Tennessee Citizens FOR Wilderness Planning
Taking Care of Wild Places

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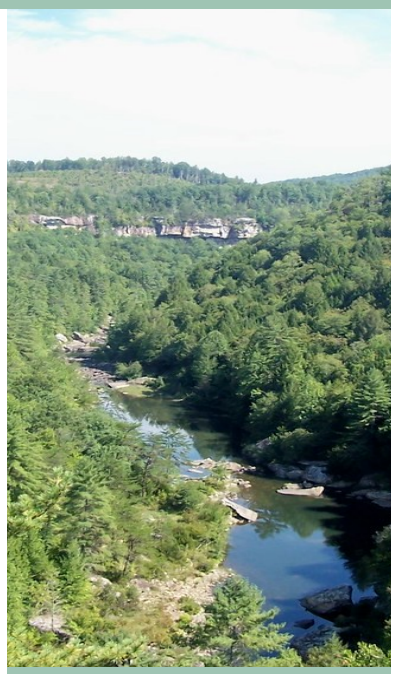
TCWP Newsletter



Inside this issue

1. Oak Ridge News 1
A. Update on the EMDF
B. Manhattan Project National Historical Park Activities
C. City of Knoxville On a Tree Cutting Binge

2. Cumberlands.....2
A. Crossville Water Supply and Raising the Meadow Park Lake Dam
B. Replacement Power for Retiring Kingston and Cumberland Coal-fired Steam Plans

3. Tennessee.....3
A. TWRA Executives' Appointments Expired
B. Sylvamo to Support TNC Work in Tennessee and Appalachians

4. National 4
A. Supreme Court Rules Against EPA

5. TCWP News.....5
A. Upcoming Activities
B. Recent Activities
C. Farewell to Bob Spore and Susan Sweetser

Friends and Members in the Print Media. . . . . .2 sidebar

1. OAK RIDGE/KNOXVILLE NEWS

1A. Update on the EMDF

Following a public meeting about the Environmental Management Disposal Facility in Oak Ridge on May 17, surprise was expressed about the number of unknown aspects of EMDF.

There are many unknowns about the design of the facility: the contractor plans to conduct a field demonstration project with a simulation of post-construction conditions. There will be groundwater wells within the field demonstration site to monitor groundwater elevations "on which the design will be based."

Another great unknown is the waste acceptance criteria. The criteria have not been determined. DOE, EPA and TDEC will "work together to determine the final requirements for EMDF."

Going forward with unspecified design and with little info on what will be deemed acceptable waste for the hazardous waste dump sounds like a big experiment taking place on Bear Creek.

1B. Manhattan Project National Historical Park Activities

Third Thursday Jackson Square Tennis Court Dance

The park is sponsoring a dance Thursday, August 15 at 7 pm ET, as well as succeeding third Thursdays on the Jackson Square Tennis Courts. This is an opportunity to don dancing shoes and move your feet. This free event will feature swing dancing music from the 1940's WWII era as well as more modern hits that span across the decades for all age groups.

Ride with a Ranger travels Melton Lake Greenway July 30

The public is invited to "Ride with a Ranger" on Saturday, July 30 at 10 am ET. Bring helmet and bike and join MPNHP Rangers for a ride down beautiful Melton Lake Greenway. The outing will begin at the southern Haw Ridge Park Bicycle Trailhead, at the intersection of Edgemoor Road and Centennial Village Road.

Stops will highlight the history of the Manhattan Project, the benefit of Oak Ridge's ridge lines, and the role of the Clinch River. The ride is approximately 6 miles round trip and involves climbing a few of Oak Ridge's hills.

1C. City of Knoxville On a Tree Cutting Binge

Thanks to the urging of TCWP member Ambassador Victor Ashe, the Board of TCWP has studied the threatened status of many trees on Knoxville property. One of Knoxville's greatest attributes is the urban canopy.

Regrettably, Knoxville plans to cut five mature trees in the Cradle of Country Music Park at the corner of Gay and Summit. This space will be used for a piece of art. A private developer plans to cut a row of trees along Gay Street on the public right of way. Finally, more than 70 mature trees are slated for chopping at Lakeshore Park.

Knoxville visitors and residents should communicate to the City know that our trees not destruction. Call or write Mayor Indya Kincannon 865-215-2040 or mayor@knoxvilletn.gov and City Council members at 865-215-2075 or https://

2. CUMBERLANDS

2A. Crossville Water Supply and Raising the Meadow Park Lake Dam

In order to meet projected water demands, the City of Crossville is working to raise the Meadow Park Lake Dam by 20 feet. This will flood about 360 additional acres of land around the existing lake, according to a representative of J. R. Wauford Environmental Engineers, providing untreated water storage to meet Cumberland County's water needs until about 2067.

This complex project will require much mitigation due to flooded lake tributaries (47 streams!) and damaged wetlands. The second biggest cost in the project is mitigation. Dam construction is the biggest cost.

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Friends and Members in the Print Media

The May 20 *News Sentinel* carried a letter to the editor from Axel Ringe about the value of Knoxville's urban forest.

Conservation Fisheries, Inc. was featured in an article in the June/July issue of *Garden & Gun*.

Lisa and Don Barger were mentioned and pictured in a story about a project to clean signs in the June 9 issue of the *Norris Bulletin*.

The June 12 edition of *The Tennessean* carried a letter to the editor from Virginia Dale about gun laws, as did the June 26 edition of the *News Sentinel*.

Axel Ringe's letter to the *News Sentinel* about firearm regulations appeared in the June 19 issue.

The June 23 and 30 issues of *The Norris Bulletin* carried pictures of Lisa Barger working on improvement projects for city of Norris.

2B. Replacement Power for Retiring Kingston and Cumberland Coal-fired Steam Plants

TVA is considering various options to supply electric power to ratepayers to replace the power generated by the soon-to-be retired Kingston Fossil Plant and the Cumberland Fossil Plant. One of the replacement options is natural gas. If natural gas is determined to be the replacement electric power source, a new pipeline will be installed across 8 counties, including Roane, Morgan, Fentress, and Overton counties.

Retiring those old plants will require lengthy approval processes including the current Federal Energy Regulatory Commission comment period. FERC determines whether interstate natural gas pipeline projects are in the public convenience and necessity. Early comments about the Project's potential impact on the environment will be very helpful.

The new pipeline will cross many waterways, many located in important wild lands and waters that TCWP and sister groups have worked years to protect. Furthermore, with extreme weather-related events, it is folly to use natural gas rather than renewable resource solar.

Please send your comment on Enbridge's docket (PF22-7-000) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. For more information, visit appvoices.org/Kingston-fossil-plant-updates.

3. TENNESSEE

3A. TWRA Executives' Appointments Expired

According to the May 26 issue of Tennessee Lookout, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has terminated three upper-level personnel. Chris Richardson (Deputy Director), Tracey Boyers (general counsel), and Thomas Moncrief (associate counsel) were no longer with the agency as of May 23. TWRA Director Bobby Wilson plans to retire in September.

Over the last several months, the agency has encountered criticism over its plan to create habitat for quail, at the expense of trees on the Bridgestone Firestone land in White County. The planned clearcutting has been postponed.

TWRA serves as the state's fishing and hunting licensure body and manages 1.6 million acres of public lands across Tennessee. TCWP has a great appreciation for TWRA's care for our waterways and habitat for non-game animals. TWRA has taken management responsibilities for important conserved land including the North Cumberland Wilderness Management Area and Oak Ridge's Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement.

Department of Energy officials have indicated that the BORCE and Clark Center Park will be transferred (not just managed by) to TWRA. This is a multi-year process that TCWP and sister groups will monitor.

3B. Sylvamo to Support TNC Work in Tennessee and Appalachians

The Nature Conservancy has announced a commitment of $1 million by Memphis-based Sylvamo™ Corporation to support TNC's work in Tennessee and the Appalachian Mountains. A producer of printing papers, Sylvamo is a spinoff from International Paper, which has chosen to focus on industrial packaging. The new printing company became a standalone, publicly traded company on October 1, 2021.

"… we know healthy forests play a critical role in mitigating climate change, protecting water quality, clean air and biodiversity," says Sylvamo Chief Sustainability Officer James McDonald. "We are thrilled to support one of TNC's 2030 Global Priority areas and the work taking place in Tennessee and the Appalachian Mountains that provides natural climate solutions for healthy communities and resilient landscapes."

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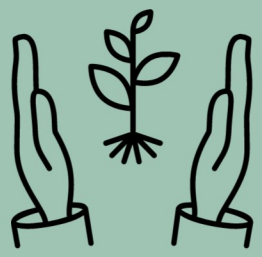
Did you know that you can support TCWP while shopping at amazon.com?

Simply start at smile.amazon.com and choose Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning as your charity to support.

AmazonSmile will donate .05% of your eligible purchases.



Support TCWP by donating, joining, or renewing your membership at tcwp.org

TNC says the gift will be used to support efforts to "identify, conserve and enhance lands located within a network of natural highways and neighborhoods where plant and animal species have the best chance of thriving in the face of a changing climate," to advance priorities in Tennessee such as TNC's Working Woodlands program, and also to advance efforts by TNC scientists to work with the agricultural industry and farmers on "finding solutions that will support clean and abundant water, healthy wildlife habitat and working farms throughout West Tennessee."

Source: "Sylvamo, the World's Paper Company, Pledges $1 Million to The Nature Conservancy," https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/tnc-sylvamo-partnership/ - *Russ Manning*

4. NATIONAL

4A. Supreme Court Rules Against EPA

On June 30th, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in West Virginia et al. v. Environmental Protection Agency, ruling that Congress did not give the EPA the authority to regulate electric utilities to the extent that it imposes a shift in generation from fossil fuels to renewables. The decision actually changes nothing, at least in the short-term.

The case arose from Republican attorneys general opposition to Obama's Clean Power Plan that sought to cap CO2 emissions from coal plants to the extent many would be forced to reduce electricity generation, convert to natural gas, or preferably install renewable energy alternatives (the latter two options being a generation shift). Although the Clean Power Plan was never implemented, the next Administration's EPA issued its own rule that only called for technological and operating improvements, the Affordable Clean Energy rule. Since the ACE was also scuttled, and included rescinding the Clean Power Plan, the Republican-led states feared the CPP could be resurrected and so pursued the case to the Supreme Court. The Court could have decided to not bother since EPA had no intention of implementing the plan and the reduction goals of the CPP had already been met by the industry even though the plan had not been enacted. Instead, the Court apparently wanted to make a statement, or perhaps give their conservative constituency another win.

Chief Justice Roberts wrote for the majority, "Capping carbon dioxide emissions at a level that will force a nationwide transition away from the use of coal to generate electricity may be a sensible 'solution to the crisis of the day.' … But it is not plausible that Congress gave EPA the authority to adopt on its own such a regulatory scheme in Section 111(d) [of the Clean Air Act]. A decision of such magnitude and consequence rests with Congress itself, or an agency acting pursuant to a clear delegation from that representative body."

Justice Kagan wrote in the dissenting opinion: "Section 111, most naturally read, authorizes EPA to develop the Clean Power Plan—in other words, to decide that generation shifting is the 'best system of emission reduction' for power plants churning out carbon dioxide. Evaluating systems of emission reduction is what EPA does. And nothing in the rest of the Clean Air Act, or any other statute, suggests that Congress did not mean for the delegation it wrote to go as far as the text says. In rewriting that text, the Court substitutes its own ideas about delegations for Congress's. And that means the Court substitutes its own ideas about policymaking for Congress's. The Court will not allow the Clean Air Act to work as Congress instructed. The Court, rather than Congress, will decide how much regulation is too much."

Two things the decision did not do: (1) Tie EPA's hands completely; the agency can still regulate greenhouse gas emissions at the source, just not impose a generation shift to renewables. (2) Did not deny that greenhouse gases are a public danger, allowing greenhouse gases to continue to be regulated under the Clean Air Act. While that's good news, the disappointment comes from the string of decisions based on politics and ideology from this conservative Court, from gun control and election laws to abortion and now removing one of the tools to fight climate change. With Congress seemingly deadlocked, the Court is exercising extraordinary power to "legislate" its own agenda, as Justice Kagan suggests. The younger generation will be living with these draconian decisions for decades to come.

West Virginia et al. v. EPA: https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/20-1530_n758.pdf - *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.
- 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.]**

Transformation Church Big Serve Day at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, July 16

On July 16, TCWP will host a group of volunteers from Transformation Church gathering at the Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area to remove Dahurian buckthorn and other invasive species, as one of a number of service projects church members will be conducting throughout the Greater Knoxville area. Volunteers will also help pick up litter and do some trail cleanup. A news release from the church, located in West Knoxville, says "Teams of volunteers from the church, staff, and congregation will be serving a variety of amazing organizations and nonprofits" on July 16, "assisting in projects to meet their needs both big and small. We are both grateful and honored to partner with Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning for National ARC (Association of Related Churches) Big Serve Day."

Additional volunteers are needed to work with the Transformation Church group. We'll meet at Elza Gate Park in Oak Ridge at 10 a.m. and plan to work until 2 p.m.; a pizza lunch will be provided. Bring bug spray and loppers and/or clippers, and wear sturdy shoes and clothes. Minors will need a parent's/guardian's signature on a waiver form (to be provided) in order to participate. For additional information, contact Jimmy Groton at groton87@comcast.net.

Freshwater Mussels: Restoring Virginia's Bivalve Bounty – Tuesday, July 19

Tim Lane, who leads the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources' annual Musselrama mussel sampling event in the Clinch River, will talk about this year's event in a 7 p.m. (Eastern) Zoom program cosponsored by TCWP and the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society July 19. During Musselrama, as many as 20 to 30 biologists and volunteers gather for a week

each summer to monitor the largest mussel population centers, reaching from Cleveland, VA, downstream to Speers Ferry, VA.

Started in 2001, these intensive benthic surveys have been led annually in the Clinch and Powell rivers by the Virginia DWR. The information collected is used to inform management actions aimed at protecting and enhancing this unique aquatic resource. The Clinch River, which flows through the far southwestern corner of Virginia in Tazewell, Russell, and Scott counties before crossing into Tennessee, is home to more endangered mussel species than any other river in North America.

As the Mussel Recovery Coordinator at the DWR, Lane oversees operations at the Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Center in Marion, VA (which focuses on raising and stocking rare species), and monitors and manages mussel recovery in streams of the Upper Tennessee River Basin, including the Clinch, Powell, and Holston rivers and their tributaries. He has extensive experience with more than 40 mussel species in the region, specifically the 20 federally listed species that call Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee home. He also assists USFWS, TWRA, TVA, and consultant groups with monitoring of mussel populations in the Tennessee section of the river, extending from Looney's Gap downstream to Sneedville.

The program is free, but please register to receive your Zoom link at www.utarboretumsociety.org. Contact Michelle Campanis at mcampani@utk.edu regarding any questions or registration issues.

What's Going on at Seven Islands State Birding Park – Tuesday, August 23

Seven Islands State Birding Park is the only park in Tennessee that focuses primarily on managing habitat for birds. In addition to creating a premier birding destination, the park provides educational programming and participates in several bird monitoring and research projects. In a Zoom program sponsored by TCWP and the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society at 7 p.m. on August 23, Clare Datillo, the Seasonal Interpreter at Seven Islands, will talk about the park, some of the behind-the-scenes projects, and how we can get involved.

Dattilo leads educational programs, participates in bird research, and organizes community science volunteers at Seven Islands. She has over twenty years of experience in natural history interpretation and environmental education, and is passionate about sharing her love of the natural world with park visitors.

The program is free, but please register to receive your Zoom link at www.utarboretumsociety.org. Contact Michelle Campanis at mcampani@utk.edu regarding any questions or registration issues.

Summer Cedar Barrens Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® - Saturday, August 27

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

Volunteers should meet in the Jefferson Middle School parking lot at 9 a.m.; wear sturdy shoes, and bring loppers, gloves, and water. For additional information, contact Tim Bigelow at Bigelowt2@mindspring.com or at 865-607-6781.

Van Buren County Power Line Walk – Saturday, September 3

This is a new power line for our fall wildflower outing, a joint outing for TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society. It will require a bit more driving. Hopefully some of the bog orchids will still be in bloom, but mostly we will be seeing goldenrods and asters. We'll be able to mix driving and walking, which will be handy if it is a hot day.

This outing should work for those with limited walking ability. We will walk on a flattish gravel road, with a short outing into a boggy area for the adventurous. For those who want, this can be mostly a driving trip with stops. The road in is a little rough, but quite drivable for most vehicles. We can carpool, COVID permitting.

We'll meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) in time to leave Ridge at 8:45 a.m. Eastern, or you can meet the group at the Shell station on the south side of the Peavine Rd. exit in Crossville at 9 a.m. Central time, 10 a.m. Eastern. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray.

Your RSVP helps with planning and allows contacting in case of cancellation. Contact Larry Pounds, 865-705-8516 or via email at PoundsL471@aol.com. Larry Pounds

Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens and Worthington Cemetery TVA Ecological Study Area Outing – Saturday, September 10

This is a joint outing for TCWP, the Tennessee Native Plant Society, and Wild Ones . The Oak Ridge Barrens is a small property that supports at least three Tennessee rare plant species: prairie goldenrod (Solidago ptarmicoides), naked-stem sunflower (Helianthus occidentalis), and Torrey's mountain mint (Pycnanthemum torreyi). Torrey's mountain mint is not only rare in Tennessee, but considered globally imperiled by NatureServe. TCWP has managed the Barrens for 26 years; volunteer workdays there continue to control exotic and native woody, invasive plant species that threaten the integrity of the prairie pockets and to create additional habitat for barrens vegetation. Other commonly seen plants in bloom in September are blazing star (two species), big bluestem, Indian grass, black-eyed Susans, white crownbeard, butterfly milkweed, grey headed coneflowers, false aloe, whorled milkweed, woodland sunflower, lespedeza, rose pink, whorled rosinweed, and golden asters.

The approximately 1.5-mile walk will be easy, with a slightly rough trail surface in places. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray.

We will meet at 9:30 at 200 Fairbanks Rd. in Oak Ridge, in the parking lot at Jefferson Middle School (next to the baseball diamond off Fairbanks Rd). You RSVP helps with planning and allows for contacting in case of cancellation. Contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 or via email at PoundsL471@aol.com. Larry Pounds

Mural of America Progam with Stephen Alvarez – Tuesday, September 20

We are very excited to report that Stephen Alvarez, creator of the Ancient Art Archive (https://www.ancientartarchive.org/), will lead a Zoom presentation about the Mural of America project for TCWP and the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society on September 20. Stephen is an amazing photographer who uses photography, videography, and 3-D imagery to document indigenous art from native cultures all over the world.

The Mural of America explores ten North American cultural landmarks that illuminate the complex artistic mysteries of the past. Founder Stephen Alvarez and the Ancient Art Archive's extraordinary team of anthropologists, archaeologists, and Native American artists are exploring the ten sites' artistic wonders, the rich cultures that gave birth to them, and how they remain meaningful today. Their work is still in progress on most of the sites, but their work at Tennessee's Devilstep Hollow Cave is complete and ready for all of us to experience!

The program will be free, but participants will need register to receive a Zoom link, to be provided at a later date at www.utarboretumsociety.org. Jimmy Groton

National Public Lands Day – Saturday, September 24

On September 24, 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 on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. 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.

We'll meet for the cleanup at 9 a.m. at the Elza Gate Park picnic area near the intersection of Oak Ridge Turnpike and Melton Lake Drive. At the completion of our work (around noon), TCWP will provide a pizza lunch. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothes, and bring water, gloves, and clippers, loppers, or bow or pruning saws, if possible. Other tools and equipment will also be available at the worksite. For more information, contact Jimmy Groton at groton87@comcast.net.

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 1

Mark your calendars! TCWP will hold its 2022 Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 1, at Head of Sequatchie with Matt Croley, the new executive director of the Cumberland Trails Conference, as our keynote speaker. Details about the meeting and how to register will be provided at a later date.

5B. Recent Events

Crab Orchard Mountain Walk – Saturday, May 21

We were a large group, 17. I had hoped to show off flowers of spreading pogonia (*Cleistes bifaria*) and prairie lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*), but the orchid site had been destroyed, and we were too early for the lilies. The power line area was striking, with lots of Small's ragwort (*Packera anonyma*), mountain golden-alexander (*Zizia trifoliata),* two species of phlox (*Phlox amoena* and *Phlox carolina),* plus a few Catesby's false bindweeds (*Calystegia catesbeiana*) and Indian physics (*Gillena trifoliata*).

We left the right-of-way and followed a new piece of the Cumberland Trail. The mountain laurel was in peak bloom. True to the name Crab Orchard Mountain, we found a native crabapple tree in fruit. We ate lunch in a rocky water gap, a stream cutting through a ridge. After lunch we spotted a speckled kingsnake (or at least we thought it was that species), barely hanging on to a slight cliff ledge. We figured it had been attracted by a nearby phoebe's nest.

We heard thunder in the area, but made it back to the cars dampened only by sweat. - *Larry Pounds*

Elza Gate Greenway Walk – Saturday, May 28

The idea for this outing was to explore the plant life along a typical urban greenway. Also, with a paved path it was accessible to more people than our usual outings.

We—six of us—looked at examples of opposite vs. alternate leaves, simple vs. compound leaves and bristle-tipped vs. merely toothed leaves. This helped us to identify a few oaks and maples. This was not a time of profuse flowering, but we did see flowers on persimmon, wild petunia, and farkleberry. - *Larry Pounds*

National Trails Day – Saturday, June 4

On Saturday, June 4, TCWP celebrated National Trails Day by working on part of the North Ridge trail and the Wedgewood Avenue Access Trail. Thirteen volunteers helped with trail work. We concentrated our efforts on a badly eroded section of the trail where the access trail joins the main trail. Over time, drainage from the access trail has eroded a pretty large gully, which has become increasingly difficult to navigate.

This year's volunteers organized themselves into small groups to build a network of water bars and broad-based drainage dips that will divert water away from the trail before it has a chance to reach the gully. We also used native stone from a nearby streambed to install a series of steps in the gully that will make it easier for people to travel up and down the gully. Afterwards we celebrated our efforts and our trail with a pizza lunch at the Children's Museum playground. - *Jimmy Groton*

East Fork Poplar Creek Greenway Cleanup - Saturday, June 11

On June 11 TCWP, the Clinch Valley Trails Alliance, and Greenways Oak Ridge cosponsored the third annual trash cleanup and hike on the East Fork Poplar Creek Greenway. CVTA and Greenways Oak Ridge built this nice little trail a few years ago

along the banks of East Fork Poplar Creek in west Oak Ridge. The trail begins near the intersection of Oak Ridge Turnpike and Jefferson Avenue and meanders through a nice riparian woodland along the creek, ultimately reaching the Oak Ridge Fire Department Station near Wiltshire Road.

The creek periodically floods the trail and deposits litter and other trash along the floodplain. There are also a lot of old tires and other debris that have washed into the creek from places upstream. Each year it is a challenge to see who can pull the most tires out of the creek. Special recognition also goes to the people who can find the most unusual stuff in the creek.

The City of Oak Ridge provided two dump trucks to collect the trash, one for tires since they have special disposal requirements and one for regular trash. This year we more than filled both trucks. In all we collected more than 50 tires; one crew pulled 13 tires form a single location in the creek!

Another noteworthy aspect of this year's cleanup was an Oak Ridge police officer mistaking TCWP Treasurer Tim Bigelow for a trash dumper rather than a trash picker-upper. Fortunately Tim was able to convince the officer that he was on the up and up, and avoided getting arrested. It was another great time working together with CVTA. We look forward to next year's event. - *Jimmy Groton*

5C: Farewell to Bob Spore and Susan Sweetser

Good bye, Bob Spore

Bob Spore, long-time TCWP member, died in late May. His interests were many and included the Oak Ridge Unitarian and Universalist Church (Board member, choir member, and treasurer), wood-working, the Cedar Hill Playground creation (built in 5 days with 2000 volunteers), poetry. He will be much missed. Thank you, Bob, for all you did.

So Long, Susan Sweetser

Susan Sweetser, former President of the Tennessee Native Plant Society, and current president of the Appalachian Arts Craft Center, died in late May. A delightful hiking companion, Susan had wide knowledge of plants that she generously shared. Her dry wit, friendliness, and warmth will be missed.

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 16 - Transformation Church Big Serve Day at Worthington Cemetery
- July 19 - Freshwater Mussels: Restoring Virginia's Bivalve Bounty
- August 23 – What's Going on at Seven Islands State Birding Park
- August 27 – Summer Cedar Barrens Cleanup/Weed Wrangle®
- September 3 – Van Buren County Power Line Walk
- September 10 – Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens and Worthington Cemetery TVA Ecological Study Area Outing
- September 20 – Mural of America Program with Stephen Alvarez
- September 24 – National Public Lands Day at Worthington Cemetery ESA
- October 1 – TCWP Annual Meeting

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