Scheduled		
B. Lone Star Tract on Crab Orchard Mountain Conserved		
6. Other News	p. 5	
A. Clinch Valley Trail Alliance Update		
B. North Carolina Corridor K Update		
7. Climate-Change Capsules	p. 5	
8. TCWP news (Upcoming and Recent Activities; Groton Named Conservation Hero for Salamander Ball; Community Shares Seeking Director Nominees, Thanks to Members)	p. 6	
9. Calendar and Resources	p. 10	
11. ACTION SUMMARY	p. 2	

11. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1 4A	Lee Russell Sympathy Cards Conservation Habitat Plan	Sandra K. Goss Mayors Mayberry and Foster	Sorry for your Loss Conservation Habitat Plan is Good for Crossville and Cumberland County, endorse it
6A 8C	Mountain Bike Trail System Groton Honor at Salamander Ball	Jon Hetrick Sandra K. Goss	Public meeting needed to learn more about this I'd like a seat at the table

Senator John Doe United States Senate Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 https://lastname.senate.gov/	The Hon. John Doe U.S. House of Representatives House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 https://lastname.house.gov/	Pres. Donald Trump The White House Washington, DC 20500 202-456-1111 (comments); 456-1414 (switchbd); Fax 456-2461 www.whitehouse.gov/contact	Governor Bill Lee State Capitol Nashville, TN 37243-9872 615-741-2001; Fax 615-532-9711 bill.lee@state.tn.us
Dear Senator Doe Sincerely yours,	Dear Congressman Doe Sincerely yours,	Dear Mr. President Respectfully yours,	Dear Gov. Lee Respectfully yours,

Sen. Marsha Blackburn Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-0566 e-mail: senator@blackburn.senate.gov Local: 865-637-4180 (FAX 637-9886) 800 Market St., Suite 121, Knoxville 37902	Sen. Lamar Alexander: Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3398 e-mail: lamar@alexander.senate.gov Local: 865-545-4253 (FAX 545-4252) 800 Market St., Suite 112, Knoxville 37902	Rep. Chuck Fleischmann: Phone: 202-225-3271 FAX: 202-225-3494 Local (O.R.): 865-576-1976 https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me
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To call any rep. or senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772.
General contact info: <http://www.lcv.org>
With mail to Congress still slow following the anthrax scare, consider faxing, phoning, and other modes of communication.

**You can find contact information in our Political Guide. It's on TCWP's website (<http://www.tcwp.org>), as are some current "take action" alerts
You can also choose to receive e-letters by contacting Sandra Goss (see below).**

WHAT IS TCWP?

TCWP (Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning) is dedicated to achieving and perpetuating protection of natural lands and waters by means of public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector. While our first focus is on the Cumberland and Appalachian regions of 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
Executive and Membership-Development Director: Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967. Sandra@sandrakgoss.com
Newsletter editor: Sandra K. Goss **TCWP website:** <http://www.tcwp.org>

1. TCWP COFOUNDER LEE RUSSELL DEAD AT 95

Lee Russell, our cofounder, Board member, newsletter editor, and treasure of historical and scientific environmental advocacy knowledge, died on July 20. Her scientific research in mammalian genetics is world-renowned. She built her career at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where she discovered that the presence of the Y-chromosome determines male sex and that only one of the X chromosomes is active in females. She was a member of the National Academy of Science and she received the US Department of Energy's highest research honor, the Enrico Fermi Award.

Her devotion to protecting Tennessee's wild lands and waters was no less ground-breaking. Under her leadership, along with others, the unique beauty of the Obed River was saved from being dammed through the designation of the Obed Wild and Scenic River. The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area is another living monument to the conservation work of Lee and her husband Bill. Legislation for National and State Trails Systems was a project of Lee and Bill that led to the TCWP-built and maintained North Ridge Trail in Oak Ridge.

We who worked with Lee over the years admired her indomitable will, her insatiable curiosity, and her insistence on factual information. She was perceptive and sensitive, self-deprecating, and appreciative of small kindnesses.

Lee and Bill protected many acres of wild lands through land donations and conservation easements. They supported sister organizations that advocate for wild lands and waters.

We salute Lee Russell with fondness, respect, and gratitude for all she did.

Lee Russell's dedication to TCWP and its goal of "Taking Care of Wild Places" continued undiminished for the more than 50 years of its existence; in fact, at the time she was hospitalized the week before her death, she had been working on the July newsletter. The family has indicated that friends and admirers who would like to memorialize Lee can do so by making a contribution to TCWP in her memory. Checks should be sent to Tim Bigelow, Treasurer, 10626 Forest Crest Rd., Knoxville, TN 37922, and marked as a memorial to Lee Russell.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: TCWP will gladly forward messages of sympathy to the family. Address is on the inside cover.

2. TCWP HAS MORE OBED PROPERTY

On July 1, TCWP took ownership of approximately 32 acres of land on the Obed River. About one third of the property lies inside the Federally legislated boundaries of the Wild and Scenic River. The selling family was unwilling to divide the land, necessitating TCWP's purchase of

entire tract. Negotiations had been going on for more than a year, and at last we were able to agree on a price. We have started the process of the NPS purchasing the land in their boundaries. When that is complete, we will begin seeking a buyer for the other 20-odd acres.

3. TENNESSEE NEWS

3A. *State Parks to be Connected by Trail*

[Contributed by John Cosgrove and Jimmy Groton]

Based on a recent *Wilson Post* article, Cedars of Lebanon State Park and Long Hunter State Park will partner on a first-of-its-kind multi-use park connector trail. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture recently transferred jurisdiction of about 2,690 acres of Cedars of Lebanon State Forest west of Highway 231 to Cedars of Lebanon State Park. The property includes about five miles of land with an old service trail across from the Cedars of Lebanon State Park entrance. This old service trail could serve as the first leg of the connector trail.

Much of this section of the state forest land is designated a state natural area and has been recognized as a national natural landmark. This property contains many rare plants and animals and unique thin-soiled cedar glade habitat, according to state agriculture officials.

3B. *Fulcher Named National Heritage Fellow*

Long-time TCWP member and friend Bob Fulcher, Cumberland Trail State Park Manager, has been awarded a National Heritage Fellowship. The Fellowship, presented by the National Endowment for the Arts, is the United States' highest honor in the folk and traditional arts.

Fulcher has traveled and recorded folk music all up and down the Cumberlands and trained and mentored many folklorists. He instituted the Tennessee State Parks Folklife Project; the voluminous audio and visual exhibits from that effort are housed at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. That work also spawned several folklife events such as the Tennessee Banjo Institute and the Rolly Hole Marble championship.

Fulcher is a tireless advocate for folklife knowledge and also for at risk exceptional lands and waters that tie into the traditions of the state.

3C. *Norris Dam State Park Development*

TCWP has recently learned that a proposal to develop land on Norris Dam State Park property is advancing among local government bodies. The Anderson County Government Operations Committee held a public meeting earlier this month, where about two dozen Norrisonians and Park fans commented against the development. The elected officials at the hearing said that they have not seen

the proposal. During the meeting, a message was received by a meeting attendee from a Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation official that no development has been approved for Norris Dam State Park.

4. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

4A. *Natural Resources Plan Comments*

TCWP commented on the recently updated Natural Resource Plan, voicing these concerns:

Adequate financial resources must be allocated to the implementation of this plan. The current funding levels are encouraging and should be continued.

The still-pending expansion of Categorical Exclusions is very troubling regarding the Natural Resource Plan. In proposed CEs 22–32, TVA would categorically exclude the activities it takes to implement its wetlands, terrestrial ecosystem, forest, invasive species, and recreational lands management programs. If those CE's are adopted and applied, then this Plan might very well be the last document available for public input.

TVA's management of public lands should be matters of public record and input.

The comment deadline was earlier this month. The final plan should be released by year-end.

4B. *TVA River Notes Available*

TVA publishes TVA River Neighbors, an e-newsletter to keep stakeholders informed about such topics as river management, shoreline management, wildlife habitat improvement efforts and volunteer and public engagement opportunities. Sign up to receive River Neighbors delivered to your email inbox at the link <https://www.tva.gov/Environment>.

5. CUMBERLAND PLATEAU

5A. *Comments Sought for Conservation Habitat Plan*

The Cumberland Habitat Conservation Plan is a long-term planning document that gives developers in Crossville and Cumberland County a means to develop their land while minimizing their impacts to threatened and endangered species.

The Plan will allow the city of Crossville and Cumberland County to comply with the US Endangered Species Act of 1973 that prohibits the harm of threatened and endangered species or their habitat.

The Plan will cover five species of bats that live in Cumberland County. These bats are the tri-colored bat, eastern small-footed bat, little brown bat, Indiana bat, and the

northern long-eared bat. These bats provide many beneficial services to humans, most notably controlling insects that damage crops. It is estimated bats provide \$3.7 billion of free, organic pest control to US farmers, annually. Bats' numbers are in serious decline in the Eastern United States due to the disease White Nose Syndrome and habitat loss.

Developers who wish to participate can minimize their impacts on bats by taking measures on their property to minimize bat habitat destruction. If bat habitat must be removed, the Plan allows developers to purchase quality bat habitat to create bat preserves.

The University of Tennessee, The Nature Conservancy and a host of other partners have developed the Cumberland Habitat Conservation Plan in cooperation with the city of Crossville, Cumberland County, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

There will be a town hall meeting on August 8th at Crossville City Hall from 6-8pm Central Time.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Attend the August 8 meeting or write Mayors Mayberry, 392 North Main St., and Foster, 2 North Main St., Crossville, 38555 that you favor this project.

5B. *Lonestar Property Conserved*

[Contributed by Alice Hudson Pell]

For over a decade, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), local governments, and various enviro/conservation orgs have worked to acquire the Lone Star Tract (6,650 acres) at Crab Orchard in Cumberland County. Drivers on I-40 have likely noticed that this property, which can be seen several miles along the north of the interstate east of the Crab Orchard exit, has been heavily logged.

The Conservation Fund (TCF) has negotiated with the landowner to acquire the Lone Star Tract at a discounted rate, as well as the mineral leases associated with the property. Due to the large size of the property, TCF engaged the Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation (TennGreen) to assist with fundraising efforts. All funds raised will be used to reduce the overall purchase expenses for TDEC.

The Tract provides an important connection between the Crab Orchard Mountain Segment and the Grassy Cove Segment of the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Scenic Park. Trail. If acquired, the Tract will provide extensive hiking opportunities, eliminate the need for thru-hikers to walk around the large property, and significantly lessen the need for hikers to travel along paved roads. Consider making a tax-deductible contribution to this effort today at www.tenngreen.org.

6. OTHER NEWS

6A. *Clinch Valley Trail Alliance Proposed Trail Development Update*

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

In the last newsletter (NL 345) TCWP reported on a proposal by Clinch Valley Trail Alliance (CVTA) to construct mountain bike trails on a Greenbelt in east Oak Ridge. We were concerned that mountain bike use represented a non-compatible use of Greenbelts and a fundamental shift in Greenbelt management policy. We also expressed concern over possible neighborhood issues that could arise such as parking and increased traffic.

In June we contacted the Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) and brought the CVTA proposal to their attention. Two TCWP board members and two residents of the California Avenue–East Drive neighborhood also attended the June EQAB meeting to discuss CVTA’s plans. TCWP encouraged EQAB to investigate the issues and we offered to help cosponsor a public meeting to discuss the proposal and elicit input from citizens.

In early July TCWP followed up with letters to EQAB and Greenways Oak Ridge expressing our concerns about the CVTA proposal and encouraging them to partner with TCWP to ask CVTA to hold a timely, well-publicized public meeting so that Oak Ridgers can learn about this proposal. We believe area homeowners deserve to have input on a proposal that will impact their environment and have opportunities to learn about pros and cons of such a project.

TCWP will continue to monitor the situation and work to hold a public forum to discuss the proposal. EQAB is scheduled to discuss this matter further at their next meeting, Thursday, August 1 at 6:30 PM in the Municipal Building Training Room.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: To receive information about the as-yet-unscheduled public meeting, or to comment on the CVTA proposal write to or call Jon Hetrick, Oak Ridge Parks and Recreation Director, jhetrick@oakridgetn.gov, EQAB Chair Robert Kennedy, robertkennedy@tetrattech.com, and TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss, sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

6B. *North Carolina Corridor K Update*

[contributed by Melanie Mayes]

North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) proposal to build "Corridor K" continues to move forward. In early 2019, NCDOT proposed several 2-lane routes connecting Andrews and Robbinsville that would impact watersheds, cross unfragmented and stunningly bio-diverse National Forest lands, and closely follow the Trail of Tears. Improvements to existing routes and new routes were proposed to connect NC143 in Robbinsville with NC28 through Stecoah Valley. Two public meetings were held and almost 500 comments were submitted in response.

NCDOT was responsive to strong criticism about the Robbinsville to Andrews section and has eliminated those options from further consideration. NCDOT is now focusing its efforts on two possible routes from Robbinsville through Stecoah, one of which has the potential to impact the Cheoah Bald area of the Appalachian Trail, and the other that would devastate the small mountain community of Stecoah Heights.

More information can be found here: [NCDOT: Corridor K Improvements - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

7. CLIMATE-CHANGE CAPSULES

[contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

- ***New Findings: Toxins Mobilized by Disasters Pose Long-Term Threat***

(from The New York Times)

Extreme weather and fires – intensified by climate change – appear to be mobilizing toxic chemicals from our homes, soils, industrial facilities, waste sites, etc. and thereby exposing people to ailments, including respiratory disease and cancer. Research in Guánica, Puerto Rico, found levels of PCBs in soil have tripled since Hurricane Maria, and levels in residents tested were 2-3 times greater than the national average. Research has also examined toxins stirred by Hurricane Harvey in Houston and wildfires in California, and a World Health Organization report warns about the health effects of toxins spread during natural disasters using examples across the globe.

Disaster-spread toxins can persist long-term in the environment or in people’s bodies and accumulate with subsequent disaster events. Additionally, potential health effects from *mixtures* of toxins are being studied. After the 2017 wildfires in Northern California, one study found 2,000 chemicals in ash near burned homes that were not found in ash in undeveloped areas. Exposure to these chemicals may explain the high rate of respiratory symptoms that persisted months after the fires.

- ***Climate Action Now Act – HR 9 Passed House; Unlikely to Progress in Senate***

(from GovTrak.us)

HR 9 would require the U.S. to remain in the Paris Agreement by forbidding the Administration to use any federal dollars to withdraw. The Bill passed the House on May 2 by a 231-190 vote, with all Democrats and three Republicans voting for it. With strong opposition led by the Majority Leader, the Bill will almost certainly fail in the Senate, if it gets a vote at all.

- ***Teaching children about climate change may help sway parents***

(from *Popular Science*)

A study published in May in the journal *Nature Climate Change* showed the influence children can have on swaying their parents’ beliefs. A researcher from North Carolina State University enlisted 238 middle school students and 292 parents living in coastal North Carolina. Teachers of children in the “treatment” group were primed with a

hands-on, locally based curriculum, with children given structured tools to stimulate dialogue with their parents.

The two-year program used a 16-point scale to measure how students' and parents' concern about global warming changed. Climate change concern in parents with children in the curriculum increased by an average of 4.29 points more than parents in the control group. The effect was stronger for conservative parents, for fathers (vs. mothers), and among parents of daughters. The researchers want to follow up to study the longevity of the effect on beliefs, to understand the reasons for the program's effectiveness, and to determine transferability to other locations. Currently educational requirements for climate change vary widely among states. Most have established some requirements for climate education, but some states have none.

8. TCWP NEWS

8A. *Upcoming activities*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

Information Program: "The Obed Wild and Scenic River: an International Dark Sky Park" – August 1

The Obed WSR, a unit of the National Park Service, possesses an exceptional dark sky resource: a night sky where visitors can still enjoy the splendor of the Milky Way and see a night sky strewn with thousands of stars, visible with the naked eye. On August 1, Obed Interpretive Park Ranger Rick Ryan will discuss the park's Dark Sky Initiative in a TCWP-sponsored program scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room.

Ryan, who came to the Obed in 2016, serves as the lead ranger for all of the Obed's Night Sky programming and Dark Sky Park initiatives, which resulted in the WSR's certification as a Silver-Tier International Dark Sky Park in 2017. As part of the Dark Sky Initiative, the Obed offers night sky interpretive programs to provide visitors with an in-depth look into the night sky while promoting its importance as a global resource. With an overall goal of promoting education and stewardship for night sky resources, the park's interpretive programs include an emphasis on preserving dark sky conditions for present and future generations.

"Kids in the Creek" event - August 10

[Contributed by Belinda Woodiel-Brill,
Emory River Watershed Association]

August means warm weather perfect for swimming, but it also means school's back in session. Emory River Watershed Association (ERWA) and TCWP are offering the perfect transition back to school: a chance to get in the water with hands-on learning about aquatic life. The "Kids in the

Creek" event will showcase aquatic life in the Obed River on Saturday, August 10, in Morgan County.

Attendees will meet at the Morgan County Visitor Center on Highway 62 in Wartburg at 9 a.m. to carpool to the site. There, team of professional aquatic experts from TVA will lead attendees through the various processes for monitoring aquatic life in a stream. Kids can help search for aquatic invertebrates under rocks, identifying caddisfly and dragonfly larvae, before catching fish in a net and viewing them up close. A picnic lunch will be provided, with the event ending around 1 pm.

"Kids in the Creek" is free and open to kids of all ages; parents are encouraged to attend as well. It is recommended that participants bring water shoes, swimsuits, towel and sunscreen, as well as insect spray. A snorkel and mask are also a great addition to the day.

Preregistration is encouraged, to help in planning lunches and transportation. To preregister or for more information, contact Jimmy Groton at groton87@comcast.net or at (865) 805-9908. Additional information is also available on the ERWA Facebook page.

The Emory River Watershed Association is a local nonprofit organization working to improve water quality and increase awareness of water quality in the Emory River Watershed.

Summer Cedar Barren Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® – Saturday, August 24

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 or at (865) 607-6781.

Bledsoe State Forest Fall Flowers – Saturday, September 7

[Contributed by Larry Pounds]

For this fourth joint outing of the year with the Tennessee Native Plant Society we will caravan from Crossville to the Bledsoe State Forest, then visit various sites on power line right-of-ways to see many species of aster, goldenrods and other fall flowers. The walks will be short, with a total distance of less than three miles.

We'll meet for carpooling in the Gold's Gym/Books-a-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illi-

nois Avenue, near Salsarita's) at 9 a.m. Eastern time, or participants can meet the group at the Shell Station on the south side of the Peavine Road exit off I-40 in Crossville at 10 a.m. Eastern. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray.

A call or email to hike leader Larry Pounds (865-705-8516, cell; or PoundsL471@aol.com) saying you are likely to come is appreciated. This information helps with planning, and is an aid to contacting participants with any change of plans.

National Public Lands Day Cleanup at Worthington Cemetery - Saturday, September 28

On September 28, TCWP and TVA will partner again for our annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) celebration, to be held at TVA's Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area (ESA) on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. A pizza lunch will follow our work session, which will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude around noon.

TCWP has for many years partnered with TVA to enhance and protect natural resources at Worthington Cemetery and other TVA lands throughout East Tennessee as part of our mutual stewardship efforts. Our yearly efforts in this area are helping to eradicate wisteria from the cemetery, and privet and other invasive exotics from the ESA. Additional details regarding this year's cleanup will be provided in the September newsletter and via email alert.

Hike on Kirkland Creek Trail, Upper Bald River Wilderness - Sunday, October 6

[Contributed by Tim Bigelow]

This hike follows a scenic creek through the middle of the newly-designated Upper Bald River Wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest. Join with hikers from Smoky Mountains Hiking Club and possibly the Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club to celebrate this long-awaited addition to the designated wilderness system in the Tellico River watershed. The trail has a gentle grade for the first several miles, then heads uphill toward the end, where it intersects with the Benton MacKaye trail near the NC state line.

We'll hike out and back for up to eight miles; however, those wishing a shorter hike can turn around earlier. There will be several creek crossings, including the Bald River, which is gentle and shallow. Bring water shoes, or plan on just hiking with wet boots on a pleasant early-fall day. If water levels are high due to unseasonable fall rain, we'll consider an alternate nearby hike with fewer creek crossings. The trail has recently been maintained by the Cherokee Hiking Club trail volunteer group, so it should be quite open.

We'll meet for carpooling at 8 a.m. at Ruby Tuesday just off Exit 81 on I-75 south at Lenoir City. We will also stop at Cherohala Skyway visitor center in Tellico Plains at about 9 a.m. We'll reach the trailhead with another hour of scenic driving, the last five miles on a gravel road.

TCWP Annual Meeting - Saturday, October 12

Save the date! On October 12, Tennessee Commissioner of Environment and Conservation David Salyers will be the keynote speaker at our annual meeting, to be held at Cumberland Mountain State Park.

Additional details about the meeting will be provided in the September newsletter.

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.

8B. Recent events

Freels Bend Canoe/Kayak Paddle Trip - Saturday, May 18

[Contributed by Tim Bigelow]

Ten paddlers participated in a canoe/kayak float trip around the Freels Bend of the Three Bends "Wild Area" on Melton Hill Lake. After an interesting start in amongst very fast model speedboats, we kept toward the undeveloped side of the lake and explored several quiet inlets lined by nice shady forests (and unfortunately a few invasives).

The weather was lovely, with sunshine and some lingering mist. We saw several nesting ospreys, including one that successfully nabbed a fish nearby, and one entertaining swallow that dropped and caught a feather several times as it floated down toward the water. Other birds spotted included cormorants, blue herons, and ducks. Reptiles included many turtles and snakes. One of the osprey nesting pairs is guarding the historic Freels Cabin, which we enjoyed from a distance.

Some of the old UT Farm fields being maintained open by TWRA were visible from the boats, and in a few places leftover fence posts coming out into the water allowed the cows being studied to cool off and drink. The take-out point was at Clark Center Park boat ramp. A nice quiet trip to enjoy one of our local treasures!

Information Program: Microplastics in the Tennessee River - Thursday, June 6

A crowd of 70 people turned out to hear Dr. Martin Knoll, a professor of geology and hydrology at The University of the South in Sewanee, discuss the water quality of the Tennessee River in a program cosponsored by TCWP and the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society.

As project manager for TenneSwim, in which German Professor Andreas Fath swam the full length of the Tennessee River in 2016 accompanied by a research team, Dr. Knoll directed the most detailed analysis of the river's water quality ever conducted. Results were compared with those from a similar project involving the Rhine River in Germany, which is comparable to the length of the Tennessee but with about 10 times the population living in the watershed.

All contaminants found were below EPA maximum contamination levels and well below those found in the Rhine with the exception of PFCs, which are highly regulated in the European Union. Microplastics on the surface, however, were 80 times higher in the Tennessee than in the Rhine, which Dr. Knoll said is primarily the result of different cultures regarding littering in the U.S. and Germany.

Dr. Knoll discussed the hazards posed by microplastics to aquatic life, and suggested things we can do to help alleviate the problem, including avoiding single-use plastic, implementing a bottle bill, reducing the use of plastic packaging (particularly plastic bags), and separating and recycling plastics.

Information Program: Southeastern Grasslands Preservation – Thursday, June 13

Dwayne Estes, executive director for the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative (SGI), presented "Charting a New Course for Conservation in the 21st Century" to an audience of about 65 on June 13. The program was cosponsored by TCWP and the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society.

Estes described "the forgotten grasslands of the South," which included habitats like savannas, balds, barrens, meadows, and bogs. He said the often-repeated claim that before the country was settled, a squirrel could travel from the east coast to the Mississippi River through forests without touching the ground is a myth: eastern North America was a mosaic of landscapes, not continuous forest. There is historical evidence of widespread grasslands in East Tennessee.

Estes said it's not yet too late to conserve grasslands, and added that the remnants still existing are vital. A coordinated effort is needed to conserve, research, and rebuild them, along with the promotion of greater public awareness. He described the complex challenges of the SGI's work, and the organization's programmatic priorities and strategies. He closed by urging groups and individuals to partner with SGI in rebuilding large-scale grassland preserves in the South.

Canoe Outing: Clark Center Park to Gallaher Bend – Saturday, July 20

[Contributed by Tim Bigelow]

This was the third in a series of canoe trips to experience the Three Bends area of Melton Hill Lake from the water. Nine participants in canoes and kayaks set out on an overcast morning with almost no breeze. From the starting point at the Clark Center Park boat ramp, the route led toward a sand island where some of the canoes became surrounded by jumping fish chasing a large school of small fish. Some of the small fry ended up in a canoe! Around the island, an osprey nest on a navigation post was checked, but it appears all the osprey chicks had fledged for the summer.

The group then paddled across the channel for a closeup look at Bull Bluff, an impressive limestone bluff covered with lichens and other vegetation. After the Bluff we paddled alongshore downstream and checked out vegetation, including kudzu. A deer and a green heron were seen, but

not so many flowers this time of year. At the tip of Gallaher Bend the group turned around and headed back upstream as the sun came out and things started to warm up.

A paddling trip around Williams Bend/Haw Ridge—although not one of the Three Bends—will be planned for later this fall or next spring.

8C. *Groton Named Conservation Hero of Discover Life in America's 9th annual Great Smoky Mountains Salamander Ball*

[contributed by Todd Witcher]

Discover Life in America (DLiA) invites the public to the ninth annual Great Smoky Mountains Salamander Ball on Friday October 4th, 2019 from 4:30 – 7:30 PM at Zoo Knoxville in Knoxville, TN. This is a family-friendly, fundraising event for DLiA, celebrating the diversity of life in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Jimmy Groton is the Conservation Hero honoree! Jimmy is a Wetland Ecologist and Environmental Scientist at EnSafe. Jimmy's tireless work in regional conservation is legendary. He has worn many hats over the years in the name of protecting land and species

Salamander Ball tickets can be purchased for \$60 until September 2nd, then \$75 after. Entry is free for kids 12 and under.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: To reserve seats at a TCWP table, contact Sandra Goss (865-583-3967 or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com by September 2

8D. *Community Shares Seeking Director Nominees*

Community Shares, a fund-raising organization that conducts workplace giving campaigns to donate money to social change organizations, is currently seeking applicants for its Board of Directors. The board meets 4 times a year (usually in Nashville with a carpool from Knoxville).

The ideal candidate will be a doer, a donor or a door opener. TCWP, a member organization of Community Shares, would get 25 participation points if we can recruit a board member who attends most of the meetings. Member organizations must fulfill a sweat equity obligation in the form of points to maintain our eligibility.

Here is a link to the application (which contains a link to a job description): <https://forms.gle/LWnAgvfnawGCHYwWA>. August 5th is the deadline.

Community Shares is dedicated to supporting Tennessee social change organizations in order to promote a more just and caring community. Its purpose is to raise funds for its member groups, primarily through employee giving campaigns, to foster a strong and viable network of social change organizations in Tennessee, and to provide members with training and technical assistance.

8E. *Thanks, and a tip of the hat to*



- Jean Bangham, John Bates, Bob Compton, Jimmy Groton, Harriett McCurdy, Eileen Neiler, Lise Neiler, Marti Salk for their help with getting the TCWP Newsletter ready for distribution.
- Jimmy Groton for his help with Annual Meeting logistics.
- Ray Garrett for stewarding the North Ridge Trail.
- Janet Bigelow, Michelle Campanis, and Kevin Hoyt for cosponsoring two well-attended informational programs.
- Louise Gorenflo and her leadership in the Singing for the Climate event.
- Tim Bigelow, Marion Burger, Larry Pounds, and Judy Roitman for their help staffing TCWP's table at the Singing for the Climate concert.
- Tim Bigelow for leading a paddling event and the Rocky Fork State Park hike

- Information about the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative (see ¶8B, this NL) is available on the organization's website, www.segrasslands.org)
- Russ Manning is working on a book, his ninth, on wildlife corridors in North America. While writing the book, he's posting installments on a created website, <https://northamericancorridors.com>. So far the postings include writings on the Colorado Plateau, the Path of the Panther in Central America, and the Adirondack to Adirondacks corridor. More detailed versions are also available as ebooks at amazon.

9. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

[For details, check the referenced NL item;
or contact Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967,
or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com]

Calendar

- August 1, Information Program: "The Obed Wild and Scenic River: an International Dark Sky Park" (see ¶8A, this NL)
- August 11, "Kids in the Creek" event (see ¶8A, this NL)
- August 24, Summer Cedar Barren Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® (see ¶8A, this NL)
- September 7, Bledsoe State Forest Fall Flowers (see ¶8A, this NL)
- September 28, National Public Lands Day Cleanup at Worthington Cemetery (see ¶8A, this NL)
- October 6, Hike on Kirkland Creek Trail, Upper Bald River Wilderness Area (see ¶8A, this NL)
- October 12, TCWP Annual Meeting (see ¶8A, this NL)

Resources

- Information about Dr. Martin Knoll's research on the water quality of the Tennessee River (see ¶8B, this NL) is available at www.sewaneewater.com, "Tennessee: River of Plastic."

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

P.O. Box 6873
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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 1 – Dark Skies Presentation

August 10 – Kids in the Creek

August 24 - Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Weed Wrangle

September 7 - Bledsoe State Forest fall wildflower walk (TCWP/TN Native Plant Society)

September 28 – National Public Lands Day Worthington Cemetery

SAVE THE DATE! October 12 - TCWP Annual Meeting
featuring TDEC Commissioner David Salyers