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TCWP Newsletter

1. OAK RIDGE NEWS

1A. Tell DOE We Need Transparency Regarding the New Hazardous Waste Dump

As cleanup of hazardous and radioactive material at the Oak Ridge Reservation continues, the Department of Energy is proposing a reckless plan that would contaminate waterways with toxic chemicals and put downstream communities at risk.

At press time, DOE was planning a public meeting about the proposal allowing the public can push the agency to release more critical information about its toxic waste plans.

DOE’s current proposal calls for tearing down contaminated and radioactive buildings, burying most of the waste on-site, and releasing radionuclide pollutants – including chemicals that are known to cause cancer – into Bear Creek. This is a reckless plan that threatens the health of people who live near, use, and recreate in Bear Creek and other downstream waterways.

There is a clear need for DOE to tear down contaminated buildings on the Oak Ridge Reservation. Less clear are basic details about what will be put in the landfill, how wastewater will be treated before being discharged, and whether there are alternatives that would allow the waste to be disposed of off-site or out of state. Without these details, it is impossible to know what long-term hazards nearby and downstream communities could be exposed to.

For more information see DOE fact sheets at <https://ucor.com/additional-emdf-information/> and info from Advocates For Oak Ridge Reservation at <https://aforr.info/hazardous-waste-landfill-emdf/>.

Written comments to DOE about the topic are due by June 7, 2022, to: Mr. Roger Petrie, OREM Regulatory Affairs DOE Oak Ridge Operations, P.O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, or send an email to OakRidgeEM@orem.doe.gov. Stand up for the Oak Ridge Community and tell DOE we need to know more.

1B. Electric Supply Options for Horizon Center Expanded

With the announcement by TRISO-X of the Horizon Center as the site for a nuclear fuel fabrication facility, the long-discussed choice of route by which electricity will be supplied to the area comes to a head. The City of Oak Ridge has identified several options to provide this additional power need (described at <https://aforr.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/City-of-Oak-Ridge-options-for-HC-power-expansion-2022.pdf>). The options were presented at a recent City Council Meeting, and that video recording is here: https://oakridgetn.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=129 (drag slider to 1:52 point and watch to the end to hear discussion of the power line options).

It is important to identify a solution that ensures reliable energy for the industrial park and maintains the quality of the designated natural areas and the recreational resources and environmental values of the BORCE. The City's Options 1A and 1B would severely impact the existing greenway, trail, and unique habitats. Option 5, which would create a new substation near the front of the Horizon Center along Highway 95, is the option that will meet those criteria.

Option 5 can be accomplished in a timely manner to support the power need for the Horizon Center and is the most effective option for delivering power to all developable tracts in the industrial park with the least impact on the environment and recreation.

Oak Ridgers call your council members and the City Manager to voice your support for Option 5. Phone: (865) 425-3411.


2. OBED/BIG SOUTH FORK NEWS

2A. Bandy Creek Swimming Pool (BSFNRRRA) Opens Friday, May 27

The pool will be open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and all federal holidays 11 am to 6 pm ET. The pool can also be rented for after-hour events. For more info go to <https://www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/bandy-creek-swimming-pool.htm>.

2B. You Can Be an Obed River Otter!

The River Otters paddle an assigned section of stream at least 2 times a year, report on overall conditions, pick up trash, and submit a report after each visit. To sign up contact effie_houston@nps.gov or call (423) 569-9778.

Find us on 
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Keystone Species

A keystone species is an animal or organism that holds an ecosystem together. The loss of the organism results in the dramatic change or destruction of the ecosystem. A keystone species can be anything from fungi and other plants to herbivores, carnivores, and mutualists.

Examples of keystone species in the U. S.:

- Sugar maples
- Wood peckers
- Beavers
- Prairie Dogs
- Native Bees



3. CUMBERLANDS

3A. Rural Cumberland County Residents Slated for Waterline

Residents along the Head of the Sequatchie area roads will have access to municipal water in a year, courtesy of team work among Cumberland County officials, South Cumberland Utility District, and State officials. The work is funded from a variety of sources such as a Community Development Block Grant, the Appalachian Regional Commission, Cumberland County, and the South Cumberland Utility District.

Cumberland County residents and leaders have been concerned for some time about adequate water supply to meet the needs of its growing population. This expansion of SCUD will serve 29 households along Old Highway 28 to East Valley Road, Wilson Cemetery Road, Tranquility Lane, and Cumberland Trial State Park.

Since the project was approved the cost has increased by \$1million. According to the April 29 Crossville Chronicle, the state of Tennessee dedicated \$1.35 billion of its American Rescue Plan Act funds for water infrastructure projects. These funds must be obligated by year end 2024 and spent by year end 2026. SCUD officials plan to apply for funding to make up the cost increase, and to extend the waterline to the Bledsoe County line. The state estimates it needs \$5 billion to \$15 billion in water infrastructure investment through 2040.

4. TVA

4A. TVA to Make Critical Decision on Cumberland Fossil Plant Retirement



The Tennessee Valley Authority is currently accepting comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for retirement of the Cumberland Fossil Plant (CUF) in Stewart County. The plant stands on the west side of Cumberland City, near the Cumberland River as it becomes Lake Barkley at Land Between the Lakes. TVA is accepting comments from the public online, by email, or by mail through June 13, 2022. Also for public input, TVA held a virtual open house on May 12 and will be holding two in-person open houses on May 17 at the Stewart County Visitors Center in Dover, TN, and on May 18 at Houston County High School in Erin, TN.

In addition to the No Action Alternative, the draft EIS examines three action alternatives: (A) retirement of CUF and construction and operation of a Combined Cycle Combustion Turbine Gas Plant at the same site, (B) retirement of CUF and construction and operation of Simple Cycle Combustion Turbine Gas Plants at alternative locations, and (C) retirement of CUF and construction and operation of Solar and Storage Facilities, primarily at alternative locations.

TVA is to be congratulated with moving ahead with its retirement of its coal-fired plants. As reported in NL 360, 11/10/21, TVA coal plants are among the top ten for single-point emissions in Tennessee, with the CUF topping the list. However, as feared but expected, TVA retains its fossil-fuel mindset and has chosen Alternative A as its preferred alternative.

The egregious proposal to replace CUF with natural gas combustion comes at time when most of the country has recognized the dire threat of climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels. The recent publication of the Sixth Assessment Report on Mitigation of Climate Change by Working Group III of the International Panel on Climate Change states clearly, "We are not on track to limit warming to 1.5 °C"—the average temperature rise beyond which the earth enters a feedback loop of ever rising temperatures. The IPCC states, "The evidence is clear: The time for action is now."

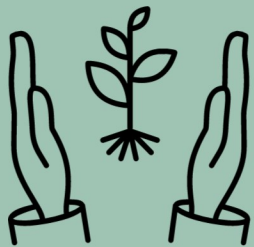


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TVA’s preferred alternative also goes in the face of President Biden’s stated goal for the U.S. of reducing greenhouse gas pollution by 50-52% from 2005 levels by 2030, particularly in the production of electricity that has a stated goal to be carbon-free by 2035. Assuming an operating life of 30-50 years, a new natural gas facility would operate long after that goal.

To supply the plant, TVA must also build approximately 32 miles of a new 30-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline and associated gas system infrastructure in Stewart, Houston, and Dickson counties. Across the U.S., pipelines have become the scourge of local communities, especially poor neighborhoods and indigenous lands, as the wealthy and connected say “not in our neighborhoods.” For example, the proposed 49-mile Byhalia Pipeline in Memphis would have taken a roundabout route through poor and black neighborhoods instead of the shorter, more direct route through Germantown and Collierville before it was canceled in 2021 due to local opposition.

Pres. Biden has nominated four new members to the TVA Board. If approved by the Senate, these new board members are likely to swing TVA toward renewable energy. But it’s important that we make our voices heard now so those incoming members are supported by public opinion.

To comment on the draft EIS and TVA’s Preferred Alternative, go to <https://www.tva.com/environment/environmental-stewardship/environmental-reviews/nepa-detail/cumberland-fossil-plant-retirement>

Sources:

“Sixth Assessment Report, Working Group III – Mitigation of Climate Change,” https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg3/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_PressConferenceSlides.pdf

“Largest Federal Utility Chooses Gas, Undermining Biden’s Climate Goals,” <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/17/climate/tennessee-valley-authority-biden-climate.html>

“President Biden Sets 2030 Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Target,” <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-sets-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-target-aimed-at-creating-good-paying-union-jobs-and-securing-u-s-leadership-on-clean-energy-technologies/>

“Activists Have Shut Down a Memphis-Area Pipeline—But Their Fight Isn’t Over,” <https://truthout.org/articles/activists-have-shut-down-a-memphis-area-pipeline-but-their-fight-isnt-over/> - 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.]

Crab Orchard Mountain Walk – Saturday, May 21

This joint outing for TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society is scheduled in hopes of catching spreading pogonia (*Cleistes bifaria*) and prairie lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*) in flower. They are both beautiful, the orchid in a subtle way and the lily in a very showy way. We should see a variety of flowers as we walk an open area, power line, and forested area with streams and rock formations. After the main walk there is a quality wetland that can be visited. Attendees can choose a shuttle or can walk the whole loop using a road-walk portion. As always, there is the option of turning back early. If COVID prevents a shuttle, we will do an In-and-back-out or complete the loop.

Distance is estimated at 3 miles for those doing the shuttle and 4.5 for those walking the loop. The power line part of the walk is the same as some of us did last fall; the flowers, of course, will be totally different. The trail under the power line is steep in places.

We'll meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) in time to leave Oak Ridge at 8:45 a.m. Eastern; or meet the group at the Marathon gas station at the I-40 Crab Orchard exit east of Crossville at 10 a.m. Eastern. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray. Your RSVP helps with planning and allows for notification in case of cancellation; contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 or PoundsL471@aol.com. - *Larry Pounds*

Elza Gate Greenway Walk – Saturday, May 28

This joint Oak Ridge outing for TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society will emphasize tree and shrub identification along the greenway. The outing, on a flattish paved trail, should work for those with limited walking ability. Wheelchairs are a possibility. Total out-and-back distance is about 1.5 miles. As usual, participants can turn back when they want.

We'll meet at Elza Gate Park on the Oak Ridge Turnpike near Melton Lake Drive at 9 a.m. Eastern time. Bring water, lunch, and bug spray.

Your RSVP helps with planning and allows for notification in case of cancellation; contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 or PoundsL471@aol.com. - *Larry Pounds*

National Trails Day – Saturday, June 4

In keeping with a long tradition, the North Ridge Trail in Oak Ridge will be the focus of National Trails Day, June 4. Participants should meet at the Children's Museum at 9:00 a.m.

There will be trail brushing and the possibility of step construction and/or water bars or broad-based drainage dips at a gully with bridge and slickness issues. Tools that would be helpful include clippers, loppers, handsaws, mattocks, shovels.

The North Ridge Trail and its access trails provide a lengthy path through woodlands with creeks, rocks, and wildflowers. Running east-west, the main trail is accessible at various places along the way.

The North Ridge Trail was built years ago by volunteers organized by event sponsor Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. It has been maintained by volunteers since then.

East Fork Poplar Creek Greenway Cleanup - Saturday, June 11

TCWP and partners Clinch Valley Trails Alliance and Oak Ridge Greenways are sponsoring the third annual trash cleanup and hike on the East Fork Poplar Creek Greenway. This wonderful new trail, developed by CVTA and Greenways Oak Ridge, was recently completed along the banks of East Fork Poplar Creek in west Oak Ridge. The trail meanders through a nice riparian woodland along the creek.

This trail is subject to occasional flooding, and help is needed to remove litter left behind by the water. There are also a lot of old tires and other debris that have washed from places upstream. TCWP and CVTA will provide plastic bags and some pick-up tools for participants. Please bring gloves and wear mud/water-friendly shoes.

We plan to start at the Jefferson Avenue intersection with the Turnpike at 9 a.m. We'll cover up to a mile downstream, and possibly some upstream if there is time. Park next to the Boys and Girls Club a short distance from the turnpike. Contact Jimmy Groton at 865-805-9908 or groton87@comcast.net with questions. - *Jimmy Groton*

"Musselrama '22" Zoom Program – Thursday, July 19

Tim Lane, who leads the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources' annual Musselrama mussel sampling event in the Clinch River, will talk about this year's event in a 7 p.m. (Eastern) Zoom program cosponsored by TCWP and the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society July 19. During Musselrama, as many as 20 to 30 biologists and volunteers gather for a week each summer to monitor the largest mussel population centers, reaching from Cleveland, VA, downstream to Speers Ferry, VA.

Started in 2001, these intensive benthic surveys have been led annually in the Clinch and Powell rivers by the Virginia DWR. The information collected is used to inform management actions aimed at protecting and enhancing this unique aquatic resource. The Clinch River, which flows through the far southwestern corner of Virginia in Tazewell, Russell, and Scott counties before crossing into Tennessee, is home to more endangered mussel species than any other river in North America.

As the Mussel Recovery Coordinator at the DWR, Lane oversees operations at the Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Center in Marion, VA (which focuses on raising and stocking rare species), and monitors and manages mussel recovery in streams of the Upper Tennessee River Basin, including the Clinch, Powell, and Holston rivers and their tributaries. He has extensive experience with more than 40 mussel species in the region, specifically the 20 federally listed species that call Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee home. He also assists USFWS, TWRA, TVA, and consultant groups with monitoring of mussel populations in the Tennessee section of the river, extending from Looney's Gap downstream to Sneedville.

The program is free, but please register to receive your Zoom link at www.utarboretumsociety.org. Contact Michelle Campanis at mcampani@utk.edu regarding any questions or registration issues.

5B. Recent Events

Spring Cedar Barrens Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® - Saturday, March 5

Saturday, March 5, was a nice and sunny day for our Spring Cedar Barrens Cleanup/Weed Wrangle®. Eighteen volunteers came out to wrangle weeds at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens. Although the center of the ellipse area was in fairly good shape, there were plenty of invasive-type plants sprouting in early spring. Volunteers pulled privet, bush honeysuckle and a few other invasives around the perimeter area. Tim Bigelow and Anne Childs worked to install several waterbars and drainage dips to control ongoing erosion on the trail through the triangle area in front of the barrens. - *Jimmy Groton*

Obed River Cleanup from Kayaks – Saturday, March 26

TCWP and the NPS Obed office co-hosted a river cleanup on March 26 in the Obed Wild and Scenic River park. Twelve boaters, including seven East Tennessee Whitewater Club kayakers and five Park Service rangers (and friends) in inflatable

kayaks and a raft, put on at Devils Breakfast Table on Daddys Creek, and paddled to Nemo Bridge on the Obed/Emory, picking up trash along the way. The trip even included a pass through Russell Rapid, named after TCWP founders Lee and Bill Russell.

The first raft-load of trash was dumped at the Obed Junction, and an even larger load was offloaded at Nemo. A day of hard work and fun resulted in making one of the most beautiful rivers in the area even more beautiful. - *Mark Bevelhimer*

Oak Ridge Hike with Sierra Club/AFORR/TCWP– Saturday, April 2

TCWP, Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, and the Sierra Club Harvey Broome Group cosponsored a hike on April 2 to explore parts of Oak Ridge's North Boundary Greenway, the Horizon Center natural area, and Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement. Eighteen participants met at one of the eastern trailheads for the North Boundary Greenway. We enjoyed the beauty of the greenway on a nice spring day, and also explored and talked about the proposed power line route that could directly affect parts of the Horizon Center natural area and indirectly affect parts of the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement. - *Jimmy Groton*

Garlic Mustard Pull/Wildflower Walk – Saturday, April 9

It was a mercurial April morning at the Oak Ridge Wildflower Greenway. In spite of overcast skies and cool temperatures, 14 volunteers converged in a parking lot near the Greenway. Armed with garbage bags, the group spread out in search of the invasive threat to plentiful wildflowers, garlic mustard.

The garlic mustard was easily spotted and the wet earth gave up the roots easily. As the bags got heavier, so did the clouds. We retreated as the rain was coming down. The rain turned into graupel, or granular snow pellets, according to Merriam-Webster.

Greenways Oak Ridge Wildflower Greenway Steward Roger Macklin returned the next week as did TCWP member Marion Burger and each collected another bulging bag of garlic mustard. - *Sandra Goss*

Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage at Frozen Head State Park – Saturday, April 16

The weather was good, so the park was crowded. We decided not to go to the Debord Falls and Panther Branch Trail. The parking figured to be impossible. That meant we didn't get to see dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolius*).

The 24 of us walked the interpretive trail, then most of us continued on to make a loop along Judge Branch. Flower highlights include four species of trilliums: two species with sessile flowers, yellow (yellow trillium, *Trillium luteum*, and sweet-betsy, *Trillium cuneatum*) and two species with stalked flowers (red trillium, *Trillium erectum* or *sulcatum*, and large-flowered white trillium, *Trillium grandiflorum*).

Other favorites were pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*), northern pinkster azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*), and spotted mandarin (*Prosartes maculata*). - *Larry Pounds*

Stinging Fork Falls to Piney Falls Walk – Saturday, April 23

The third time for this outing was the charm. We had a group of eight adventurers, and the weather was lovely. At the Stinging Fork Falls trailhead, we entered a large, cleared area that had been a pine plantation and now is being converted into prairie habitat, which is rare in Tennessee due to lack of fire. Then we dropped into Stinging Fork gorge. We ate lunch at the falls. We followed Stinging Fork for a while and then climbed out of that gorge to go back down to Soak Creek, a state scenic river, but we weren't done climbing. We went way up and then way down to Soak Creek again. Finally, we followed the remnants of a railroad route to our shuttle vehicle.

With all the climbs, the six miles was a good workout and provided spectacular wildflower displays. The trilliums were outstanding, but the gaywings (*Polygala paucifolia*) and yellow lady's slippers (*Cypripedium calceolus*) drew the raves. The lady's slippers were small-flowered but did not have the reddish coloring on the sepals usually found on the small-flowered variant of the yellow lady's slipper. - *Larry Pounds*

Sounds Wild and Broken Program with David Haskell – Thursday, April 28

TCWP and UT Arboretum Society members and guests gathered via Zoom on April 28 to hear David Haskell, Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at the University of the South in Sewanee, discuss themes from his most recent book, *Sounds Wild and Broken: Sonic Marvels, Evolution's Creativity, and The Crisis Of Sensory Extinction*.

Haskell described the diversity of nature reflected in sounds, and played a number of sound recordings from various locations on the globe. "We live in an acoustically marvelous world," he told his audience, but it wasn't always that way; he described the evolution of song and sound as animals evolved to be able to escape predators by jumping, flying, or running. He said it appears from the fossil record that sound originated with insects, and was later acquired by frogs, birds, and mammals. His book discusses why sound became so diverse, in part due to species' adaptation to habitat and environment.

He concluded his talk by pointing out that "we live in a time of acoustic crisis," with humans destroying habitats, making too much noise, and paying attention only to other human voices, rather than to the sounds of nature. He encouraged his audience to "be open to the physicality of sound, and see where it takes you."

More information about Haskell's books, which also include *The Songs of Trees* and *The Forest Unseen*, along with a number of the sound recordings he played during his presentation, can be found on his website, <https://dghaskell.com/>.
- Carol Grametbauer

Wildflower Greenway Walk – Saturday, April 30

TCWP sponsored a wildflower walk on Oak Ridge's Wildflower Greenway on April 30. Even though the Greenway trail is only 0.8 mile one way, it packs a lot of wildflower punch for such a short trail.

Thirteen participants enjoyed several of the same flowers we saw earlier in the month at the Garlic Mustard Pull, like dwarf larkspur, showy orchis, and foam flower. We also got to see some other interesting flowers that bloom a little later in the spring, including an unusual white form of Vasey's trillium (normally red) and largeleaf waterleaf. We even bagged some garlic mustard plants that snuck past us at the Garlic Mustard Pull. - Jimmy Groton

5C: A Fond Farewell to Elizabeth Peele (July 3, 1932--April 6, 2022)

TCWP founding member Elizabeth Peele played a large role in TCWP as well as many other Oak Ridge organizations and efforts such as the Community Relations Council, Planned Parenthood of the Southern Mountains, and the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church.

Elizabeth's professional life included 37 years at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where she helped pioneer the use of Social Impact Assessment in the siting of noxious facilities, including nuclear power plants, radioactive and chemical waste repositories. Her research has been published in several professional journals, and she presented her work at numerous national, professional, and academic forums.

Elizabeth was named Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 1986 and received an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Miami University in 1990, among many other professional honors.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her husband Bob in 2018. She leaves two daughters Evelyn Peele (Gary Jerauld) of Houston, TX, and Annette (Eric) Sargent of Birmingham, MI and their son William, and other extended family relatives.

A memorial service for Elizabeth will be held Saturday, May 28 at 10:30 at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. The family requests that attendees wear purple.

5D: Friends and Members in Print Media

The November 4, 2021 Oak Ridger cited Steve Oliphant as a new member of the Oak Ridge Sports Hall of Fame.

Steve Oliphant coauthored a Ray Smith "Oak Ridge History" column about the North Ridge Trail in the February 11 Oak Ridger.

A story and picture about the Oak Ridge Unitarian Church Commemorative Quilt Project featured comments and a picture of Shelaine Curd was in the February 11 Oak Ridger.

Jeff Mellor wrote a letter to the editor of the March 7 News Sentinel about the rising cost of gas.

Charter schools and vouchers were topics of a letter in the March 13 News Sentinel that was signed by Lance McCold and others.

The March 17 Oak Ridger pictured and mentioned Chris Kotula Iversen in an article about a Prayer Assembly for Ukraine.

Ellen Smith, Chair of the Lunch for Literacy Grant Selection Committee, was pictured and mentioned in the March 18 Oak Ridger.

David Brill authored an article about the Obed River Wild and Scenic River that appeared in the Spring '22 issue of National Parks. Belinda Woodiel was mentioned in the article.

The March 23 issue of the News Sentinel had a letter from Anne Child to salute the late Representative Don Young and his fight against infectious diseases.

Jeff Mellor's letter to the editor of the April 15 News Sentinel was about teaching civility and respect for different views in the classroom.

5E: TCWP awarded ORNL/UT-Battelle Grant

TCWP applied for and was awarded a \$4,000 grant for directional signage for the North Ridge Trail. TCWP is working with Greenways Oak Ridge and the City of Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks department to develop and install the signs. We believe this initiative to provide directional signage will add to the user experience and safety of the North Ridge Trail and have a long lasting impact on the Oak Ridge community. - *Ken Mayes*

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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UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 20 International Endangered Species Day
- May 21, Crab Orchard Mountain Walk
- May 28, Elza Gate Greenway Walk
- June 4, National Trails Day
- June 11, East Fork Poplar Creek Greenway Cleanup
- July 19, "Musselrama '22" Zoom program

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