



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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May 19, 2019

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Taking Care of Wild Places

The BIG stories

Threat to wilderness of Rocky Fork State Park ... ¶1A

Move to privatize some BSF lands in KY? ¶2A

TDEC high positions are filled ¶3A

Though reauthorized, LWCF is not funded ¶5A

Proposal to alter character of Oak Ridge's valued greenbelts ¶7

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

11. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1	Rocky Fork SP wilderness	TCWP website (tcwp.org)	Be on frequent lookout for Action Calls
7	Oak Ridge Greenbelts	City Council, City staff, Sandra	Comment on allowing mountain bikes into greenbelts
9	Archiving TCWP Newsletters	Sandra Goss	Volunteer to help with this effort

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

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

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

WHAT IS TCWP?

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

TCWP: P.O. Box 6873., Oak Ridge, TN 37831 Executive and Membership-Development Director: Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967. Sandra@sandrakgoss.com Newsletter editor: Lee Russell, lianerussell@comcast.net	President: Mark Bevelhimer TCWP website: http://www.tcwp.org
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1. THREAT TO ROCKY FORK STATE PARK'S WILDERNESS – ITS GREATEST VALUE

[Contributed by Johnny Cosgrove]

In 2008, the 10,000-acre Rocky Fork Tract was acquired with \$40 million from The Conservation Fund and the USFS to save this unique, wild mountain area from developers. The tract was added to the Cherokee National Forest, with 2,000 acres becoming the Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park (RFSP) in Unicoi County. RFSP is, and should remain, Tennessee wildest state park.

Unfortunately, without developing a master plan or management plan, and ignoring hundreds of public comments, TDEC in 2018 announced intentions for extensive development of the area, including a massive and destructive road up Flint Mountain.

In April, TCWP joined with Defenders of Wildlife and 12 other regional and national conservation groups to draft and submit a letter to the new Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner, David Salyers, expressing our concerns with TDEC's proposed development plans in Rocky Fork and asking Commissioner Salyers for a face-to-face meeting to discuss the matter further. TCWP Director, Sandra Goss, delivered the Rocky Fork sign-on letter to Mr. Salyers on April 16. At this time, we are awaiting a response from the Commissioner.

In spite of the fact that TDEC is officially still waiting for the permits required to begin building a road through Rocky Fork, and that road opponents were led to believe there would be additional discussion and public input, an engineering firm went to work on site on May 6, to "start clearing the road right-of-way". The firm has been awarded a \$300,000 contract to perform a geotechnical surveying in areas where road structures (like 750 feet of retaining walls up to 27 feet high, holding back fill dirt up to 30 feet deep) would be located to determine if the designs are compatible with soils and geology present. This work will require clearing trees and some dozer work to get a large drilling rig along the path of the road to drill core samples.

Four days ago, reports were received that road-related activities had been put "on hold." It is not clear for how long or on whose authority. Because the situation is unclear, and because irreparable damage could potentially be inflicted in a very short period, we must keep our guard up. That means keeping informed (see action call, below).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The TCWP website, will attempt to stay informed of the changing situation at Rocky Fork State Park. We urge you to check it frequently (tcwp.org/tools for action).

2. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

2A. *Will Kentucky try to privatize some Big South Fork NRR lands?*

On April 25, U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), chairman of the Senate Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management (FSO) Subcommittee, held an FSO hearing at Stearns, KY. About 70 members of the public, including TCWP's Sandra Goss and NPCA's Don Barger, were allowed to observe, but not to speak. Niki Nicholas, BSFNRR/Obed WSR Superintendent, was invited and then uninvited. Speakers included McCreary County officials, business owners, other community representatives, and two federal official -- the Regional Forester (Ken Arney) and the Regional Director of the National Park Service (Vogel).

The local theme was the county's poverty (it was once named the poorest county in America) and lack of economic opportunity that were allegedly related to federal ownership of land (83% of the county is public land). Speakers complained that many young Kentuckians had to leave the area to make a living, and that there were problems with lower quality of air and water, maintenance of certain lands and attractions, and easy access to and enjoyment of privately owned land.

The big federal areas in the county are the BSFNRR and the Daniel Boone National Forest. Some of the specific complaints were that a KY lodge mentioned in the early BSF planning stages never happened, and that there was lack of road access in the park. Some of the speakers wanted to have more multi-use trail, allowing ATV and horse use, as well as more timber sales. A Cracker Barrel was frequently mentioned as an amenity that could be recruited for McCreary County if some public land could be made available.

The senator said he was hopeful the hearing would result in a "positive outcome not only for [McCreary County] but for others wrestling with such issues with the federal government." This hearing was very likely a political maneuver toward creating a way to force the sale of federal properties in Kentucky.

2B. *Obed WSR again conducts the "National Park in Your Backyard" program*

This year again, the Obed WSR is bringing every Morgan County sixth grader to experience their park in May. These students get the opportunity to go rock climbing, to experience water recreation, and to learn about the geology and water-quality indicators in the river system. Volunteers have helped the rangers with a number of tasks, such as providing safety on the river and on the cliffs, and assisting with photography. It is, unfortunately too late to volunteer for this year (last date, May 22), but you might think about 2020.

2C. Study of bear populations in the greater Big South Fork area

A group of state and federal agencies, including TWRA, UT, NPS, and USFS, will begin data collection this summer for a population estimate of black bears inhabiting the greater Big South Fork area. A number of properties have been identified as potential “collection sites,” and the owners have been asked to grant permission for the multi-agency study.

The sites consist of two strands of barbed wire wrapped around 3-5 trees in a roughly 20x20 ft. enclosure. When a bear enters the enclosure to investigate, the barbed wire will snag hair as the animal brushes against the barbs. The DNA from these hairs will be used to identify individual bears.

The project covers roughly 4.7 million acres on the Cumberland Plateau across a variety of habitats on public and private lands.

2D. Obed capsules

- Obed’s great Volunteer Coordinator, Veronica Greear, has moved to Norris Dam State Park. Her position is being filled by Joe Zagorski (joseph.zagorski@nps.gov), who is receiving valuable assistance from Community Volunteer Ambassador (CVA), Morgan Geeslin.
- Over 160 bird species have been documented at Obed WSR. Spring is an excellent time to observe Neotropical migrants, along with year-round residents.
- Two sunflower species were recently added to Obed’s plant list: Eggert’s sunflower (*Helianthus eggertii*) and hairy sunflower (*Helianthus hirsutus*).

3. TENNESSEE NEWS

3A. Two new leadership positions filled at TDEC

(a) Jim Bryson becomes Deputy Commissioner of Parks and Conservation.

Jim Bryson graduated from Baylor University, and subsequently received a master’s degree from Vanderbilt University. He is founder and president of *20/20 Research Inc.*, a market research consulting, project management, and technology firm launched in 1986. In 2002, he was elected GOP state senator from Williamson and Davidson counties. Four years later, he lost the governor’s race to Phil Bredesen.

(b) Joe Carr appointed Assistant Commissioner for administrative services

Former State Representative Joe Carr (Tea Party GOP, 2008-2014) has become TDEC Assistant Commissioner for *administrative services*, a position unlikely to have much influence on TDEC policy. Carr unsuccessfully challenged Sen. Lamar Alexander in the US Senate primary race of 2014, then lost the 6th District

Congressional race in 2016 to incumbent U.S. Rep. Diane Black, and, finally, lost the GOP primary for a State House seat in 2018. Carr’s experience in engineering and business, rather than any endorsement he gave to Bill Lee, is the basis for the TDEC appointment.

TDoT, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, with which we occasionally interact (see, e.g., ¶1, this NL) is headed by Clay Bright, formerly vice president of a large general contracting company in Nashville.

3B. The legislature has adjourned

In the next NL, we hope to bring you a brief summary of some of the General Assembly’s action. Here only this: Senate Joint Resolution, SR19 (McNally) expressed disagreement with TVA’s decision to retire Bull Run Fossil Plant. A resolution is not a law; it is simply an expression of opinion.

3C. Fall Creek Falls SP lands protected

TennGreen (Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation) has assisted TDEC in acquiring critical forested lands on the northwest side of Fall Creek Falls State Park. The two properties, totaling 27 acres, are located near the meeting point of Camps Gulf Branch and Cane Creek.

3D. TWRA collaborates in efforts to save endangered bats

[Information from the
Manchester Times, 5/1/19]

Afflicted by White Nose Syndrome, a fatal fungal disease, the Indiana Bat has been a federally listed endangered species since 1973. For years, there have been efforts by the Tennessee Nature Conservancy and the state to protect the winter habitat of bats by installing cave gates to limit disturbance during their hibernation.

Now, protection efforts have begun to extend to the summer habitat. When female bats leave the hibernation cave, they migrate to an area where they establish a maternity colony. To locate and identify such areas in increasing detail, researchers from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), in collaboration with the Tennessee Nature Conservancy (TNC) are temporarily installing tiny radio transmitters on female bats, and tracking the signal, first by planes and eventually by hand-held receivers handled by ground crews. Usually the bats are found in agricultural areas right on the edge of fields. They particularly like dead trees on which the bark is sluffing off, creating a space that they can crawl up into.

TWRA then works with landowners to keep such dead trees from being removed, to protect areas where these trees are found, and possibly enhance the area with artificial habitat that will provide summer habitat for a longer period of time.

4. SMOKIES

4A. Foothills Parkway: fate of ROWs

[Information from the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks]

GSMNPark and government leaders are trying to come up with ways to use the land that was bought for portions of the Foothills Parkway that may never be built. The original plan for the Parkway, approved in the 1940s, was for a continuous 72-mile scenic route along the northern boundary of the park. The government acquired the right-of-way for the entire parkway.

With the recent completion of the longtime "missing link" there are now 34 miles finished from U.S. 129 to Wears Valley. Additionally, a 5.6-mile section of the parkway is completed on the eastern end from I-40 to Cosby. That leaves about 33 miles that will likely never be built, so discussions are under way about possible use of the right-of-way for trails and/or other recreational facilities that would not prevent completion of the parkway should the federal government decide to fund the remaining Parkway construction in the distant future. Any proposal would probably require an environmental assessment and public hearings.

4B. First female Chief Ranger at Smokies is Tennessean

[Information from Senator Lamar Alexander's 3/16/19 Newsletter]

Tennessee native Lisa Hendy has become the first female chief ranger at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Prior to her latest assignment as chief ranger at Big Bend National Park in Texas, she worked in five other major national parks in a variety of positions.

Hendy, who has a master's degree from Utah State University (biomechanics and exercise physiology), succeeds Steve Kloster, who is retiring after 35 years of service. She enjoys kayaking, climbing, hiking, and canyoneering.

the plan is to rely on the estimated \$113 million available from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act revenues collected from oil and gas leasing in the Gulf of Mexico. By law, however, this GOMESA funding is *supplemental* to LWCF state grant funds and is not intended to supplant the LWCF grants.

5B. Trump budget slashes

National Park Service funding

[Information from NPCA]

The president's proposed FY 2020 budget calls for a total cut of \$481 million to the NPS budget, including a \$77 million cut to NPS's already inadequate operating budget. In addition to resulting in the loss of *hundreds* of park staff, the cuts would jeopardize "the protection, maintenance, and operation" of NPS areas nationwide. Even now, our parks face nearly \$12 billion in badly needed repairs.

5C. Still no permanent director for Park Service

On April 12th, Acting NPS Director Dan Smith announced that David Vela had been appointed to Acting Deputy Director of Operations. Vela, who was then serving as Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park, had at one time served as the Southeast Regional Director for the National Park Service, and has been superintendent of numerous NPS units.

Dan Smith will continue to exercise the authority of the Director.

5D. Bernhardt, new USDI Secretary, under investigation

David Bernhardt, former oil and gas lobbyist, was confirmed by the Senate on April 11 to lead the Interior Department, an agency that controls nearly half a billion acres of public land and the vast amount of oil and gas mineral resources resting beneath it. Bernhardt had been *acting* secretary since Sec. Ryan Zinke resigned amid numerous investigations into his behavior and management of USDI.

Within days after Bernhardt's confirmation, it was revealed that USDI's investigators had begun looking into allegations that he had conflicts of interest. Seven separate ethics allegations have been leveled against Bernhardt, centered on charges that Bernhardt was violating ethics standards by involving himself in Interior Department deliberations with his former lobbying clients, including a politically influential California water agency.

5. PUBLIC LANDS

5A. LWCF is reauthorized but not funded

[Information from *The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks*]

The day before S.47 became the law that includes permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (NL344 ¶5A), the Trump Administration had submitted its proposed FY 2020 budget, which virtually eliminates the program.

The Trump FY 2020 budget contains a mere \$6 million for the LWCF, almost all of it for American Battlefield Protection (yet just half of what this program currently receives). The total \$6 million is a drastic cut from this fiscal year's already low \$168.4 million. There is NO funding for federal land acquisition or for inholdings, donations, and exchanges (currently \$39.3 million), and NO funding for state conservation grants (currently \$113 million). Concerning the latter,

6. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

6A. House committee passes

ANWR-protection bill

[Information from Alaska Wilderness League]

The tax bill signed by Pres. Trump in December 2017 included a provision that lifts the decades-old ban on oil drill-

ing in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Not long after passage of the tax bill, USDI began fast-tracking processes that would lead to lease sale. The newly Democratic House is now attempting a push-back.

On May 1, the House Natural Resources Committee passed the bipartisan Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act, with a final tally of 22 in favor and 14 opposed, to halt the administration’s rush to drill in the Arctic Refuge. The bill still needs to pass the full House as well as the Senate.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: To receive information about the as-yet unscheduled public meeting, or to comment on the CVTA proposal please write to, or call, Jon Hetrick, Oak Ridge Parks and Recreation Director (jhetrick@oakridgetn.gov or 865-425-3450), members of the Oak Ridge City Council (CityCouncil@oakridgetn.gov), AND TCWP executive director, Sandra Goss (sandra@sandrak-goss.com)

6B. Offshore drilling plans suspended -- temporarily

[Information from Sierra Club]

In April, a federal judge in Alaska upheld President Obama’s drilling ban for the Arctic Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean (from Virginia to Maine). A month later, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt announced that USDOJ is suspending its offshore drilling plan. Bernhardt’s stated reason is that the case is likely to go through lengthy appeals before USDI can make a final decision on what offshore areas to open up for the oil and gas industry,

Undoubtedly, with the upcoming 2020 elections around the corner, the politics around this unpopular plan in Florida and North Carolina are also playing a role in the decision.

7. OAK RIDGERS, PLEASE READ!

Colin Colverson of the Clinch Valley Trail Alliance (CVTA) met with the TCWP Board last week to explain CVTA’s proposal for a network of multi-use (including mountain bike) trails on a 50-acre Greenbelt area in east Oak Ridge. In response to some concerns about the heavily trafficked access corner and lack of parking, Colverson indicated that CVTA doesn’t expect high usage for the trails, most of it from nearby residents. For more information about CVTA’s proposed trail, visit www.clinchvalleytrailalliance.org.

The CVTA proposal should be of interest not merely to the neighborhood but to all Oak Ridge residents. It concerns the entire character of Oak Ridge as a city. From the outset, our greenbelts were wisely set aside as enclaves of uninvaded nature among our dwellings. They are an asset of nearly unparalleled value. Citizens don’t have to own large estates, or don’t have to drive great (and ever-growing) distances to enjoy uninvaded nature and wildlife.

This objective is enshrined in the City’s greenbelt ordinance, which defines a greenbelt as “publicly held property to be preserved, as nearly as practicable, in its natural state.” The ordinance permits walking trails only (no machines). In its >50-year history, TCWP has several times fought for this objective — successfully. One purpose of developing the simple North Ridge Trail was to acquaint people with (and make them defend) the value of greenbelts.

TCWP is offering to help with a public informational and comment meeting so all Oak Ridge residents can share their thoughts.

8. CLIMATE-CHANGE CAPSULES

- Climate change has exposed the national parks to conditions hotter and drier than the country as a whole. This occurs because extensive parts of the parks are in extreme environments – the Arctic, high mountains, and the arid southwestern United States.
- Wind turbines, a good source of clean energy, can be a threat to flying bats. Recently, a wind-energy facility in Texas announced that an ultrasonic acoustic bat-deterrent system reduced fatalities for the hoary bat by 78% and for the Brazilian free-tailed bat by 54%.
- The Climate Action Now Act, HR 9, introduced in the House of Representatives in April, would require that the federal government develop a plan to meet the climate pollution reduction targets set out in the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.
- The world’s forests continue to disappear at an alarming rate, threatening a crucial ‘natural solution’ for controlling climate change on an urgently short timescale. “Last year, the planet saw its fourth-highest level of tropical tree loss since the early 2000s — about 30 million acres. (From *Inside Climate News*).
- Sea creatures, especially those that live in shallower water near the coasts, are much more susceptible to population losses due to global warming than are land animals. Local populations of marine animals are disappearing at double the rate of land-based species, because marine animals like fish, crabs and lobster are already more likely to be living near the threshold of life-threatening temperatures, and because there are fewer places to hide from extreme heat in the ocean, particularly in its shallower areas. (From *Inside Climate News*).

9. TCWP NEWS

9A. Upcoming activities

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

National Trails Day event on North Ridge Trail features Pizza Party - Saturday, June 1

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

Fans and maintainers of the North Ridge Trail in Oak Ridge are invited to a Pizza Party on June 1 to celebrate National

Trails Day at noon at the home of NRT Steward Ray Garrett. Maintainers are encouraged to check their sections and be at Ray's at noon. Fans who want to hike on the North Ridge Trail that day or to join the pizza party should contact Sandra K. Goss, 865.583-3967 or sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

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

(Contributed by Michelle Campanis,
UT Arboretum Society)

Microplastics have been a topic in recent news. Dr. Martin Knoll, a professor of geology and hydrology at The University of the South in Sewanee, will explain why microplastics are an issue and will present his findings on the water quality of the Tennessee River in a 7 p.m. program at the UT Arboretum Auditorium, cosponsored by TCWP and the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society.

As project manager for TenneSwim in 2016, Dr. Knoll directed the most detailed analysis of Tennessee River water quality ever conducted. During this project, he and his colleagues found the highest levels of microplastics recorded to date in any river of the world.

Dr. Knoll, who holds an MS degree in geology from Vanderbilt University and a PhD in geology from the University of Texas-El Paso, has been teaching geology and hydrology at The University of the South since 1993. His main research interests include storm-water issues on the Cumberland Plateau, dynamics and water quality issues of groundwater on the Cumberland Plateau, microplastics in freshwater environments, and insect inclusions in Baltic amber.

Information Program: Southeastern Grasslands Preservation – Thursday, June 13

(Contributed by Michelle Campanis,
UT Arboretum Society)

Research has shown that the southeast historically had large areas of prairie and grasslands that was home to a diverse community of plants and wildlife. On June 13 Dwayne Estes, known in the ecology community as “the prairie preacher,” will present “The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative: Charting a New Course for Conservation in the 21st Century” at 7 p.m. at the UT Arboretum Auditorium. The program is cosponsored by TCWP and the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society.

Estes is executive director for the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative (SGI). At Austin Peay State University, he also serves as professor of biology and director of the APSU Herbarium, a plant museum with more than 130,000 specimens. For his leadership in developing SGI, Estes was named Tennessee Conservationist of the Year in 2018 by the Tennessee Wildlife Federation.

The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative aims to preserve, restore, and promote grasslands of all types throughout the Southeast. One-half of all rare habitat types in the Southeast

are grasslands, which harbor 60% of rare plant species and provide habitat for 35% of rare animals, from bobwhites to box turtles.

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

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

Please join TCWP and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation on Saturday, July 20, for the third in a series of scenic paddle trips in the Three (Four) Bends “Blueway” along Melton Hill Lake.

We'll meet at 9 a.m. at the boat launch area at Clark Center Park, and launch to paddle downstream on Melton Hill Lake along the shore of Gallaher Bend in the scenic Three Bends Area. We'll stop by to view Bull Bluff, a sand island, and will also enjoy several other quiet and scenic undeveloped inlets, probable wildlife sightings and much greenery. The trip will conclude back at the Clark Center Park boat launch area.

Participants can bring their own canoes or kayaks, or TCWP is arranging to rent several canoes from River Sports for those who need one. Rental cost will be \$25 per person with two per canoe. The number of available rental canoes (which come with paddles and life jackets) will be limited, so please register early for a spot.

The trip is an easy paddle, and will take about two to three hours at a leisurely pace. Bring a lunch and water; sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Personal flotation devices (life jackets) must be worn, and all participants must sign a TCWP sign-in sheet.

Please pre-register with Sandra Goss at (865) 805-1470 or at sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

We are also planning canoe trips around Haw Ridge at a later time.

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.

9B. Recent events

Earthquake Hazards in East Tennessee, Dr. Robert Hatcher – Thursday, April 11

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

Professor Robert Hatcher, University of Tennessee Distinguished Scientist Emeritus, kept a standing-room-only crowd of 85 folks interested and asking questions on April 11 at the UT Arboretum in a program cosponsored by TCWP and the UT Arboretum Society.

Tennessee has the second highest number of earthquakes in the country. Dr. Hatcher explained that a faulting corridor

runs roughly from Dandridge to Alcoa, then on to Vonore. He also presented research on measurements of faults visible in ancient clay deposits exposed by river erosion, believed to be caused by stronger quakes than typical in historical times in East Tennessee.

Dr. Hatcher, who was a faculty member for 32 years in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Science Alliance Center of Excellence at the University of Tennessee, opined that building codes need to be changed. Both Memphis and St. Louis have changed their building codes to make buildings less vulnerable to earthquakes.

Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage – Saturday, April 13

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

For the second year in a row, TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society participated in the Frozen Head State Park Wildflower Pilgrimage. About 25 people turned out this year, half of last year's turnout, probably due to rainy weather. Like last year, we were able to divide up the group and use several fine nature interpreters who volunteered to lead.

Numerous species of wildflowers were in bloom, including southern red trillium, large-flowered white trillium, yellow trillium, crested iris, spotted mandarin, and about six species of violets.

Garlic Mustard Pull/Wildflower Walk – April 20

(Contributed by Roger Macklin,
Wildflower Greenway Trail Steward and Co-VP,
Greenways Oak Ridge)

Postponed for one week due to thunderstorms, heavy rain, and slippery conditions on the slopes that access the specific Wildflower Greenway section, our event went ahead on Saturday, April 20. Waiting any longer would mean that most of the garlic mustard would have gone to seed. Rain the day before allowed removal of the entire root structure of targeted second-year garlic mustard plants with merely a firm, steady pull on the flowered stalk – a welcome circumstance since garlic mustard will grow back from just a bit of remaining root.

Garbage bags were provided at the meet-up parking; volunteers included Jamie Herold, Anne Child, Jean Bangham, Lucy McCready, and myself. The volunteers were treated to the wildflower hike led by Jamie Herold, finding a couple of showy-orchis plants early on and later seeing large swaths of dwarf larkspur after the Greenway crossed the creek. We met with Doug Colclasure, who was coming in from the other end of the Greenway, and we all started pulling garlic mustard back across the creek, working our way back to the meet-up parking lot.

Peggy Mitchell arrived and joined in. After a couple of hours, about 14 garbage bags were filled with the invasive plants. I also pulled garlic mustard on other visits before and after the scheduled event, as did Tim Bigelow, Marion Burger, Anne Child, and Ellen Smith. This is a long-term project I started

15 or more years ago with Greenways Oak Ridge as the Trail Steward for the Wildflower Greenway. For quite a few years now, TCWP has graciously joined as a co-sponsor. Please plan to join us next year on the second Saturday in April to help protect native wildflowers from the invasive garlic mustard plant.

North Ridge Trail - Walker Lane Wildflower Walk – Sunday, May 5

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

Considering the suspicious-looking weather, we had a good turnout of ten people for this second joint TCWP-Tennessee Native Plant Society outing of the year. We were able to get one last look at the spring wildflowers, though most had finished blooming.

The star of the show was Vasey's trillium. We had a rare sighting of a white-flowered Vasey's. They are normally maroon, and all but one that we saw were maroon. We enjoyed seeing the fruit of twinleaf and celandine poppy. Maple-leaf viburnum was in flower. A few rue anemones and purple phacelias were still in bloom.

Some information on Oak Ridge geography and geology was shared. We wondered whether the chert rocks, which are similar to flint, could also produce sparks for fire-starting.

Stinging Fork Falls to Soak Creek Wildflower Walk – Saturday, May 11

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

May 11 had a very wet forecast, but with no significant safety threat, for this third joint TCWP-Tennessee Native Plant Society outing of the year. I carpooled with one person from Oak Ridge and met zero people at the Spring City carpool site. Two for an outing may be some sort of record! With only one vehicle available, plans for a shuttle were off. Amazingly, the weather tuned out pretty well; we had only about five minutes of rain during the whole day.

The scenery in the Stinging Falls area was glorious, with an equally beautiful trail passing through it. We caught white bead-lilies (*Clintonia umbellulata*) at their flowering peak. On an even newer section of the Cumberland Trail, heading on toward Hinch Mountain, we viewed fairy wand (*Chamaelirium luteum*) with male and female wands, also at peak.

9C. Help needed for maintaining TCWP's valuable Newsletter archives

Publication of the TCWP Newsletter began in the summer of 1966 – almost 53 years ago, and the 345 issues, to date, contain a good deal of Tennessee's (and a little of our country's) conservation history. Several years ago, the University of Tennessee Library agreed to archive the collection, and to set up a searchable website on which references to numerous subjects could be found. Several dedicated TCWP members worked diligently to locate copies of

all issues, digitize them, and begin work on a searchable index of major topics covered over the decades.

Alas, diminished volunteer power has caused this effort to lag. Over the past five(!) years, current Newsletters have not even been transmitted to the archive, and the index has ceased to be built.

Hopefully, TCWP has members who believe strongly enough in the value of this resource to be willing to spend just a few hours every couple of months* to transmit the current Newsletter to the archival database and to augment the index. Some computer know-how would be helpful, but could probably be acquired without too much effort. *[Note that the initial effort would be greater, since we have a backlog of five years.]

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you are willing to help, even if only part-time, contact Sandra Goss (865-583-3967 or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com)

9D. Thanks, and a tip of the hat to

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]



- Jean Bangham, John Bates, Bob Compton, Jimmy Groton, Joe Horton, Eileen Neiler, Gary Salk, Marti Salk for their help with distribution of the TCWP Newsletter.
- Michele Thornton and Johnny Cosgrove for their work on the TCWP website.
- Larry Pounds and Jimmy Groton for their leadership of wildflower hikes this spring.
- Roger Macklin for his stewardship and leadership of the Wildflower Walk/Garlic Mustard Pull on the Wildflower Greenway.
- Jamie Herold for her help with plant id on the Wildflower Walk/Garlic Mustard Pull.
- Dr. Bob Hatcher for his informative presentation last month.
- Janet Bigelow, Michelle Campanis, and Kevin Hoyt for partnering with TCWP on Dr. Hatcher's presentation.
- Tim Bigelow for his help with the TCWP booth.

10. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR

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

- May 25, Bicycle ride with a ranger (Manhattan Project NHP) along North Boundary Greenway. Meet 10 AM at

Turnpike gatehouse. Explore former communities that were here before the Manhattan Project.

- June 1, National Trails Day/North Ridge Trail workday (see ¶9A, this NL)
- June 6, Information Program, Microplastics in the Tennessee River (see ¶9A, this NL)
- June 13, Information Program, Southern Grasslands Preservation (see ¶9A, this NL)
- July 20, Canoe Outing, Clark Center Park to Gallaher Bend (see ¶9A, this NL)

•• RESOURCES

- Bill McKibben's "Life on a Shrinking Planet" (*The New Yorker*, Nov. 26, 2018, pp.48-55) is a fascinating and well-researched account of how the world has reacted to the clear evidence of man-made climate change. One interesting story is the account of how Exxon's scientists informed the company of the "greenhouse effect" more than 40 years ago – a decade before the climatologist James Hansen testified to Congress about it – but the industry's devastating reaction (a "predatory delay") was to undertake a highly effective muddling of the public's impression of climate science. We were being slowed down precisely when we needed to speed up.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 1* – National Trails Day
- June 6* -Informational Program with Martin Knoll on plastics in the Tennessee River
- June 13*- Informational program by native grasses expert and Prairie Preacher Dwayne Estes
- June 29* – Sing for the Climate Concert, 2-5 pm Tennessee Amphitheater
Visit TCWP's table!
- July 20* – Canoe outing—Clark Center Park to Gallaher Bend

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