

TDEC Field Explorer



State Parks Legislative Tour Pg. 2



TDEC in EPA Hall of Fame Pg. 5

December 7
2011

TDEC employees,

It has been a busy fall for the department. We have benefited from strong programs and favorable autumn weather while Tennessee's economy and overall consumer confidence appear to be slowly turning the corner from the great recession. These are positive developments, but we must remain thoughtful and prudent in our operations and resource planning. In November, I presented TDEC's Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget to Gov. Haslam that outlined a conservative spending blueprint, even showing how we could reduce overall expenditures by five percent, if needed. Along with this budget, I submitted our capital requests that reflected targeted investments and a strategic approach to address the maintenance backlog in our state parks.

Looking forward to the continuation of the 107th General Assembly in January, the department arranged a legislative park tour on November 16 and 17. We invited committee members and legislative staff to share a first-hand look at some of our most distinctive parklands on the Cumberland Plateau and in the Chattanooga area. The tour covered a lot of ground in two days and offered a flavor of what makes each park unique, but the highlight of each stop for legislators was meeting our park professionals and staff who take such pride in creating memorable encounters for all our visitors. Thanks to all the members of our State Parks team for making us shine so brightly – even during the rain – for our special guests.

You may have already seen the new TDEC logo (article on page 3 of this issue). While listening to employees throughout the year, I heard staff ask if TDEC could have a more unique, meaningful department logo. Tennessee State Parks already has good, strong logos, and I believe



(l-r) Cumberland Mountain State Park Manager **Chip Hillis**, House Chairman **David Hawk** and **Commissioner Martineau** in the Millhouse at Cumberland Mountain State Park on Nov. 17.

TDEC would also benefit from a more compelling, attractive department logo. As Shari and I spoke with employees across the department, there was an affinity for the first TDEC logo designed by staff in 1998. Drawing on some helpful input, TDEC's Graphic Designer Jeff Law developed the new TDEC logo to reflect our work and our pride in the department. I hope you like it as much as Shari and I do.

Moving through this season of thanksgiving, I am grateful for the support you show others. I have been impressed by your acts of kindness and recent efforts like the Race for the Cure and the Tennessee Employees Charitable Campaign – both exceeding goals and previous year's results. These positive outcomes represent just a few of the ways you care for and support members of your work family and communities around us.

Throughout TDEC, I continue to find smart, dedicated employees working to protect our land, air and water resources and running our award-winning state park system. I am thankful for your efforts and commitment to public service.



Commissioner Martineau, (right) is joined by **Senator Doug Henry** and Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park Ranger **Brendell Addison** on Oct. 18 during an event celebrating recognition of Bicentennial Mall as one of the Top 10 Great Public Spaces in the United States for 2011.

Legislators visit five state parks on tour of Cumberland Plateau and Southeast Tennessee

On Nov. 16 & 17, Tennessee State Parks hosted a tour for members of the Tennessee General Assembly who serve on the Senate Energy & Environment and House Conservation & Environment Committees. We were honored to have representatives, senators, and legislative staff make time in their schedule to join us for site visits to Cumberland Mountain, Fall Creek Falls, Cumberland Trail, Booker T. Washington, and Harrison Bay State Parks. Legislators attending include: **Sen. Chairman Steve Southerland**, **Sen. Beverly Marrero**, **House Chairman David Hawk**, **Rep. Richard Floyd**, **Rep. Brenda Gilmore**, **Rep. Pat Marsh**, and **Rep. John Tidwell**. Staff included **Sean McMinn**, attorney for Sen. Committee, **Carolyn Newman**, Chairman's assistant, **Jeremy Maxwell**, House research analyst, and **Loudene Gee**, Senate research analyst.

Every stop on the tour provided insights into what makes each park location unique. Legislators heard the park's story, experienced some of what makes the park distinctive, and talked directly with staff about the natural, cultural and historical characteristics that bring visitors to their parks. From the incredible sightlines of Buzzard's Roost and Cane Creek Cascades at Fall Creek Falls to "seeing" the vision of completing the 300-mile Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail at North Chickamauga Gorge to appreciating the kind of habitat that draws nesting bald eagles to the Bear Trace at Harrison Bay State Park, the tour provided a variety of natural encounters for participants. Yet, just as important as the natural beauty, quality amenities and distinctive history at the five stops, every legislator commented on how much they learned from their interaction with park staff at each site. Big thanks to the following state park teams for providing a variety of engaging first-hand experiences on this park tour:

- Cumberland Mountain State Park Manager **Chip Hillis**
- Fall Creek Falls State Park Manager **Jim Hall** and Hospitality Manager **John Fonville**
- Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail Manager **Bob Fulcher**
- Booker T. Washington State Park Manager **Levan Gardner**
- Harrison Bay State Park Manager **Don Campbell**



Legislators with staff from Cumberland Mountain State Park. More photos from Legislative State Parks Tour are posted to the TN State Parks Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/tennesseestateparks.

Masthead photo:

(l-r) Senate research analyst **Loudene Gee** and **Sen. Beverly Marrero** of Memphis in front of the CCC Bridge at Cumberland Mountain State Park.



Booker T. Washington State Park Manager **LeVan Gardner** shares a presentation with General Assembly members and legislative staff on the history and current amenities of his park in Chattanooga.



(l-r) **Deputy Gov. Claude Ramsey**, House Environment and Conservation Committee Chairman **David Hawk** and Harrison Bay State Park Manager **Don Campbell** at the Bear Trace at Harrison Bay on Nov. 18.

"This was time well spent with members," said **TDEC Commissioner Martineau**. "It was a great opportunity to provide legislators a first-hand look into our park operations where they could see and learn why Tennessee's state parks are such attractive destinations for visitors. I believe these insights and experiences will help committee members as they consider a variety of park-related issues in the session ahead."

New TDEC Logo for Department

Responding to employees' interest in having a more compelling, representative department logo, **Commissioner Martineau** recently unveiled a new department identifier that builds on the first TDEC logo designed by staff in 1998. TDEC Graphic Designer **Jeff Law** incorporated a variety of in-house suggestions to develop this updated TDEC logo for department use.

The new TDEC logo features:

- *Streamlined color scheme* – New logo uses shades of green and blue to emphasize our environmental protection and natural resource responsibilities and also uses green to spell out department's name.
- *Representative topography* – New logo follows the state's natural topography from West Tennessee lowlands to rolling hills of Middle Tennessee to landmark Fall Creek Falls and waterfalls of the Cumberland Plateau to the mountains of East Tennessee.
- *State of Tennessee elements* – New logo includes the iconic Tri-Star from the state flag to represent TDEC as a proud member of Tennessee state government.



The new logo is now on the department's website and will be integrated into materials as new production is required. The logo is also posted to the TDEC Intranet at <http://intranet.state.tn.us/environment/links/> for viewing or to download the graphic file.

The new TDEC logo joins Tennessee State Parks' traditional park shield and the "three-trees" image as primary identification logos for the department. If you have any questions about the new TDEC logo or its use, please contact David Owenby at 615-532-1531.

TDEC's Radiation Protection Professionals Protect Human Health and the Environment

Health Physics Society and TDEC employees recognized the week of November 6 as "National Radiation Protection Professionals Week." This weeklong event honors radiation protection professionals and celebrates the discovery of x-rays by Wilhelm Roentgen in 1895. "TDEC has a dedicated group of radiation protection professionals in the Division of Radiological Health, and I am pleased to thank them for their hard work and commitment in protecting the people, workers, and environment of Tennessee from the hazards of radiation," said TDEC Deputy Commissioner **Shari Meghreblian**.

The Division of Radiological Health (DRH) is involved daily in regulating and protecting its citizens by inspecting over 5,800 facilities with more than 18,000 x-ray machines and their users in the dental, medical, and industrial facilities across the State of Tennessee. October was breast cancer awareness month and DRH is involved year round in inspecting and certifying all mammography machines and users in Tennessee in contract with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), further helping and insuring the people of Tennessee get one of the best and safest quality of care in the nation.

The Division of Radiological Health is also an Agreement State with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). In that arena, DRH develops and implements regulations and issues licenses to those who work with and use radioactive materials. There are currently approximately 600 licenses that are issued and inspected by DRH Health Physicists to insure their compliance with the regulations and that the people, the workers and the environment of Tennessee are protected. Also, the Division's Health Physicists track radioactive waste inventories and conduct environmental sampling of water, air, and soil to ensure that regulatory limits are not exceeded.



Mark Andrews, Health Physicist with the Division of Radiological Health, operates the patient scan station during a recall survey of patients for the Tennessee Department of Health.

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Radiation Protection Professionals Protect Human Health and the Environment

The DRH is also involved in incident and emergency response activities that may involve radiation or radioactive materials. In 2011, the Division has responded to over 200 incidents or allegations to make sure that all individuals are safe and within regulatory compliance. Annually, the Division participates in the TVA nuclear power plant emergency exercises. DRH responds with up to six field monitoring teams to measure radiation levels and collect air samples, and staff a technical evaluation and recommendation team to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). At the SEOC, DRH acts as the lead agency and provides the necessary technical analysis and Protective Action Recommendations that may be necessary during an actual event for public and environmental health and safety.

The Division of Radiological Health, in addition to the routine work just discussed, was also involved in several events of note in 2011. The first was the nuclear power plant incident in Japan in March. During the event, DRH was involved in the national response and conducted surveys and sampling as part of the EPA's RadNet network. Air and rainwater was collected and sampled in Knoxville and Nashville and sent to the EPA for testing. Additional tests were also conducted by DRH on drinking water and other environmental samples from March to June 2011 to ensure that the Tennessee public and environment were within regulatory and safe limits from the incident. The Division also assisted in answering many media and concerned citizen calls concerning the radiation potential exposures from the Japanese incident.

The second event DRH was involved with was a national recall of a radioactive medical device that may have resulted in some patients receiving unwanted radioactive material because of a defect in the device. In October 2011, the Division worked with the Tennessee Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and FDA in conducting a survey and epidemiological study of a portion of those patients with whom the device had been used. The Division assisted with scanning 107 patients to determine if they contained any of the suspected radioactive material and inspected the hospitals that used the device in question.

"The Division of Radiological Health is actively involved in the protection and safety of workers, the public and the environment of the people of Tennessee," said Deputy Commissioner Meghreblian. "I'm grateful for the hard work and dedication of these radiation professionals throughout the year."



DRH Health Physicists at the State Emergency Operations Center during the TVA power plant exercise.



DRH Health Physicist **Daniel Sims** conducting air and rainwater sampling using the RadNet sampling unit during the Japanese incident.



Left: **Commissioner Bob Martineau** with Division of Radiological Health staff at the Nashville Environmental Field Office (l-r) **Dean Baker, Robin Heriges, Commissioner Martineau, Paula Richardson, and Gerald Kwazu.**

TDEC Receives Notable EPA Recognition at Memphis Recycling Symposium

TDEC was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with a National Notable Achievement Award for its contributions to EPA Region IV's Metric and Measurement Project, which resulted in significant improvements in the quality and quantity of reporting recycling data. The announcement was made at the Symposium on Recycling and the Economy in Memphis.

Current municipal solid waste data systems have limitations that make it difficult to compare recycling efforts across states and especially across the country. In 2010, the Region IV project team took on the challenge of developing a measurement tool for the Southeast region, recognizing the need for reliable measurement and ensuring the new system would be compatible with existing systems.

EPA recognized TDEC for its contributions to develop this customized version of a web-based measurement tool that reports waste reduction and recycling data. This critical new system defines a standard of excellence for effectiveness, efficiency, and quality for consistent and standardized measurement across all of EPA's Region IV states. The team's effort supports the national Sustainable Materials Management program and is a critical component to understanding and increasing SMM practices in the region.

"We are pleased to receive this honor which demonstrates TDEC's ability to tackle challenging and emerging issues," said **Commissioner Martineau**. "I want to recognize the department's Division of Solid Waste Management team for their leadership and efforts to facilitate such a noteworthy effort." The project also incorporates regional benchmarking and processes that will simplify data reporting for counties and states, and improve residents' access to local recycling information. The system's data will also serve as a platform for addressing ongoing recycling issues and encourage robust materials management across the Southeast – decreasing the amount of materials being sent to landfills.

"What can't be measured, can't be managed," said EPA's **Jon Johnston**, branch chief for Region IV. "This system provides us with the ability to better understand what is going on in Region IV." Once the team's pilot model is operational, the region-level system will assist states in identifying both state- and national-level trends. Ultimately, the data can be used to provide a comprehensive inventory of recycling operations across the country.



Larry Christley, TDEC Solid Waste Management, **Jon Johnston**, EPA Region IV branch chief; **Louis Bordenave**, TDEC Solid Waste Management; and **Joyce Dunlap**, TDEC Solid Waste Management, on Oct. 26 during symposium in Memphis.

TDEC Inducted into EPA's WasteWise Hall of Fame

The department received a major distinction in October when EPA inducted TDEC into the WasteWise Hall of Fame for Tennessee's efforts to reduce waste through the State Employee Recycling Program (SERP). Each year, EPA Headquarters recognizes WasteWise Partners in various award categories for exemplary waste prevention and recycling programs. For six consecutive years, TDEC and the State Employee Recycling Program (SERP) have been recognized with EPA's *WasteWise State Government Partner of the Year Award*, recognizing Tennessee state employees for their commitment to waste reduction and responsible recycling.

The Hall of Fame is the highest honor awarded to WasteWise Partners and indicates a continued commitment to progressive waste reduction activities. TDEC joins a prestigious roster of previous WasteWise Hall of Fame inductees, including Anheuser-Busch, General Motors, Pitney Bowes, Verizon Communications, and The Walt Disney Company.

The State Employee Recycling Program, coordinated by TDEC for two decades, continues to expand its waste prevention and recycling efforts. With more than 22,000 state employees participating, nearly 760 tons of mixed office paper was recycled in 2010, generating more than \$28,000 in revenue and saving almost \$22,800 in landfill costs. Congratulations to TDEC's **Christina Treglia**, SERP Coordinator **George Kesterson**, and the thousands of state employees who participate daily in the SERP for this well-deserved honor.

Front page caption: EPA's **Jon Johnston** (left) presents TDEC Deputy Commissioner **Brock Hill** with the EPA WasteWise Hall of Fame Award on Oct. 26 at the Symposium on Recycling and the Economy in Memphis. TDEC was inducted into WasteWise Hall of Fame for its efforts to reduce waste through the State Employee Recycling Program (SERP). **Learn more.**

Andy Lyon Blazes a New Trail

After 37 years of service to Tennessee State Parks, Assistant Commissioner **Andy Lyon** left TDEC on November 18, to pursue his next role as Executive Director and Vice President of Youth, Inc., a non-profit based in Middle Tennessee. Recently, **Commissioner Martineau** and Deputy Commissioner **Brock Hill** took time to express their appreciation for Andy's contributions to the department – here's an excerpt of those comments highlighting Andy's distinguished career and his service to the state of Tennessee, and what's in store during this next chapter in his career.

Located in Madison, Youth, Inc. was established in 1945 to build leadership skills in Middle Tennessee's youth through athletics and outdoor activities. For nearly 70 years, thousands of young people in Middle Tennessee have participated in a variety of programs and activities, including summer camps, church camps, school retreats, Jr. Pro basketball, inline hockey, and more. Andy's move to head up Youth, Inc. may be a surprise to some, but for those associated with the non-profit – it's an easy transition. Andy's history with Youth, Inc. runs deep, having worked as a camp counselor for them in high school to his current three-year stint as a member of their board of directors. "This new direction is one I am very passionate about and I am excited to be in a more day-to-day capacity with Youth, Inc.," said Andy. "While I have no regrets leaving, I've had a fabulous career with Tennessee State Parks and have had the unique opportunity to be involved in so many things."

Before he became Assistant Commissioner for Hospitality Services and Special Events in 2005, Andy began his career as a seasonal naturalist at Cumberland Mountain State Park. His leadership skills and expertise later led him to other roles, including park ranger, park manager and then Director of Hospitality Services.

Andy's efforts and hard work have helped Tennessee State Parks achieve operational self-sufficiency for revenue-producing assets. In addition to being an outspoken advocate of sustainable tourism in Tennessee, Andy has long championed Tennessee State Parks' adoption of greener practices across its hospitality operations, including Audubon-certified golf courses and a number of new, green cabins, to name a few.



Tennessee State Parks Assistant Commissioner **Andy Lyon** welcomes crowd to the ribbon cutting for new Green Villas at Montgomery Bell State Park in October 2009.



Andy Lyon

"I wanted to be a park ranger all of my life and I am proud that I was able to realize that dream," Andy added. "There are so many things we accomplished as a team over the years, but most recently was the establishment of an endowment fund for state parks, to which Pepsi has already gifted \$20,000. This fund will only continue to grow and being a part of that process was personally significant to me."

It would be difficult to name all of Andy's successes, as they have all played an important role in what the Tennessee State Parks system is today. Perhaps what is most noteworthy to all of us is Andy's tireless promotion and love for Tennessee State Parks, which have been evident during his nearly four decades of tenure with us. Andy's insights and wisdom have been invaluable to Commissioner Martineau and Deputy Commissioner Hill as they learned more about our parks – especially the hospitality operations, to which Andy has shown a tremendous amount of dedication and passion. "While we wish him well in his new endeavors, it's Andy's good nature we will miss the most," said Commissioner Martineau. "In his new role working with Tennessee's youth, we are confident this good nature will continue to make a positive difference in those who have the good fortune to both work with and learn from him."

Combined, Andy's dedication and service have left a positive footprint on Tennessee State Parks and we wish him well as he blazes a new career path. "The employees at Tennessee State Parks are the heart and soul of this system," Andy concluded. "We talk about state parks' many resources and natural beauty – but it's the employees that work so hard to preserve and protect them. I will miss each and every one of you."

Friends of Tennessee State Parks Gather at Paris Landing

More than 150 representatives from the 35 active Tennessee State Parks' Friends Groups gathered on Oct. 21-23 for the 8th Annual Friends Conference at Paris Landing State Park. Over the past year, our Friends and volunteers have provided more than 500,000 hours of worked time, raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for vital park needs, and completed projects of all sizes.

"Friends used to provide 'icing on the cake' for us," said **Commissioner Bob Martineau**. "Well, in today's new normal of tight budgets and resource scarcity, they are often called to be part of the cake itself. We count on our Friends."

Learn more at www.tnstateparks.com/Friends.



Friends of South Cumberland President **Mary Priestley** and East Tennessee Interpretive Specialist **April Welch** at the 8th Annual Friends Conference on Oct. 22 at Paris Landing. Mary is also author of *Hike 'em All at South Cumberland* and *William's Wildflowers*.



University of Tennessee Prof. **Mark Fly** shares research results from an Economic Impact Study of Tennessee State Parks.

Our Friends have been essential to helping parks recover from flood and tornado events that washed out roads, blocked trails, knocked down trees, and damaged facilities. Our ability to get back on our feet quickly was made possible due to many hours donated by Friends and volunteers.

Blue Cross and TSRA Volunteers Improve Popular Put-in on Harpeth River Blueway

On Oct. 26, volunteers from Blue Cross and Blue Shield and TN Scenic Rivers Association joined state park staff for the Hwy 70 Harpeth River Access Project. The TN State Park river access site at Hwy 70 on the Harpeth River Blueway in Cheatham County is one of the most heavily utilized put-in and take-out areas, more than 50,000 paddlers use the site annually. The new landing will provide safer access to and from the river. The project is funded with federal RTP grant dollars and a match provided by the TN Scenic Rivers Association.



Volunteers from Blue Cross and Blue Shield Tennessee joined TN Scenic River Association volunteers and Tennessee State Park personnel to work on the Harpeth River Blueway river access site at Hwy 70 in Cheatham County.

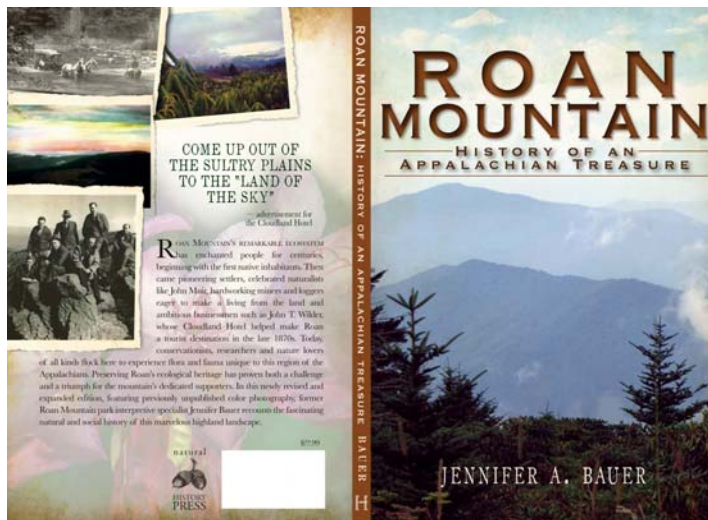


TN State Parks thanks all its partners for their volunteer work in completing another public river access site along the popular Harpeth River State Park Blueway in Cheatham County. More than 360 hours of labor from 57 volunteers completed this project in just seven days - with the final push to completion on Fri., Nov. 11.



Sycamore Shoals State Park Manager Jennifer Bauer pens new book

Sycamore Shoals State Park Manager **Jennifer Bauer** is author of a new book, *Roan Mountain: History of an Appalachian Treasure*. Over the past six months, every bit of Jennifer's spare time has been dedicated to creating this chronicle of the effort to preserve the Roan's ecological heritage. Kudos to Jennifer and her publisher: History Press, Charleston, SC, for these tremendous new insights on the Roan. The book was released Nov. 16 and is available online at Barnes & Noble, Amazon and other e-retailers. **Congrats Jennifer!**



Meet the author

Read a review

Roan Mountain's remarkable ecosystem has enchanted people for centuries, beginning with the first native inhabitants. Then came pioneering settlers, celebrated naturalists like John Muir, hardworking miners and loggers eager to make a living from the land and ambitious businessmen such as John T. Wilder, whose Cloudland Hotel helped make Roan a tourist destination in the late 1870s. Today, conservationists, researchers and nature lovers of all kinds flock here to experience flora and fauna unique to this region of the Appalachians. Preserving Roan's ecological heritage has proven both a challenge and a triumph for the mountain's dedicated supporters. In this newly revised and expanded edition, featuring previously unpublished color photography, former Roan Mountain park interpretive specialist Jennifer A. Bauer recounts the fascinating natural and social history of this marvelous highland landscape.

Saturday, Dec. 10 from 1-3 p.m. ET at Jacklyn's Hallmark (Elizabethton, TN)

Saturday, December 17 from 2-4 p.m. at Barnes & Noble (Johnson City, TN)

Though a native of Maryland, the upper East Tennessee mountains have long been Jennifer Bauer's home. She is a three-time graduate of East Tennessee State University with degrees in biology, art, teaching, and science education. Employed as a park manager at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area in Elizabethton, she began her career in the role of park interpretive specialist at Roan Mountain State Park for 21 years prior to promotion. Of utmost importance in her professional and personal life is becoming a good environmental and cultural educator, coupled with a strong belief in the importance of conservation and preservation. In 2007, Jennifer wrote *Wildlife, Wildflowers and Wild Activities: Exploring Southern Appalachia*, a collection of creative ways friends and families can explore the outdoors. She has two beautiful daughters and two granddaughters who are the joy of her life. Hiking, nature study, clogging, weaving, natural dyeing, spinning, watercolor painting, and music are but a few pastimes of interest to her.



An exhibit in the visitor's center at Roan Mountain State Park provides historical highlights of the Cloudland Hotel and the area's cultural heritage.

Around Tennessee State Parks



Dedicated state employees volunteer on Veterans Day to complete the river access project along the Harpeth River Blueway. (l-r) **Frank Fiss**, TWRA, **Ellen Omohundro** TN Dept. of Health, **Lauren Hill** TDEC, **Jennie Peddle**, Metro Public Schools, and **Lisa McCarter**, Office of the Attorney General.



Natural Areas Program Manager **Robin Wooten** leads a canoe float on Reelfoot Lake on Oct. 29.

First Hikes mark the arrival of the New Year and Tennessee State Parks' 75th Anniversary.



FIRST HIKES

[Learn more!](#)



West TN Interpretive Specialist **David Haggard** releases a young eagle into the wild on Oct. 29. The young eagle fell from her nest and broke a wing near Reelfoot Lake during one of the storms this past spring. She has been recovering for several months since the fall under the watchful care of David and the state parks team. "One of the greatest things we are able to do in this job is to help a majestic bird like this eagle get a second chance to be wild and free," said David.



Daniel Hughes as Major Gen. George H. Thomas and Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park Manager **Mike Cole** as Col. Corn during Tennessee's History Festival at Bicentennial Mall on November 11.

Around TDEC



TDEC's **Keeping PACE for a Cure Group** at the Race for the Cure Walk at LP Field on Oct. 15. Keeping PACE raised more than \$4,700 during the 2011 Race for the Cure, exceeding their 2011 goal of \$4,000.



Folks from Nashville WPC joined staff from the Johnson City EFO to walk in the Susan G Komen Race for the Cure in Kingsport. **Saya Qualls**, Chief Engineer, WPC central office in Nashville and **Beverly Brown**, Biologist Johnson City EFO relax after the race. Seventeen participants on Bev's Ta TA Brigade raised more than \$1000.



Deputy Commissioner **Shari Meghreblian** samples chili under the watchful eyes of LaRose Dean and Earl Bushong during the TN Employees Charitable Campaign chili cook-off on Oct. 28.



Most days she's just queen of procurement, but during the Oct. 28 TECC Costume Contest, TDEC Purchasing Director **Tina Pennington** is Cleopatra, overall winner and truly queen of denial.



Team members from the Division of Solid Waste Management's **Toxic Substances Group** take a break during a LeadSafeTN outreach event on Oct. 26 at Bicentennial Mall.

Around TDEC



Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Director **Mike Apple** (left) and Deputy Commissioner **Shari Meghreblian** recognize Hazardous Waste Manager **Garey Mabry** (center) on his 35th Anniversary of Public Service for the State of Tennessee.



Vaughn Cassidy, West TN Environmental Coordinator, along with staff from the Memphis Environmental Field Office, provided a TDEC booth for the Barbara W. Cooper and Bickford Community Center's Family Resource Fair. The event was held at the Bickford Community Center on Nov. 18 & 19. **Representative Barbara Cooper** invited TDEC to participate in the event to inform the public about the many services available to assist Memphis and Shelby County Residents. Several hundred people in the neighborhood attended the event.



Deputy Commissioner **Brock Hill**; **Danny Benard**, Chester County Solid Waste; **Randy Etheridge**, Hardin County Solid Waste; **Joyce Dunlap**, TDEC Solid Waste Assistance Director with \$282,500 solid waste assistance grant for West Tennessee Regional Recycling Hub to be administered by the Chester County Solid Waste and Recycling Department for Chester, Hardin, and McNairy counties, and the municipalities of Henderson, Savannah, and Selmer. Regional recycling hub will be located within the existing Chester County Recycling Center at 315 Talley Store Road near Henderson.



Amy Little hosted an outreach booth for the TN Radon Program at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park in Nashville on Oct. 26.



Out and About with the Commissioners



“One of the best decisions made during the development of Tennessee’s Bicentennial Mall was the decision to make it a state park,” said architect **Kem Hinton** as he presented **Commissioner Martineau** with a framed print of Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park on Oct. 28 to celebrate Bicentennial Mall being designated a 2011 Top 10 Great Public Space in America by the American Planning Association. Learn more at <http://news.tn.gov/node/7949>. Kem Hinton, principal in charge at Tuck Hinton Architects, was the lead designer of the Tennessee Bicentennial Capitol Mall and responsible for management of the team of architects, engineers and landscape architects from across the state that made the Mall available for citizens in 1996.



Hiwassee & Ocoee Rivers State Park Manager **Bridget Lofgren** and Deputy Commissioner **Brock Hill** at the park in Polk County.



Commissioner Martineau is featured speaker at the TVA Environment and Technology All Employees Meeting in Knoxville on Nov. 9.



Deputy Commissioner **Brock Hill** shares remarks during the Alliance for the Cumberland Falls Meeting in Beersheba Springs.



Deputy Commissioner **Brock Hill** and South Cumberland State Park Manager **John Christof** look for poachers at the park in Grundy County.

ORNL Commends TDEC's DOE-Oversight Office for Monitoring Spent Fuel

In October, TDEC's **DOE-Oversight Division staff** members received a *Letter of Commendation* from **Johnny O. Moore**, Manager of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Site Office. The letter expressed appreciation for the division's radiological monitoring support to the national laboratory in assuring that the shipments of Spent Nuclear Fuel from the ORNL High Flux Isotope Reactor to the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site in Aiken South Carolina were compliant with transportation standards. Mr. Moore stated, "personnel assigned to these inspections were capable and concerned in their performance, and contributed significantly to the success of this campaign." The division team assists the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) in these inspections. TEMA is the lead agency for the Spent Nuclear Fuel transportation program.

The letter goes on to state that since 1996, the laboratory has conducted 125 of these shipments. For more information on the program, please contact Dr. Charles R. (Bud) Yard, Manager of the Radiological Monitoring and Assistance Program at 865-481-0995.



The personnel responsible for the Letter of Commendation are members of the TDEC DOE-Oversight Division Radiological Monitoring and Oversight Program. The project leader, **Glenn Keller** (left), is reading a Bicorn MicroRem meter – for radiation dose assessment). Joining him are **David Foster** (middle) and **John Wojtowicz** (right).



David Foster (left) and **John Wojtowicz** (right) are taking readings with Ludlum alpha/beta radiation detection devices on the surface of the cask. **Phillip Roush**, **Natalie Pheasant**, and **Dave Thomasson** assist in the inspections when needed. The cask pictured is a specially designed, shielded cask used specifically for transporting Spent Nuclear Fuel.

Customer Service Corner: Exceeding Our Customers Expectations

Since his first day in office, Gov. Haslam has stressed the importance of state government delivering good service to citizens. We have numerous opportunities each day to demonstrate good service at TDEC: citizen inquiries at a field office, park visitors at the front desk, discussions with local officials, and public meetings in a community to name just a few. One way we improve our service performance is through feedback from our customers' experiences. Here's a recent message from Mr. Tippett to Mike Moore recognizing the "exceptional" customer service provided by Ms. Suzanne Hoyal in the Division of Archaeology during his recent office visit and follow-up requests.



Commissioner Martineau

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob".

Mike (Moore),

I am sure I do not need to make you aware of the level of service we have received from **Suzanne Hoyal** over the course of the last few weeks, since this seems to be a standard operating procedure in your office. Nevertheless, it is exceptional in our experience of working in archaeology/State Historic Preservation Offices across the south Atlantic slope, mid-South, and mid-Atlantic states.



Suzanne Hoyal

Regards,

Joseph Tippett, Senior Archaeologist
Louis Berger Group

Upcoming Customer Service Focus: *Communicating in Plain English*

While our department's issues are often complex, layered and nuanced, we should emphasize clarity, brevity and the avoidance of technical language in our official communication with customers. We should write in a manner that is easily understood by our target audience, appropriate to their reading skills and knowledge, clear and direct, free of cliché and unnecessary jargon.



Deputy Commissioner Shari Meghreblian and Janet Dutto, Chattanooga EFO-HWM

TDEC's customer service to VW did not end with their permits to build the plant in Chattanooga. Prior to plant start-up, TDEC's Chattanooga Field Office contacted VW officials and offered to review and provide technical assistance relative to their hazardous waste compliance program. VW readily accepted and **Janet Dutto**, Hazardous Waste Section Supervisor, led the effort for TDEC. Several meetings with VW officials were held to review plant schematics and other components on the HW system. The meetings paid huge dividends where several potential violations related to VW's initial point of hazardous waste compliance (POC) were identified and avoided. Janet's team also went above and beyond in compliance assistance by coordinating EPA confirmation of the POC, providing a comprehensive list of records that will be reviewed during hazardous waste compliance inspections, and conducting a department-by-department plant walk through. Again, TDEC's proactive customer service results in a win-win-win!

Steve Baxter is the Director of the the Chattanooga Environmental Field Office.

Volkswagen in Chattanooga and TDEC Customer Service

By Steve Baxter

The decision by Volkswagen (VW) to build their manufacturing facility in Chattanooga was a game changer for the State of Tennessee. The role TDEC played in that decision was significant and has been well chronicled. Chattanooga was in tough competition with other states across the U.S and timing was critical. VW had to be assured that the Enterprise South property was a good fit for their facility so Fast Track permits were obtained for massive site grading work, 18,552 linear feet of steam relocation, and creation of 1.5 acres of wetlands. VW also had to be assured that any residual contamination issues associated with the former U.S. Army TNT plant would not pose future problems for their site.

Nancy Boisvert, formerly with the Division of Remediation, coordinated TDEC's interface with VW to ensure all the issues and concerns were resolved. WPC teams, led by **Dick Urban**, Chattanooga Environmental Field Office Manager, and **Mike Lee**, WPC permit section in Nashville, worked tirelessly with Hamilton County and the City of Chattanooga to ensure that unnecessary delays were avoided and the permitting time tables required by VW were met. TDEC personnel did not compromise on requirements and met critical customer deadlines.

**In Memoriam: Remembering Charlie Howell,
a leader, mentor who taught life lessons by Michael Moore**

Recently, I attended the funeral of **Charles Andrew Howell III**, who died Oct. 27 (1930-2011). Hopefully each of us has someone that positively influenced the direction of our life. Charles was that person to me. At various times in my life, Charles served as a father figure, as well as my baseball coach, scoutmaster, employer and boss. Beyond these roles, however, he was simply my friend.

I have known Charles my entire life, as he and my father were high school buddies who maintained a close friendship beyond their youth. He was always Charles to me, never Mr. Howell as he should have been when I was young, and never Charlie when I reached adulthood. For some reason, neither of those names seemed appropriate. I suppose Metro Councilman Howell, state Representative Howell or state Conservation Commissioner Howell didn't, either.

Much of my youth was spent with the Howell family on Nashville's Clifton Lane (I slid down the banister and played on Mr. Harb's oriental rugs in the basement like everyone else). Charles commanded my respect, love and (if I'm honest) fear when I was growing up. He and his wife, Julie, always treated me like one of the family, which at times could be hazardous if discipline was involved.

As I became an adult, Charles gained my respect, love and admiration as I finally began to understand the value of his life lessons when applied to my own family and career. Charles' influence governs my thoughts and actions even today. Respect is the key life lesson that I learned from him. I'm talking about respect for yourself, your fellow man, and the community you live in. Perhaps these seem like simple concepts, and in a way I suppose they are, but to a shy and insecure kid with buck teeth, they represented powerful words to live by. I'm now old enough to know that we should take our experiences in life, both good and bad, and hopefully adapt them in a positive way to govern our daily life. I have tried to live my life that way, although I fail spectacularly at times. However, I think it's how we live life in the long run that counts the most, and Charles was the shining example of how it's supposed to be done. Thank God I was able to tell him this before he passed. To miss that opportunity would have been the ultimate act of disrespect.

Charles Howell, III, was former Commissioner for the TN Department of Conservation from 1981-1987. He passed away passed away on Oct. 27, 2011 in Nashville.

Michael C. Moore is the Tennessee state archaeologist and director of the Tennessee Division of Archaeology.



View December events at Tennessee State Parks.



December Service Anniversaries

5 Years

- Lindsay Barrios**, Memphis EFO, WPC
- Tiffany Cutshall**, Johnson City EFO, APC
- Jason Dees**, Chattanooga EFO, WPC
- Stephanie Dyer**, Chattanooga EFO, APC
- Lisa Feathers**, Chickasaw SP
- Michael Hastings**, Paris Landing SP
- Olga Jacobsen**, Air Pollution Control
- Tehondra Lucas**, Meeman-Shelby Forest SP
- Kari Moates**, Hiwassee/Ocoee SP
- Jeff Ridings**, Fiscal Services

10 Years

- Don Moore**, Chattanooga EFO, SWM
- Ralph Reaves**, Pickwick Landing SP
- Richard Urban**, Chattanooga EFO, WPC

15 Years

- Hernan Flores**, Air Pollution Control
- Stephen Gale**, Cumberland Mountain SP
- Oakley Hall**, Cookeville EFO, WPC
- Paul Schmierbach**, Knoxville EFO, WPC
- Nina Vo**, Solid Waste Management
- James Welch**, Cove Lake SP

20 Years

- Dan Hatch**, Jackson EFO, WPC
- William Mann**, Jackson EFO, WS
- David Moran**, Solid Waste Management
- Ali Norbash**, Water Supply
- Jack Wilson Jr.**, Jackson EFO, GWP

25 Years

- Allen Fenoseff**, Dunbar Cave SP
- Buddy Leonard**, Reelfoot Lake SP
- Sherry Wang**, Water Pollution Control

30 Years

- Kenneth Baker**, Tennessee State Parks
- Betty Bledsoe**, Water Supply
- Teresa Lewis**, Remediation
- Wanda Taylor**, Fiscal Services

35 Years

- Garey Mabry**, Solid Waste Management

View November's Service Anniversaries.