Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

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November 19, 2019

Taking Care of Wild Places

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You and Your guest are invited

Please join us at the annual

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

Holiday Party

Thursday, December 12, 2019

7:00 - 9:30

Home of Jenny Freeman & Bill Allen

371 East Drive, Oak Ridge

www.tcwp.org 865.583-3967

member, Community Shares

Bring a bottle of wine, a small appetizer, or dessert if you would like.

No RSVP necessary. Come and enjoy good company and good food.

HOW TO REACH ELECTED OFFICIALS

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

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-lerts 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 **President:** Mark Bevelhimer
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. OAK RIDGE AND OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

1A. 69-kV Powerline on special land in west Oak Ridge Considered

In the "nothing new under the sun" category, the installation of a 69-kV powerline to serve as yet unsecured industrial tenants in former DOE property in west Oak Ridge is once again being discussed. This is a sequel to previous attempts to site such a line with no consideration of the value of the greenway in the area.

It appears that the proposed site for the power line cannot be built without degrading Horizon Center Natural Area. This Natural Area and the adjacent Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement are heavily used for hiking, running, biking, bird watching, and nature study. The multiple uses at these sites fit perfectly with Oak Ridge's Blueprint calling for increased human power recreation opportunities.

The proposed power line site is likely to permanently degrade this resource, and we ask that careful consideration be given to the costs of such degradation. A good decision on the placement of the power line requires full knowledge of its impacts.

There are routes for the proposed 69-kV power line other than through the Natural Area. One option is to have overhead lines within the Horizon Center industrial site itself. The decision to locate the degrading overhead power lines on a natural area instead of within the Horizon Center industrial site was made in order to honor voluntarily enacted covenants that prohibit the use of overhead power lines within the industrial site. These covenants could be changed if the Oak Ridge Industrial Development Board would lift the overhead-power-line prohibition for the industrial site.

The economic objective of supplying power to the Horizon Center parcels can be accomplished in ways that do not degrade the Natural Area. Oak Ridge can figure this out!

1B. Openings on the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

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

ORSSAB and its committees meet most months of the year at the DOE Information Center in Oak Ridge. Board members are volunteers who will spend about 4 hours a month on related activities such as meetings, tours of relevant projects, and drafting recommendations.

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

Additional information may be obtained by visiting our website at www.energy.gov/orssab, emailing orssab@orem.doe.gov or by calling (865) 241-4584 or 241-4583. The deadline for submitting applications is December 31, 2019. Completed applications may be emailed to orssab@orem.doe.gov, sent to ORSSAB at P.O. Box 2001, EM-90, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, or dropped off at the DOE Information Center at 1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge, TN 37831.

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. Norris Dam State Park Update

[contributed by Johnny Cosgrove]

As we reported in the July, 2019 Newsletter #346, Norris Dam State Park is once again being threatened by commercial development interests.

Some details of this proposed conference center and waterpark can be found in this short WBIR, Channel 10 segment:
https://www.wbir.com/article/news/local/anderson-campbell-county-leaders-consider-100-million-conference-center-water-attraction-at-norris-dam-state-park/51-0e516e00-26ed-42b4-89b2-ddf753d4cb16

Our friend and long-time member of Friends of Norris Dam State Park, Billy Minser (who is interviewed in the attached WBIR segment), tells us that he has spoken recently with Anne Marshall, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation about this issue. Based on that conversation, Billy reports that "there is zero support at the highest level of State Parks to support any developer's scheme for the lands of Norris Dam State Park." We will continue to monitor the situation since similar private development schemes for Norris Dam State Park seem to be a perennial threat.

2B. Rocky Fork S.P. Update

[Contributed by Johnny Cosgrove]

We have reported in some detail, in several recent newsletters, of the State's plans to develop Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park (RFSP) in Unicoi County. TCWP member and Unicoi Co. resident John Beaudet has been a tireless advocate for protecting the unique and fragile ecosystem of RFSP.

John reports that "several meetings have occurred in the past couple months with TDEC officials and local political leaders, USFS, SAHC, The Conservation Fund, and others to talk about how to move forward with plans for Rocky Fork. TDEC State Parks officials have stated that the road up Flint Mountain is off the table and they are reconsidering the whole plan. As I understand it, what has been said is ba-

sically that the road is out and the rest of the plan is being re-considered, and the state is looking to improve the process and include more public input so I don't think the discussions so far have been about the plans so much as how to move forward with a better process this time. We were told there would be a chance for public input, which is overdue now, but it hasn't happened yet seemingly because they are working on how they are going to go through the process. I hear they will probably hire an outside contractor to facilitate public meetings and once they get feedback they will be coming up with a new plan for the park. No date for the public input yet so we are standing by."

2C. TDEC Releases 2020 303D List—Check out Your Favorite Waterbody!

Officials with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation announced earlier this month that the draft 2020 list of Impaired and Threatened Waters is available. This is a compilation of waterbody segments that violate one or more water quality criteria, or are documented as threatened by pollutants. These segments are then prioritized for a specialized water quality study of the identified pollutants known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

The list, organized by major watersheds, is available at http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/wr-wq-water-quality-reports-publications. This list is subject to public comment; those must be received by February 14, 2020. Comments can be sent to Greg Denton, Watershed Planning Unit, Division of Water Resources, 11th Floor, Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., Nashville, TN 37243, gregory.denton@tn.gov, 615-532-0699.

There will be a public hearing about the list on January 2, 2020 tele-conferenced to Regional Environmental Field Offices at 2:00 ET, 1:00 CT. The department will submit a proposed final version of the list to the EPA by April 1, 2020.

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3. OTHER NEWS

3A. Ethane Cracker Plants and Plastics

[Contributed by Johnny Cosgrove]

The Department of Energy (D.O.E.) is now promoting an "Appalachian Petrochemical Renaissance" in the form of ethane cracker (pyrolysis) plants that convert ethane, a natural gas liquid (NGL), into ethylene, a primary feedstock for the manufacture of plastics and hundreds of other products.

Most U.S. petrochemical production has occurred in the Gulf Coast region, because that is near a majority of U.S. oil and natural gas production. But with the recent boom of natural gas production from the hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") in the Marcellus and Utica shales of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, Appalachia now produces more than 32% of U.S. natural gas, and 600,000 bbls per day of NGLs.

So D.O.E. has teamed up with the petrochemical industry to actively pitch the economic benefits from the production, and downstream manufacturing, of petrochemicals closer to the fracking fields of Appalachia.

As appealing as the influx of billions of petrochemical industry dollars may be to some people in these historically depressed communities, others fear the potential environmental consequences.

Air pollution from a cracker can include nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter.

Ethane crackers also have the potential to emit large amounts of ethylene, propylene, and other so-called 'highly reactive Volatile Organic Compounds'. These are chemical compounds that can react quickly in sunlight to form ground-level ozone, or smog.

A Royal Dutch Shell petrochemical cracker under construction on the banks of the Ohio River in Pennsylvania is permitted by the state to emit up to 2.2 million tons of carbon dioxide each year. That is the equivalent of about 480,000 cars, though Shell claims the plant is likely to emit less than that.

Additionally, the Shell cracker is expected to churn out 3.5 billion pounds of plastic pellets each year even as scientists raise alarm over the epidemic quantities of plastic and microplastic in the world's oceans and rivers.

How do YOU reduce your plastic use? Send your two favorite plastic reducing tips to sandra@sandrakgoss.com. Let's help each other!

3B. America's Scenic Byways Get a Legislative Boost from Scenic America

The "Reviving America's Scenic Byways Act of 2019" was signed into law last month. The new law requires the Secretary of Transportation to start the application process for new byways within 90 days and to designate a round of new National Scenic Byways within one year. The Federal Highway Administration is tasked with developing procedures for the nomination process and publishing the process on its website within the 90 day window.

Since the program started in 1991, Congress has designated 150 iconic roads in 47 states as National Scenic Byways or All-American Roads. That list includes the Cherohala Skyway, East Tennessee Crossing, Great River Road, Woodlands Trace, and Natchez Trace Parkway in Tennessee.

3C. Park Plans Prescribed Burn in Cades Cove

A recent press release announced that the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Appalachian-Piedmont-Coastal Zone fire management staff plan to burn approximately 660 acres of fields on the western end of Cades Cove. Weather permitting, burn operations will occur up to Friday, December 20. The operations are expected to be conducted on three separate days.

Over the last 20 years, park managers have conducted these burns during the spring and fall under specific prescription parameters to safely reduce fuels, restore meadow habitats, and maintain the historic landscape of Cades Cove. Park staff closely monitor fire weather conditions including vegetation and soil moisture, wind speed and direction, temperature, and relative humidity to ensure that conditions meet the burn plan objectives for the site. These seasonal controlled burns help perpetuate native herbaceous species that provide high quality cover and foraging opportunities for a diversity of wildlife including deer, turkeys, and ground nesting birds.

"The selected fields will be burned to restore meadow species, prevent the open fields from being reclaimed by forest, and to reduce hazardous fuels," said Fire Management Officer Greg Salansky.

Visitors should expect to see firefighters and equipment along Hyatt Lane and the western end of the Cades Cove Loop Road. The loop road and historic structures will remain open to visitor use, but brief delays and temporary closures may occur to ensure public safety during burn operations. Park staff will be present to answer questions during operations at overlooks and parking areas. Specifically, the crew plans to burn the following units: 185-acre old field, 304-acre Tipton-Oliver field, 87-acre cemetery marsh field, and 90-acre Cable House field.

Visitors should expect to see fire activity and smoke during prescribed burn operations. Fire managers ask that motorists reduce speed in work zones, but refrain from stopping in the roadways. If smoke is present, motorists should roll up windows and turn on headlights.

For more information on the use of prescribed burns in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, visit the park website at
http://www.nps.gov/grsm/learn/nature/wildlandfire.htm

4. CLIMATE RESILIENCE

[from Union of Concerned Scientists and City of Knoxville]

For years, media pundits, partisan think tanks, and special interest groups funded by fossil fuel companies have raised doubts about the truth of global warming.

These contrarians downplay and distort the evidence of climate change, lobby for policies that reward polluters, and attempt to undercut existing pollution standards.

No matter how quickly we reduce emissions, the reality is that certain climate impacts are inevitable. The seas are rising. Temperatures break records every year.

Droughts, floods, and extreme weather are damaging communities today.

Cutting carbon is the only long-term solution for avoiding climate impacts. In the short-term, we need to adapt. That means everything from discouraging development in high-risk areas, to planning for water scarcity, to building more resilient cities and communities. Investments should be scientifically sound and socially just, and focused where the impacts are greatest—often in low-income communities and communities of color.

Municipalities are making the most progress on both short and long-term fixes. The City of Knoxville has recently completed the conversion of all its street lights to Light Emitting Diode Technology, resulting in significant energy savings ($3 million+ annually) and putting the city on track to meeting the goal of 20% reduction in municipal greenhouse emissions by 2020.

5. TCWP NEWS

5A. Upcoming activities

[compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 12

This annual event, one of our most popular of the year, will once again be held at the home of Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen, 371 East Drive, Oak Ridge.

All members and friends are welcome! The hours are 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share; beverages will be provided.

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.

5B. *Recent events*

National Public Lands Day Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® at Worthington Cemetery - Saturday, September 28

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

Once again TCWP celebrated National Public Lands Day (NPLD) at TVA's Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. NPLD is an annual event that focuses on both user enjoyment and celebrating volunteer conservation efforts on public lands. As in years past, TCWP partnered with TVA for a day of celebration, education, and stewardship about the unique history if the Worthington family, the native plants and habitats in the study area, and the invasive exotic plants that also grow there.

In the spirit of NPLD, we continued our work to remove the exotic invasive plants and restore the native cedar barren. This year about 15 people helped with the NPLD event. Participants included architects Katie McDonald and Kyle Schumann, Tennessee Architect Fellows 2019-2020 at the University of Tennessee School of Architecture, and several students in their Design class. Katie and Kyle's Design class focuses on incorporation of invasive species in architectural design.

We began the activities with an interpretive walk highlighting the unique natural resources at the ESA. After that we continued our work to restore the native cedar barren and the forested wetland by removing exotic invasive plants

and trash. This year we focused our efforts on eradication of Dahurian buckthorn, a highly invasive shrub/small tree recently discovered growing at the Worthington tract by botanists Larry Pounds and David Nestor. At the completion of our work, TCWP provided a pizza lunch to all volunteers. Despite a relatively low turnout at this year's event, we got a lot accomplished, and everybody seemed to have a really great time.

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

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

This joint hike with the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club to visit the newly designated (and remote) Upper Bald River Wilderness attracted five hikers, including one SMHC member, three TCWP members, and some visitors. After light rain in the morning, it was a gloomy day but dry day.

The trail follows Kirkland and Manchesi creeks and crosses them many times. Although the creeks weren't that swollen, they required wading at most crossings, and the Bald River itself required wading at the start of the trail. The valley is quite scenic and appears relatively undisturbed. The trail climbs only slightly until the end, where it heads up to the top of the ridge and joins the Benton MacKaye trail.

The hike leader and the Tellico area volunteers trail crew had done some maintenance earlier in the summer; however, there were many places in which more trimming along the way helped hikers to get through dog hobble covering the trail. One copperhead was stepped over, and many birds were seen and heard. On the drive in, the group was surprised to learn that a bear hunt was taking place just up the road outside the wilderness; fortunately, we had some orange in the car. There were no hunters parked near the trail head, nor dogs heard all day.

The group was able to hike in about three miles to the start of the climb up to the ridge top, but creek crossings and weed whacking slowed things enough to make that a good point to turn around and retrace our steps.

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 12

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

About 2 dozen attendees enjoyed TDEC Commissioner David Salyers's comments at the 53rd Annual Meeting. Emphasizing a cooperative, collaborative approach with the departments of Transportation and Agriculture, Salyers discussed the importance of protecting our state's incomparable natural resources. He touched on Rocky Fork State Park: there will be opportunities for public comment on park development this fall. The meeting was held at the Cumberland Mountain State Park on October 12.

Nominating Committee Chair Ellen Smith nominated the previously sent slate of Officers and Directors (Mark Bevelhimer, President; Michele Thornton, Vice President; Carol Grametbauer, Secretary; Tim Bigelow, Treasurer; Direcotrs Johnny Cosgrove, Jimmy Groton, Melanie Mayes, Larry Pounds, Hannah Tippett, and Warren Webb. They were all elected unanimously as was the 2020 Nominating Committee (Ellen Smith, Chair; Marion Burger, Jimmy Groton).

Following lunch at the Homestead Harvest Restaurant, Larry Pounds led a hike on Black Mountain.

Norris Watershed Hike – Saturday, October 26

(Contributed by Joe Feeman)

Last year's planned hike in the Norris Watershed was rained out, and on October 26 this year it looked pretty bleak. Luckily, overnight rains began to subside in the wee hours and by 9:00 it was overcast but dry.

Seven undaunted hikers walked from the center of Norris on sidewalks to the Eric Harrold Park, where we took a path through the woods that led us to Eagle Trail. We wound down a long hollow, then along the contour above the Clinch River below Norris Dam. This trail was constructed by the CCCs in the mid-1930s, and has seen many hikers over the years. We then hiked up another hollow to the top of a ridge and then up the hill to Observation Point. It was a remarkable picture: Norris Dam, first visible, then obscured by fog, and many low-lying areas across the landscape toward the Cumberland Plateau covered by what looked like a layer of fluffy cotton. The view was surreal.

We went back down the hill and took another trail over to Deer Ridge Road in Norris. Our trip then went across the elementary school grounds, through one of the original tunnels under a road, and out to the Norris Commons. It being Saturday, there was a soccer game on the field, so we walked around one end and back to our start at the middle school.

Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® – Saturday, November 2

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

The morning of November 2 started out foggy and cold, but that didn't deter a turnout of 14 volunteers who spent the morning helping to clear invasive species and maintain the prairie-like nature of the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren. After a safety talk by Jimmy Groton and background information by Larry Pounds, we heard a short presentation by Oak Ridge City Intern John Scheb about a survey of the barren and a map of the location of invasive plants within the entire natural area boundary (drawn with the assistance of GPS).

Also with us was Matthew Stanke, who brought the Clinch Valley Trails Alliance work trailer, well provisioned with all sorts of trail maintenance tools. It was nice to have participation from a new group so well organized.

The workers concentrated on pulling invasive woody plants from all over the "oval" clearing. The ground was a bit moist, so smaller plants pulled without breaking. Weed wrenches were used when possible. The area north of the pond was found to be overrun with fairly large bush honeysuckle, privet and other invasives, so a good bit of trimming and treating were done. The fence along Fairbanks Rd. has been slowly falling down, and more work was done propping up and reinforcing the ailing posts with metal stakes that will help preserve the fence for a few more years.

By noon the temperature had warmed up nicely, and Larry and Jimmy conducted a tour of the barrens, pointing out some of the rare plants. Then the group enjoyed a pizza lunch.

5C. TCWP Folks Honored

TCWP Board Member Melanie Mayes and member John Beaudet were named Outdoor All Stars by Blue Ridge Outdoors https://www.blueridgeoutdoors.com/…/oct…/outdoor-all-stars/….

Melanie, chair of WaysSouth, has hiked over 3,800 miles on the A.T. over the past five years. An issue of concern is Corridor K, a proposed highway project in the Andrews-Stecoah area, with two proposed routes cutting across the Appalachian Trail.

John spent 10 years backpacking thousands of miles on long trails, including four Appalachian Trail thru-hikes. Once he had worn out his knees, he thought it was time to pay it back. He bought land near Rocky Fork State Park in Tennessee, started a trail crew, and advocates for the park to remain wild and undeveloped.

Former TCWP Board member Cindy Kendrick was honored at the recent Community Shares Campaign Kickoff for her work to enlist Oak Ridge National Laboratory to conduct a workplace campaign for contributions to Community Shares members, one of which is TCWP!

The kickoff marks the beginning of the giving season, where each Community Shares workplace employee can steer contributions to organizations of their choice. The contributions are made via payroll deductions. (And, oh yeah, TCWP is an option; please consider helping protect wild lands and waters through regular donations to TCWP.)

Former TCWP President and current Board member Jimmy Groton was honored at the recent Salamander Ball (benefitting Discover Life in America) as Conservation Hero of the Year. Discover Life in America works to conserve global biodiversity through funding research and scientists, public education, and making data available to everyone.

Jimmy's leadership of TCWP, as well as Emory River Watershed Association was lauded, as well as his involvement with Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation and Tennessee Invasive Plant Council.

5D. Members in the News

Penny Lukin participated in the Community Wide Women's Seder, as reported in the March 22 *Oak Ridger*.

Ellen Smith is pictured in an article about the Oak Ridge Senior Center in the April 5 *Oak Ridger*.

Mark Peterson spoke to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board about methylmercury contamination mitigation research, as reported in the April 11 *Oak Ridger*.

Johnny Cosgrove's letter to the *News Sentinel* editor about the Clean Water Act was published in the April 14 issue.

The May 2 *Oak Ridger* carried a letter to the editor from Eileen Neiler about summer grills.

Joe Feeman penned an article about travels in Georgia, USA that appeared in the May 8 *Norris Bulletin*.

Costa Rica travels were the topic of articles by Joe Feeman that appeared in the May 15, 22, 29 and June 5, 12, 19, and 26, and July 3 issues of the *Norris Bulletin*.

David Adler, serving on the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board, presented plaques to graduating student representatives, as reported in the May 15 *Oak Ridger*.

Marion Burger's letter to the *Oak Ridger* editor about the Main Street development appeared in the May 21 edition.

The *Oak Ridger* published a letter written by Eileen Neiler about the Constitution

Jeff Mellor wrote a letter to the editor of the June 3 *News Sentinel* about proposed cuts in Knox County indigent care budget.

Joe Feeman authored an article about the Norris Watershed work crew in the June 12 *Norris Bulletin*.

Bob Fulcher's National Heritage Fellowship award was coved in the June 19 *Norris Bulletin*.

Annetta Watson represented the Historic Marker Committee of the Morgan County Genealogical and Historical Society at Back Valley Heritage Day as reported in the June 19 *Morgan County News*.

Johnny Cosgrove was mentioned and pictured in an article about Citizen Scientists in the July/August *Tennessee Conservationist*.

The July 5 *Oak Ridger* reported that Harriett McCurdy has been appointed to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.

Chuck Nicholson and Melinda Welton and the migrated shore birds they spotted recently were mentioned in the July 31 *Norris Bulletin*.

Johnny Cosgrove and John Beaudet were mentioned in an article about Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park in the August issue of the *Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine*.

The August 6 *Oak Ridger* featured Melanie Mayes and her presentation to Oak Ridge Institute of Continued Learning about climate change.

Wyoming travel was the topic of an article in the August 14 *Norris Bulletin* penned by Joe Feeman.

The August 22 *Oak Ridger* had a letter to the editor about the Farmers Market written by Eileen Neiler.

Willa Reister wrote a letter to the editor of the August 25 *News Sentinel* about Rep. Burchett.

Peter Thornton was pictured and mentioned in an article about a STEM class at Robertsville Middle School in the *News Sentinel* on September 4.

The September 13 *Oak Ridger* announced Melanie Mayes's presentation about Carbon and Climate in North America for ORION.

John Beaudet and Melanie Mayes were among several Outdoor All Stars in the October issue of *Blue Ridge Outdoors*.

Rich Norby was quoted in an article carbon in the rainforests in the October *Atlantic*.

Wandering in Scandinavia was the title of Joe Feeman's travel series appearing in the October 9 and 23 editions of the *Norris Bulletin*.

Ray Garrett was pictured and quoted in an October 28 *Oak Ridger* article about the new East Fork Riparian Trail.

5E. Thanks and a Tip of the Hat to

John Bates, Bob Compton, Jimmy Groton, Joe Horton, Harriett McCurdy, Eileen Neiler, Lise Neiler, Marese Nephew, Gary Salk, Marti Salk for their help in preparing the *TCWP Newsletter* for dissemination.

Tim Bigelow, Jamie Herald, Jan Lyons for their help with publicizing TCWP events.

Ranger Rick Ryan for his presentation on the Dark Skies Program at Obed Wild and Scenic River.

Mark Bevelhimer and Jimmy Groton for their help with the August Kids in the Creek event.

Mark Bevelhimer for hosting a TCWP Board cookout in August.

Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, Larry Pounds for their leadership of the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Weed Wrangles® in August and November.

Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, and Larry Pounds for guiding visiting State Natural Areas officials at the Cedar Barren.

Larry Pounds for leading the Powerline Right-of-way Hike at Bledsoe State Forest.

Melanie Mayes, Michele Thornton and Hannah Tippett for their service on the ad hoc Personnel Hiring Committee.

Jimmy Groton and our TVA Partner Angela Sutton for making the National Public Lands Day Weed Wrangle® a success.

Tim Bigelow for leading the October 6 Kirkland Creek Trail hike.

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner David Salyers for speaking at the October 12 TCWP Annual Meeting, and Larry Pounds for leading the Black Mountain Classic Hike.

Joe Feeman for leading a hike on the Norris Watershed.

5F. Note from the Executive Director

Dear TCWP Friends,

Exciting News!! Ken Mayes is now a part-time staffer for Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. He is Membership and Outreach Coordinator, charged with heightening TCWP's social media presence and improving our membership numbers and records. Ken has experience with websites, various social media and at the American Museum of Science and Energy as well as familiarity with Oak Ridge.

This important step will help us reach more people with information about issues, outings, programs, and, generally update our communication efforts to 21st century level. Still like regular mail? NO WORRIES! We will continue to mail the newsletter and other information as we usually do. Want to go paperless? Call or write and you can receive the newsletter electronically.

These are interesting times. TCWP is very blessed to have the support of you and others to further our efforts to protect the vulnerable lands at the Obed Wild and Scenic Rivers, and to comment cogently and effectively on attempts to breakdown long-time protective rules for water and air quality.

Thanks to each of you for being members, for being concerned with our natural lands and waters. Happy Holidays!! Hope to see you at the TCWP Party on Thursday, December 12. See inside front cover for details.

Sandra

Start 2020 as a member of TCWP!

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning:

- **Provides quick weekly info on current events thru E-lerts**
- **Issues the most informative environmental newsletter in the state**
- **Secures special lands in Obed River Gorge**
- **Maintains Whites Ck. Trail (Rhea Co.)**
- **Provides TCWP E-lerts on timely environmental issues**
- **The TCWP Newsletter and E-lerts can help you make a difference**
- **Conducts regular invasive plants cleanup at Oak Ridge Cedar Barren**
- **Monitors and comments on Big South Fork NRRA management**
- **Sponsors informative presentations**
- **Is long-time adopter of Alley Ford segment of Cumberland Trail**
- **Takes active role in oil and gas rules formulation**
- **Sponsors yearly exotic pest plant removal at Worthington Cemetery**
- **Works to stop Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining**
- **Advocates for pure drinking water**
- **Built and maintains the North Ridge Trail (Oak Ridge)**
- **Fights for healthy state and national forests**
- **Comments on timbering and gold mining extraction**

Our "dues" year is the calendar year, Jan 1 to Dec 31. Contributions to TCWP are tax-deductible.
To join after August 1, you may pay half the listed annual rates.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 12 - TCWP Holiday Party

February 15 - Alley Ford workday

March 7 - Spring Cedar Barren cleanup
March 12 - Connectivity for Wildlife Presentation by Jeffrey Hunter