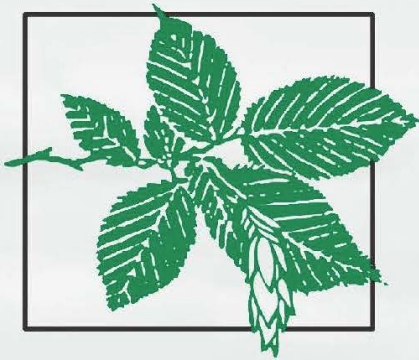




**Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning**

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Newsletter No. 356

March 9, 2021

Taking Care of Wild Places

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A Member of Community Shares

1. OAK RIDGE NEWS

1A. Oak Ridge Racetrack subject of City Council Work Session March 16

Oak Ridge City Manager was quoted as telling the Planning Commission that the City Council will consider the new Special Recreation District recently devised to add to Oak Ridge zoning. The SRD designation was developed to accommodate the Racetrack proposed at the Horizon Center.

There are several concerns related to the racetrack:

- Destruction of a beech-maple grove
- Blockade of wildlife corridor
- Obliteration of a stream's riparian area

To communicate your views to Oak Ridge City Council, email CityCouncil@oakridgetn.gov.

1B. Tracking Biodiversity at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens

TCWP would like your help in tracking the biodiversity of the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens. As many of you know, the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens is a unique habitat in the region. One that TCWP works to preserve. By tracking the species that are found there, TCWP will have a better understanding of the survival of rare species as well as the presence and proliferation of invasive species.

Using the iNaturalist app, we are asking users to take photos of their observations in the Cedar Barrens and upload them for identification. The app will help with the identification if you are not sure. Additionally, once observations are uploaded, other users and experts may suggest changes to the identification you have chosen.

If you want to include digital photos taken with a camera, that can be done online at iNaturalist.com.

Check out TCWP's iNaturalist Cedar Barrens project at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/oak-ridge-cedar-barrens> To learn more about iNaturalist, check out <https://iNaturalist.com>.

To learn more about using the iNaturalist app, check out this video: <https://vimeo.com/162581545>

Find us on 

<https://www.facebook.com/TCWPOR>

The iNaturalist app can be found in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

This will be an ongoing project and we are looking for observations year 'round. We are also considering similar projects for other TCWP stewardship areas and will let you know once those are available. – Ken Mayes

1C. Clinch River Nuclear Reactor Project Comments Sought by TVA

The long proposed nuclear reactor(s) at the former Clinch River Breeder Reactor site is the subject of a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

Programmatic refers to any broad or high-level National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) review that "assesses the environmental impacts of proposed policies, plans, programs, or projects for which subsequent actions will be implemented either based on the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) or Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)" per the National Institute of Justice.

Comments, accepted through March 19, can include alternatives, information, and analyses that would be relevant to the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a site that includes the new types of nuclear reactors. TVA said it plans to evaluate a variety of alternatives, including a no-action alternative.

Detailed information is available at www.tva.com/nepa. Comments must be received or postmarked by March 19 online at <https://www.tva.com/nepa>; or by email to nepa@tva.gov. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and available for public inspection.

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. Update on Primacy

Efforts continue within the Tennessee Department of Conservation and Environment to develop successfully a program to administer coal mining regulations and enforcement. This is in accordance with the 2018 Primacy and Reclamation Law. According to reliable sources, a new bill is being prepared to remedy insufficiencies in the 2018 Act.

Representatives from TCWP and other environmental and conservation groups have been working together to

develop a fact sheet for our state legislators. Among the most incredible facts:

- According to state reports, NO coal was mined in Tennessee the last 3 quarters of 2020.
- TDEC has estimated that the state budget will pay \$870,000 annually starting in 2023 to administer a program that the Office of Surface mining Reclamation and Enforcement currently handles.

It is hoped that the fact sheet will be completed and posted on the TCWP website by mid-March. Please prepare to call your state legislator to bring this unnecessary expense to his or her attention.

2B. Frozen Head-Cumberland Trail Connector Project

The Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail and Frozen Head State Park have recently been awarded an Appalachian Regional Commission Grant to connect 4 miles of the Cumberland Trail in Morgan County. The Frozen Head-Cumberland Trail Connector Project will construct a foot trail connection between downtown Wartburg and Frozen Head State Natural Area, employing local adults and hiring, training, and educating Morgan County high school students, for the larger purpose of economic development and protection of natural and cultural assets in Morgan County.

This 2-year project will allow the Cumberland Trail to hire a Backcountry Trail Crew to construct trail 5 days a week on Bird Mountain. Also, the grant funds a high school-age Trail Leaders Team to engage with resource management professionals, and receive education, training, and job experience in trail construction, educational programming, and leadership.

The FH-CT Connector Project is a collaborative effort supported by several local, state, and federal partners such as: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee State Parks, Morgan County High Schools, City of Wartburg, Morgan County Executive's Office, Lone Mountain State Forest, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Emory River Watershed Association, Friends of Frozen Head, Friends of the Cumberland Trail, Morgan County Tourism Alliance, and the Morgan County Chamber of Commerce. - *Jacob Ingram*

2C. UT's Working Woodlands Inventory to Be Completed in 2021

Toward the end of 2019, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture signed an agreement with The Nature Conservancy to manage the university's forested research properties under the highest standards for forest

management and also for selling carbon credits. UTIA is the first academic institution to enroll in TNC's Working Woodlands Program, which was established in 2009 to encourage landowners to sustainably manage their forestlands. This also represents the first time a university forest has become a registered carbon offset project.

The agreement with TNC covers UTIA's ~11,400 acres of forested properties in four counties. These properties are grouped in four units. The Cumberland Forest Unit was established in 1947 and consists of 8,361 acres in Morgan and Scott counties. The 860-acre Highland Rim Forest, established in 1960 in Franklin County, is known as the "barrens" where research is ongoing to increase forest productivity on such sites. The 250-acre UT Arboretum in Anderson County is a well-known favorite of Oak Ridgers and surrounding communities for hiking and tree identification and for research. The Oak Ridge Forest Unit's 1,954 acres virtually surround the Arboretum; both were established in 1964. The agreement does not impact current public use of these lands.

During 2020, the partnership engaged forest-consulting firms to inventory UT's forest to collect baseline data on tree species and size and other characteristics to guide development of a management plan to meet Forest Stewardship Council certification, the highest standard for conserving working forests. In addition, the collected data will enable calculations for predicting forest growth and carbon sequestration rates.

TNC will help to develop the carbon-offset project on the UT forests to market carbon credits to buyers on the carbon market. The revenue generated will help ensure that UTIA can provide space and resources for future forestry, wildlife, and land management research. The forest inventory is nearing completion and the carbon-offset project will be developed in 2021.

For more information:

"University of Tennessee AgResearch and The Nature Conservancy to Partner on Working Woodlands," <https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/university-of-tennessee-working-woodlands/>

"Partnership In Action, A landmark agreement will benefit Tennessee forests," <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/tennessee/stories-in-tennessee/university-of-tennessee-partnership/>

UT Forest Units, <http://taes.tennessee.edu/recs/forestry/CUForest.html> - *Russ Manning*

2D. Blue Ridge Paper Products Permit to Discharge into Pigeon River Up For Renewal

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Resources (DWR) will conduct an online public hearing on April 14 to hear public input about renewing Blue Ridge Paper's NPDES permit. The permit is for its facility located at the Blue Ridge Paper Products Wastewater Treatment Plant, located off Highway 215 (175 Main Street) in Canton.

Permit revisions include changes in current monitoring requirements at the Fiberville Bridge and removal of a color variance. DWR agrees with the removal of the color variance, based on improved stream conditions noted during a reevaluation, including significant improvements to instream concentrations of color in the Pigeon River. DWR concludes the variance is no longer necessary. DWR also agrees with the proposed renewal of the federal 316(a) temperature variance.

Water advocacy groups in Tennessee say the new draft permit, which is overdue for renewal, calls for "no improvements to water quality." The state of Tennessee lists the Pigeon River as 'impaired' due to color, foam, taste and smell from the mill's discharge for the first 5 miles downstream of the TN/NC state line at Waterville into Hartford, TN, a popular spot for both commercial and recreational whitewater rafting.

The hearing will be held Wednesday, April 14 at 6 p.m. One must preregister by noon on April 14 at: <https://ncdenrits.webex.com/ncdenrits/onstage/g.php?MTID=e6dd914ab0c9b2593dbb23321a36af245>. Comments are being received through April 30, 2021. Public comments may be emailed with "Blue Ridge Paper Products" in the subject line to publiccomments@ncdenr.gov.

Comments will be considered in the final determinations of permit issuance and provisions, and variance removal. Comments previously submitted will be considered.

2E. April 10 is Volunteer Day at Black Mountain on Cumberland Trail

Volunteers are invited to join Park Ranger Mike Croley on Saturday, April 10 at 10:00 am CT and help with light trail maintenance and graffiti removal. Participants should bring gloves, plenty of water and a lunch. Be sure to dress for the weather and wear closed-toed shoes appropriate for light hiking.

Register for the event at <https://reserve.tnstateparks.com/register/volunteer-day-black-mountain->. This activity is subject to change/cancellation due to weather or lack of participants - it will be announced on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/cumberlandtrailSST/>. For more information, contact Ranger Mike Croley at 615-651-4401 or michael.croley@tn.gov. - Johnny Cosgrove

3. NATIONAL NEWS

3A. Biden Signs Executive Orders

The number of Executive Orders and Memoranda signed by President Biden in his first weeks is astonishing, not only for their number but also for their focus on the environment in addition to addressing the pandemic. Here are some of the Executive actions on the environment:

- Directs OMB to develop recommendations to modernize regulatory review and undoes Trump's regulatory approval process that required two regs to be canceled for every new one
- Stops construction of border wall
- Revokes permit for Keystone XL pipeline and directs agencies to review for reversal more than 100 Trump actions on the environment, including the reduction of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments
- Places a moratorium on oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as well as on other federal lands and waters (does not nullify existing leases)
- Rejoins Paris climate accord
- Elevates climate change as an essential element of US foreign policy and national security and kicks off development of a new emissions reduction target.

In addition, the President issued executive actions pertaining to racial and gender justice. Environmental quality and racial/gender justice are inextricably linked—from drilling and mining on Native American land to the siting of polluting industries in or near communities of color.

- Recommits federal agencies to "engage in regular, robust and meaningful consultation with Tribal governments"
- Fortifies DACA after Trump's efforts to undo protections for undocumented people brought into the country as children
- Launches an initiative to advance racial equity and ends the bogus "1776 Commission"
- Acknowledges the rise in discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the past year because

Correction

In the TCWP Newsletter 355, January 2021 in Biden's Cabinet Picks Bode Well, Jennifer Granholm was described as the current governor of Michigan. She was governor of Michigan from 2003-2011. We regret the error.

of the pandemic and directing the Department of Justice to combat hate crimes and harassment

- Combats discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity
- Creates task force to reunite migrant families separated at the border.

For a complete list through February 24:

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/all-of-president-bidens-key-executive-orders-in-one-chart-2021-01-21> - RM

3B. TVA Gets an “F” on Climate Action

The Sierra Club recently issued a report, The Dirty Truth About Utility Climate Pledges, in which they released their evaluation of how various utilities are doing on meeting their commitments to go green. The study examined the plans of 79 utility companies (as of December 1, 2020) to determine how well they will meet three criteria in the coming pivotal decade: retiring coal, no longer building new gas plants, and building clean energy. The study found that out of a possible score of 100, utilities that have made a net-zero climate pledge (a state in which greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere are balanced by removal from the atmosphere) scored an average of 20, while those with no pledge scored 14, showing that public commitments to clean up their act made little difference in actual plans to do so. The term “greenwashing” has been coined to characterize the practice of talking green to the public while doing little to change current practices.

The 79 companies studied generated 655 million MWh of electricity from coal in 2019, or 68 percent of the national total. These companies have only committed to retire 25 percent of their coal generation by 2030 (165 million MWh). By not retiring the remainder of their coal generation by 2030, these companies are exacerbating the climate crisis and continue to impact the health of people who live near generating plants.

The Tennessee Valley Authority turns out to be one of the top offenders. TVA ranked third in the list of operating companies with the most remaining coal generation (22 million MWh) without a 2030 retirement commitment. And TVA ranked second in operating companies with plans to build new gas capacity by 2030 (~3.8 gigawatts). While the studied companies plan to add 250 million MWh of new wind and solar energy to the grid between 2020 and 2030, this is equivalent to only 19 percent of their current coal and gas generation and clearly inadequate to address our climate crisis.

The study presented an overall score for each operating company based on how well they plan to meet the three criteria. TVA scored an embarrassing 9 out of 100. The study states that to maintain a livable planet, U.S. utilities need to phase out coal and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at

least 80 percent by 2030. Nearly all the companies had a failing grade.

For more information: <https://coal.sierraclub.org/the-problem/dirty-truth-greenwashing-utilities>

What You Can Do: Tell the TVA Board that the utility must decarbonize their grid by 2030.

<https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/National?actionId=AR0317899>

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 will practice social distancing, maintaining at least 6 feet of separation between participants. This will limit the amount of interpretation that can be done.
- We will organize activities into groups of 10 or fewer.
- We recommend that you bring a mask and wear it when around others.
- 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 to activities instead of 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.]

“Gaining Ground for Clean Waterways: How a Tennessee Smart Yard Can Help” – Thursday, March 11

In this Zoom presentation, Dr. Andrea Ludwig, Associate Professor of Ecological Engineering in the Biosystems Engineering and Soil Department at the University of Tennessee, will discuss how you can create a

“Tennessee Smart Yard.” The program, co-sponsored by TCWP and the UT Arboretum Society, will begin at 7 p.m.

Residential areas are a significant part of our Tennessee landscapes, and it is important to make residents a critical stakeholder group in watershed management strategies. The University of Tennessee Extension, along with its partners, is empowering residents with information on how to nurture a healthy, ecologically sound landscape that provides benefits both for humans and our environment.

Dr. Ludwig is co-director of Tennessee Smart Yards, a sustainable landscaping educational program that seeks to certify private property across the state as Tennessee Smart Yards. She has worked as the State Stormwater Management Specialist for UT Extension since 2010.

“Our latest efforts have created an online platform for residents to learn from our experts from the comfort and safety of their own homes and at their own pace,” Dr. Ludwig said. “With each certified Tennessee Smart Yard, the benefits compound towards greater protection of our valuable natural and water resources in Tennessee.”

Registration for this free online event is required. Register at: www.utarboretumsociety.org. Contact Michelle Campanis at mcampani@utk.edu regarding any questions or registration issues. Michelle Campanis

Hike at Head of Sequatchie – Saturday, March 20

On March 20, Tennessee State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath will lead a hike at Head of Sequatchie, a part of the Cumberland Trail State Park admired for its serenity and beauty.

“The Head of Sequatchie is an extraordinary area,” Randy says. “It is the start of a striking 100-mile valley that is so prominent it can be recognized from space. It includes Devilstep Hollow Cave, a sacred site for Native Americans, and the emergence of a river that collects water from Grassy Cove, a huge sinkhole valley just to the north.

“The area is beautiful and fascinating. In late March, there will be abundant wildflowers along our two-mile, moderate walk.”

Hikers can meet for caravanning in Oak Ridge at the Gold’s Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot (meet at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita’s) in time to leave Oak Ridge at 9 a.m. Eastern time, or can join the caravan at 9:05 Central time at Homestead Baptist Church (4427 Highway 127 South, Crossville), across from the Cumberland Mountain State Park entrance. We expect to arrive at Head of the Sequatchie by 9:30 a.m. Central. Wear sturdy shoes, and bring a lunch and water.

This activity will be conducted to protect participants from COVID-19. Please wear masks to the start of the event and during group mingling, and try to maintain a six-foot distance from others whenever possible. The event may have to be reconsidered based on conditions at the time.

Obed River cleanup from kayaks – Saturday, March 27

Kayakers are encouraged to join TCWP, in cooperation with the National Park Service, for a whitewater clean-up trip on the Obed River on Saturday, March 27. 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 via email at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

This activity will be conducted to protect participants from COVID-19. Please wear masks to the start of the event and during group mingling, and try to maintain a six-foot distance from others whenever possible. The event may have to be reconsidered based on conditions at the time.

Garlic Mustard Pull/Wildflower Walk – Saturday, April 10

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. TCWP board member Jimmy Groton will help with wildflower identification.

This activity will be conducted to protect participants from COVID-19. Please wear masks to the start of the event and during group mingling, and try to maintain a six-foot distance from others whenever possible. The event may have to be reconsidered based on conditions at the time.

Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage at Frozen Head State Park – Saturday, April 17

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

We'll meet at the Frozen Head State Park office parking area at 10 a.m. Eastern time. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray.

This activity will be conducted to protect participants from COVID-19. Please wear masks to the start of the event and during group mingling and try to maintain a six-foot distance from others whenever possible. The event may have to be reconsidered based on conditions at the time.

Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Larry Pounds at 865-705-8526 or at PoundsL@aol.com. Larry Pounds

Stinging Falls Fork to Piney River – Saturday, April 24

This will be a joint outing for TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society. We will caravan from our meeting place to the Lower Piney River Trailhead to start a shuttle, leaving some cars there. We'll then carpool to the Stinging Fork Falls Trailhead and hike back to the Piney River Trailhead.

This section of the Cumberland Trail was completed in the fall of 2018. Which spring flowers we will see is hard to predict, but the route is definitely scenic. The trail is up and down with many steps. Total walking distance will be about six miles, if you choose. As an alternative, people are welcome to head back early to the Stinging Falls Fork Trailhead. They will need to have a car there, or otherwise will have to wait until the shuttle is completed in the afternoon. Those who choose this alternative could drive back from the Stinging Fork Trailhead to the Piney River Trail Head, then walk along the flat trail by Soak Creek to meet the rest of the group as they reach Soak Creek.

We'll meet at the Rocky Top/Exxon/McDonald's on U.S. 27 in Spring City at 10 a.m. Eastern. Bring a lunch, water, and bug spray.

This activity will be conducted to protect participants from COVID-19. Please wear masks to the start of the event and during group mingling, and try to maintain a six-foot distance from others whenever possible. The event may have to be reconsidered based on conditions at the time.

Reservations are required, and can be made by contacting Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 (cell) or via email at PoundsL471@aol.com. *Larry Pounds*

Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or at 865-583-3967.

4B. Recent events

"Safe Passage: Wildlife Crossings in the Smoky Mountains" – Thursday, January 28

On January 28, an audience of more than 300 virtually attended an information program by Jeff Hunter, senior program manager with National Parks Conservation Association in Asheville, on the collaborative effort to provide safe passage options for wildlife along a 28-mile stretch of I-40 in the Pigeon River Gorge in East Tennessee and western North Carolina. The program was cosponsored by TCWP and the UT Arboretum Society.

Hunter said nearly 57,000 wildlife-vehicle collisions occurred along this stretch of I-40 in 2017-19; one million to two million animals are killed in collisions annually. To address this issue, NPCA is partnering with Wildlands Network, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, and other wildlife and conservation groups to identify key areas of concern and strategies to mitigate collisions, focusing specifically on black bear, elk, and white-tail deer.

The partners have mapped mortality hot spots, which coincided with proximity to public lands—Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Pisgah National Forest, and the Cherokee National Forest. They're currently analyzing their data, with the goal of having recommendations later this year for the TN and NC Departments of Transportation regarding how and where they mitigation solutions can be created. "Safe Passage: I-40 Pigeon River Gorge Wildlife Crossing Project" has been created as an opportunity for individuals and organizations to contribute to funding for overpasses, underpasses, fencing, and other projects. More information is available at <https://www.smokiessafepassage.org>.

Hunter's program was recorded, and can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/I3xjcrZ4KaE>

**Support TCWP by donating,
joining, or renewing
your membership
at <http://www.tcwp.org>**

Alley Ford Workday – Saturday, February 13

On February 13, TCWP, the National Park Service, Frozen Head State Park, and the Cumberland Trail State Park sponsored a workday on the Alley Ford and Emory River Gorge sections of the Cumberland Trail State Park and Obed Wild and Scenic River. We met at Rock Creek campground near Nemo Bridge on the Emory (Obed River) on a cold morning (with temperatures hovering just below freezing and frozen fog in the treetops!). There were 22 people total, including nine or ten volunteers (including two Webb School seniors), several National Park rangers, two Cumberland Trail State Park rangers, and four interns with Frozen Head State Park Trail Leaders Program.

We divided into several groups to focus on particular segments of the trail. Each group worked on grading to rehabilitate the trail tread and clearing brush away from the trail corridor. We were able to work on the entire Emory Gorge Section (about 1.3 miles) and the 2.7-mile section between Rock Creek Campground and the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area boundary. It was a little too wintry for early spring wildflowers, but the signs of spring were all around us. including emerging flower buds on trailing arbutus.

TCWP adopted this 2.5-mile section in 1998 as part of our ongoing stewardship efforts to support the Cumberland Trail State Park. The Park Service has requested that we extend our adopted trail section approximately 1.6 miles to Breakaway Bluff on Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. That would increase the length of our adopted trail to about 3.8 miles. They also requested that we include the newer 1.3-mile section of the Emory River Gorge Section that will eventually extend all the way to Wartburg. This section begins at Nemo Picnic Area and ends at a small waterfall just past the top of the train tunnels. - *Jimmy Groton*
Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or at 865-583-3967.



Sign-up for
e-mail alerts on
our website at
<http://www.tcwp.org>

4C. Friends and Members in the Print Media

A letter about the Oak Ridge League of Women Voters' deep concern about the proposed Oak Ridge Racetrack written by Harriett McCurdy appeared in the *Oak Ridger* on January 19.

The January 29 *News Sentinel* carried a letter from Anne Child about COVID 19 and needed relief efforts.

On February 8 and 9, Eileen Neiler's letter to the *Oak Ridger* editor about the proposed Oak Ridge Racetrack appeared.

Norris Watershed's partnership with UT Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife Class was the topic of an article authored by Joe Feeman in the February 11 *Norris Bulletin*.

The March/April *Tennessee Conservationist* carried an article about the Norris Dam Challenge written by Veronica Greear.

4D. Sad News About Tom Thornburgh

Former TCWP Board member Tom Thornburgh died last month. A geologist by training, Tom brought a scientific sensibility and a gigantic sense of dignity to the table; TCWP's work was enriched by his help. Thank you, Tom, for being a good citizen and a Tennessee Citizen for Wilderness Planning.

4E. TCWP Board Members Lend a Hand

In early December, several board members moved more than 20 boxes of files from the late Dr. Liane "Lee" Russell's house and to the TCWP office. The boxes contained files on past TCWP efforts including the Obed River, Big South Fork, and Great Smoky Mountains. We appreciate Dr. Russell's family for contacting us about the files and we look forward to reviewing and preserving them.

It's a good thing that Archive Volunteer Eileen Neiler and Executive Director Sandra K. Goss had been working may month prior to COVID to clear unnecessary papers from TCWP files. - KM

4F. TCWP shines a Little Green Light on Membership data

TCWP recently upgraded its membership data from a Google Sheets spreadsheet to an actual membership & donor database called Little Green Light. With over 600 current and former members managing information on a spreadsheet had become cumbersome.

Little Green Light will allow TCWP to keep better track of members and contributions. We have already integrated an online form that will allow members to join or renew online. This information gets fed straight into our membership database. Additionally, all PayPal donations feed into the database for review and matched with donor information.

The database has already allowed us to identify and include more than 40 organizations to our newsletter mailings. These organizations had been excluded at some point in the past, mostly likely due to the limitations of data queries as it was stored in a spreadsheet.

After researching several donor/membership platforms, Little Green Light was chosen due to its ease of use, ability to integrate with applications TCWP already uses (PayPal and MailChimp), reporting capabilities, level of security and cost.

In the future the database will allow us to target lapsed memberships, past donors, and track volunteer hours. These efforts will help TCWP advance its mission by securing the financial resources it needs to operate and continue the legacy of protecting natural lands and waters.. - KM

5. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

5A. CALENDAR

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

- March 11, “Gaining Ground for Clean Waterways: How a Tennessee Smart Yard Can Help” (see ¶4A, this NL)
- March 16, Oak Ridge City Council work session on Oak Ridge Racetrack (see ¶1A, this NL)
- March 19, Comment Deadline on Nuclear Reactor Project (see ¶1C, this NL)
- March 20, Hike at Head of the Sequatchie with Randy Hedgepath (see ¶4A, this NL)
- March 27, Obed River cleanup from kayaks (see ¶4A, this NL)
- April 10, Garlic Mustard Pull/Wildflower Walk (see ¶4A, this NL)
- April 10, Volunteer Day at Black Mountain (see ¶2E, this NL)
- April 14, Online Public Hearing on renewing Blue Ridge Paper’s NPDES permit (¶2D, this NL)
- April 17, Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage at Frozen Head State Park (see ¶4A, this NL)
- April 24, Stinging Fork Falls to Piney River (see ¶4A, this NL)

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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Jimmy Groton..... Director
Larry Pounds.....Director
Hannah TippetDirector

March 11, "Gaining Ground for Clean Waterways: How a Tennessee Smart Yard Can Help"

March 20, Hike at Head of the Sequatchie with Randy Hedgepath

March 27, Obed River cleanup from kayaks

April 10, Garlic Mustard Pull/Wildflower Walk

April 17, Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage at Frozen Head State Park

April 24, Stinging Fork Falls to Piney River

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