

TCWP Newsletter

1. LOCAL

1A. North Ridge Trail Lost Its Steward! Long live the North Ridge Trail Steward!

Long time NRT Steward Ray Garrett is retiring from his position. Ray has hosted trail adopters at his house for a friendly National Trails Day lunch, usually held after a work project on the trail or an access trail. Many thanks, Ray, for your tireless efforts and countless hours on behalf of North Ridge Trail!

A section adopter, John Jaruzel, has agreed to serve as Steward of the North Ridge Trail. When asked to write a little about him and the North Ridge Trail, he responded, “When I was looking to relocate to East Tennessee I was attracted to Oak Ridge for lots of reasons.

“One of these is the wonderful outdoor opportunities in the area. Our first stop happened to be at the Wedgewood access to the North Ridge Trail. We discovered an urban trail that had the feel of being away from the crowds along with a great diversity of flora and fauna. Little did I know at the time that we would end up living a few minutes’ walk from that trail head.

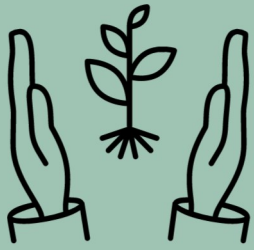
“I have adopted the trail section from Key Springs Road to Wedgewood for a number of years now. In addition, I have recently taken on the job of organizing the trail workers for the entire 7-mile length of the trail from Ray Garrett who has done this work for quite some time. Thanks Ray!

“We have 3 sections of trail that are not adopted. We are looking for folks to adopt these trail sections:

- Outer Drive at Georgia to Orchard Lane
- Wedgewood to North Walker Lane
- North Walker Lane to Old Batley Road.

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Support
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by donating,
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renewing

your membership

at tcwp.org

TCWP Board Meetings

The Officers and Directors of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning meet the third Thursday of each month. Members are welcome to call, email, or attend a Board meeting to raise issues that TCWP needs to address. We welcome your input. See inside front page for contact information.



Keep TCWP in Mind for Charitable Payroll Deductions through Community Shares.

“Trail adopters are asked to walk their section of the trail quarterly, clear any light brush intruding on the trail and report any large tree falls or other major damage to me for the Parks & Recreation department to address. The feeling of having a part in the continued access to such great trails in our own back yard more than pays back for the effort involved. Please consider adopting a section of our North Ridge Trail. I may be contacted at jmjaruzel@gmail.com.”

2. CUMBERLAND PLATEAU

2A. O&W Railroad Bridge in Scott County Slated for Destruction

The Scott County Commission has approved a resolution to accept federal funding from TDOT to replace four bridges, one of which is the O&W Bridge. The O&W Bridge is county-owned within the boundaries of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area.

The O&W Bridge, one of the last existing Whipple through truss bridges in the United States, has been in place over the Big South Fork River since 1915. It was originally built in the 1880s, and was later disassembled and moved to the BSF region as the O&W Railroad was being built between Oneida and Jamestown. The bridge was used as a part of the railroad until 1954, and has been used by vehicular traffic since.

The bridge was the source of consternation between the federal government and Scott County in the 1990s. Both entities claimed ownership of the bridge, and the National Park Service proposed to close the bridge to vehicular traffic, building a parking area on the east end of the bridge and keeping the bridge open only for pedestrians.

County Commission passed a series of resolutions condemning the federal government’s plan. Ultimately, then-County Mayor Dwight Murphy brokered a deal with the National Park Service that saw the feds concede ownership of the bridge and the O&W Road to Scott County all the way to the county line, which is where the old railroad grade crosses North White Oak Creek a couple of miles beyond the bridge. The portion of O&W Road falling into Scott County was left open, with an agreement that the county would be responsible for maintenance of the road and the bridge, while the portion of the railroad grade on the Fentress County side of the line was closed and is now used as a multi-use trail for horseback riders, hikers and mountain bikers.

The bridge was nearly closed in 2015, after it was deemed unsafe due to rotting timbers. However, engineers said that the structural integrity of the bridge was sound, and the Industrial Development Board of Scott County obtained a grant for nearly \$100,000 to completely replace the wooden portions of the structure, including the decking, and the fencing. The work was completed by the Scott County Road Department. The project was finished in the Spring of 2017.

A group is interested in preserving the bridge. For updates on the activities, visit: www.facebook.com/groups/149861930920044.

Find us on 
<https://www.facebook.com/TCWPOR>

2B. Big South Fork Launches River Cleanup Volunteer Program

The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (NRRRA) is initiating a new river clean up volunteer program this year. “The Big South Fork River Otter program is a volunteer partnership for people who love the park’s streams and want to help take care of them,” said Superintendent Niki Stephanie Nicholas. The goal of the program is to provide an extended presence in the park while providing Big South Fork staff with assistance in keeping the waterways clean of debris.

The River Otters will be expected to paddle their adopted section of stream at least two times during the calendar year. They also will report on overall conditions, pick up any trash, and submit a report after each visit. River Otters will collect trash and deposit it at designated locations for pick up by staff. No motorized equipment is allowed.

To learn more about the Big South Fork River Otter program, email the park’s Volunteer Coordinator at effie_houston@nps.gov, call (423) 569-9778, or visit <https://www.nps.gov/biso/learn/news/big-south-fork-nrrra-launches-a-river-cleanup-volunteer-program-the-river-otters.htm>

3. NATIONAL

3A. RAWA to Be Considered Again

The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act has been touted as the single most important environmental legislation since the Endangered Species Act of 1973. RAWA was introduced in the last Congress and received bipartisan support, which demonstrated it’s become accepted fact for most that the U.S is on track to lose a significant portion of its wildlife to extinction. Tennessee’s David Kustoff (R) and Chuck Fleischmann (R) joined Democrats Jim Cooper (D) and Steve Cohen (D) in cosponsoring the House bill in the last Congress. Tennessee Senator Bill Hagerty (R) was a cosponsor of the Senate bill.

In the 117th Congress, the Act passed the House and had the Senate votes to pass when it was included in the annual budget bill. But RAWA was cut from the bill because of disagreement on how to fund it. The Act called for as much as \$1.3 billion a year by 2026 for state wildlife agencies and \$100 million for Native American tribes to protect and conserve wildlife under their jurisdictions (including non-game wildlife).

The substance of the bill faced very little disagreement in Congress. Funding was the only issue. At the time, closing a tax loophole for cryptocurrency seemed a possible funding source, but with lack of agreement on the details, time ran out.

Now with the 118th Congress, the bill must go through the entire process again, being introduced in the House and Senate, going through committees, coming up for votes. But of course a funding source will need to be identified. That will be complicated by new House budgetary rules, which require mandatory spending increases to be offset by spending decreases in other areas, without any increase in taxes.

Still, there seems to be an expectation that a solution can be found to pass RAWA, even as early as this year. The need is dire. The conservation research group, NatureServe, recently issued a report that 40% of animals and 34% of plants in the U.S. are at risk of extinction (<https://www.natureserve.org/bif>). -Russ Manning

3B. Cumberland Plant Update

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently reviewing a permit for stream crossings of the methane pipeline that will feed the new natural gas plant that TVA intends to install at the Cumberland fossil plant in Stewart County. The gas plant will replace the coal generation that is being retired. The proposal is in stark contrast to the nation’s renewable energy goals that would instead call for solar generation and storage.

The pipeline will cross 140 watercourses and 7 wetlands on its way to the Cumberland plant and so the need for a “stream crossing” permit. The Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club is gathering signatures in opposition to the pipeline, stating that the TVA alternatives analysis and the draft EIS for the pipeline are inadequate. If you wish to sign the petition, go here <https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/stop-tennessee-pipelines>. - Russ Manning

4. TCWP NEWS

4A. 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.]

Obed River Cleanup from Kayaks – Saturday, March 25

Kayakers are encouraged to join TCWP, in cooperation with the National Park Service, for a whitewater cleanup trip on the Obed River on Saturday, March 25. The Park Service will staff a raft to be used for garbage collection.

Weather and river conditions are unpredictable, and decisions about the nature of the trip will likely be made the evening before the event. If water levels do not permit collecting trash from the river, there will be mini-cleanups at various put-ins. Participants should wear wicking fabric, not cotton clothes, and will need to bring lunch and water.

Participants will meet at 9 a.m. Eastern at the Obed Wild and Scenic River Visitors Center in Wartburg. For more information, contact Sandra Goss at 865-583-3967 or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com, or Mark Bevelhimer at 865-679-9242 or mbevelhimer@gmail.com.

Update on Tick-borne Diseases in East Tennessee – Thursday, March 30

Dr. Richard Gerhold, who in 2021 presented a program on tick-borne diseases cosponsored by TCWP and the UT Arboretum Society, will follow that up with a 7 p.m. Zoom program on Thursday, March 30. Dr. Gerhold will discuss updates on tick abundance and prevalence, as well as the spread of the Asian longhorned tick. He'll also cover the various pathogens that can be transmitted, their geographical and temporal variations, diagnostics tests, and prevention.

Dr. Gerhold, who holds a BS degree in wildlife science and a DVM, both from Purdue University, is an associate professor of parasitology in the Department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, at the University of Tennessee, where he researches Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. In addition to the latter, his research interests include wildlife and public health associated parasite epidemiology and transmission, protozoa transmission and ecology, and avian diseases.

The program will be free, but participants will need register to receive a Zoom link, to be provided at www.utarboretumsociety.org. Contact Michelle Campanis at mcampani@utk.edu regarding any questions or registration issues.

Garlic Mustard Pull/Wildflower Walk – Saturday, April 8

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. Pets are not permitted. TCWP board member Margaret Cumberland will help with wildflower identification.

Hike at Frozen Head State Park – Saturday, April 15

All are welcome for this joint outing cosponsored by TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS). We will have an excellent opportunity to see spring wildflowers. The first mile (Interpretive Loop) is ideal for those with limited hiking capabilities; the trail is wide and flat. For those continuing, the next 2 miles (Judge Branch Trail) are steeper and rougher, but still moderate.

We'll meet in the Frozen Head State Park Visitor Center parking area at 10 a.m. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray. Pets are not permitted. For more information, contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 or at PoundsL471@aol.com. -Larry Pounds

Hike at Little Cedar Mountain – Saturday, April 22

This hike is sponsored by TCWP and TNPS. Little Cedar Mountain is a wonderful place for spring wildflowers like spreading rock cress and wild hyacinth. If there is interest and time, we could take a second hike to see the rare native smoke tree on the Middle Cedar Mountain.

We'll meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge at the Gold's Gym/Books-a-Million parking lot (at the section close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) in time to leave at 8 a.m. Participants can also meet at the Little Cedar Mountain trailhead at 10:30 Eastern, 9:30 Central. Take I-40 exit 158 and go south on TVA Road. Turn left immediately onto the gravel road next to the interstate.

The entire loop is a bit over three miles, with two short climbs. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray. Pets are not permitted. Your RSVP helps with planning; contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 or at PoundsL471@aol.com. -Larry Pounds

Hike at Haw Ridge – Saturday, April 29

On this outing cosponsored by TCWP and TNPS, we should be able to see an inconspicuous orchid, Wister's coralroot, among many other spring wildflowers. Some of these flowers are growing on a small cedar barren. We'll walk a loop of less than 2 miles. The trail is rough in places.

We'll meet in Oak Ridge at the west terminal trailhead of the greenway along Edgemoor Rd. (TN170). (Don't go down Old Edgemoor Rd.) at 10 a.m. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray. Pets are not permitted.

Your RSVP helps with planning. Contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 or at PoundsL471@aol.com. -Larry Pounds

Three Bends/Pellissippi Blueway Paddle Trip – Sunday, April 30

TCWP and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) are organizing another scenic paddle trip, scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday, April 30, to promote and help maintain the Three Bends and Pellissippi Blueway on Melton Lake. This time we plan to begin at the Clark Center Park boat ramp and paddle across and upstream, and some downstream, to enjoy tranquil inlets, birds, other wildlife and wildflowers, bluffs, and the fabulous scenery that the Pellissippi Blueway area has to offer. We'll make a stop across the main channel at Knox County's Melton Lake Park, where a weekend "camporee" is being organized by Knox County. Along the way, we'll do our part in cleaning up the shoreline by picking up and hauling back manageable trash.

Participants should meet at 1 p.m. at Clark Center Park boat ramp at the end of Bull Bluff Dr. Those needing a kayak or canoe may be able to rent one from Adventure Outdoors Center (Outdoorsrentals.com); assistance on transporting the watercraft can be provided. Please bring a life jacket and wear it whenever in the boat. Be prepared for sun, and bring a lunch and water. Pets are not permitted. For more information, contact Tim Bigelow at 865-607-6781 or Bigelowt2@mindspring.com.

-Tim Bigelow

Ecological Recovery Since the 1980 Eruption of Mount St. Helens – Thursday, May 11

The May 1980 cataclysmic eruption of Mount St. Helens included many types of disturbances, ranging from a gigantic blast, mudflows into several streams, a massive ash cloud, and the largest landslide in recorded history. Ecological recovery of each disturbance depended not only on the amount of blast, burial, or heat experienced by each locale, but also subsequent natural and human disturbances. Fortunately, in 1982 much of the area was protected by establishment of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Now, 42 years after the eruption, the volcano serves as a natural ecological experiment, educational opportunity, and recreational area as well as providing jobs in timber and tourism for the region.

In a Zoom program to be cosponsored by TCWP and the UT Arboretum Society at 7 p.m. on May 11, Virginia Dale, a research professor in the University of 's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, will discuss the effects of eruption on the mountain's ecosystems, subsequent disturbances, establishment of the monument, and ecological recovery. In addition to her work with the university, Dale is also a corporate fellow emerita at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The program will be free, but participants will need register to receive a Zoom link, to be provided at www.utarboretumsociety.org. Contact Michelle Campanis at mcampani@utk.edu regarding any questions or registration issues.

Hike on Cumberland Trail, Peavine Rd. to Devil's Breakfast Table – Saturday, May 13

On this hike, cosponsored by TCWP and TNPS, we'll start at Peavine Rd. and hike along Daddy's Creek, staying mostly up on the bluffs. At the halfway point the trail drops to the creek, where we'll eat lunch. We'll see many rock formations and a wide array of flowers along this section of the Cumberland Trail (CT). We'll end at the shuttle point near the Devil's Breakfast Table area. This is a spot to see the federally listed Cumberland rosemary.

As usual, you may do this hike as an out-and-back, turning back to Peavine Rd. at any point to make a hike of the length you desire. See cumberlandtrail.org for a map and description of the Devil's Breakfast Table Section of the CT.

We'll meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge at the Gold's Gym/Books-a-Million parking lot (at the section close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) in time to leave at 8 a.m. Participants can also meet at the Marathon Station (52 Main St, Crab Orchard) at the Crab Orchard exit (329) off I-40 east of Crossville at 9 a.m. Central time, 10 a.m. Eastern.

The hike is 7.6 miles for those going the full distance, not including short side trails to overlooks. There are steep sections. The hike is rated difficult based on length and steepness. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray. Pets are not permitted.

Your RSVP helps with planning. Contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 or at PoundsL471@aol.com. -Larry Pounds

Outing on Oak Ridge Melton Lake Greenway – Saturday, May 27

This outing cosponsored by TCWP and TNPS will emphasize tree and shrub identification along the paved greenway. This should work for those with limited walking ability. Wheelchairs are a possibility. We will walk or roll on a flattish paved trail. Total out and back distance is perhaps 1.5 miles. As usual, attendees can turn back when they want.

We'll meet at 9 a.m. at the end of Old Edgemoor Rd. in Haw Ridge Park in Oak Ridge. near the former Life Development Center (299 Old Edgemoor Rd. Oak Ridge). Bring water, a lunch or snack, and bug spray. Pets are not permitted.

Your RSVP helps with planning. Contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 or at PoundsL471@aol.com. -Larry Pounds

4B. Recent Events

“Leave No Trace” Program with Christine Hoyer – Thursday, Jan. 12

Christine Hoyer, Leave No Trace coordinator and Backcountry Management specialist for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, discussed the importance of Leave No Trace ethics in protecting a place with GSMNP's extraordinary biodiversity and high visitation in a January 12 Zoom program cosponsored by TCWP and the UT Arboretum Society.

Hoyer outlined the history of the Leave No Trace program from the 1960s on, through name changes from “Wilderness Manners,” “Wilderness Ethics,” and “No-Trace Camping” to the current program, developed in the 1990s. She said respect for the land, the animals, and the people who come to visit is at the basis of the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace: plan ahead and prepare; travel and camp on durable surfaces; dispose of waste properly; leave what you find; minimize campfire impacts; respect wildlife; and be considerate of other visitors. She described the principles as “an ethic, not a set of regulations.” She encouraged her audience to think of their favorite places and what they'd like them to be like in 20 or 30 years, as an inspiration to re-imagine how we recreate in these places.

More information about Leave No Trace is available on their website, at <https://lnt.org/>. If you are interested in volunteering to help maintain backcountry areas of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, contact Hoyer her at her office phone (865-436-1264) or by email at christine_hoyer@nps.gov. -Carol Grametbauer

Whites Creek Workday - Saturday, January 14

On January 14, six TCWP volunteers braved some pretty cold temperatures and the threat of snowy weather to spend a beautiful winter day doing trail maintenance at TVA's Whites Creek Small Wild Area on Watts Bar Reservoir in Rhea County. This year we were happy to be joined by Randy Hedgepath, our Tennessee State Naturalist. We mostly brushed the trail, removed some smaller trees with handsaws, and picked up some trash along the trail. We were rewarded with a wonderful day in the woods with some wonderful friends. Between Randy and TCWP botanist Larry Pounds, we learned a lot about the ecology and lore of the forest. ATVs continue to access our property at the northwest corner and ride on the old road along the ridge on the west side.

TCWP has partnered with TVA since 1983 to enhance and protect natural resources at the Whites Creek SWA and many other places on public lands throughout East Tennessee as part of our ongoing stewardship efforts. - Jimmy Groton

Pellissippi Blueway Hickory/Melton Hill Bend hike, cleanup and owl prowling – Saturday, February 4

Twelve participants arrived on a wonderful early-spring afternoon. The group went right to work picking up and pre-sorting quite a bit of litter in the parking area, including bottles, cans, and some real trash. About 10 bags of trash, a large TV, and 10 tires were loaded up and hauled off.

The parking area and hiking trails are provided by TVA to access the Hickory Bend undeveloped recreation area, and it's a wonderful hike out to the point where a picnic and Blueway camping area are situated on a scenic spot on Melton Hill Lake. After doing a pretty good job cleaning up the parking area and down to the water, most of the group set off to hike out to the point. The trail was mostly clear, with a blowdown that was cleared off a bit. The group arrived at the picnic and camping area right at dusk; it was a bit overgrown, and a fair bit of trash had accumulated. Unfortunately, as the group arrived a participant was injured, and the group decided to forgo the campfire and owl prowling and start hiking back early. Some weeds were cleared, and one large bag of trash picked up. On the return hike it was a bit early for owls, and dogs were barking, but one owl was heard. *-Tim Bigelow*

Alley Ford Workday – Saturday, February 11

On February 11, TCWP, the National Park Service, and the Cumberland Trail State Park sponsored a day of trail work and hiking on the Alley Ford segment of the Cumberland Trail State Park and Obed Wild and Scenic River. This year marked the 25th anniversary of our adoption of this section of the Cumberland Trail. TCWP first adopted this 2.5-mile section of trail in 1998 as part of our ongoing stewardship efforts.

We had 10 TCWP volunteers, along with three State Park Rangers (Dalton Miller, Seth Webster, and Clint Armstrong) and four Obed WSR Rangers (Matt Hudson, Thomas Hall, Rick Ryan, and Rob Meyer). Two of our volunteers were students, who were there to fulfill part of their Community Service commitment as participants in Morgan County's Upward Bound program. We helped to clear brush along the trail, cut out downed logs, and worked to re-grade several sections of the trail. We started out in three smaller groups to cover specific sections of the trail more efficiently; then we all gathered at Alley Ford to concentrate on the section of trail between Alley Ford and the Catoosa boundary. We covered the trail from Rock Creek Campground past Alley Ford and pretty close to Breakaway Bluff. It was a great day! *-Jimmy Groton*

Spring Cedar Barrens Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® - Saturday, March 4

March 4 was a beautiful, sunny day for our first Weed Wrangle® of 2023 at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens State Natural Area. Twelve volunteers helped wrangle weeds at the Barrens. We spent most of the morning in the ellipse area pulling privet, bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, and a few other invasives around the perimeter; then we moved over to the triangle area along Fairbanks Road to work on invasive plants in a sunnier spot. Margaret Cumberland gave us an interesting introduction to the ecology of fire ants. Afterwards, all volunteers were treated to a nice pizza lunch. *-Jimmy Groton*

4C: Fond Farewells

Jerry Cassens

Former TCWP Executive Director Linda James lost her father, Gerald "Jerry" Cassena, in December in Oak Ridge, TN. Well known for his sense of humor and easy-going manner, Jerry was much loved by his family and friends. Along with Linda, Jerry is survived by his wife, Joan, and son-in-law Beau James, granddaughter Marian LaForest and grandson Warren LaForest and daughter Kara Cassens of London, UK, son-in-law Steve Mullen and granddaughter Zoe Mullen.

Whitey Hitchcock

Harry C. (Whitey) Hitchcock III, age 76, of Knoxville, TN, former three-term Anderson County Commissioner and well-known amateur mycologist. Whitey made many presentations to area groups, including TCWP, educating about mushrooms. Whitey is survived by his wife of 34 years, Ellen Gaddy Hitchcock, three sisters, and sons Derek White (Zaneta) and Brent Thompson (Lindsay).

Ray Payne

Long-time TCWP member Ray Payne died on February 24, 2023, at the age of 92. Ray had a long lifetime of incredible outdoor adventures and likewise incredible accomplishments toward protecting our wild land and especially the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Cherokee National Forest. He retired from the Oak Ridge National Lab in 1994.

Ray was involved in and often a leader of just about every environmental issue involving the Smokies, from stopping another trans-mountain road to the Elkmont cabins, the Northshore Road, the adopting of the Park's General Management Plan, and many others. Likewise, he was involved in so many Cherokee National Forest issues, including especially getting over 11% of the Forest designated as Wilderness in 1984 and 1986. (Editor's note: There were many meetings in Asheville and Bryson City to address the Northshore Road, and many other issues and I frequently rode with Ray and Will. Listening to those two reminisce, strategize, and speculate was educational as well as entertaining.)

Ray's wife Genny predeceased him, and he is survived by daughters Elizabeth and Joan and son Alan plus 7 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 3 great- great-grandchildren. -*Will Skelton*

4D. Doug Tallamy To Speak in Gatlinburg April 22

Doug Tallamy, an enthusiastic educator about nature in our backyards, is featured speaker for a Discover Life in America event in Gatlinburg on Saturday, April 22. There will be a reception at 6pm and keynote speaker, Doug Tallamy, at 7pm at Park Vista in Gatlinburg. Tickets are \$10 and all sales are final. Dr. Tallamy's books will be available for purchase and a book signing will follow. For more information visit dliia.org/news-and-events/25years/.

4E. NPCA Position Available

A new position is open for someone to work remotely in the Asheville or Knoxville area with National Parks Conservation Association, Director, Southern Appalachian Landscape Project. The Director will work to expand collaborative conservation efforts in the geography and will focus on furthering existing and building new relationships with community partners with the goal of identifying areas of shared conservation interest and fostering inclusive partnerships to achieve on-the-ground conservation successes. This is a 2-year, term-limited position with an opportunity for expansion dependent upon funding. Salary: \$78 - \$85K (based on experience).

In addition to offering a competitive salary and benefits package, NPCA offers a 4-day 32-hour work week. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply by submitting your resume and cover letter directly online to www.npca.org before April 5.

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

President: Mark Bevelhimer, mbevelhimer@gmail.com

Executive and Membership-Development Director: Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967 Sandra@sandrakgoss.com

Outreach & Membership Coordinator: Ken Mayes, ken.mayes@icloud.com

Newsletter editor: Sandra K. Goss

TCWP website: <http://www.tcwp.org>

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

P.O BOX 6873
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37831

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 25 – Obed River Cleanup from Kayaks
- March 30 – Update on Tick-borne Diseases in East Tennessee
- April 8 – Garlic Mustard Pull/Wildflower Walk
- April 15 – Hike at Frozen Head State Park
- April 22 – Hike at Little Cedar Mountain
- April 29 – Hike at Haw Ridge
- April 30 – Three Bends/Pellissippi Blueway Paddle Trip
- May 11 – Ecological Recovery Since the 1980 Eruption of Mount St. Helens
- May 13 – Hike on Cumberland Trail, Peavine Rd. to Devil’s Breakfast table
- May 27 – Outing on Oak Ridge Melton Lake Greenway

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