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Haslam, TDEC Present Henry “Woody” McLaughlin with Lifetime Achievement Award

NASHVILLE – Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Bob Martineau presented Henry “Woody” McLaughlin with the Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2016 Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Awards on June 15.

McLaughlin received the award for his decades of devotion to the land and people of South Cumberland State Park, especially the Fiery Gizzard Trail. His love of the park and his knowledge of real estate, combined with his ties to Nashville made him a leading voice on the inaugural Friends of South Cumberland board of directors. He would serve on the board for 18 years.

In 2002, McLaughlin helped protect critical land for the future of the park. The Friends Group, led by McLaughlin, decided to launch the Saving Great Spaces Campaign with a goal of raising \$500,000. He made personal donations to the campaign and was invaluable in contacting local, state, and federal leaders to secure their help. In the end, more than \$600,000 was pledged and the land was preserved.

McLaughlin was also instrumental in obtaining an additional \$2 million in federal funding for additional land preservation, \$3.5 million in grant funding from the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund and \$2.5 million from the Lands Acquisition Fund. His tireless efforts resulted in 5,495 acres of land added at Savage Gulf and the Fiery Gizzard.



PHOTO 1: Gov. Bill Haslam and TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau present Henry “Woody” McLaughlin with the 2016 Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award.

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