

TCWP Newsletter

1. OAK RIDGE NEWS

1A. Proposed Reservation Hazardous Waste Landfill (EMDF) Update

TCWP and sister organizations have written the EPA Administrator Michael Regen about the long-debated Environmental Management Disposal Facility that is proposed for the Bear Creek watershed. As the Department of Energy continues to clean up contaminated areas in the Superfund site, the disposal site that's currently in use is approaching maximum capacity.

DOE proposes to bury low-level radioactive material in the Bear Creek watershed and to discharge radionuclide pollutants. If the landfill is sited as planned, the health of communities that live downstream is at risk.

This proposal needs more public review and comment. Please email regen.michael@epa.gov to require DOE to issue a revised proposal for public comment. The at-risk community members deserve nothing less.

1B. Scientist(s) needed for new project at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens!

Background: In 1998 TCWP registered the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens as a state natural area by agreement with the City of Oak Ridge and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Due to its ecological history, the Barrens contains preserved areas of native prairie. At least 3 rare plant species grow there in abundance. Currently, there are three annual workdays at the Barrens, focusing on the removal of invasive pest plants, and encroaching native woody plants.

TCWP has managed the Barrens for over 30 years. The 2014 Oak Ridge Barrens Natural Area Management Plan outlined the need for comprehensive biological surveys to evaluate the site's importance and serve as a baseline and guide for future management. The plan also included a goal to publish a paper about the results of the surveys.

The local domain of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) is partnering with



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AGU's Thriving Earth Exchange (TEX) program to provide a framework for project collaborations between communities and scientists. It is the perfect opportunity to move forward with the management plan and utilize this exceptional area.

The Project: Working with a volunteer scientist, the TCWP will plan and implement comprehensive biological surveys and inventories of the plants and animals present in the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens Natural Area in 2022. A major focus will be on the plant species, but other biological surveys (bird, insect, herpetological) would only increase the value of this effort. The resulting data will be compiled and analyzed according to standard scientific methods to serve as a baseline for future survey comparisons, develop management plans, and provide the foundation for a publication in a scientific peer-reviewed journal.

Effective monitoring and survey techniques will be developed over the 2021-2022 winter season to be implemented in 2022. The data will be collected by volunteer specialists with assistance by volunteer students and other interested persons in the surrounding area.

For more details, go to <https://thrivingearthexchange.org/project/oak-ridge-tn/>

Scientist Wanted: We are looking for a scientist who is experienced in designing and conducting comprehensive plant surveys and compiling the resulting data. We think this would be the perfect opportunity to involve a lab with many interested students. For the purposes of this project, we are only interested in a broad statistical analysis of the data. However, we are open to this becoming a student project with further studies in the site.

We are also very interested in adding other biota surveys of the study site (i.e. bird, insect, herp, etc.). Any assistance in setting up a robust survey technique for any additional biota would be welcome.

In addition, while not within the scope of the project, we would like someone who may be interested in a scientific publication of the data.

Desired skills and qualifications

- Past experience with designing and conducting biological surveys
- Should be local to the region and able to visit the site in-person
- Experience and/or desire to participate in community education, outreach, and engagement
- Strong listening and collaboration skills
- Relaxed, easy-going personality with a good sense of humor
- (Optional) Experience with prairie and cedar barren/glade species of the Southeastern US

Thriving Earth Exchange asks all scientific partners to work with the community to help define a project with concrete local impact to which they can contribute as pro-bono volunteers and collaborators.

Interested in volunteering as a scientist? Contact Margaret Cumberland
mcumberland@battelleecology.org

We will be needing volunteers next year to help with these surveys, so look out for more opportunities in 2022! - Margaret Cumberland

DON'T MISS



TCWP HOLIDAY PARTY

*an outdoor affair
warm bonfire
friendly people
food & beverage
jolliness*

DECEMBER 2
6:30 - until
at the Oak Ridge
Unitarian Universalist
Church



2. OBED/BIG SOUTH FORK NEWS

2A. Gibbons property donated to TCWP

Many summers ago, TCWP held an old-fashioned picnic at the Gibbons place, near the Alley Ford on the Obed. Mary Ann Gibbons and her late husband John had bought the property years ago and enjoyed many summers sponsoring music events and other activities for young people. The property remained close to the family's hearts. Mary Ann set to work to conserve the property.

Over the years, various conservation options were discovered, explored and discarded. With this gift, the entire beautiful Gibbons farm will be conserved permanently. TCWP will hold the property until we can contribute it to a reliable conservation organization or agency.

Thank you, Mary Ann Gibbons and family, for your generous gift. It will benefit untold generations of people.

2B. Obed/Big South Fork Updates

Campers at Obed's Rock Creek Campground can now specify which campsite they reserve at www.recreation.gov

Wear Blaze Orange Out There. November is a wonderful time to go hunting in the Big South Fork and Obed. Know the rules and the various game seasons. This month in Tennessee it is Deer, Hog, and Small Game (grouse, squirrel, raccoon) season and in Kentucky it is Deer, Hog, Turkey, and Small Game (squirrel, raccoon) season.

3. TENNESSEE NEWS

3A. TWRA Wants to Increase Quail Habitat on Bridgestone/Firestone property

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has a plan to rebuild, manage, and monitor Northern Bobwhite. The Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) is the state game bird of Tennessee and an important part of the state's landscape and heritage. Northern Bobwhite populations have declined dramatically since the 1950s, primarily due to landscape-scale habitat conversion and loss.

Northern Bobwhite Management in Tennessee 2021-2026, A Strategic Plan for Northern Bobwhites in Tennessee can be found at https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/twra/documents/birds/northern_bobwhite_plan.pdf

TWRA plans to harvest trees, many of which are hardwoods, on Bridgestone/ Firestone Centennial Wildlife Management Area adjacent to Virgin Falls. There is some opposition to this plan, citing the availability of land that doesn't have hardwoods, threats to views of various trails in the area, and the possibility of harmful sediment erosion that will degrade Caney Fork River.

Others endorse the idea of open lands on the plateau, a return to the historical landscape of ages past. There is also interest in boosting the quail populations through this effort.

It is widely believed that state legislators may visit this issue in the upcoming Legislative Session that starts in January.

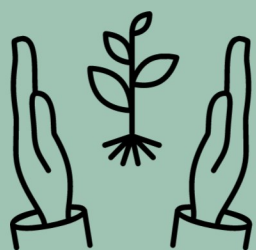
3B. Invasive Species Management Topic of Nashville Conference

Innovations in Invasive Species Management Conference and Training will be held in Nashville November 30 and December 1. Doug Tallamy, a central figure in a TCWP-cosponsored pre-pandemic screening of Wildlife in Your Backyard, will be a keynote speaker.

Registration information and the current agenda can be found at www.invasiveplantcontrol.com/conference21/

Citizens' Climate Lobby Holding Open House Every Thursday

Citizens' Climate Lobby Regional Coordinator Jon Clark is hosting a virtual open house every Thursday, 10:00—11:00 a.m. for the rest of the year. Anyone with questions or seeking deeper info about carbon pricing is invited to join <https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/94055443382?pwd=ZTZOcDE3eFJ3UEFJMnNqYnZSNytkUT09#success>



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4. NATIONAL NEWS

4A. TVA Plants Among Top Ten for Single-Point GHG Emissions in Tennessee

Drought and wildfires in the West, hurricanes and flooding in the East. There's no question we have begun feeling the effects of climate change caused by the combustion of fossil fuels releasing carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere. In Tennessee, the Tennessee Valley Authority's coal and natural gas plants are among the top ten of the largest single-point contributors to CO₂ emissions as well as smaller amounts of two other greenhouse gasses, methane and nitrous oxide.

The Environmental Protection Agency maintains a Facility Level Information on GreenHouse gasses Tool (FLIGHT) that provides data on greenhouse gas emissions from large facilities by state and even county. EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program requires facilities that emit above 25,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases to report their emissions. The numbers in FLIGHT do not represent totals because only about 50% of U.S. emissions are reported by large emitting facilities; the other 50% is emitted by smaller facilities and by suppliers of fossil fuels and industrial gases, which are reported separately. Even that total does not include emissions from agriculture and land use sectors.

The most recent data available (2020) shows that within Tennessee 126 single-point reporting facilities emitted 34 million metric tons (MMT) of greenhouse gases, down from 40 MMT in 2019. Eleven reporting power plants emitted 20 MMT (8.7% of large facilities emitting 59% of reported emissions). TVA's Cumberland Fossil Plant (coal) tops the list at 9.5 MMT, followed by Eastman Chemical Company at 3.7 MMT, TVA's Gallatin Steam Plant (coal, natural gas, oil) at 2.6 MMT, John Sevier Combined Cycle Plant (natural gas, oil) at 1.9 MMT, and Kingston Fossil Plant (coal) at 1.8 MMT. Three other TVA plants also rank in the top ten: Allen Fossil Plant (natural gas, 1.3 MMT), Lagoon Creek Combustion Turbine Plant (natural gas, oil 1.4 MMT), and Bull Run Fossil Plant (coal, 0.7 MMT).

Valero Refining Co. in Memphis also ranks in the top ten for overall emissions in Tennessee at 1.2 MMT. However, the company is tracked separately as a supplier of fossil fuel into the economy that, when combusted, released, or oxidized, results in GHG emissions. So in addition to the emissions at the Valero plant, the gasoline and other petroleum products they provide, once burned in the transportation sector, emit another 19 MMT, nearly equal to the total of all power plants in the state. And so the need to move rapidly to electric vehicles fueled by green power.

Included in the overall list of power plants, but not in the top ten, are TVA's Brownsville, Gleason, and Johnsonville natural gas plants. The eleventh power plant in the state is the Nashville District Energy System (natural gas, electricity). TVA also has the Shawnee Fossil Plant (coal) in Kentucky that emits 4.3 MMT as well as five natural gas plants in Mississippi, two in Kentucky, and one in Alabama.

While the Cumberland Fossil Plant ranks high for emissions nationwide, other plants emit even more. Texas, for example, has three fossil plants that emit more GHG than Cumberland, including the Oak Grove Fossil Plant at 13.1 MMT. On a state basis, Tennessee ranks in the middle for emissions from power plants. Those that are higher include Florida with 56 plants emitting a total of 93 MMT, and Texas has 129 plants emitting a whopping 186 MMT.



Previous-years data for Tennessee indicates TVA is headed in the right direction:
2016 – 35 MMT, 2017 – 33 MMT, 2018 – 27 MMT, 2019 – 25 MMT, 2020 – 20 MMT

Still, the amount of greenhouse gas emission in Tennessee is unacceptable as the earth continues to warm. Our state must do its part, especially a federally owned utility.

TVA is considering retiring the Cumberland and Kingston Plants and replacing production with natural gas or solar energy and storage systems. The utility commented on WPLN News (Nashville Public Radio), “Ultimately, we aspire to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and support broader national efforts to decarbonize the economy.” TVA retired the Allen coal plant in March 2018 and replaced it with a new natural gas plant, and it plans on retiring the Bull Run Plant by the end of 2023. In fact, TVA has stated it intends to close its other four coal plants by 2035.

While we need to hold TVA to its commitment of net zero by 2050 and especially its stated objective to close all coal plants by 2035, that is not enough. TVA should be working to reach the goal even sooner given the warnings of the new IPCC report (see sidebar). Replacing coal with natural gas does produce less pollution but still has CO2 emissions. Natural gas should also be retired.

Unfortunately, the TVA Board is currently not holding public listening sessions due to the pandemic, although such sessions could be held remotely. Written comments can be submitted but are not made public. In response, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy held a virtual “People’s TVA Hearing” on August 4th. SACE states:

There are so many urgent and important issues impacting all of us in the Tennessee Valley right now, from TVA’s plans to replace retired coal plants with new fossil gas plants to lingering issues with coal ash storage and disposal to the urgent need to move to 100% clean energy by 2030, ... we think it’s unacceptable that TVA’s leadership is insulating themselves from the public they serve by preventing customers from speaking directly to them.

What You Can Do: Make your voice heard: <https://www.tva.com/about-tva/get-involved-stay-involved>. We’ll have an opportunity to comment on the draft NEPA documentation being prepared for the future of the Cumberland Plant and also the Kingston Plant (see NL 358, 3B, 7/14/21). Both should transition to solar, not natural gas.

Sources:

- EPA FLIGHT database: <https://ghgdata.epa.gov/ghgp/main.do#/facility/>
- WPLN News: <https://wpln.org/post/tennessees-10-biggest-climate-polluters/>
- REUTERS: <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/tennessee-valley-authority-plans-shut-coal-plants-by-2035-2021-05-03/>
- SACE: <https://cleanenergy.org/news-and-resources/the-peoples-tva-hearing/>



- Russ Manning

5. TCWP NEWS

5A. Upcoming Activities

TCWP’s Guidelines for Activities during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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

- We ask that you not participate if you are sick or were recently exposed to someone who is.
- We ask that unvaccinated participants practice social distancing, maintain at least 6 feet of separation between themselves and other unvaccinated participants.
- We ask that unvaccinated participants continue to wear a mask especially when social distancing is not possible.

- We will organize activities into group of 20 or fewer.
- We recommend that you bring hand sanitizer or other ways to wash your hands.
- We recommend that everyone bring their own water, lunch, snacks, and sunscreen.
- We recommend caravanning for unvaccinated participants, rather than carpooling.
- Keep in mind that restrooms may be unavailable at activity locations.
- Activities are subject to change or cancellation as we monitor and react to local, state, and federal data and guidelines.

Thank you for your patience while we work through ways to serve our community.

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

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 2

Since it's not yet safe to resume indoor gatherings with lots of people, TCWP will host its annual holiday party outdoors, around a bonfire. Join us beginning at 6:30 p.m. December 2 at the fire pit/pavilion at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike. Light snacks will be available, or party-goers who would like to are welcome to bring a dessert or hors d'oeuvre to share.

Whites Creek Workday - Saturday, January 8

TCWP will sponsor a day of trail maintenance work at Whites Creek Small Wild Area in Rhea County at 10 a.m. January 8 as part of our ongoing stewardship activities for this TVA Small Wild Area trail. The trail loops onto land that TCWP purchased from Bowater several years ago, thanks to the generous support of our members.

Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring work gloves, loppers, and small bow saws or folding saws. Some hand tools will be available at the event. Please be sure to bring clothing appropriate for weather conditions, water, snacks, and/or a lunch.

Participants can meet for carpooling or caravanning in Oak Ridge at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's). We'll leave Oak Ridge at 9 a.m., or volunteers can join the crew at the trailhead at 10 a.m.

We plan to spend three or four hours at the site, but volunteers may come and go as they wish. If the weather is uncooperative—excessive rain, or snow and ice—we will reschedule for the following Saturday.

For additional information, contact Jimmy Groton at 865-805-9908 or at groton87@comcast.net.

5B. Recent events

"Against the Current: Paddling Upstream on the Tennessee River" – Thursday, September 9

An audience of about 100 gathered virtually for this talk by Maryville College professor Kim Trevathan based on his latest book, ***Against the Current: Paddling Upstream on the Tennessee River***, released by University of Tennessee press earlier this year. He has taught journalism, creative nonfiction, and fiction at Maryville College for more than 20 years, and is the author of three previous books about paddling area rivers.

In the spring of 2018 Trevathan paddled the length of the Tennessee River—652 miles—going upstream, with his 10-month-old puppy, Maggie. In this program cosponsored by TCWP and the UT Arboretum Society, he (accompanied by Maggie) shared some of their experiences through photos and videos, within the framework of finding wilderness on "working rivers" such as the Tennessee.

This upstream trip marked the second time Trevathan has paddled the length of the Tennessee River; the first was 20 years

earlier, when he paddled downstream. Curious to know whether he could do the trip upstream at age 60, he started the trip in the area of Kentucky where he grew up. He pointed out that a working river still contains areas of wilderness, and it's worth protecting those places—a case in point being the Tennessee River Gorge, which is protected by the Tennessee River Gorge Trust. He made some observations on why we need wilderness.

Those who weren't able to watch the program, or who would like to see it again, can view it at this recording link: https://tennessee.zoom.us/rec/play/LuzGe3_trsqEh9mPyUNZpa1cAlxLSA1txl1jwUSzvacFBqEGvxvWfm8n7wb2D3yVLN44Yh1GZsEJAQkY.b8Flo_Xqg9LbF9MX?autoplay=true&startTime=1631227194000. It will be available until December 9. - Carol Grametbauer

Cumberland Mountain Wildflower Walk – Saturday, September 11

We usually have a fall outing to enjoy the end of the flowering season. This year, on September 11, we climbed Cumberland Mountain east of LaFollette. We saw lovely yellow displays of sunflowers—*Helianthus microcephalus*, *Helianthus glaucophyllus*, and a close relative, *Heliopsis helianthoides*. A deep purple was added by clasping aster (*Symphyotrichum patens*).

We also found two types of fruit of interest. Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) fruit is normally hard to find, though this small tree is common. First, we found an unripe one; a few minutes later we got one with the fragrant smell for all to enjoy. Some people are attempting to commercialize this fruit. Next, we happened on two butternuts lying on the ground. The butternut or white walnut tree (*Juglans cinerea*) is rare, and rarer still is finding the nut. This tree is attacked by Butternut Canker fungus, leading to its rarity.

In planning for this trip, we tried to accommodate a variety of interests, length of time available, and physical ability. I felt good about how the outing worked for people. The 12 of us turned back at varying points, and we helped each other get past a landslide zone in the trail. For some the highlight of the trip was not the plants but the views from cliff tops. Thanks to Jimmy, Judy, and Ken for help with this. We enjoyed meeting new folks, Jack, Bruce, Linda, and Sarah.

Jimmy Groton and I did a small service project on the hike, gathering info on two rare plant populations found on top of the mountain. This data was hand-delivered to Todd Crabtree, our state botanist, to put in the state protected plant database.
—Larry Pounds

National Public Lands Day Event at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, September 25

To kick off our NPLD event at Worthington Cemetery, Anne Hewitt Worthington provided an interesting program about the Worthington family, their travails and opportunities. Her information put life on the Worthington property into historical context during the Revolutionary War and later. Anne is the widow of direct descendant Jess Worthington. Her old photos of the Worthington ancestors and stories about the people added a lot to the day.

After Anne's talk, our group of about 20 volunteers began work on removing invasive plants from the Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area. One crew took on the invasive wisteria growing next to the cemetery. While not as dense as kudzu, this vine is a formidable foe, growing high into the trees and spreading across the ground, frequently anchoring itself firmly. Volunteers pulled and chopped with mattock and loppers, and when all else failed, resorted to the massive Uprooter tool to yank the wisteria out of the ground. Piles grew, but the extent of the infestation dwarfed their efforts. Like the Worthington Civil War soldiers, they took on the battle but realized the war had not been won.

Another small group of volunteers resumed our efforts to eradicate the invasive Dahurian buckthorn near the cemetery, stopping first to look at the native Carolina buckthorn and to see how it differs, to avoid misidentification. Considerable progress was made, but there are lots of Dahurian buckthorn plants, and they are reproducing. We were not able to work on this last year due to COVID concerns.

During the event volunteers passed wetlands on both sides of the trail, then reached an area of dry rocks. Here we saw uncommon prairie plants. The prairie dock in particular was striking, with its huge vertical leaves and its bright yellow flowers more than six feet above the rocks. - Sandra Goss/Anne Childs/Jimmy Groton/Larry Pounds

Three Bends Melton Lake/Pellissippi Blueway Scenic Paddle Trip and Cleanup Event – Saturday, October 9

This excursion began with a foggy morning and very still water at the starting point in the cove off Pumphouse Road, where Solway Bend transitions to Freels Bend. Paddlers were greeted by Virginia Dale of Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR), who had information about the Oak Ridge/Three Bends Blueway concept and suggested participants write letters to Lt. Governor McNally about supporting the establishment of the Blueway with state help. (See <https://aforr.info/oak-ridge-blueway/>)

Ten paddlers participated, including a family of four kayakers. It was an enthusiastic group that enjoyed the early fall colors reflecting off the still water. The group paddled up and explored the many small inlets. Several sourwood trees were turning deep red early, while many were still covered in tassels.

The main cove area was checked for trash and found to be relatively clean; it had probably been taken care of earlier. On the main channel, both upstream and down, significantly more trash was found. Some of the items hauled out included an old grill, a TV monitor, a pink ball, old chairs, and plenty of cans, bottles, and other items that had been left onshore and floated into inlets. It was a large haul, and the participants did a good service keeping the area in a more natural state.

Despite the fog, some wildlife was spotted, including many interesting small snails found on rocks near the water plant. One osprey flew over, and a blue heron allowed a relatively close-up picture to be taken. - *Tim Bigelow*

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 23

On a chilly but beautiful autumn day (after dense fog cleared), 28 people gathered for TCWP's Annual Meeting at Cove Lake State Park in Caryville. The meeting also marked the 55th anniversary of TCWP's founding by Bill and Liane Russell in 1966.

After registration with coffee and bagels, TCWP President Mark Bevelhimer gave a brief recap of the year's major activities, including our work to help the National Park Service expand its land holdings on the Obed. Most recently, TCWP has received the donation of 240 acres of property that we hope to turn over soon to the Park Service to become part of the Obed National Wild and Scenic River. TCWP has also been very active in a Rails-to-Trails project involving 41 miles of railroad being abandoned in the New River Valley in Anderson, Campbell, and Scott counties.

During a brief business meeting, Jimmy Groton gave the report of the Nominating Committee (consisting of Jimmy and Virginia Dale). All 2021 board members have agreed to serve in their present capacities again next year. Don Barger moved that the slate be approved as presented; Johnny Cosgrove seconded, and the motion was approved by voice vote. Jimmy reported that members of the 2022 Nominating Committee will be Harriett McCurdy and Anne Childs.

TCWP Membership and Outreach Coordinator Ken Mayes presented a proposed change to Article VII, Section B of the TCWP bylaws, designed to align the by-laws more closely with our new membership records software. The bylaws currently require that membership dues shall be paid annually due on January 1, and that members joining after July 1 of any year shall be assessed only half the year's dues. A required two-thirds vote by the board of directors has proposed that this be changed to reflect that membership dues shall be paid annually. Anne Childs moved that the change be approved; Jimmy Groton seconded, and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Following the business meeting, attendees heard from our keynote speaker, Bobby Fulcher, manager of the Justin P. Wilson State Scenic Trail State Park. Bobby has been involved with Tennessee State Parks since 1976, when he was hired as a seasonal naturalist at Pickett State Park and first perceived the Cumberland Plateau as "a thrilling landscape." He described for the group some extensive research he'd done recently in the Oak Ridge Public Library archives (including digitized versions of TCWP's newsletter going back more than 50 years), showing how the roots of TCWP and the Cumberland Trail were mingled in Oak Ridge in the 1960s. After lunch, Bobby—who is also a folklorist and musician—entertained the group with banjo music, accompanied by Mark on the guitar. - *Carol Grametbauer*

Norris Watershed Hike – Saturday, October 30

It was a dreary, drizzly day on October 30 when 10 hardy hikers walked in the Norris Municipal Watershed. Actually, it was not unexpected weather for this time of year, and there has been a history of this annual hike being cancelled because of rain, so it

was a little surprising that so many people came out. Everyone was prepared, though, with rain gear, boots, and a love of the woods.

We started at the Norris Water Treatment Plant (pump house) and hiked along Clear Creek, passing the creek gauging station that was built by the CCC in 1933, looking at an old grist mill site from the dug mill race that carried the water to turn the water wheel and at the spring that supplies the city's water. We then headed up Lower White Pine Trail and passed the creek bottom where John Robinson had a house and sheds when TVA bought the property for the Norris Dam Project. There were several 'weirs', two on the main stream and one on a side spring, that were used by TVA for various projects.

Along the former road that went up this hollow (Elliot Hollow), we passed old home sites recognizable only from the vegetation (forsythia, walnut trees, and other yard plants) and foundation stones from buildings or creek borders. Then we climbed Upper White Pine Trail, where there is a stark break in what was formerly pastureland and an older forest that exceeds 150 years. Once on Hi Point Trail, we walked down to Freeway Trail and on down to Ridgecrest Trail, passing a several-acre wildlife opening. It was downhill from this point, and we soon came to the site of a former CCC camp. We had looked at a couple of old photographs of the camp, and it was interesting to try to figure out exactly where it was situated.

Then we were back down to the parking area. No one melted and all stayed mostly dry. It was a great group of genuinely interested folks, and we had a good time talking about how the area must have been prior to TVA purchase. I think we all came away with a great respect for the people who lived in this small valley. It didn't hurt that the leaves had some color, and the sunless sky made them more prominent. As I was driving out, the rain came. - *Joe Feeman*

5C. Friends and Members in the Print Media

An article in the August 31 Oak Ridger that reported on Oak Ridge Planning Commission meeting quoted Charlie Hensley.

John Bates spoke to Friends of Oak Ridge National Laboratory about batteries, electric cars, other uses of lithium-ion batteries, and the future, as reported in the September 14 Oak Ridger.

An article about the Magic Wok in the September 22 Oak Ridger included a quote and picture from Mick Wiest.

Jeff Mellor's letter to the News Sentinel editor about Governor Lee and the Tennessee Legislature appeared in the October 4 issue.

Jan Berry and Mark Reynolds coauthored an essay in the October 6 New Sentinel about the importance of carbon pricing to address extreme weather events.

An article about Medicaid expansion in the Sunday, October 17 News Sentinel was coauthored by Judy Roitman.

George Lindemann penned an article about Tennessee's rural areas' economy, land management, and resource sustainability that appeared in the October 17 News Sentinel.

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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**TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR
WILDERNESS PLANNING**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 2, TCWP Holiday Party
- January 8, Whites Creek Workday

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