Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

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1. OAK RIDGE NEWS

1A. DOE seeks public input on Environmental Assessment Addendum at Horizon Center with Potentially Significant Impacts; Full EIS Needed!

The Department of Energy (DOE) has released an Environmental Assessment Addendum at the Horizon Center. The addendum removes the existing natural areas between three tracts of land inside the Horizon Center. If DOE negates the natural area status, the Horizon Center will become a Motorsports Park Center. The Motorsports Park developer has indicated there will be a raceway, hotels and residential buildings, amphitheater, and restaurants.

The natural areas have long been set aside by DOE because of their unique natural features, including a stream system with a perennial stream and a beech-maple forest. The original land transfer from DOE to the Horizon Center industrial park was for medium to light industry or office space. And the natural areas that are the subject to this addendum were at that time promised to remain undeveloped in perpetuity.

The comment deadline is October 21, and comments should be sent to Katatra.Vasquez@science.doe.gov.

Several issues deserve comment:

1. An addendum to the existing Environmental Assessment is not adequate because the scope has changed radically, from light industrial and office uses to a motorsports park center with many hospitality businesses. This proposed change in use demands a full Environmental Assessment.
2. The analysis of noise issues is inadequate. Only the noise related to track operations is considered. The additive effects of raceway noise and normal ambient noise must be considered.
3. The noise analysis fails to consider the noise levels that would be experienced in nearby neighborhoods during races/practice and if built, during concerts.
4. Recommended mitigations in the Addendum carry no contractual obligation to comply. The mitigations might as well be wishful thinking.
5. The lands in question are wetlands and waterways and the proposed addendum will alter water quality and wildlife habitat.
6. The proposed use of the Horizon Center, including the Natural Areas, will change the desirability of the neighborhoods in the immediate area.
7. A training facility is proposed very near the motorsports park center. It is not mentioned in the Addendum. The proposed training facility and the attendant traffic, effluent, and drainage need to be included in the addendum.

In sum, these impacts are potentially significant; an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be prepared. For a look at the natural areas in question, join us for a tour of the area on October 3. Details in TCWP Section. URLS for the full document, and the original transfer documents are listed in the Resources Section.

2A. Oak Ridge Enhanced Technology and Training Center EA Published and Reviewed

Last month, the Department of Energy issued an Environmental Assessment for "training facilities and equipment to train first responders and other experts who are currently receiving training at Y-12 and other locations across the country." The EA for this facility and the EA for the Motorsports Center Park were released on the same day; the facilities are across the highway from one another; neither EA mentions the other project. This simultaneous release of EA's on neighboring sites with no mention of the other continues a string of piecemeal land transfers that dismantle the Oak Ridge Reservation piece by piece (with a NEPA EA and FONSI for each transfer). The approach prevents a big-picture approach that a much-needed site-wide management plan would provide.

These facilities are for training in hazardous activities including fire suppression. It is likely the training will include use of PFAS chemicals, a family of synthetic chemicals that are extremely persistent in the environment and in our bodies, known as "forever chemicals" according to CNN.

PFAS is short for perfluoroalky and polyfluoroalkyl substances. These are a major emerging environmental issue around the country. DOD fire training activities have contaminated water supplies at almost all DOD facilities, and DOD faces a large financial liability.

The comment deadline on this project was September 21. (A comment extension was granted for the EA Addendum for Horizon Center.) TCWP submitted comments

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2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. Tennessee Valley Authority Leadership News

(Contributed by Russ Manning)

On August 3rd, Donald Trump fired TVA Board Chair Skip Thompson and Board member Richard Howorth over TVA's move to use foreign labor. Both were Trump appointees. This followed a TVA announcement that it would outsource 20% of its technology jobs to contractors who employ foreign workers under the H1-B visa program that enables highly skilled personnel to come and work in the U.S. Apparently, TVA was testing outsourcing technology jobs as a way to get needed expertise in a field with fierce competition for skilled workers. One of the issues may also have been an aging workforce. According

to Government Executive, "Among the federal IT workforce, for every professional under age thirty there are 10 or more over fifty. That ratio is not improving and the imbalance is unsustainable."

Within a few days, new interim TVA Board Chair John Ryder and TVA CEO Jeff Lyash, backtracked and said they would not layoff 200 technology workers. Trump had also criticized the salary paid to Lyash, reportedly $8 million (a combination of salary, signing bonus, and non-equity incentive compensation), saying the TVA Board should appoint a new CEO and pay no more than $500,000.

As quoted in the Associated Press, Senator Lamar Alexander said that while TVA used poor judgment in the shift to foreign workers during the pandemic, "on most counts, it does a very good job of producing large amounts of low-cost, reliable electricity." He also added that he thought the CEO's salary was in line with other large utilities.

As reported in Knox News, CEO Lyash stated, "We were wrong in not fully understanding the impact on our employees, especially during the pandemic. We are taking immediate actions to address this situation. TVA fully understands and supports the Administration's commitment to preserving and growing American jobs." It's unclear whether and how much TVA had planned on also looking at retraining and/or providing "soft landing" for the workers who would be replaced.

As a result of the TVA incident, Trump issued an executive order requiring the heads of agencies to review their hiring practices to evaluate the impact on American workers by the use of noncitizen labor. The EO states, "the Secretaries of Labor and Homeland Security shall take action, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to protect United States workers from any adverse effects on wages and working conditions caused by the employment of H-1B visa holders at job sites (including third-party job sites)…"

Trump threatened to fire other TVA Board members, as well as other federally appointed boards, if they continue to use foreign labor instead of citizens. With this pressure from the White House, the concern is that federal agencies will be limited in their ability to access the best talent if they happen to be from another country even if legally working in the U.S. Although "outsourcing" has negative connotations, it has long been a practice used by federal agencies to access needed expertise as well as reduce overhead—agencies do not have to pay benefits and retirement for contractors as they do for employees. At TVA, the practice dates back to at least the late 1980s under Board Chair Marvin Runyon who slashed the number of employees, laying off thousands.

Critics of the President's action also worry that it reinforces the knee-jerk practice of firing people whenever they don't do what the President wants instead of the more difficult task of working through an issue together to reach a solution.

2B. National Public Lands Day in Tennessee State Parks

September 26 is National Public Lands Day, the nation's largest, single-day volunteer event for public lands. National Public Lands Day was established in 1994 and held annually on the fourth Saturday in September. Tennessee State Parks across the state are hosting recreational and volunteer opportunities to celebrate. Below are a few volunteer opportunities in the East Tennessee area. To find an event close to you, visit https://tnstateparks.com/events

- Cove Lake State Park: 9:00 - 1:00 ET; Installing charcoal grills in the picnic areas.
- Cumber Trail State Park: 11: 00 - 1:00 CT; Volunteer Day at the Head of Sequatchie.
- Fort Loudoun State Park: 9:00 - 12:00 ET; Clean up along the shoreline of Tellico River.
- Frozen Head State Park & Natural Area: 9:00 – 4:00 pm ET; Trail Maintenance.

2C. Sheltowee Trace Association Seeks Volunteers

The Sheltowee Trace Association is looking for volunteers to help build the southern extension of the Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail from Rugby to Burnt Mill Bridge. Their next workday is September 26. Volunteers can register on the Association's website, https://www.sheltoweetrace.org.

The Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail was established by the Daniel Boone National Forest in the summer of 1979. Modeled after the growing popularity of the Appalachian Trail and gave users an opportunity to back the entire length of the Daniel Boone National Forest. The trail has grown to over 333 miles from the northern boundary of the Daniel Boone National Forest in Rowan County, Kentucky to the southern boundary of the Big South Fork NRRA in Scott County, Tennessee.

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3. NEWS FROM THE CUMBERLANDS

3A. Obed/Big South Fork Developments

- Vault toilets are coming to Lily, Jett, Barnett and Nemo.
- Leatherwood Road is under repair.
- Rebuilding is planned for the Blue Heron Overlook gazebo.
- The bridge at the tipple in BSF is getting redocked.
- Acid mine drainage remediation is planned for Laurel Branch area in BSF.
- The septic system at Blue Heron is being replaced.

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https://www.facebook.com/TCWPOR

3B. Tract in North Cumberlands Saved

The Nature Conservancy has long worked in Tennessee, especially on the Cumberland Plateau where they helped with Connecting the Cumberlands and more recently instituted the Cumberland Forest Project. A new purchase is one more step in preserving this important ecological corridor.

On September 1st, The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund co-purchased a 229-acre in-holding within Campbell County's North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. With road frontage on Howard Baker Highway and surrounded by State-owned conservation land, the property was at risk for development. The land will soon be transferred to the State of Tennessee for permanent wildlife habitat protection and public outdoor recreation as part of the WMA.

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4. OTHER NEWS

4A. NEPA Under Attack!

While we're all distracted by the pandemic, assault on black lives, and the coming November election, the Trump Administration continues its assault on the environment. One of the latest is a revision to the National Environmental Policy Act, the bedrock environmental law that requires federal agencies to identify the environmental impacts of proposed federal projects or non-federal projects on public lands.

Within the Executive Office of the President, the Council on Environmental Quality oversees NEPA implementation by issuing guidance and interpreting regulations. The CEQ on July 15th issued a final rule updating its NEPA implementing regulations "to modernize provisions, streamline infrastructure project development, and promote better decision making by the Federal government." The key word here is "streamline," federal jargon that translates as "easier and faster."

Perhaps laughable if it were not so serious, the revised regulations establish time limits and page numbers. Environmental Assessments for activities not likely or unknown to have environmental impacts are to be completed within 1 year and run no more than 75 pages, not counting appendices. Environmental Impact Studies for projects that are likely to have impacts are to be completed within 2 years and run no more than 150 pages or, for especially complex projects, 300 pages. However, a senior official of the lead agency can approve a greater page count or longer period.

The time limits are not just to research and write the EA or EIS, but for the entire process from the Notice of Intent to the Record of Decision signed. Since an agency will be hard pressed to just conduct the review within the time limits, there will be little time for public comment.

In addition, the CEQ encourages the use of Categorical Exclusions, which define types of activities that do not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore do not require either an EA or EIS. If a project is judged to be similar to an excluded type of activity, then no study of environmental impacts is conducted.

Perhaps most egregious is the statement "agencies may structure their procedures to include an appropriate bond or other security requirement or other conditions as part of their administrative processes, including administrative appeals, and a prerequisite to staying their decision." So if a group wants to sue over an inadequate environmental review, they may have to post a substantial bond for any delay that may ensue. Obviously, this is meant to discourage indigenous groups and local communities, especially poor neighborhoods, who may have difficulty raising the money for such a bond in order to have a voice in the siting of pipelines, power plants, and highways. Because of NEPA requirements, Native Americans finally got the Dakota Access Pipeline shut down. Imagine if they had been required to post a bond for any delay in the flow of oil before they could go to court to make their case.

Tellingly, the following words show a shift toward meeting the applicant's needs rather than impartially examining the environmental impact: "CEQ proposed to clarify that a reasonable alternative must also consider the goals of the applicant when the agency's action involves a non-Federal entity." This drove a revised definition for Reasonable alternatives that an EA or EIS should identify—"a reasonable range of alternatives that are technically and economically feasible, meet the purpose and need for the proposed action, and, where applicable, meet the goals of the applicant." The goal of a non-federal applicant may well be to make as much money as they can on a project.

And climate change? "Trends determined to be a consequence of climate change would be characterized in the baseline analysis of the affected environment rather than as an effect of the action." In other words, you can talk about the project taking place in a changing climate but not that the project, like a pipeline, will contribute to the change; that would be "speculative."

"In short," says the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, "the revised NEPA regulations are designed to allow federal agencies such as the BLM to push through more projects, faster, and with less analysis and public scrutiny."

As reported in HuffPost, Jamie Williams, president of The Wilderness Society, said in a statement, "These watered-down rules would turn the whole purpose of the law on its head, giving a greater voice to the worst-polluting industries while shutting out the communities with the most to lose and fewest resources to defend themselves against pollution and other harms."

The new regulations will take effect September 14, 2020. However, the change is subject to Congressional Review, as if Congress doesn't have enough to worry about right now. A request to Rep. Tim Burchett's office to let us know if Congress intends to review the regulation change went unanswered. Also, two lawsuits have been filed to stop the changes, one by a coalition of environmental organizations and a second by 21 state attorneys general. At

this writing, it's uncertain if the lawsuits or Congress may act to delay implementation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
Ask Senators Alexander (www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Email) and Blackburn (www.blackburn.senate.gov/email-me) and your representative to delay implementation of the NEPA revisions until a Congressional Review is conducted.

4B. Victory: LWCF Permanently Funded

(Contributed by Russ Manning)

Included in the Great American Outdoors Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is now permanently funded at $900 million per year beginning in 2021. Until now, LWCF funding depended on the federal budget each year and rarely received adequate funding toward purchase of land and water for the protection of our natural resources.

As reported in the July 14, 2020 NL No. 352, the U.S. Senate passed the GAOA on June 17th. The U.S. House of Representatives has now followed suit by passing the Act on July 22nd. The GAOA also includes the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund that will be funded by 50 percent of all revenues from energy development on Federal land and water in the preceding fiscal year. Over for the next five years, billions of dollars will flow into the fund for restoration of our national parks and forests, helping to work off the enormous backlog of needed maintenance.

In a 180-degree about-face, Trump signed the bill into law on August 4th, giving credit to Republicans despite the work of Democrats over many years to fully fund the LWCF and provide for maintenance of our national parks. According to the Associated Press, no Democrats attended the signing ceremony in which Trump stumbled over the pronunciation of "Yosemite" and blamed the maintenance backlog on the previous administration, despite the fact that the backlog has accumulated over many decades, including through Republican administrations.

Trump had earlier threatened to drastically cut spending for the LWCF but reversed his position in this election year to help vulnerable Republicans up for reelection, especially Sens. Cory Gardner of Colorado and Steve Daines of Montana. Both senators are considered vulnerable in their state where outdoor recreation plays a big role in the economy. Senator Gardner introduced the bill in the Senate along with Democrat Joe Manchin of West Virginia. Representative John Lewis originally introduced the bill in the House in March 2019.

Politics aside, this is a big win for the conservation community. Jamie Williams, President of The Wilderness Society, says, "This incredible victory comes after years of bipartisan support and tireless leadership from long-term and recent champions in both the House and Senate, and reminds us that conservation of our shared outdoor spaces is something we can all come together on."

The entire Tennessee House delegation, as well as Senator Lamar Alexander voted for the bill. Senator Marsha Blackburn voted no. –RM

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
Thank Senator Alexander (www.alexander.senate.gov/public/) and your representative (https://lastname.house.gov/contact) for voting in favor of the Great American Outdoor Act. If you want to bother, tell Senator Blackburn (www.blackburn.senate.gov/public/) she voted wrong once again.

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5. TCWP NEWS

5A. Upcoming Activities

<u>TCWP's Guidelines for Activities during the COVID-19 Pandemic</u>

In an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, TCWP will be conducting its activities following CDC guidelines:

- We ask that you not participate if you are sick or were recently exposed to someone who is.
- We will practice social distancing, maintaining at least 6 feet of separation between participants. This will limit the amount of interpretation that can be done.
- We will organize activities into groups of 10 or fewer.
- We recommend that you bring a mask and wear it when around others.
- We recommend that you bring hand sanitizer or other ways to wash your hands.
- We recommend that everyone bring their own water, lunch, snacks, and sunscreen.
- We recommend caravanning to activities instead of carpooling.
- Keep in mind that restrooms may be unavailable at activity locations.
- Activities are subject to change or cancelation 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.]***

Support TCWP by donating, joining, or renewing your membership at http://www.tcwp.org

Horizon Center Natural Areas Interpretive Hike: Saturday October 3, 2020

Back in August DOE issued a Public Notice announcing the availability of an Environmental Assessment Addendum for Horizon Center. The EA-Addendum proposes to remove site protections from approximately 58 acres of the Horizon Center Exclusion Areas so they can be developed for a proposed motor speedway at Horizon Center. The affected areas have been protected as natural areas since 1996 when DOE first proposed leasing, and then transferring the Horizon Center property to CROET. The three exclusion areas include approximately 11 acres of Beech-Maple Forest (the only forest of its type on the Oak Ridge Reservation), approximately 23 acres between development areas 5 and 6, and approximately 24 acres between development areas 6 and 7. The comment period for public comments on the proposed land use changes ends on October 21.

To help members of the public better understand the importance of these three parts of the Horizon Center natural area, TCWP will host a hike to explore and get familiar with these three areas. The trip leaders include people thoroughly familiar with these areas and their ecological significance. The hike will cover approximately 3 miles of moderately difficult terrain. Part of the hike will include a portion of the East Fork Road section of the North Boundary Greenway but much of it will require walking cross country in somewhat overgrown vegetation. Participants should wear long pants, sturdy footwear, and bring tick repellant and plenty of water and snacks or lunch.

We will meet at 9 AM at the parking lot in front of Gold's Gym and caravan to the starting point at the southwestern end of Renovare Boulevard at Horizon Center. The hike will begin at 9:30 AM and end around noon. Depending on the number of people who participate we will break up into groups of 10 or less and practice safe-distancing and other measures for COVID-a9 protection. All participants are required to wear masks to prevent exposure to others. For more information please contact trip coordinator Jimmy Groton at 865-805-9908 or groton87@comcast.net

Pellissippi/Three Bends Blueway: Freels Bend section paddle and trash pickup trip. Saturday October 10 9:00 am - 12

Meet at Clark Center Park boat ramp area and either bring or rent canoe or kayak from Adventures Outdoors at 9:00 am. Paddle across to islands and inlets and upstream a ways to Freels Bend Cabin and back. Pick up trash along the way (put in a couple of canoes) Enjoy birds, shoreline wildflowers and scenery. Wear swimming attire just in case.... Wear sunscreen and sun protection. Life preservers required for all participants.

For those interested in renting a watercraft please reserve through Www.Adventuresoutdoors.com. Rental canoes cost $39 for 3 hours

And Kayaks $34. A boat trailer will be available to transport rented watercraft to Clark Center Park. Please complete rental arrangements by 8:30.

Please register for the trip with Sandra Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or 865-805-1470 or Tim Bigelow at (865) 607-6781 or via email at Bigelowt2@mindspring.com.

Pre-registration by Thursday October 8 is requested.

This activity will be conducted to protect participants from the COVID-19 virus. This event may have to be reconsidered.

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 17

Due to COVID-19 concerns, this year's annual meeting will be an electronic meeting, with Bobby Wilson, the new director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, as our keynote speaker. Following his remarks, a business meeting will be held, including the election of 2021 TCWP board members and officers. The meeting will be available on Facebook, Zoom or telephone.

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

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

The Oak Ridge Cedar Barren will again be the site of exotic invasive plant removal as we conduct our fall cleanup, our third and final cleanup of the year. Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, the Barren is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. The area is one of just a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee, and is subject to invasion by bushy lespedeza, leatherleaf viburnum, privet, autumn olive, mimosa, Nepal grass, multiflora rose, and woody plants that threaten the system's prairie grasses. Our efforts help to eliminate invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sunlight.

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

This activity will be conducted to protect participants from the COVID-19 virus. Please wear masks to the start of the event and during group mingling and try to maintain a six-foot distance from others whenever possible. This event may have to be reconsidered based on conditions at the time.

Norris Watershed Hike – Saturday, November 14

(Contributed by Joe Freeman)

This year's hike will explore the eastern part of the Norris Watershed on primarily woods roads that are not open to vehicles. We will meet in front of Norris Middle School (across from the library near the pavilion) at 9:00 and then caravan to the trailhead along Upper Clear Creek Road. The first leg will be on Arnie's Trail to Benny's Trail and then up to Boundary Trail, which we will follow along the contour to Forester's Trail. We will hike down to Belmont Trail and take it up and over the ridge back to Benny's Trail and then up to Arnie's Trail and to the start. The hike will go through a variety of forest situations including old

reverted fields, mixed meso-photic forest, and small patches of white pine. We will also see the development of forest over time on several areas that were clearcut some 45-50 years ago and one that was cut in 2014. The hike will cover about 4 miles and is rated easy to moderate (see Norris Watershed Trail map at: http://www.cityofnorris.com/id336.html.

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

Pellissippi Blueway: Oak Ridge Marina Section Paddle Trip/Trash Pickup – Saturday, July 25

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow and Ken Mayes)

On a wonderful July morning, about 17 paddlers in kayaks and three canoes came out to explore the up-per Pellissippi Blueway and also do a bit of shore-line cleanup. After launching the watercraft while maintaining social distancing, the group paddled across from the Oak Ridge Marina area to the scenic side and explored a few of the inlets off the main channel. Some patches of swamp mallow were blooming, along with a few daylilies. Several water birds were seen, including a white egret. Feathers were seen floating on the water near a rookery island.

The cleanup effort involved bottles, cans, Styrofoam, and 12 tires! The group brought back about 15 large bags of trash, along with several large items including a duck house that will be repaired or rebuilt and re-hung. The tires were loaded into canoes and several were brought back on the front of kayaks, then taken to be recycled.

UT Arboretum Weed Wrangle – Saturday, August 22

(Contributed by Michelle Campanis, UT Arboretum Education Coordinator)

Volunteers from TCWP, TN-IPC, and the UT Arboretum Society joined forces on Saturday, August 22, at the UT Arboretum to remove invasive plants in a social distanced group effort. Even the weather co-operated, providing milder-than-usual August temperatures for the 13 volunteer workers.

The goal of the effort was to cut and pull invasive plants in a field near the UT Arboretum Auditorium as the first step in preparing the area for construction of a meadow demonstration garden. The group focused on cutting and pulling autumn olive, Oriental bittersweet, Tree-of-Heaven (ailanthus), and privet. The invasive plant material was left onsite to dry, to provide fuel for a controlled burn later in the fall. Everyone agreed the amount of invasive plant mate-rial in the area was daunting, but the group effort from 9a.m. – noon made a significant impact. The staff at the UT Arboretum will make further efforts on the site as well in the coming weeks, and the con-trolled burn will follow in the fall.

It was very encouraging in the time of COVID-19 to have an opportunity to be able to meet new people and work together on a joint project in a safe environment outside. The UT Arboretum very much appreciates the support and expertise from members of TCWP and the TN-IPC. Pictures from the event will be posted on the Facebook pages of TCWP and the UT Arboretum.

Summer Cedar Barren Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® – Saturday, August 29

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

Eight folks gathered at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren August 29 to eradicate invasive pest plants. Of particular interest on this day was bicolor lespedeza. All flowering bicolor lespedeza was cut and bagged.

Many prairie grasses and fall flowers were in full bloom, and the tall blazing stars were nearly ready to bloom.

The Oak Ridge Cedar Barren is a lovely oasis, adjacent to Jefferson Junior High, with a short level trail through grasses as well as trees. The city-maintained fence on the road front has recently been rebuilt, adding a nice visual note.

Crab Orchard Mountain Powerline Fall Flowers – Saturday, September 5

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

It worked. We had a lovely event despite COVID 19 on September 5. We had great weather and flowers. There were lots of people, 25, but because of masking and distancing it felt quite safe. We also divided into three groups to decrease the chance of disease spread. Without carpooling the parking was tricky but doable.

The yellow members of the aster family gave us theme and variation. There were sunflowers, rosinweeds, golden-asters (2 species), sneezeweeds, goldenrods (5 species) and beggar-ticks with the brightest patches of yellow. Purple was provided by late aster, creeping aster, downy lobelia and southern blazing star.

All of this and many more types of flowers formed a natural garden under the TVA power lines. It is important that conservationists work with TVA to protect these prairie-like habitats. In this case the right-of-way land is protected by the state as a natural area. It is home to rare plants.

This event was sponsored by TNPS, TCWP and TennGreen. Besides the beauty of the plants we were celebrating TennGreen's success in buying most of Crab Orchard Mountain including some of the area that we walked through. This will mean that Cumberland Trail through hikers will not need to walk many miles along a road to get to Ozone Falls.

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.

5C. Friends and Members in the News

The May 20 Oak Ridger featured a picture of Jean Bangham, Jan Lyons and Dan Robbins in an article about Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning (ORICL).

Peter Thornton was pictured in a May 29 Oak Ridger story about his presentation to Friends of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Chet Hunt authored a column in the July 6 News Sentinel about campaign finance.

Anne Child's letter to the July 22 News Sentinel editor was about vaccines.

Axel Ringe and John Todd Waterman are pictured in the August 3 Oak Ridger with an article about TVA Bull Run Steam Plant.

The August 19 Knox News included a letter to the editor about sales tax holidays from Willa Reister.

John Noel and Melinda Welton were mentioned in the September 7 New York Times essay about purple martins in downtown Nashville.

5D. Salute to Jess Worthington

(By Jimmy Groton)

We were saddened to learn that Jess Worthington passed away earlier this month. Jess was a direct descendant of the Worthington family, who settled in the Oak Ridge area over 200 years ago. Worthington Cemetery, near Elza Gate, bears his family's name. For many years Ann Hewitt Worthington, Jess' wife, has shared the Worthington family history with us at our National Public Lands Day celebrations on the fourth Saturday of September. Jess often accompanied Ann to these celebrations and helped with her always interesting history and interpretation of the Worthingtons and their lives. Our hearts go out to Ann and family at this difficult time. We will miss seeing Jess and his sweet smile as he listened to Ann bring his family's story to life.

5D. Seeking Mechanically Minded Volunteers—Can You Help?

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

Several years ago, former Board member and well-known botany professor Ed Clebsch donated a DR Field and Brush Mower to TCWP. The mower is like a mini bush hog and we would like to get it running again. It would be especially useful for late fall/early winter mowing at the Oak Ridge Barrens State Natural Area adjacent to Jefferson Middle School. We are looking for a helper or helpers who can help us get in back in operation again. Please contact Barrens Coordinator Tim Bigelow or Jimmy Groton if you would like to help.

6. RESOURCES

Info about native landscaping in Tennessee.
https://www.tnipc.org/landscaping/

Environmental Assessment Addendum for Horizon Center:
https://doeic.science.energy.gov/uploads/A.0100.037.2683.pdf

Original Horizon Center Transfer Documents:
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ADDENDUM FOR THE PROPOSED TITLE TRANSFER OF PARCEL ED-1 (April 2003)
https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/nepapub/nepa_documents/RedDont/EA-1113-FEA-2003.pdf

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT PROPOSED TITLE TRANSFER OF PARCEL ED-1 (April 2003)
https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/nepapub/nepa_documents/RedDont/EA-1113A-FONSI-2003.pdf

Clarification: The last issue, TCWP Newsletter 252, should have read that Chuck Coutant created the Haw Ridge Canoe Trail. We regret the error.

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
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Sign-up for e-mail alerts on our website at http://www.tcwp.org

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING
NOMINEES for OFFICERS and DIRECTORS for 2021

OFFICERS

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

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

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

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

DIRECTORS:

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

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

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

Jimmy Groton - Works on environmental issues (wetlands, threatened and endangered species management and exotic species control) with a Knoxville environmental consulting firm. Worked for National Park Service for six years. Has M.S. in forestry; B.S. in natural resources. TCWP Board member since 1993; President 1999-2002, 2006-2014; currently President of Emory River Watershed Association and board member of Tennessee Invasive Plant Council; served on O.R. EQAB for 18 years. Active on trails, water, program, Obed, and Cherokee National Forest issues. Enjoys hiking, paddling, and being outdoors.

Melanie Mayes - Senior Staff Scientist and Team Leader with the Environmental Sciences Division and the Climate Change Science Institute of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, has a background in geology and contaminant hydrogeology. She designs experiments to build better models of natural processes and is interested in diverse research at the intersection of water, minerals, solute chemistry, and biological cycling. She is an avid hiker, frequent baker, and Chair of WaysSouth.

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

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

2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Don Barger, Virginia Dale and Jimmy Groton.

TCWP ANNUAL MEETING

Free

on Zoom,
Facebook Live,
or Telephone

GUEST SPEAKER
BOBBY WILSON

TWRA Executive Director

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
Taking Care of Wild Places

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 @ 10:00 AM

To join us on Zoom or by phone, register at tcwp.org or call 865-583-3967

TCWP Newsletter 353 September 2020

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

P.O. Box 6873
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37831

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.tcwp.org
865-583-3967

Taking Care of Wild Places

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Johnny Cosgrove.....Director
Jimmy Groton..... Director
Melanie Mayes.....Director
Larry Pounds.....Director
Hannah Tippett .....Director
Warren Webb.....Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3 – Horizon Center Natural Area Interpretive Hike
October 10 – Pellissippi/Three Bends Blueway: Freels Bend section paddle and trash pick-up trip
October 17 – TCWP Annual Meeting
November 7 – Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup Weed Wrangle®
November 14 – Norris Watershed Hike

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