



The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Building Green

**Nashville Fire Department
Station 19**

Davidson County, Tennessee



Nashville Fire Department Station 19 is the first LEED Platinum certified fire station for new construction in the entire Southeast. The station's eco-friendly design resulted in a sixty percent diversion of the construction waste from the landfill, one-third less water use, and a forty-four percent reduction in energy use. Fifteen percent of the building's electricity is provided by its 33kW solar panel array and thirty-one percent of all materials used were regionally manufactured or locally sourced, with sixteen percent of the building materials being recycled.

Annually, Fire Station 19 will save more than \$11,000 in electricity costs compared to other buildings of similar size and function, largely due to the nearly 39,000 kWh of energy being generated by its solar array. Lighting levels were optimized to provide only the required light needed in corridors, which led to a forty-one percent reduction in lighting power density.

Additionally, Fire Station 19 is sub-metered to provide real time monitoring of its energy consumption so that problems can be detected immediately and city energy managers can respond accordingly.











L-R: Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation; Chief Ricky White, Metro Nashville Fire Department; Director Nancy Whittemore, Metro Department of General Services; Governor Bill Haslam

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Clean Air

**Chattanooga Area Regional
Transportation Authority**

Hamilton County, Tennessee



The Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA), with funding provided by the Tennessee Valley Authority, launched an integrated public Level 2 charging and electric vehicle car share network along its existing public transit system. There are 56 charging stations across twenty locations, and energy use is off set by the three new solar power generators, with a combined capacity of 80kW. The total emissions reduction equaled 530 tons of CO2 with the implementation of this program.

CARTA recognized the value of promoting multimodal travel solutions that can be integrated into the transit system. Electric charging and car share station sites were designed to coordinate with CARTA's mainline bus and Electric Shuttle routes, Bike Chattanooga Bicycle Transit System locations, and key downtown parking garages. Additionally, CARTA selected Green Commuter to launch the state's first all-electric public car share system, with the initial deployment of 20 Nissan LEAFs in Chattanooga. These vehicles use the public charging stations and are maintained and sponsored by Green Commuter.











L-R: Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation; Principal Consultant Stefanie deOlloqui, Prova Group LLC; CEO Gustavo Occhiuzzo, Green Commuter; Principal Philip Pugliese, Prova Group LLC; Executive Director Lisa Maragnano, CARTA; Governor Bill Haslam

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Energy and Renewable Resources

City of Lebanon

Waste to Energy

Wilson County, Tennessee



In 2016, the City of Lebanon started operating a new \$3.5 million downdraft gasification plant at its wastewater treatment facility. The gasification initiative is the first in the nation and the largest downdraft gasifier in the world. The facility will divert 8,000 tons (equivalent to a line of semi-trucks four miles long) of wood and sludge waste from the local landfill, and convert 36,000 Tennessee scrap rubber tires into energy each year. This will eliminate 2,500 tons of carbon emissions annually. The facility produces a left-over carbon-rich biochar that the city plans to sell to local farmers to fertilize crops. The plant also has the capacity to generate 1.8 million kilowatt-hours of electricity behind the meter, the equivalent of powering 312 homes.

In addition to gasification, Lebanon is taking steps to becoming a positive environmental citizen, by supporting the only commuter rail system in the Midstate, installing a total of 1MW of solar arrays at both the water and wastewater treatment plants to offset the electrical costs, starting a pilot recycling program for residents, and continuing the conversion of city vehicles from fossil fuels to natural gas.













L-R: Project Manager Scott McRae, City of Lebanon; Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation; Commissioner Jeff Baines, City of Lebanon Public Works; Mayor Bernie Ash, City of Lebanon; Philip Craighead; Senator Mae Beavers, District 17; Mike Webb, Aries Energy; Governor Bill Haslam; COO Lincoln Young, Rockwood Recycling

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Environmental Education and Outreach

Keep Knoxville Beautiful

Knox County, Tennessee



Keep Knoxville Beautiful (KKB), founded in 1978 to help “clean up” prior to the 1982 World’s Fair, has been a continuously operating, locally-funded, non-profit, independent affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. In 2016, KKB accelerated their educational outreach programs and increased their results on the ground.

In 2016, KKB facilitated over 65 neighborhood, waterway, and roadside cleanups, collected over 36 tons of roadside waste and three tons of recyclables, and removed over 100 waste tires from roadsides and waterways. They facilitated and supported over 1,600 volunteers, to work nearly 4,000 man hours, and mobilized their recycling trailer at seven public events. KKB reached nearly 400 students at twenty-three educational engagement presentations and presented as educational exhibitors at over twenty public events.

KKB instituted four new programs in 2016 to engage more of the community. These programs include “Trash Runs”, which are geared toward rapid trash removal and the “Beautification Mobs”, to create long-lasting visual enhancements to entrance corridors along interstates. KKB also bought a recycling trailer that provides an organized recycling receptacle for public events. The trailer is painted with mission specific messaging to facilitate education and outreach, while providing a community service. Keep Knoxville Beautiful also added the Rocky Top Pickin’ Party, which is a fall fundraiser with local musicians.











L-R: Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation; Executive Director of Keep Blount Beautiful Alanna McKissack; Executive Director of Keep Knoxville Beautiful Patience Melnik; Program Coordinator Sarah Carman, Keep Knoxville Beautiful; Geologist Patrick Mulligan, TN Department of Environment and Conservation; Governor Bill Haslam

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Environmental Education and Outreach
Schools

New Hope Christian Academy
Shelby County, Tennessee



The environmental education program at New Hope flourishes despite the school's limited funding and resources. It extends beyond what anyone could imagine a little school in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Memphis could ever hope to achieve. It is only because of the unwavering commitment of the staff and students that this example shines so bright.

Students are given many opportunities to help protect the environment through the school's Environmental Club. Members will make announcements at school about reducing water and energy usage and paper towel use. Many classes have an "energy police" position to help the class stay on track with their energy awareness. The Environmental Club also cleans neighborhood storm drains several times per year and installs "only rain down the drain" markers for the city. During Earth Week, the students made a series of video announcements about how to help the earth. Additionally, thousands of pounds of paper and cardboard have been recycled by the school and countless bags of food waste and yard waste have been collected for their composting program.

There are also after school clubs that students may join to help work at the school's farm and urban forest. In 2013, the school acquired an adjacent vacant property with the goal of transforming it into an urban farm. Today, where the vacant lot used to be, sits an amazing garden that doubles as an outdoor classroom for the students to learn all about plants and the food that comes from them. Each week during the growing season, New Hope has a Pay-What-You-Can-Veggie Stand that allows families to get fresh organic foods at a price they can afford. In 2015, the school secured another neighboring abandoned and neglected wooded lot. The students have spent the last couple of years cleaning up the site, removing invasive species, planting natives, blazing trails and creating an outdoor forest experience that many of the students may never otherwise experience.



New Hope
Christian Academy









L-R: Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation; Farm Coordinator David Vaughan, New Hope Christian Academy; Experiential Learning Coordinator Mary Leslie Ramsey, New Hope Christian Academy; Forest Coordinator Debbie Bennett, New Hope Christian Academy; Governor Bill Haslam

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Land Use

Suttree Landing Park

Knox County, Tennessee



As you walk through Suttree Landing, Knoxville's new downtown 8-acre linear park, it is hard to imagine that from the 1940's until 2004, this was an industrial site, home to a bulk oil storage facility, a textile-dyeing operation, and an engine parts manufacturer. To facilitate this incredible transformation, the City of Knoxville successfully negotiated a Brownfield Voluntary Agreement with the Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Remediation in 2010. Six years later, the City has a beautiful, multi-use, river-front park.

This project illustrates that the conversion of a brownfield site into an outdoor recreation space can be accomplished through strategic planning, partnerships, community involvement, and active stakeholder involvement toward a common vision. Knoxville applied for and received a \$400,000 Community-Wide Brownfield Assessment Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess properties along the waterfront. The collaborative effort between the EPA, the City of Knoxville, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, identified twelve sites with significant redevelopment potential.

Two of the twelve sites were used for Suttree Landing Park. With the creation of this park came the connection of the Urban Wilderness in South Knoxville. The Urban Wilderness is a recreation, cultural, and historic preservation initiative, incorporating 1,000 forested acres in and around the South Waterfront.

The park contains a Riverwalk, two festival lawns, four overlook areas with seat walls and picnic tables, an ADA accessible children's playground, a put-in area for kayaks and canoes, and a surface parking lot for larger events.

The park festival lawn has an irrigation system that pumps water from the river, reducing the need for potable water on site. Bioswales were installed to manage water runoff and tolerate periodic flooding. The Riverwalk consists of a six foot wide soft surface running trail, a five foot furnishing zone composed of bike racks, benches, and lighting, a 12-foot hard surface, and a multi-use path for bicyclists and pedestrians.















L-R: Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation; Director of the Office of Redevelopment Dawn Michelle Foster, City of Knoxville; Deputy Director of the Office of Redevelopment Anne Wallace, City of Knoxville; Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero; Director of the Office of Sustainability Erin Gill, City of Knoxville; Project Manager Bryan Berry, City of Knoxville; Governor Bill Haslam

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Materials Management

The Nashville Food Project
Davidson County, Tennessee



The Nashville Food Project is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to bring people together to grow, cook, and share nourishing food, with the goals of cultivating community and alleviating hunger in Nashville. This is especially important, as seventeen percent of Tennessee residents do not have enough food to sustain a healthy lifestyle.

In 2016, The Nashville Food Project recovered more than 120,000 pounds of edible healthy surplus food from local farms, grocers, and restaurants. With the majority of the food used in their Meals Program, they were able to provide more than 3,100 meals for vulnerable communities each week. These weekly meals are shared in partnership with more than twenty-seven local nonprofits.

The Nashville Food Project strives for maximum sustainability throughout their meals programs by sharing meals in compostable clamshell containers. Meals are supplemented with local, sustainably-grown food, and they dedicate a portion of their food budget to their local farmer investment expenditure. Purchasing produce from local farmers supports the farmer, the farmer's sustainable practice, and the local economy. Any food that is not fit for human consumption is fed to The Nashville Food Project's flock of urban chickens or added to their compost system. This in turn supports their production gardens, which produced over 6,200 pounds of organically-grown produce for meals in 2016. The Nashville Food Project's four community gardens provide land, resources, and training, to empower 100 low-income families, immigrants, and refugees to grow fresh food for themselves and support their families' food and financial resources. They are actively working toward a system of zero food waste.





THE NASHVILLE FOOD PROJECT

MORE THAN **120,000** POUNDS OF TOTAL RECOVERED FOOD IN 2016

18 LOCAL FARMS PARTICIPATING

19,593 POUNDS
FRESH PRODUCE
GLEANED FROM LOCAL FARMS

56,020 POUNDS
FOOD RECOVERED
FROM GROCERY STORES

12,515 POUNDS
MEAT RECOVERED



Grow food for TNFP's meals and engage volunteers in hands-on work.

- 2 sites totaling one-acre of production space
- over 6,500 pounds produced in 2016
- Over 1,800 volunteers engaged

Provide opportunities for self-determination and supplemental income

- 9 growers on one acre
- weekly training opportunities
- marketing support at multiple scales venues

Provide opportunities for food sovereignty and increased access to nourishing foods

- 85 individuals growing on intensive urban plots at 4 sites
- monthly training opportunities
- shared infrastructure and community-based leadership

TNFP'S GARDEN PROGRAM IS ROOTED IN:

- Good Stewardship of Natural Resources
- Anti-Racist Vision
- Community Leadership









Largest food donation
11,000 pounds of
meat recovered from
a meat conference at
Gaylord



L-R: Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation; The Nashville Food Project Representatives: Development Director Teri Sloan, Associate Director Malinda Hersh, Food Donations Coordinator Booth Jewett, Executive Director Tallu Quinn, Office and Development Coordinator Sally Rausch; Governor Bill Haslam

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Natural Heritage

Sherwood Forest Project

Franklin and Marion Counties, Tennessee



The Sherwood Forest Project added 4,061 acres of high-quality forestland and critical habitat to the public land areas in the South Cumberland region. The project involved purchasing the additional 4,061 acres from a private mining company. Funding was made available from the Land and Wildlife Conservation Fund, through the merit-based Forest Legacy Program, and implemented in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, The Land Trust for Tennessee, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Conservation Fund, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and The Open Space Institute. The additional acreage was added to the approximately 41,000 acres of protected forestland, including Bear Hollow Mountain Wildlife Management Area, Franklin State Forest, Carter State Natural Area, and Walls of Jericho State Natural Area.

Acquisition of this important land ensures the protection of habitats critical for federally listed endangered, threatened, or federal candidate species, including the endangered Morefield's leather flower and the federally threatened painted snake coiled forest snail. Additionally two rare animals, the Eastern small-footed bat and Allegheny woodrat, are protected by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. These animals have been recorded on the property, along with four-toed salamanders, barking tree frogs, and Rafinesque's big-eared bat, which are state protected animals.

The 4,061 acre tract also contains the Griffin Shelter, which is the only excavated prehistoric rock art site in Tennessee. There are four panels of elaborate and deeply incised petroglyphs and artifacts used to carve the art and perform sacred activities. The project also protects over eight miles of stream and riparian habitat in the Guntersville Lake watershed, which are critical for protecting drinking water quality for the community of Sherwood.

Sherwood Forest, 4,061 acres Franklin and Marion Counties, TN

Carter State Natural Area

Legend

- Subject Property- 4,061 acres
- TDEC: State Park/Natural Area- 3,075 acres
- Division of Forestry: Addition to State Forest- 888 acres
- Mining Company- 198 acres
- Public and Conserved Lands

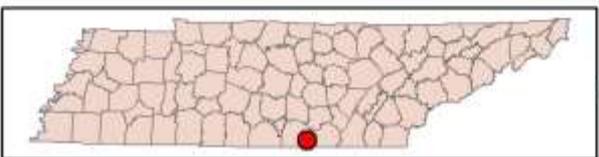
TNC Pumplog
Hollow Preserve

Franklin State Forest



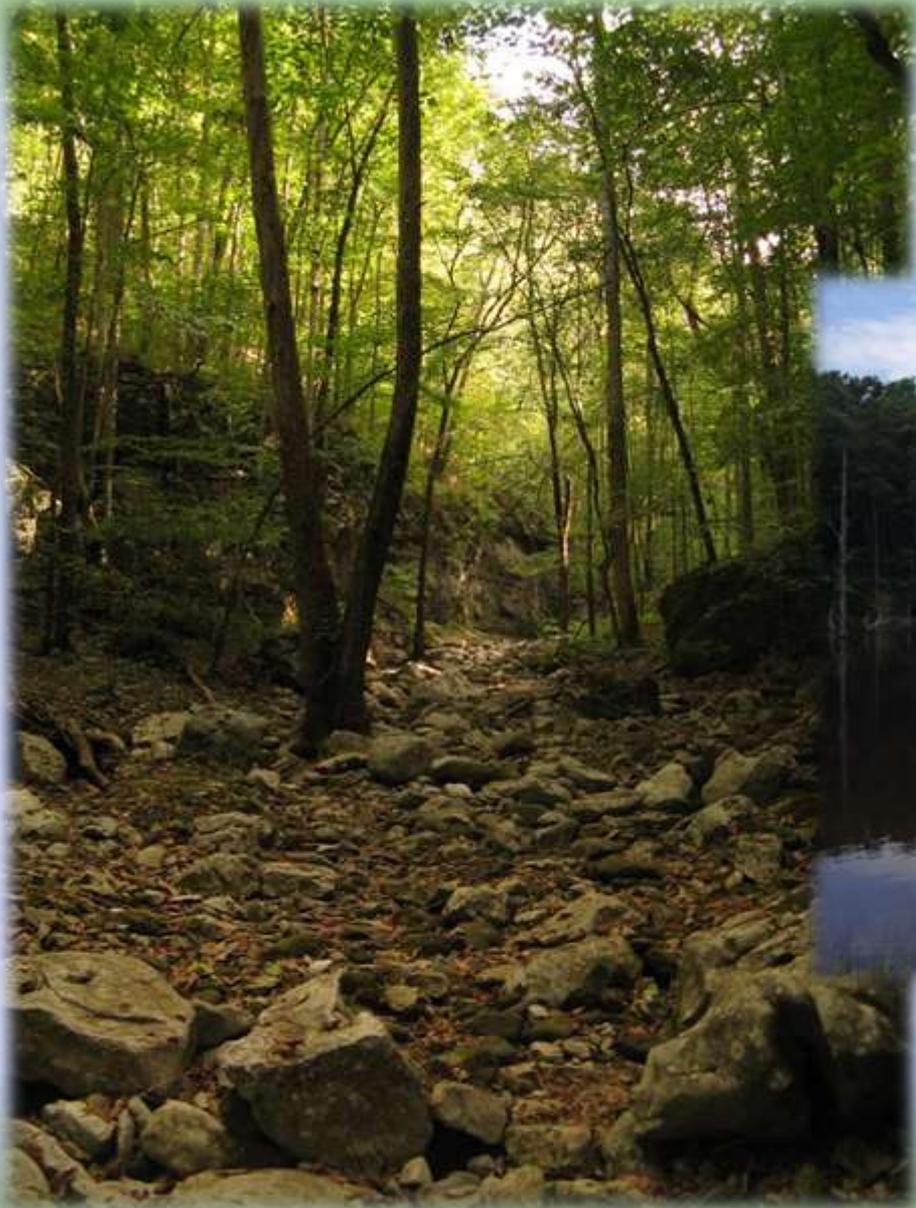
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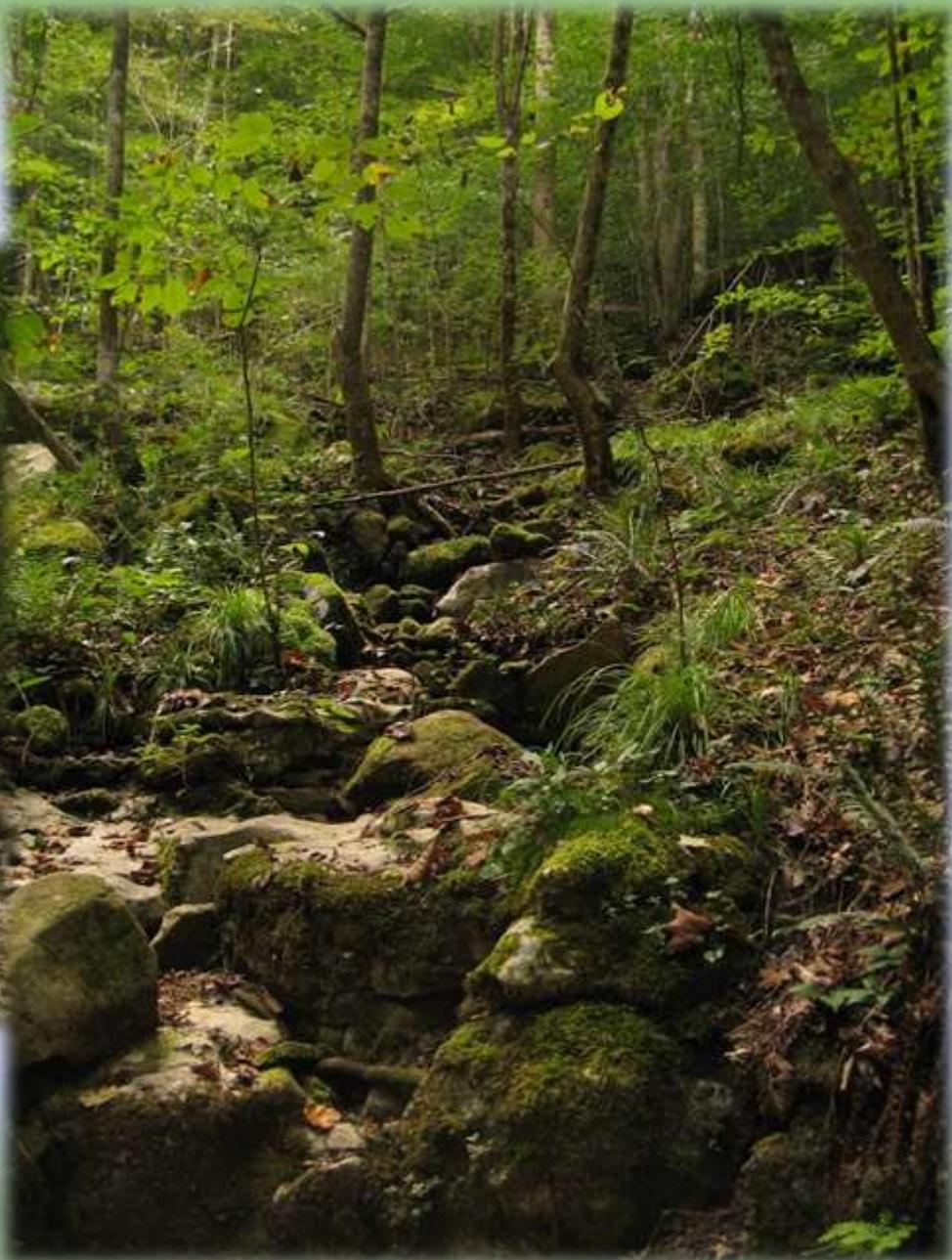
Updated 9-9-16, EP



THE CONSERVATION FUND









This tract contains the Griffin Shelter, the only excavated prehistoric rock art site in Tennessee. Elaborate and deeply incised petroglyphs.

Natural bridge located in Sherwood Forest.



Morefield's
Leatherflower
(*Clematis
morefieldii*)



White fringeless orchid
(*Platanthera integrilabia*)

Painted Snake
Coiled Forest
Snails



Anguispira-picta Buck Creek
Cove



Photo Credit: Alan Cressler



L-R: Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation; President and CEO Liz McLaurin, The Land Trust for Tennessee; President Bruz Clark, Lyndhurst Foundation; Southeast Field Coordinator Joel Houser, Open Space Institute, Chair of Conservation Projects Committee Doug Cameron, The Land Trust for Tennessee; Governor Bill Haslam

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Sustainable Performance

Belmont University
Davidson County, Tennessee



Belmont University has made the commitment to make its campus as sustainable as possible. An example of this commitment is the University's R. Milton and Denice Johnson Center which received its LEED Gold certification in April of 2016. This building is home to Belmont's campus dining facility, the Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business, programs in Media Studies, and a new major on campus, Motion Pictures. The 134,000 square foot building sits atop a 1,000 plus space parking garage. This parking garage and others on campus have free charging stations for electric vehicles and designated spaces for car/vanpool, and fuel efficient vehicles. Two of the garages have been upgraded with LED lights and fixtures to reduce energy use.

The building also boasts a geothermal heating and cooling system and a composting operation. The heating and cooling system is expected to yield an annual savings of forty percent in energy costs. The composting system converts food and cardboard waste into enriched soil additives through large dehydrators, which reduces overall waste from food operations. The University has installed a storm water run-off collection system that collects run-off in underground storage tanks. The collection tank is one-third the size of an Olympic swimming pool and has allowed Belmont to utilize over twelve million gallons of reclaimed water for irrigation during 2016.

Belmont now has three buildings on campus that are LEED certified and eight buildings that have been built with sustainable features. The University continues to take a comprehensive look at how they can be environmentally sensitive and be a leader in sustainability and environmental responsibility among universities.



Preservation of more than 100 species of trees and shrubs.



Belmont University Arboretum
White Mulberry
Morus alba L.
Moraceae









L-R: Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation; Belmont Representatives: Assistant Director and University Engineer Mark Grones; Vice President of Finance and Operations Steve Lasley; Director of Facilities Management Services Robert Chavez; Coordinator of Interior Construction and External Landscaping/Lighting Judy Fisher; and President Dr. Bob Fisher, Belmont University; Governor Bill Haslam

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Pursuit of Excellence

**Knoxville Regional Transportation
Planning Organization**

Smart Trips

Knox County, Tennessee



Smart Trips provides an incentive based reward program for businesses and commuters who choose to unburden the transportation system through various green trips, including telecommuting, ride-sharing, carpooling, biking, walking, bus, and transit. The program collects data on alternative transit trips which historically have not been well-documented. Enhanced reporting on alternative trips provides a more holistic view of the regional transit system in the Knoxville area and leads to enhancements for all roadway users.

Smart Trips began in 2003 from humble beginnings but grew rapidly and by 2012 had added over 1,000 registered commuters. The program continues to experience an increase in active users, whose trip reporting indicates a rising trend in longer and more diverse trips. To date they have had over 949,969 registered commutes from multiple modes.

Smart Trips users have logged 17,908,426 miles in “alternative” commutes over its entire existence, including carpool, vanpool, transit, bicycle, walking, telework, and compressed work weeks. This represents 8,414,344 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions prevented, as well as significant reductions of NOx, volatile organic compounds, particulate matter, and other tailpipe air pollutants.





Prize Trolley







FREE RIDES!

Along Cumberland Ave.
During Construction

Let's get thru this together!





L-R: Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation; Transportation Planner Jerome Joiner, TN Department of Transportation; Director Jeff Welch, Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning; Program Coordinator Christi Wampler, Smart Trips; Outreach Coordinator Ally Ketron, Smart Trips; Governor Bill Haslam

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Pursuit of Excellence

**Metropolitan Nashville Airport
Authority**

Davidson County, Tennessee



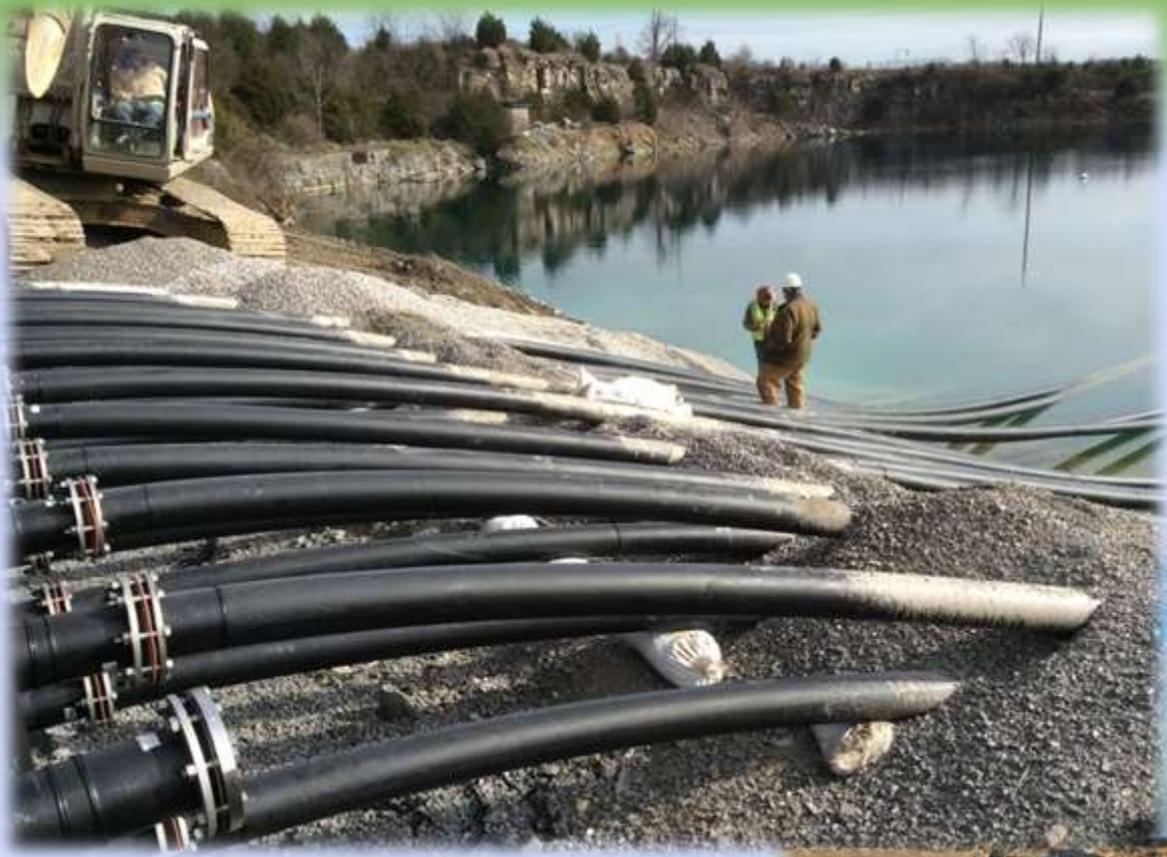
The Metropolitan Nashville airport Authority (MNA) has continued to build on their core values of sustainability, while having a visible impact to their 12.2 million visitors. Over the last few years, MNA has added compressed natural gas (CNG) shuttles and buses to their fleet. In 2016, MNA saw an opportunity to use their limestone quarry to provide a water-source lake plate geothermal cooling system that would support the cooling load of the nearly 900,000 square foot terminal building.

MNA rolled out 20 new CNG powered shuttles to service parking lots at the Nashville International Airport (BNA). These consist of fifteen, 24-passenger shuttles, two 29-passenger shuttles, and three 14-passenger shuttles. These shuttles join eight new BNA Express Park CNG powered shuttles that were put into service in June 2016. Based on an annual estimated consumption of 300,000 gallons of diesel, greenhouse gas emissions at the airport shuttle operations will be reduced by fourteen percent. This equates to an annual reduction of 587 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. These improvements help the health and well-being of the public who flies in and out of the facilities, as well as the employees and workers who support the aviation operations.

MNA identified a way to harness the thermal properties of deep water which had accumulated over decades in an abandoned quarry on airport property. The \$10.4 million cold deep water system is used to cool the entire terminal building, reduce the use of electricity, as well as reduce potable water consumption by providing irrigation needs for airport landscaping.













L-R: Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation; MNAA Representatives: Legal Counsel Ted Morrissey, Vice President Strategic Planning and Sustainability Christine Vitt, Vice President of Strategic Communications and External Affairs, President and CEO Rob Wigington, Vice President Chief Administration Officer Vanessa Hickman; Governor Bill Haslam

Robert Sparks Walker
Lifetime Achievement

Dr. Edward W. Chester

Montgomery County, Tennessee



Over the past 50 years, Dr. Edward Chester has demonstrated his commitment to the environment, through locating and identifying numerous rare plants – including state records, conducting biological inventories on Tennessee’s public lands, teaching and instilling the importance of conservation to both undergraduate and graduate students. He has published numerous articles and books for both the professional scientist and the nature enthusiast, and provided scientific guidance to both state and federal land-managing agencies. In over 100 of his scientific publications, he provides a glimpse into his scientific acumen, and his 20 books and other major works reveal a dedication to understanding and preserving our state’s precious natural heritage.

As a native Clarksvillian, Dr. Chester started his career teaching locally in the Montgomery County Public School System prior to completing his PhD in Botany at the University of Tennessee. Upon graduating in 1966 he began his career at APSU and retired after decades of service. Forty-eight years later, in post-retirement, he has continued to work, teaching General Biology as an adjunct, serving as Curator Emeritus of the APSU Herbarium, and continuing to serve as the state’s botanical leader.

Dr. Chester's research continues to have lasting results regarding the preservation and management of Tennessee's most sensitive natural treasures. His examination of Tennessee's rarest plant species provides a better understanding of species' distribution and has led to on-the-ground conservation. Without his skill and dedication, numerous rare species sites would remain unprotected, resulting in possibly inadvertent damage or destruction. Even if already on protected lands, knowing the location of sensitive resources has allowed conservation agencies to properly manage sites for rare species preservation.

Dr. Chester's research has not just been about locating specific species at specific sites across Tennessee and Kentucky. Throughout his extensive career he completed full floristic inventories at scores of sites including industrial and private lands, state natural areas, national wildlife refuges, national parks, and other federal properties such as Land Between the Lakes and the Fort Campbell Military Reservation. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Natural Areas regularly utilizes his major reports to evaluate which sites merit protection and a number of important wetland sites he documented or researched such as Anderson Pond, Cedar Hill Swamp, and Mingo Swamp are now protected by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. His floristic work at Barnett's Woods in Montgomery County guided The Nature Conservancy to purchase the property in 1981. In 2005, the area was transferred to the state and designated as a state natural area.

Dr. Chester's environmental studies traverse a variety of areas including species' ecology, such as seed germination studies for some of the region's rarest plants such as *Thaspium pinnatifidum*, a globally imperiled species known from only one existing site in Tennessee. A review of his publications and presentations also reveals his expertise in invasive exotic species, old-growth forest inventories, forest succession, history of our public lands, and ethnobotany.

Dr. Chester has demonstrated exceptional leadership as both a researcher and teacher at Austin Peay State University. Using his vast knowledge of Tennessee's rare flora, Dr. Chester was appointed by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner to serve as a member and chair of Tennessee's Rare Plant Scientific Advisory Committee, a group legislatively mandated to recommend changes to Tennessee's rare plant list. As head of the Tennessee Flora Committee, he oversaw the completion of the 2009 Fifth Checklist of Tennessee Vascular Plants, which provided data on the status of Tennessee's approximately 3,000 known vascular plants. This work resulted in changes to Tennessee's rare plant list. Dr. Chester and his colleagues on the Tennessee Flora Committee have published the first-ever guide to all known native and naturalized plant species in the state. As of this year, the *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Tennessee* is available from the University of Tennessee Press.

Dr. Chester's study of Tennessee's vast biodiversity lends itself to use by other researchers and land managers. In the pre-internet era, the results of his and others' work on the Atlas of Tennessee Vascular Plants provided the only source of detailed county distribution of Tennessee's native and exotic flora. Prior to this publication, other botanists and land managers had little guidance or understanding of the distribution of Tennessee's plant species.

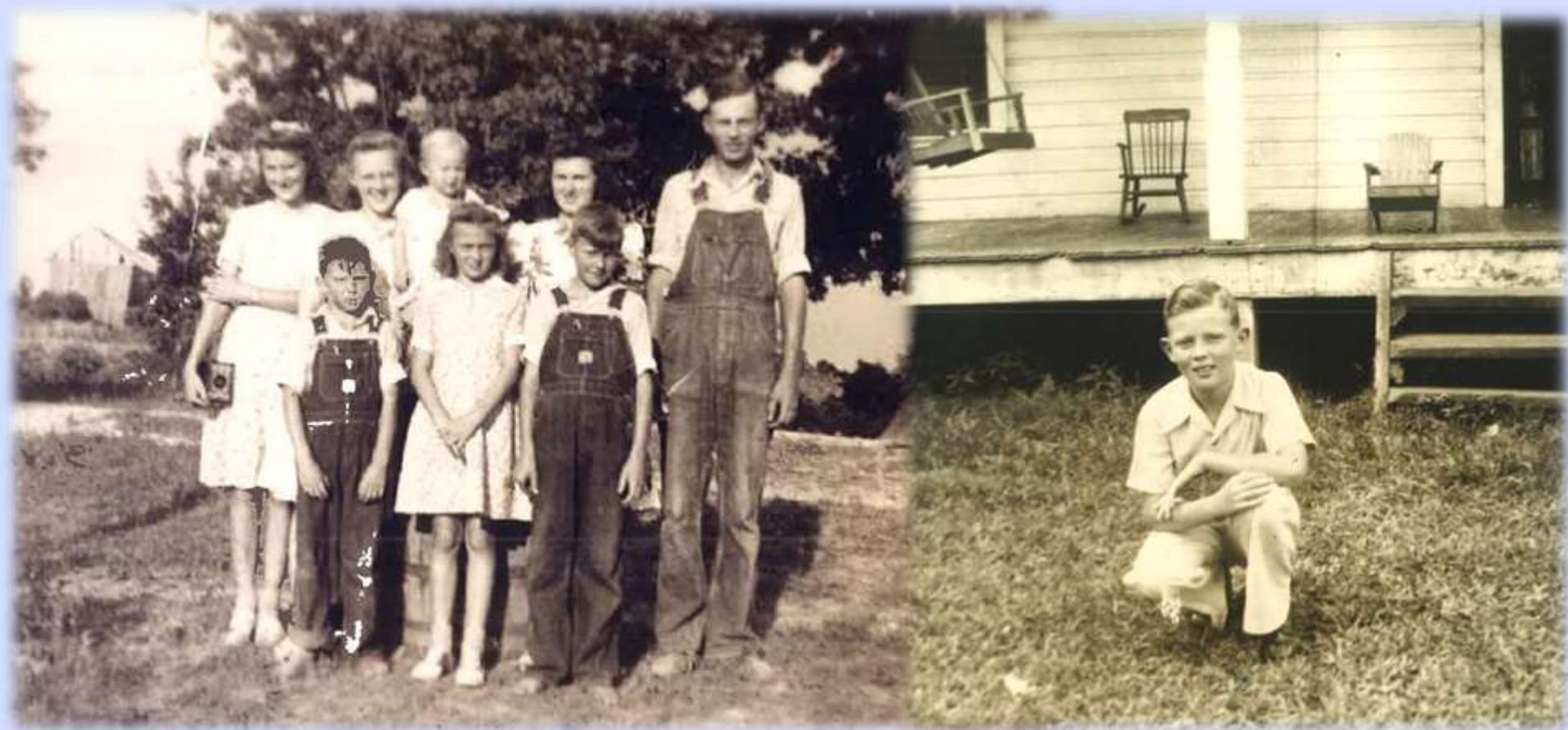
In addition to his long career of teaching both graduates and undergraduates at Austin Peay State University, Dr. Chester's research and books reveal his dedication to education. Along with his tree guides, Wildflowers of the Land Between the Lakes Region, Kentucky and Tennessee, botanical and historical publications from our national battlefields, Dr. Chester has provided a legacy of educating Tennesseans about our natural wonder.

Throughout his career, Dr. Chester has partnered with many different individuals, agencies, and organizations to advance conservation in Tennessee. His work on rare species and sensitive natural communities has directly benefited the management of the Department of Defense lands (Fort Campbell Military Base), the U.S. Forest Service (Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area), the National Park Service (Fort Donelson National Battlefield), the US. Fish and Wildlife Service (Tennessee NWR and Cross Creeks NWR), the National Natural Landmarks program, The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Natural Areas.

Dr. Chester has also served as the curator of the Austin Peay State University Herbarium. During his tenure, the herbarium grew from approximately 2,000 specimens housed in 2 cabinets to 35,000 specimens housed in 40 cabinets. The specimens added to the herbarium during this time were added as a result of his own collections, that of his students, and through exchange with more than 15 other Southeastern herbaria, including the University of Georgia, University of North Carolina, University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt University, and Southern Methodist University.

Based on his 50+ years of dedication to environmental education, leadership in Tennessee conservation, and innovative collaboration with a number of different agencies and groups towards the protection of Tennessee's biodiversity, Dr. Edward Chester is a worthy recipient of the Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for Lifetime Achievement.

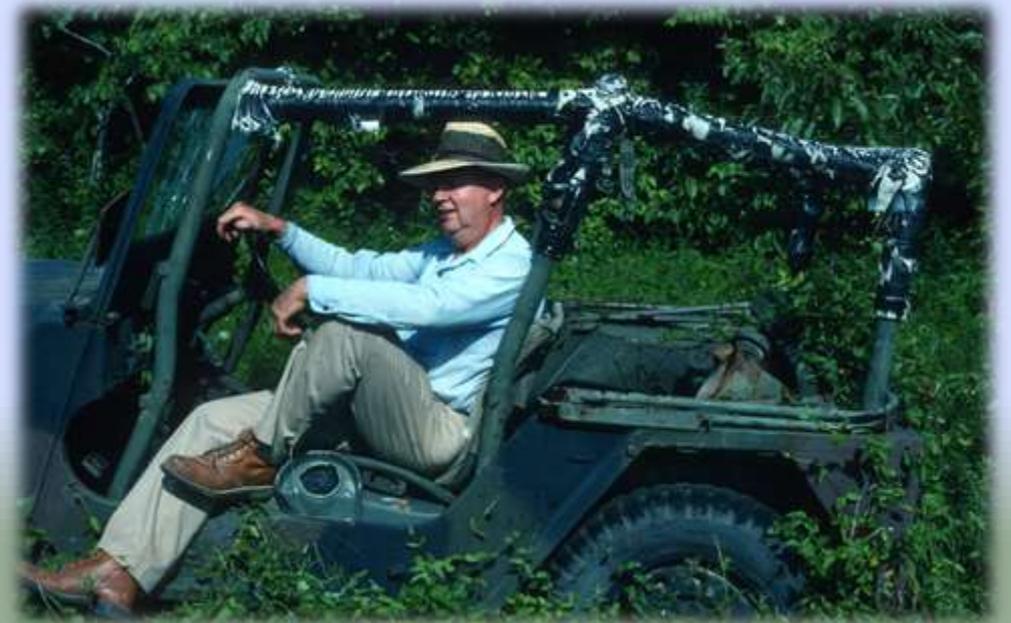
























2017 Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr. Edward W. Chester



L-R: Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation; Dr. Edward W. Chester; Governor Bill Haslam



2017 Governor's Award Winners



Class of 2017

