

TCWP Newsletter

1. OAK RIDGE

1A. Proposed Oak Ridge Airport EA Released; Public Meeting Scheduled

The proposed airport in west Oak Ridge is now one step closer to reality with the release of the 1800-page Environmental Assessment. It can be reviewed now and a public hearing is set for August 8 from 6-8 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel located at 215 S Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN. Written comments should be submitted by Aug. 18, 2023, at 6 p.m.

The City of Oak Ridge will conduct the hearing. The City's intent is to construct a 5,000' X 100' runway, partial parallel taxiway, and associated land side facilities at a location north of U.S. 58 between Perimeter and Blair Roads.

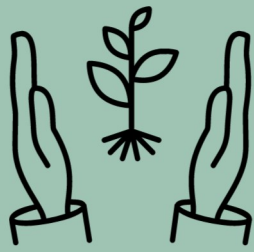
The purpose of the hearing is to address the potential social and environmental effects of the project and its consistency with the goals and objectives of each affected area's land use or planning strategy. Issues to be addressed include: area wetland, streams, and ponds; archaeological and historical sites; biological issues; airport noise and social effects such as road closures and realignments; view shed and lighting impacts.

The draft copy of the Environmental Assessment document can be reviewed at Oak Ridge Planning & Development Permit Desk in the Municipal Building's Utility Business Office lobby, 200 South Tulane Avenue; the Oak Ridge Public Library at 1401 Oak Ridge Turnpike, and the Oak Ridge Senior Center at 1405 Oak Ridge Turnpike. A copy of the environmental assessment can also be reviewed by making a request to mark.paslick@gmcnetwork.com and access to an FTP site will be provided.



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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.

Interested parties are encouraged to attend or send written comments to (City of Oak Ridge) or FAA Memphis District Office, 2600 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 2250 Memphis, TN 38118 by August 18. Interested parties may also email comments to mark.paslick@gmcnetwork.com.

Among concerns associated with an airport in that location:

- the environmental disturbance to the P1 Pond required at the west end of the runway
- restricted entry to Heritage Center
- loss of rail spur access.
- overflight and nuisance noise
- construction and operation costs

1B. Blueway Planning—Get Involved

Community paddling enthusiasts, public lakefront property managers, and others are working to establish a blueway on Melton Lake. There will be a meeting to discuss details of this effort in August in Oak Ridge. If you are interested in getting the blueway off the ground (pun intended) call or write Sandra K. Goss at 865-583-3967 or sandra@sandrakgoss.com for the date, place and time.

2. NATIONAL PARKS

2A. New Superintendent Named for MPNHP

Manhattan Project National Historical Park has a new Superintendent, Wendy Behrman. The Park has three sites: Hanford, Washington; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Behrman, a 30-year veteran of the National Park Service, started the new position late last year.

Behrman is responsible for the daily operations and staff at each of the three park sites. Managed in partnership with the Department of Energy, the park preserves and interprets the nationally significant historic sites, stories, and legacies associated with the top-secret race to develop an atomic weapon during World War II.

Niki Nicholas continues as Site Manager for Oak Ridge.

2B. Manhattan Project NHP Public Garden

Volunteers of all ages are needed to help at the Victory and Pollinator Garden at Children's Museum in Oak Ridge. The crop of vegetables is donated to local food pantries. Interested in keeping the garden green all summer long? Contact ian_wilder@nps.gov, 865-482-1942 to volunteer.

Find us on 

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

2C. BSF Pool Open

Summer time means pool time and Bandy Creek Swimming Pool is now open on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays 11 am to 6 pm ET. The pool can be rented for after-hour events. For more info go to www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/bandy-creek-swimming-pool.htm.

3. NATIONAL

3A. EPA Proposes New Carbon Pollution Standards for Fossil-Fueled Plants

In May 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed new Clean Air Act emission limits and guidelines for carbon dioxide from fossil-fuel power plants. The proposed standards will set limits for new gas-fired combustion turbines; existing coal, oil and gas-fired steam generating units; and certain existing gas-fired combustion turbines. The standards are based on available technologies, such as carbon capture and sequestration/storage, low-greenhouse gas hydrogen co-firing, and natural gas co-firing, which can be applied directly to power plants that use fossil fuels to generate electricity.

As reported in NL 364, 07/13/2022, the Supreme Court earlier ruled that Congress did not give the EPA authority to broadly regulate electric utilities to the extent that a generation shift from fossil fuel to renewables was imposed on the industry. However, the Court stopped short of denying greenhouse gases are a public danger and did not block the EPA from regulating such emissions at the source. Consequently, EPA returned with these proposed new source performance standards (*italics added*), in accordance with Section 111 of the CAA.

EPA says the new emission limits will protect public health and deliver up to \$85 billion in climate and public health benefits over the next two decades. The proposed standards will avoid up to 617 million metric tons of total carbon dioxide through 2042 and will also result in cutting tens of thousands of tons of particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxide, pollutants known to endanger people's health.

Beginning on May 11th with the proposed new standards published in the Federal Register, EPA opened a 60-day comment period, which has now been extended to August 8, 2023. EPA held virtual public hearings on June 13, 14 and 15, 2023. These may be viewed on YouTube through links on the EPA website. Written comments may still be submitted until the deadline.

Proposed standards: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/greenhouse-gas-standards-and-guidelines-fossil-fuel-fired-power>

Public hearings and written comments: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/public-hearing-epas-proposed-carbon-pollution-standards-fossil> -Russ Manning

Wondering about best plants for pollinators?

Tennessee Department of Transportation has developed a database of native Tennessee Pollinator flora and fauna. Said to be in-depth, the program is free. The url is www.tnpollinators.org. Look for Polli, The Bee from Tennessee.

4. TCWP NEWS

4A. Upcoming Activities

TCWP's Guidelines for Activities

- We ask that you stay home when you are sick.
- We ask that you know what you're capable of, and that you communicate that to the group leader.
- We recommend that you bring plenty of water and snacks.
- We ask that you not bring pets

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

Transformation Church Big Serve Day at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, July 15

On July 15, TCWP will for the second year host a group of volunteers from Transformation Church (located in West Knoxville) at the Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area to remove Dahurian buckthorn and other invasive species, as one of a number of service projects church members will be conducting throughout the Greater Knoxville area. Volunteers will also help pick up litter and do some trail cleanup.

Additional volunteers are needed to work with the Transformation Church group. We'll meet at Elza Gate Park in Oak Ridge at 10 a.m. and plan to work until 2 p.m.; a pizza lunch will be provided. Bring bug spray and loppers and/or clippers, and wear sturdy shoes and clothing. Minors will need a parent's/guardian's signature on a waiver form (to be provided) in order to participate. For additional information, contact Jimmy Groton at groton87@comcast.net.

Update on Tick-borne Diseases in East Tennessee – Tuesday, July 18

In this program cosponsored by TCWP and the UT Arboretum Society, Dr. Richard Gerhold will present 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.

Summer Cedar Barrens Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® - Saturday, August 26

This will be the second of our three annual workdays at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens. Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, the barrens is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, the State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. One of just a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee, the area is subject to invasion by Chinese lespedeza, Japanese privet, autumn olive, mimosa, Nepal grass, multiflora rose, and woody plants that threaten the system's prairie grasses. Our spring, summer, and fall cleanups help to eliminate invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sun. The late-summer workday is optimum for viewing prairie wildflowers that flourish at the barrens.

Volunteers should meet in the Jefferson Middle School parking lot at 9 a.m.; wear sturdy shoes, and bring loppers, gloves, and water. A pizza lunch will be provided. For additional information, contact Tim Bigelow at Bigelowt2@mindspring.com or at 865-607-6781.

Hike at Big South Fork - Saturday, September 2

On this hike cosponsored by TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society, we'll visit a power line clearing to look for goldenrods, asters, and a striped gentian, then walk Middle Creek Loop, a scenic trail with endemic species Cumberland sandwort and rockhouse white snakeroot.

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 a.m. Eastern, or hikers can meet at 9:30 Eastern (8:30 Central) at the trailhead for the Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area. For the latter, go as if you were going to Pickett State Park on TN 154. Look for the gravel parking area and Pogue Creek trailhead on the left. We will caravan from there into the Big South Fork.

Middle Creek Loop is 3.5 miles of moderate difficulty. The distance for the power line walk will be less than a mile out and back. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray.

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

National Public Lands Day - Saturday, September 23

On September 23, TCWP and TVA will partner again for our annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) celebration, to be held at TVA's Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. TCWP has for many years partnered with TVA to enhance and protect natural resources at Worthington Cemetery and other TVA lands throughout East Tennessee as part of our mutual stewardship efforts. Our yearly efforts in this area are helping to eradicate wisteria from the cemetery, and privet and other invasive exotics from the ESA.

We'll meet for the cleanup at 9 a.m. at the Elza Gate Park picnic area near the intersection of Oak Ridge Turnpike and Melton Lake Drive. At the completion of our work (around noon), TCWP will provide a pizza lunch. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothes, and bring water, gloves, and clippers, loppers, or bow or pruning saws, if possible. Other tools and equipment will also be available at the worksite. A pizza lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Jimmy Groton at groton87@comcast.net.

The Secret Lives of Beavers, and Why They Matter – Tuesday, September 26

The consequences of losing beavers to the fur trade were profound, environmental journalist Ben Goldfarb says: ponds were drained, wetlands dried up, and species from salmon to swans lost vital habitat. In this 7 p.m. Zoom program cosponsored by TCWP and the UT Arboretum Society on September 26, Goldfarb, the author of *Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter*, winner of the 2019 PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award, will explain why ecosystems with beavers are far healthier than those without them; how beavers can help us fight drought, flooding, wildfire, and climate change; and how we can coexist with this challenging but vital rodent.

Goldfarb's work has appeared in publications including *The Atlantic*, *Science*, the *New York Times*, and the *Washington Post*. His next book, *Crossings: How Road Ecology Is Shaping the Future of Our Planet*, will be published by W.W. Norton & Company in September 2023. He lives in Colorado with his wife, Elise, and his dog, Kit — which, he says, "is, of course, what you call a baby beaver."

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.

4B. Recent Events

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. In a Zoom program cosponsored by TCWP and the UT Arboretum Society on May 11, Virginia Dale, a research professor in the University of 's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, discussed the effects of eruption on the mountain's ecosystems, subsequent disturbances, establishment of the monument, and ecological recovery.

Dr. Dale presented the highlights of what's been learned after 103 permanent plots, 62 of which survived erosion, were set up to study plant succession. Successional growth and a new environment developed through colonizer establishment, random events, human activities, and secondary disturbances. She also discussed the efforts of county, state, and federal government; industry; and scientists for long-term protection and management of the area, ultimately resulting in the creation of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in 1982. 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. -Carol Grametbauer

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

Prior to this mid-May field trip, cosponsored by TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society, I was reminded why it is so important to scout outings the week before. On the scout trip, I discovered we could not do the planned shuttle because of a hunting closure. So we did an out-and-back. That meant we saw only half of this section of the Cumberland Trail at most.

The twelve of us were able to choose our hiking distance. About half made it to the backpacking campsite on Daddy's Creek. The sandbars and cobble bar areas there supported northern pinkster bush (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*), ninebark (*Physiocarpus opulifolius*), a sundrop, birdfoot violet (*Viola pedata*), American dog violet (*Viola labradorica*), and yellow stargrass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*).

The flower display of the day was four rather tall yellow lady's slippers (*Cypripedium parviflora*) in perfect condition. Also, we may have seen the very rare Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia grandiflora*) in an early stage. -Larry Pounds

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

This was our TCWP/Tennessee Native Plant Society outing that is set up to be easy walking, being on a paved surface. We had seven participants and pleasantly cool weather. A theme for the day was compound leaves. We saw opposite and alternate compound leaves (stem positions). We saw pinnate and palmate ones (leaflet arrangement). These leaves had a variety of number of leaflets.

Shrubs in full flower included stiff dogwood (*Cornus foemina*), and tall false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*). Bushy St. Johnswort (*Hypericum densiflorum*) was just starting to flower. It will create a major display in a few weeks. We got a chance to observe black vultures from about ten feet away. Larry Pounds

National Trails Day Work on North Ridge Trail – Saturday, June 3

A big crowd of 27 folks turned out on National Trails Day (June 3) to work on constructing a trail to Key Springs from the North Ridge Trail. The work was accomplished at record speed thanks to the hard work of the volunteers. There was a pizza party afterwards at the home of North Ridge Trail Steward John Jaruzel.

TCWP/TNPS hike at Andrews Bald – Saturday, June 17

The GSMNP has changed: You now must pay for a tag to park. Also, the irregular parking spots are blocked, so there is much less parking. On the Tuesday before this joint TCWP/Tennessee Native Plant Society outing, co-leader Allen Sweetser and I went to scout it. We had to park a bit out from the trailhead, and when we got back the parking was terrible, with cars backed up looking for spaces. If Tuesday was bad, what would Saturday be like?

Despite my fears, the parking was fine on Saturday. On the trail to the bald, southern bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla sessilifolia*) was not yet in flower, but southern mountain honeysuckle (*Vaccinium erythrocarpum*) was fully in flower, with some corolla lobes well curled. On the bald we saw a lovely display of purple rhododendron (*Rhododendron catawbiense*) and the start of a flame azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*) display. We also enjoyed the exuberant singing of a winter wren.

-Larry Pounds

East Fork Poplar Creek Greenway Cleanup with Clinch Valley Trails Alliance – Saturday, June 24

On June 24 TCWP, the Clinch Valley Trails Alliance, and greenways Oak Ridge cosponsored the fourth annual trash cleanup and hike on the East Fork Poplar Greenway. In all we have at least 16 volunteers representing TCWP, CVTA, and a Tennessee Promise volunteer.

The trail begins near the intersection of Oak Ridge Turnpike and Jefferson Avenue and meanders through a nice riparian woodland along the creek, ultimately reaching the Oak Ridge Fire Department station near Wiltshire Road. The creek periodically floods the trail and deposits litter and other trash along the floodplain. There are also a lot of old tires and other automotive debris that have washed into the creek from places upstream.

The City of Oak Ridge provided two dump trucks to collect the trash, one for tires (since they have special disposal requirements) and one for regular trash. This year we more than filled the truck but somehow it seemed there was not quite as much conventional trash. Nobody counted the number of tires this year, but it seemed like there were more than usual. One reason was that it was much easier to access the stream bed at the lower end of the trail, and we could reach areas of the creek that were previously underwater.

It was another great time working together with CVTA. There was talk of hosting another cleanup later this year, perhaps in late summer or early fall when water levels are even lower. We look forward to next year's event. -Jimmy Groton

4C. Coutants donate Canoe

Nancy and Chuck Coutant, 50+-year members of TCWP, are downsizing their outdoor equipment commensurate with changes in physical agility. They have decided to donate their 1970s 17-ft aluminum canoe and related accessories to TCWP.

The family—Chuck, Nancy, daughters Sharon and Linda—were avid canoers on area lakes and rivers. With Mom & Dad paddlers in bow and stern seats, respectively, and the young girls on a chaise-lounge pad in the middle, there were many memorable outings--floating the Little Tennessee River before it was dammed, floating the Clinch River from below Norris Dam to Clinton and from Clark Center Park to Gallaher bridge, and touring inlet coves from the Oak Ridge Marina to the Park and beyond.

In preparation for Oak Ridge's 50th Anniversary, Chuck mapped a Haw Ridge Canoe Trail—one of their meandering paths from a canoe launch site in Solway Park, around Solway cove, in and out of Haw Ridge coves upstream of the park, looping back on the west side of a small island (now eroded away) to stay out of the navigation channel, and returning to Solway Park. TCWP printed the maps that were distributed widely.

Seeing things underwater was as much fun as seeing the waterfowl, herons, and ospreys along shorelines. Floating over waving underwater vegetation on the pristine Little T.; the clear water coming down the Clinch from Norris Dam in summer that made a whole new world visible in places like Solway cove. The girls, and later grandson, following bass and bluegills swimming under and around the canoe. So many fond memories. Now it is someone else's turn.

Donated:

- A 17-ft Grumman aluminum canoe (with keel for mostly slack water canoeing)
- Two full sized canoe paddles
- One small (emergency) paddle
- Two seat cushions
- One canoe-bottom pad (showing its age, but indicating what works well)
- Two adult life jackets (nearly new)
- One waterproof camera bag
- A file with the original sales information

Valued well over \$1,000 now, the canoe and accessories might be sold by TCWP or retained for loan during canoe outings it sponsors. Whatever the direction, TCWP will provide a logical path for creating many more fond outdoor memories. -*Chuck Coutant*

4D. Strategic Plan Adopted By TCWP Board

Last year, the TCWP Board decided that it would be useful to have a strategic plan to help make the most of volunteer time, staff expertise, donor resources, and community support for a non-profit organization like the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP).

Since our founding in 1966, and working together, TCWP has protected and advocated for wild places and waters in East Tennessee and beyond. As the organization gains additional exposure, support, and influence, this strategic plan provides direction to increase capacity and manage sustainable growth into the future.

The framework created by this plan will be carried out in a series of annual plans of work that will help the organization carry out its mission and support the work of the staff, Board, and volunteers. The plan is comprehensive yet brief.

Our vision is: Wild places and waters in Tennessee and beyond are preserved for today and tomorrow.

Our mission is to: Preserve wild places and waters through protection, advocacy, stewardship, and education.

The Strategic Plan will be an agenda item at the Annual Meeting and is available for viewing at <https://tcwp.org/wp-content/uploads/TCWP-Strategic-Plan-Final.pdf>.

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

4E. TCWP Board Announces Nancy Manning as New Executive Director

The Board is pleased to announce that Nancy Manning will become our new Executive Director after Sandra retires. Nancy is very excited about the opportunity to work for TCWP and to carry on our long legacy of Taking Care of Wild Places. After a 25-year career as a lawyer, Nancy has spent the past 15 years working for and with various non-profit organizations. Most recently Nancy has been providing consulting services to nonprofits to improve their fund development, board development, strategic planning, communications, and operations. She will begin work officially on August 1 so that she is able to work with Sandra for a month to learn the ropes, but don't be surprised if you see her before then at various TCWP functions. Stay tuned for a more in-depth introduction to Nancy in the next newsletter. *-Mark Bevelhimer*

4F. Friends and Members in the Print Media

Lisa Barger was mentioned and pictured in the March 2 Norris Bulletin in an article about the Lions Club Poster Contest.

Lynn Faust was quoted in the June, 2023 Smithsonian article about fireflies.

An op-ed about Tennessee Valley Authority's undesirable continued use of fossil fuels to generate electricity appeared in the June 11 News Sentinel. It was authored by Amanda Garcia of SELC.

4G. Save the Date to Celebrate Sandra!!

TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss began working for TCWP In 1988, 25 years ago. On August 31, she will be retiring and moving on to new adventures. But we can't let her go without an appropriate sendoff! On Wednesday evening, **August 9**, TCWP will host a farewell party at the Oak Ridge Universal Unitarian Church to celebrate Sandra and all she has done for TCWP.

Mark your calendars! More details regarding about food, gifts, etc., will be coming soon via email and on the TWCP Facebook page and website.

Tennessee Citizens of Wilderness Planning (TCWP)

The mission of TCWP is to: Preserve wild places and waters through protection, advocacy, stewardship, and education.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 15 – Transformation Church Big Serve Day at Worthington Cemetery
- July 18 – Update on Tick-Borne Diseases in East Tennessee
- August 8— Oak Ridge Airport EA Hearing
- August 9— Retirement Party for Sandra
- August 26 – Summer Cedar Barrens Cleanup/Weed Wrangle®
- September 2 – Hike at Big South Fork
- September 2 3– National Public Lands Day
- September 26 – The Secret Lives of Beavers, and Why They Matter

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