



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Ed Clebsch Celebration of Life Postponed

A gathering to remember and celebrate Ed Clebsch that had been scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, at the UT Arboretum Auditorium, has been postponed.

New on the TCWP Website:

Story Corps Interview with Frank Hensley <https://tcwp.org/storycorps-interview-of-frank-hensley/>

TCWP's *Political Guide* is available online. For a printed copy, call or write TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss, 865-583-3967 or sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

HOW TO REACH ELECTED OFFICIALS

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<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 more contact information and links to how to find your legislators on our website, <https://www.tcwp.org> under "Tools for Action."

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

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1. OAK RIDGE AND OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

1A. Beleaguered Horizon Center

The 69kV Power Line

The proposed 69kV power line to and in Horizon Center is not a top issue at this time. The Board of Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) plans to request a status report on this project from City Electric Department and to inquire about the status of the forensic accounting on the value of the BORCE from the City Manager.

Motorsports Park Proposed

A motorsports park at Horizon Center parcels 5, 6, and 7 has been proposed by H.E. Battle III of Hardin Valley Land Partners. The proposal includes a road course for such races as Formula E or Indy Car, an amphitheater with a mix of permanent and lawn seating for more than 7,000 people, paddock club, club house, restaurants, garages, day and overnight lodging, a recreational vehicle park, public facilities that would include walking trails and outdoor meeting spaces and other amenities. Battle said that the facility will be designed with the needs of a motorsports research park to attract companies to locate adjacent to the park.

Neighbors to the Horizon Center Park have organized to communicate concerns about possible loss of property value and degrading the conservation value. As this issue goes to press, meetings and other actions on the Motor Raceway are on hold due to COVID-19 concerns.

2C. Cumberland Trail State Park Grows by 6000+ acres

In February, officials announced that the Crab Orchard Mountain property owned by the Texas-based company Lone Star is now officially part of the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park. The property, north of I-40 in Cumberland County, east of the Crab Orchard exit, will connect Ozone Falls State Natural Area to existing state owned land. It ranks high in the State Wildlife Action Plan for terrestrial habitat. It contains approximately 22.5 miles of streams and threatened species such as the Allegheny woodrat.

The purchase of Lone Star was made possible with the State's Land Acquisition Fund, the National Park Service's State and Local Assistance Program which is funded by the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife Restoration Program (also known as Pittman-Robertson). This land was secured thanks to the efforts of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, in partnership with The Conservation Fund, TennGreen, the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

When completed, the Cumberland Trail will extend more than 300 miles from its northern terminus in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park to its southern terminus at the Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park just outside Chattanooga.

2D. Carbon Pricing Introduced in State Legislature This Year

(Contributed by Carli Clarcq)

For the first time in history, carbon pricing was introduced in Tennessee this session. The bill as introduced amends the tax code to hold excessive polluters accountable by establishing a \$10 fee per ton of carbon emitted after 500,000 tons. The revenue collected from this would be divided between Tennessee's general fund and the municipalities where taxpayers are located. Citizens already pay the cost for increasing emissions through worsening public health, increasing natural disasters, and other negative effects they cause. Ensuring utilities take this cost into account when they pollute is essential, and is what this bill does.

If you are interested in getting more involved, please reach out to us at Climate XChange! Climate XChange is a non-profit working to pass carbon pricing legislation at the state level through research, advocacy and media support. Our State Carbon Pricing Network, a group of individuals, advocates, legislators, business leaders and others, work in their states with our support to draft, pass, and spread awareness about the importance of carbon pricing legislation! We'd love to have you join — you can do so at climate-xchange.org, or email me at carlie@climate-xchange.org. Thank you!

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. Asian Carp in Tennessee

[Information from *Rhea Herald News*]

A silver carp jumped into a fisherman's boat on Chickamauga Lake in October. The fisherman, Dustin Hinkle, said that he saw 15-20 more fish near the surface."

In January, a TWRA official said that no other Asian carp have been reported since the October episode. It seems likely that the fish traveled up the Tennessee River through navigation locks. TWRA urges everyone to report carp sightings with photos, location information, and if possible, keep a fish frozen to share with TWRA.

2B. Cumberland Trail Connectors Studied in Rhea County

[Information from *Rhea Herald News*]

The Rhea Economic and Community Development held a Greenway Study Open House in January to study feasibility of a greenway trail that connects Dayton and Spring City to the Cumberland Trail. Land Trust of Tennessee and consultants are developing routing options for this potential greenway.

2E. Rocky Fork State Park Planning Charrettes Held

Last month, TCWP Board Member John Cosgrove and Executive Director Sandra K. Goss attended a planning meeting for Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park in Erwin. The meeting was one of two identical meetings and featured 4 break-out groups discussing 4 topics:

- Public recreation amenities – low impact/passive and active recreation; Expand outdoor recreation assets: trails, camping and programming; increase nature- and cultural-based tourism;
- Infrastructure/Public-facing amenities – Visitors' Center, parking lots, restrooms, etc.;
- Protect critical wildlife habitat and biodiversity; protect and showcase iconic natural and historic landmarks and scenic vistas;
- Roads/Public Access/Land management – how does the public access the park? What are the USFS plans for roads and land management adjacent to the park? What do future park boundaries look like?

The ideas and comments from each group were recorded and will be taken into account in the creation of a (preliminary) park master plan for Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park.

Two key things from the meetings: There will be no road constructed up the hill as had originally been discussed. There will be public meetings on the park master plan with opportunities to comment. TCWP will inform readers about the public meeting. To be sure not to miss it, like Rocky Fork State Park on Facebook.

2F. Help Wanted: Big South Fork Seeking Trail Keepers

The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area is recruiting volunteers to join the Trail Keeper Program. Trail Keepers is a volunteer partnership for people who love the park's trails and want to help take care of them. The program's goal is to provide an extended presence in the backcountry while providing Big South Fork's staff with information on trail conditions. Trail keepers are expected to hike, bike or horse ride their adopted trail at least four times during the calendar year. They also report on overall trail conditions, pick up any trash, and submit a trail report after each visit. Being a trail keeper does not involve heavy trail maintenance or the use of power equipment. To learn more about the Big South Fork Trail Keeper program, email the park's volunteer coordinator at effie_houston@nps.gov or call (423) 569-9778.

3. OTHER NEWS

3A. Two TVA Board Nominees Named: Harwell and Noland

In late January, President Trump named former Tennessee Speaker of the House Beth Harwell and East Tennessee State University President Brian Noland as his nominee for the

Tennessee Valley Board. The nominees must be approved by the U.S. Senate and they will serve a five year term. There are currently seven TVA Board of Directors members, with two vacant seats.

4. TCWP NEWS

4A. Upcoming activities

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

Garlic Mustard Pull/Wildflower Walk – Saturday, April 11

The Greenway behind Oak Ridge's Rolling Hills Apartments (formerly known as the Garden Apartments) is one of the best wildflower trails in Anderson County, but it is threatened by garlic mustard, a very invasive exotic that crowds out native plants. TCWP and Greenways Oak Ridge have been making headway in recent years in ridding the trail of this harmful plant. Volunteers are needed to help with the effort again this year.

We will meet at 10 a.m. at the rear parking lot (near the woods) behind 101-135 West Vanderbilt Drive. Wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothes, and bring water, food/snacks, and a digging spike or similar tool if you own one. Naturalist Jamie Herold will be on hand to help with wildflower identification.

Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage – Saturday, April 11

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

This is a joint outing for the 53rd Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage with TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society. We will have an excellent opportunity to see spring wildflowers. The first mile is ideal for those with rather limited hiking capabilities; the trail is wide and flat, a loop with quick return to the parking area (Interpretive Trail). For those continuing, the next two miles are steeper and rougher but still moderate (Judge Branch and South Old Mac Trails). Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray.

We'll meet for carpooling at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) at 9 a.m. Eastern; or meet at the Frozen Head State Park Office at 10 a.m. Eastern (9 Central).

For additional information, contact Larry Pounds at (865) 705-8516 or at PoundsL471@aol.com. Reservations are not required, but are helpful for planning and to send updates or cancellations.

Stinging Fork Falls to Piney River – Saturday, April 18

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

This will be our second April joint outing with the Tennessee Native Plant Society. We will caravan from the Exxon station in Spring City to the Lower Piney River Trailhead to start a shuttle, leaving some cars there and carpooling to the Stinging Fork Falls Trailhead. From there we'll hike back to the Piney River Trailhead. This section of

the Cumberland Trail was completed in the fall of 2018. Which spring flowers we will see is hard to predict, but the route is definitely scenic. Total walking distance will be about six miles. The trail is up and down, with many steps.

As an alternative, people are welcome to head back early to the Stinging Falls Fork Trailhead. They will need to have a car there, or will have a wait until afternoon when the shuttle is completed. With this alternative, hikers could drive back from the Stinging Fork Trailhead to the Piney River Trail Head and walk in along the flat trail by Soak Creek to meet the rest of the group as they reach Soak Creek. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray.

We'll meet for carpooling at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) at 9 a.m. Eastern, or meet at the Rocky Top/ Exxon/McDonald's on US 27 in Spring City at 10 a.m. Eastern.

For additional information, contact Larry Pounds at (865) 705-8516 or at PoundsL471@aol.com. Reservations are not required, but are helpful for planning and to send updates or cancellations.

Haw Ridge Bend canoe/kayak trip - Saturday, May 23

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

This will be the fourth in a series of canoe trips sponsored by TCWP and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, with the goal of experiencing the Three Bends and nearby Melton Hill Lake/Clinch River (also known as Pellissippi) Blueway from the water.

We'll meet at 9 a.m. at Solway Park near the Haw Ridge bicycle trailhead and car shuttle to put in near the Old Edgemoor Road inlet. We'll paddle downstream along the banks of Haw Ridge and into several shady and quiet inlets and coves looking for wildlife and late-spring wildflowers (and possibly a stray mountain biker). Depending on weather and the group's preference, we may briefly cross the lake and examine the banks along TVA's Bull Run Steam Plant, which has been much in the news lately. We can also get a better view of Haw Ridge from this perspective.

Farther around the Haw Ridge Bend, there are more nice coves, and one will make a perfect place to stop for lunch! We'll then paddle through the shallows and by the rocky point, then pick up the shuttle vehicles from Solway Park.

Participants can bring their own canoes or kayaks, or we will make arrangements to rent canoes from Blue Ridge Sports for \$25 per person with life jackets and paddles provided. Those bringing their own boats are asked to wear life jackets at all times while in the water. Sunscreen, hats and arm and leg coverings are recommended, and water shoes are nice to have.

Pre-registration by Saturday, May 16, is requested. For more information or to pre-register, contact Sandra Goss at (865) 583-3967 or via email at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com, or Tim Bigelow at (865) 607-6781 or via email at Bigelowt2@mindspring.com.

We are also tentatively planning an overnight canoe/kayak trip to explore most of the Three Bends area again in one trip, at different times of the day.

Gary Grametbauer Memorial Hike on Cumberland Trail – Saturday, May 30

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

This will be a memorial walk for Gary, a long-time member of TCWP and of the Cumberland Trails Conference board of directors who passed away in late January. We will be walking along a new Cumberland Trail section near Daddy's Creek. Gary was heavily involved in the design of this section.

Walkers can select their own distance. It would be about three miles round trip to a bridge above a small waterfall.

We'll meet for carpooling at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) at 9 a.m. Eastern, or meet the group at the Marathon station at the I-40 Crab Orchard exit (exit 329) east of Crossville at 9 a.m. Central (10 Eastern). Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray.

For additional information, contact Larry Pounds at (865) 705-8516 or at PoundsL471@aol.com. Reservations are not required, but are helpful for planning and to send updates or cancellations.

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.

4B. Recent events

East Fork Poplar Creek Trail maintenance/winter tree identification – Saturday, February 1

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow and Jimmy Groton)

We had a good turnout for this joint effort to clean up the new trail, with about 20 people participating in a very productive outing on a gray day with occasional sprinkles. This trail follows the East Fork of Poplar Creek west of Illinois Avenue a little way south of the Oak Ridge Turnpike. Joining TCWP were the Clinch Valley Trail Alliance and Greenways Oak Ridge. CVTA was instrumental in getting the trail built, and Greenways OR has incorporated it into the greenway system.

Poplar Creek floods its banks occasionally, and brings with it all sorts of trash items. This was apparently the first workday held since the trail was built, and a large amount of trash was picked up and carted off. Items found included a grocery cart, several car door panels, a truck bed liner, many other car parts, at least 50 tires, and many bags of cups, bottles, basketballs and other floating litter items. Several braved the cool water and rescued items from the creek, including many of the tires. CVTA brought a tire hook, and a motorized trail work buggy to haul the tires and other heavy items back to a central location. Several workers stayed until mid-afternoon, making trips to a tire store to dispose of the tires and to the dump to dispose of the other items.

The crew did a great job, working as far west as the fire station where the trail currently ends. There are several large tree blockages of the creek where lots of floating debris gets trapped, so another workday will be needed to clear these and retrieve several more tires still in deeper water.

With so much trash to pick up, there was not a lot of time to identify trees, although several sycamores and box elders were easy to spot. A later walk after two large floods did not show much new trash, so the effort to clean up the new trail has proven quite successful.

Alley Ford workday – Saturday, February 15

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

On February 15 TCWP, the National Park Service, and the Cumberland Trail State Park sponsored a workday on the Alley Ford segment of the Cumberland Trail State Park and Obed Wild and Scenic River. We met at the campground near Nemo Bridge on the Emory (Obed River) on a cold morning. There were nine volunteers, several National Park rangers, and two Cumberland Trail State Park rangers.

We divided into two groups. One group worked on the campground, where a recent flood had deposited mud and debris, including in the raised boxes used to keep food safe from bears. Later this group picked up litter along a nearby road. The other group did the usual Cumberland Trail maintenance. One open flower was seen, a bluet.

TCWP adopted this 2.5-mile section in 1998 as part of our ongoing stewardship efforts.

Spring Cedar Barren Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® – Saturday, March 7

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

A cold start but a quick warmup made this a wonderful day for volunteers to come out and wrangle weeds. There were 17 workers, including a youngster and an Oak Ridge High School student. The group concentrated on the front “Triangle” area, which had a lot of small pines and cedars growing in the middle, along with some multiflora rose. Around the periphery there was plenty of bush honeysuckle, privet, and other invasive woody plants to work on.

Much success was had pulling with the weed wrenches, as the soil was a bit wet. Some of the farther out, larger bush honeysuckles were just trimmed due to their size and the sheer number of them growing. Some mahonia, which hadn’t grown much from an earlier trimming, was also trimmed back.

After a morning of hard work, the Triangle area looked good, and the group tried out a new seating area on the sunny bleachers to enjoy a pizza lunch.

4C. Remembering Gary Grametbauer, Force for the Cumberland Trail (Died January 29, 2020)

The Cumberland Trail State Park is an extraordinary asset for nature preservation and hiking. It surrounds the Cumberland Trail (CT) and runs along it for about 200 miles and

ultimately will for 300 miles. The CT runs from near Chattanooga to near the Virginia border. It is part of the Great Eastern Trail that runs from Alabama to upper New York State. So it will make a wonderful alternative to the overcrowded Appalachian Trail.

For many years Gary was a force for the completion of this trail volunteering with Cumberland Trails Conference (CTC). The CTC is a non-profit that helps the State Park in creating the trail.

I started helping him with this work a few years ago. The CTC was at a low point then. Gary held the organization together as president. His willingness to do this despite his dislike for the job was essential to the current good works of the CTC.

Fortunately, Gary and I were able to work together with the State Park rangers doing trail design and botanical surveys that we loved to do. Gary was the experienced trail designer and I was the trained botanist. We worked together on both design and botany. We were hiking partners about once a week most of the year. We got out less during the winter when there was less botany to be done. A good place to see Gary’s design work is the section where the CT parallels Daddy’s Creek. We will have a memorial walk there May 30. It is harder to see the botanical side of our work but we moved the CT several times to protect rare or special plants.

To get a sense of what it was like doing this work you need to realize that flagging a new trail means hiking without a trail long distances and in this case through the very rough Cumberland Plateau country. We were both septuagenarians. Gary’s hiking ability was legendary. I struggled to keep up with him.

Little could daunt Gary out in the woods. I was the worrier. I had the four wheel drive vehicle we used. On one trip we were driving a rough road through a forest. There were smoke and low flames on both sides of the road. Somehow Gary persuaded me to keep driving. Gary even got me to drive through a box stream culvert under I-40.

Spending many hours talking to Gary I soon realized how kind and considerate he was. He was always thinking about people’s feelings. He was good at making the people who joined us on hikes feel welcome. He was also excelled at writing emails to people that made them feel good.

4E. Farewell to Mark Peterson (March 13, 1961—March 4, 2020)

Longtime TCWP supporter and former member of the Board of Directors Mark Peterson died earlier this month. Mark was a gentle soul with a gift (and willingness!) for sharing his extensive science and nature knowledge in an understandable way. In his career at ORNL’s Aquatic Ecology Lab, his work was important to the lab’s important remediation technology and development efforts.

A scholarship fund will be set up through the University of Tennessee to support outstanding students in the environmental sciences. Details on how to contribute to the Mark J.

Peterson Scholarship Fund will be shared through social media.

5. OTHER

5A. Oak Ridge Nature Walks Scheduled

On the Oak Ridge Reservation, located in east Tennessee, over 1100 vascular plants, 72 fish, 34 mammals and over 200 bird species have been observed. The public is invited to nature walks designed to highlight not only the rich flora and fauna diversity of the reservation, and to demonstrate the work being done to sustainably manage and conserve this resource. No pets please.

Reservations for the following events must be made in advance by noon the Thursday prior to each walk by contacting Tracy Clem, 865-574-5151 (bodinetm@ornl.gov). If inclement weather forces postponement of an event, it will be announced on ORNL's Information Line at 865-574-9836 (i.e. 574-XTEN) at least two hours before the scheduled start of the walk. For information call or write Trent Jett at 865-574-9188 (jettrt@ornl.gov).

Wildflower and Old Growth Forest walk

Date: Sunday, April 12

Location: Meet at West Guardhouse, Oak Ridge Turnpike (Hwy 95)

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Leader: Larry Pounds and Paul Durr (botanists)

Limit: 25 (children are allowed)

Description: We will see many native spring wildflowers as well as a stand of old growth trees which has been thriving for >240 years. Walking will be off trail, in moderately rough terrain (distance about 1.5 miles). Since this is an off trail hike in rocky country, participants need to have good balance and stamina. Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring bug spray and water. Be aware that there may be some shallow wet areas we will be walking through, boots are recommended. No pets please.

Bird nature walk – Freels Bend

Date: Saturday, April 25

Location: Meet at the parking lot behind (i.e. south of) the ORISE building at the corner of Bethel Valley and Pumphouse Roads

Time: 8:00a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Leader: Trent Jett, Sarah Darling and Neil Giffen (ORNL)

Limit: 25 (children are allowed)

Description: Walking will be over dirt/gravel roads (distance 1-2 miles). Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring bug spray, field guide to birds, binoculars, and water. We should see birds of prey and many sparrows in the extensive native grass fields, migrating warblers in the early successional and mature forested areas, and wading birds in the waters along the Clinch River.

Fish and Aquatic insects – Bear Creek

Date: Saturday, May 16

Location: Meet at North Boundary Greenway trailhead west, Oak Ridge Turnpike (Hwy 95). Near Hwy 58 and 95 junction.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Leader: Trent Jett (ORNL)

Limit: 20 (children are allowed)

Description: We will visit lower Bear Creek where we will learn about the local fish and aquatic insect populations that are native to the Oak Ridge Reservation. Techniques for collection of aquatic organisms will be demonstrated and participants will have an opportunity to help. Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring bug spray and water. Wear older shoes or rubber boots if you would like to get in the creek and help! Some waders will be made available also.

5B. Take the iNaturalist City Challenge April 24-27

[Contributed by Mac Post]

Here is something fun to do during April 24-27. Participate in the iNaturalist City Challenge 2020. The City Nature Challenge is an international competition between cities to see who can observe the most wildlife in a four-day period. It's a bioblitz that happens all over the world! Cities compete for the most observations, the most species documented, and most people engaged.

There is a friendly competition among the four cities in Tennessee that have registered for the competition. See their project descriptions at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2020-chattanooga>

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2020-knox-county-tn>

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2020-johnson-city-washington-county>

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2020-nashville>

To participate download the iNaturalist mobile app (free), create an account, and start recording your observations and contributing to science. iNaturalist allows you to keep track of your nature observations, crowdsource identifications, learn about nature, create useful data for science, and become a citizen scientist.

iNaturalist is a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society. Every observation contributes to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed. Findings are shared with scientific data repositories like the Global Biodiversity Information Facility to help scientists find and use the data.

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

P.O. Box 6873
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37831

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 11 – Garlic Mustard Pull/Wildflower Walk*
- April 11 – Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage*
- April 18 – Stinging Fork Falls to Piney River Hike*

- May 23 – Haw Ridge Bend canoe/kayak trip*
- May 30 – Gary Grametbauer memorial Hike on the Cumberland Trail*