



The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Building Green

Belmont University

Janet Ayers Academic Center

Davidson County, Tennessee



Belmont University's new Janet Ayers Academic Center achieved LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum status upon completion in May 2015. Belmont is the first university in Tennessee to receive a Platinum certification, and the building's green design is projected to save more than \$200,000 in annual utility costs.

The design facilitated a 38 percent decrease in energy usage over a comparable baselined building. These savings are a result of highly efficient heating and cooling systems, energy-efficient LED lighting, green roofs, and sunlight-reflecting roofs. The building also conserves over 200,000 gallons of water each year with the utilization of high-efficiency plumbing fixtures and an irrigation system that uses reclaimed water.

Being a redeveloped brownfield site, it was critical during the planning and construction phases to improve the grounds. A five story, 159,000 square-foot, underground parking garage preserves above-ground green space. Overall, an impressive 73 percent of the area within the project boundary is vegetated open space. Additionally, around 20 percent of materials used in construction contain recycled content with 44 percent coming from within a 500-mile radius of the project site. Almost 80 percent of the waste generated during the project was recycled.





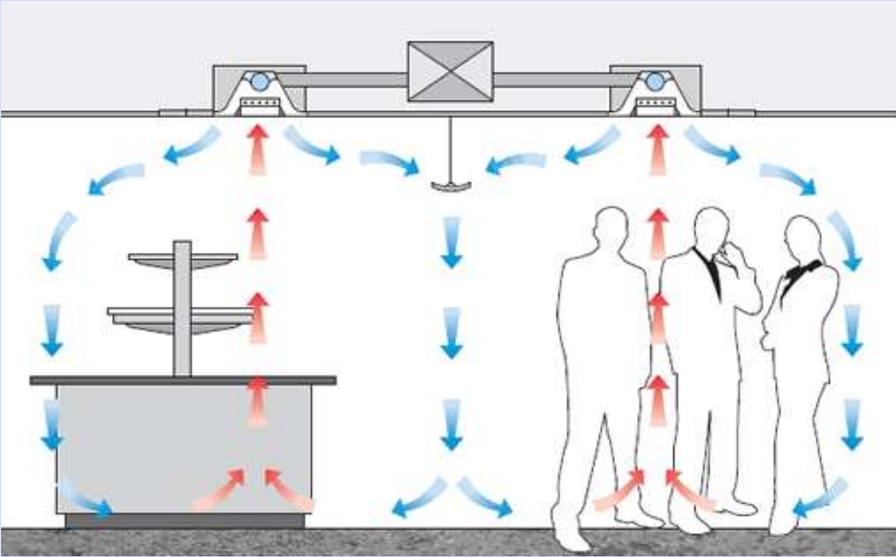


Green Roof Areas



Active Chilled Beam HVAC

Sustainable and Efficient Active Chilled Beam HVAC in Ceiling



Auto-Dimming Lights
Work to Use as Much
Natural Light as Possible





L-R: Governor Bill Haslam; Judy Fisher, Campus Wide Coordinator of Interior Construction, External Landscaping and Lighting; David Minnigan, Principal, ESA; Steve Lasley, VP of Finance and Operations, CFO; Eric Sheffer, Principal, Smith Seckman and Reid; Dr. Bob Fisher, President; Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation





The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Clean Air

Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition

Improves Air Quality



In 2015, the East and Middle-West Clean Fuels Coalitions joined to form the statewide Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition. Working with approximately 100 partners across Tennessee collectively, the Coalition members decreased petroleum use by 13,331,556 gasoline gallon equivalents and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 31,748 short tons.

The Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition is part of the Department of Energy's Clean Cities program and it addresses the serious environmental issue of improving Tennessee's air quality by: replacing older polluting vehicles with newer and more efficient models, encouraging use of alternative-fueled or electric vehicles, reducing engine idling times, and helping fleet managers achieve an overall high level of sustainability. The Coalition also seeks to educate Tennesseans about the importance of their transportation choices by speaking at school events, conferences, and also through education provided at their statewide compressed natural gas rally.

There are 86 of these programs in nearly every state in the U.S. However, the Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition is the only organization in Tennessee that focuses specifically on tackling the problem of petroleum use and reducing the associated pollution by deploying alternative fuels and advanced technology vehicles.





Using CNG as an Alternative Fuel



Powered by...



175MPH, 29MPG



Propane





Middle-West Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition Meeting - Nashville, TN - April 2, 2015



School Presentations



Educating the Future Generation



L – R: Governor Bill Haslam ; Kristy Keel-Blackmon, Interim Coordinator, Middle-West Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition; Jonathan Overly, Coordinator, East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition; Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation





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

EPB

*Performance Excellence in Electricity Renewal
Hamilton County, Tennessee*



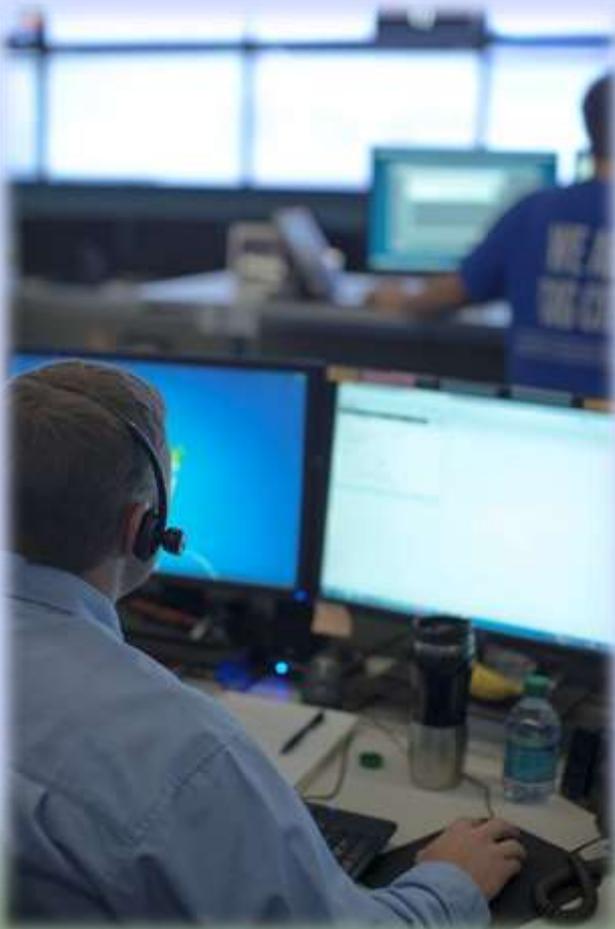
EPB recently became the first major utility in the world to earn the highly competitive Performance Excellence in Electricity Renewal (PEER) certification, recognizing their commitment to energy efficiency, grid resilience, renewable energy, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. The PEER certification program is managed by the U.S. Green Building Council and is modeled after their Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification program.

Smart meters installed on all homes within EPB's 600-square-mile territory have resulted in the avoidance of two million individual meter reads annually, and an associated reduction of 419,877 miles driven by EPB trucks. This is equal to a 22,257 gallon decrease in gas consumption, or driving from Nashville to Chattanooga over 3,000 times. This reduction is also equivalent to the carbon sequestered by 162 acres of forest in the United States for one year.

EPB has diligently worked to improve their System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) by 30 percent from 2010 to 2015. SAIDI is an important tool in customer service, as it measures the average outage duration for EPB's customers.

Additionally, EPB has eliminated the use of 2,369 MWh during peak demand annually, thereby eliminating the release of 3.5 million pounds of carbon dioxide. EPB leads the way in creating an increasingly resilient, more renewables friendly grid than any other utility in Tennessee and in North America.





Watching the Weather to Determine Where Outages Could Potentially Occur



Evaluating Outages Caused by a Storm





EPB Receives PEER Certification



L-R: Governor Bill Haslam; Jason Read, Sr. Engineer – System Analysis & Control; Elizabeth Hammitt, Director of Environmental Stewardship and Community; Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation





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

green|spaces

*Empower Chattanooga Helps
Underserved Communities
Hamilton County, Tennessee*



Using data provided by EPB, Empower Chattanooga, a program developed in part by green|spaces, identified several East Chattanooga communities in which the homes on average used 43 percent more energy per square foot in the winter months than the typical homes in the city. Residents of these neighborhoods have difficulty paying for these high utility bills. Information obtained from the Chattanooga Area Food Bank indicates that 69 percent of their clients are choosing between paying for food or paying for utilities. Empower Chattanooga works to resolve this issue through community fairs that serve to educate residents about how to prevent high utility bills with home energy saving checklists, hands-on workshops that teach low-cost/no-cost energy saving measures such as caulking around doors, and English and Spanish language digital media so residents can learn about energy savings on their own time.

Program success is tracked through comparison of Empower program participants' historical energy consumption to energy consumption after programming. Additionally, after attending workshops participants' behavioral changes are tracked, including energy reduction actions taken after workshops and whether anything learned at the workshop has been shared with friends or family. Data and participant feedback indicates that the program has been highly successful in saving participants money on their utility bill.



Working with Chattanooga Communities





Hosting Workshops to Help Educate Residents on Ways to Reduce Utility Bills





Empower Chattanooga Helps the Avondale Community





L-R: Governor Bill Haslam; Natalie Hostetler, green|spaces green|light Program Director; Michael Walton, green|spaces Executive Director; Linda Richards, Empower Volunteer; Dawn Hjelseth, green|spaces Director of Development; Felipe Lara, Empower Hispanic Outreach; Diamond Jones, Empower Summer Intern; Sam Fulbright, Empower Program Coordinator; Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation





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

Emmett Elementary School

*The TreeHuggers Meet the Joy Garden
Sullivan County, Tennessee*



Emmett Elementary School's fourth and fifth grade students are learning environmental stewardship through an active recycling program and school garden. The special education classroom's Joy Garden began in 2013 as a way to teach students about responsibility as well as offer a hands-on opportunity to learn about the plant cycle.

The garden has permanent raised beds that are wheelchair-accessible. A rain barrel is used to water garden and classroom plants, while soil from their own garden is enriched by using compost from their compost bin. In the fall of 2014, Emmett Elementary School students started a recycling club and shortly thereafter combined forces with the Joy Garden to form the TreeHuggers club. The TreeHuggers earned money by collecting used ink cartridges and cans, with \$250 coming from the recycled aluminum. With the money earned, the club purchased indoor recycling bins for ink cartridges, plastic bottles, and aluminum. The TreeHuggers also take on the responsibility to coordinate school recycling programs for paper, plastic, and ink cartridges.

The club made an educational video that teaches the importance of recycling, and they have also created a similar presentation directed specifically toward kindergarten and first grade students. The presentation included an adapted book, a bingo game, and examples of what items should and should not be recycled. The club, after polishing up on their own gardening skills, shared this new knowledge with the entire student body.





The Joy Garden is Easily Accessible to Students with Disabilities







RECYCLE CENTER





L-R: Governor Bill Haslam; Cheryl Chandler, Teacher; Alexa Chandler, Student; Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation





The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Land Use

The Jackson Walk

*From Distressed to Revitalized
Madison County, Tennessee*



The Jackson Walk, built on a remediated brownfield site, is a 20-acre live, work, play development located in a neighborhood that was economically distressed prior to development. Before Jackson Walk, the area was crime-ridden, polluted, and had never recovered from the destruction caused by the powerful 2003 tornadoes that ripped through the area. Through a public-private partnership between the City of Jackson and Healthy Communities, LLC, the neighborhood was transformed into a highly desirable community that has become one of the most popular places to live in Jackson.

The development features include a 149-unit luxury apartment building, an on-site grocery store that stocks a variety of healthy options, a fitness facility, a health clinic, a demonstration cooking center, a walking trail, a yoga studio, restaurants, an event venue, and a dog park. This development has helped increase property values that have in turn generated new tax revenue, as well as attract over 30 new businesses that have brought much needed jobs to the area.

Additionally, Jackson Walk was recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency as one of three winners of the 2015 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. This award is given annually to projects that creatively work to promote sustainability initiatives to protect the health and environment of communities, while also working to strengthen local economies.



Jackson WALK

www.jacksonwalk.com

LIVE JACKSON. SHOP JACKSON. CHANGE JACKSON.



Jackson WALK Site



Jackson WALK

- University of Memphis (Lambuth campus) 1 mile
- Apartments 149 units
- Homes
- Lift Wellness Center 82,790 sq-ft
- Central Creek
- 1.5 Mile Downtown Fitness Trail
- Jackson Dog Park
- Shops of Jackson Walk 18,648 sq-ft
- Farmers Market
- City Hall
- Amphitheater
- Downtown Jackson

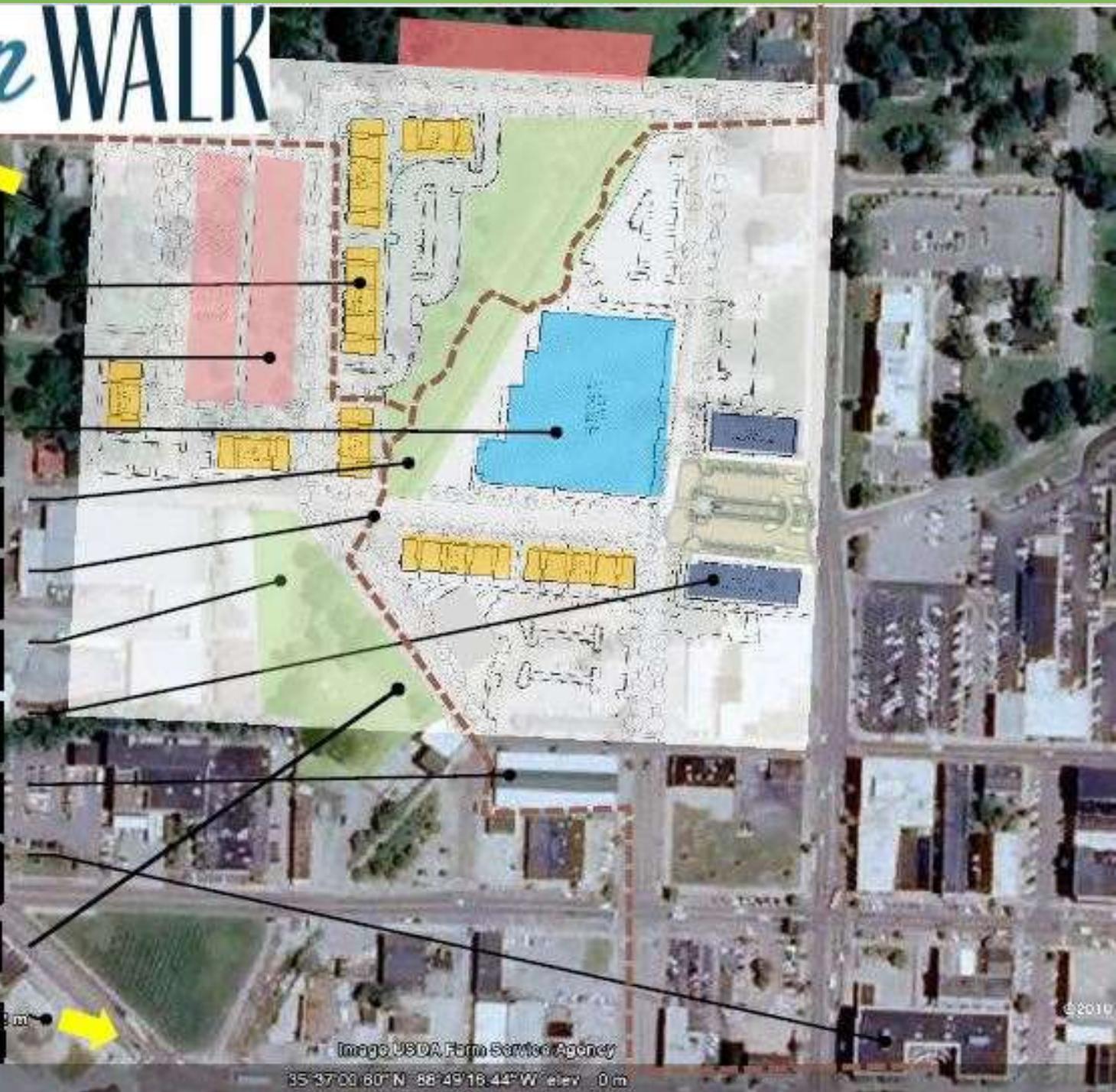


Image USDA Farm Service Agency

35°37'03.80"N 88°49'18.44"W elev 0m

Imagery Date: 4/18/2008 1997









Before



After



L-R: Governor Bill Haslam; Elvis Hollis, Senior Planner; Hal Crocker, Partner, Healthy Communities; Tony Black, Executive Director of Jackson Recreation & Parks Department; Betty Maness, TN Department of Environment and Conservation; Mayor Jerry Gist, City of Jackson; Wendy Baxter-Ryhne, Engineer; Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation





The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Materials Management

Sevier Solid Waste, Inc.
Sevier County, Tennessee



Sevier Solid Waste, Inc. (SSWI) recycles and composts municipal solid waste from Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, Sevierville, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It is especially important for the county's vitality and tourism industry to protect the beautiful mountainous area that millions of visitors come to see each year. SSWI does this by diverting 70 percent, or 84,184 tons of the area's total municipal solid waste.

The 94,000 residents and 18 million visitors in the program's collection area put trash, recycling, and organic wastes in the same container. These containers, averaging a total of about 300 tons of solid waste per day, are then transported to SSWI, where they are mixed with bio-solids and run through rotary drum reactors for three days. The drum reactors break down the organics and paper into compost, reducing the amount of the waste that is landfilled by 60 percent. The remaining 10 percent of the facility's overall diversion rate comes from convenience centers that collect materials for recycling. Over 10 countries have toured the SSWI facility to learn about this unique waste management process. Additionally, numerous educational programs have been provided to children and adults alike throughout Tennessee.

SSWI also has a goal of becoming a zero waste facility, and for this reason a gasification system is being installed. The gasification system will reduce operational expenses, improve odor control, and produce a high value agricultural product called biochar.









Windrows of Compost



Turning Trash Into a Nutrient-Dense Soil Additive

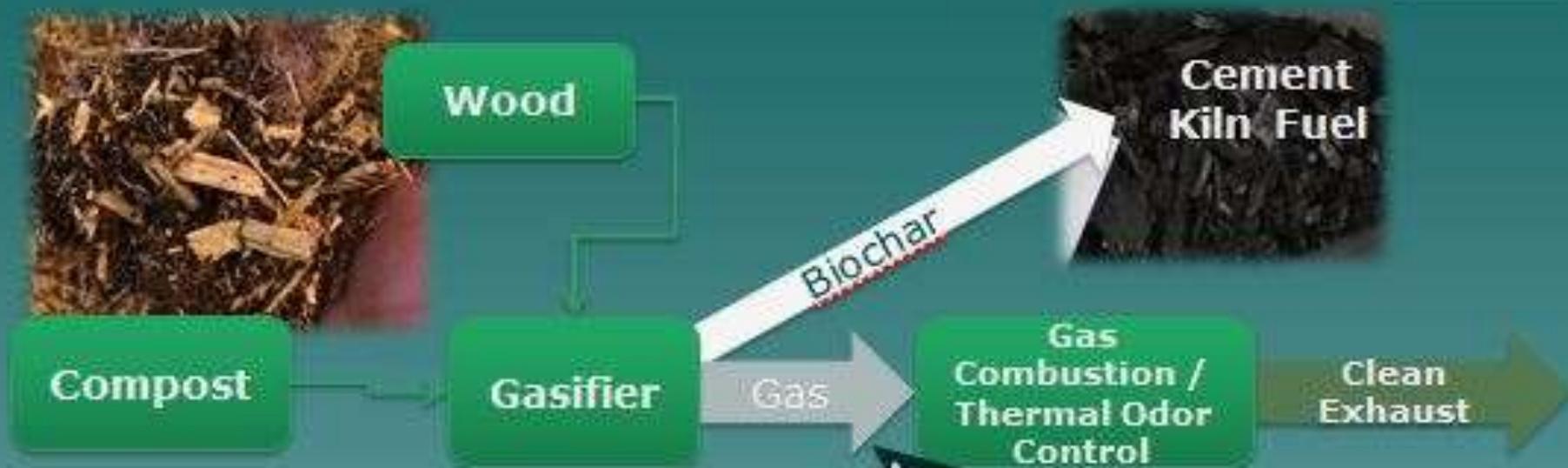




5,000 Tons of Cardboard Baled Per Year



System for Sevier Solid Waste



ODOR FROM OPERATIONS

- ✓ REDUCE Compost Disposal Cost
- ✓ REDUCE Odor Control Cost
- ✓ REVENUE from the sale of biochar



L-R: Governor Bill Haslam; Tom Leonard, General Manager, Sevier Solid Waste, Inc.; Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation





The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Natural Heritage

50K Tree Day

A Project of the Tennessee Environmental Council



The Tennessee Environmental Council's 2015 50K Tree Day event involved 92 out of 95 counties and helped to bring social, environmental, and economic benefits to Tennessee. As part of the event, 52,000 native trees were distributed at no cost to 1,921 Tennessee residents. More than 3,000 volunteers helped plant 47,000 of those 52,000 trees.

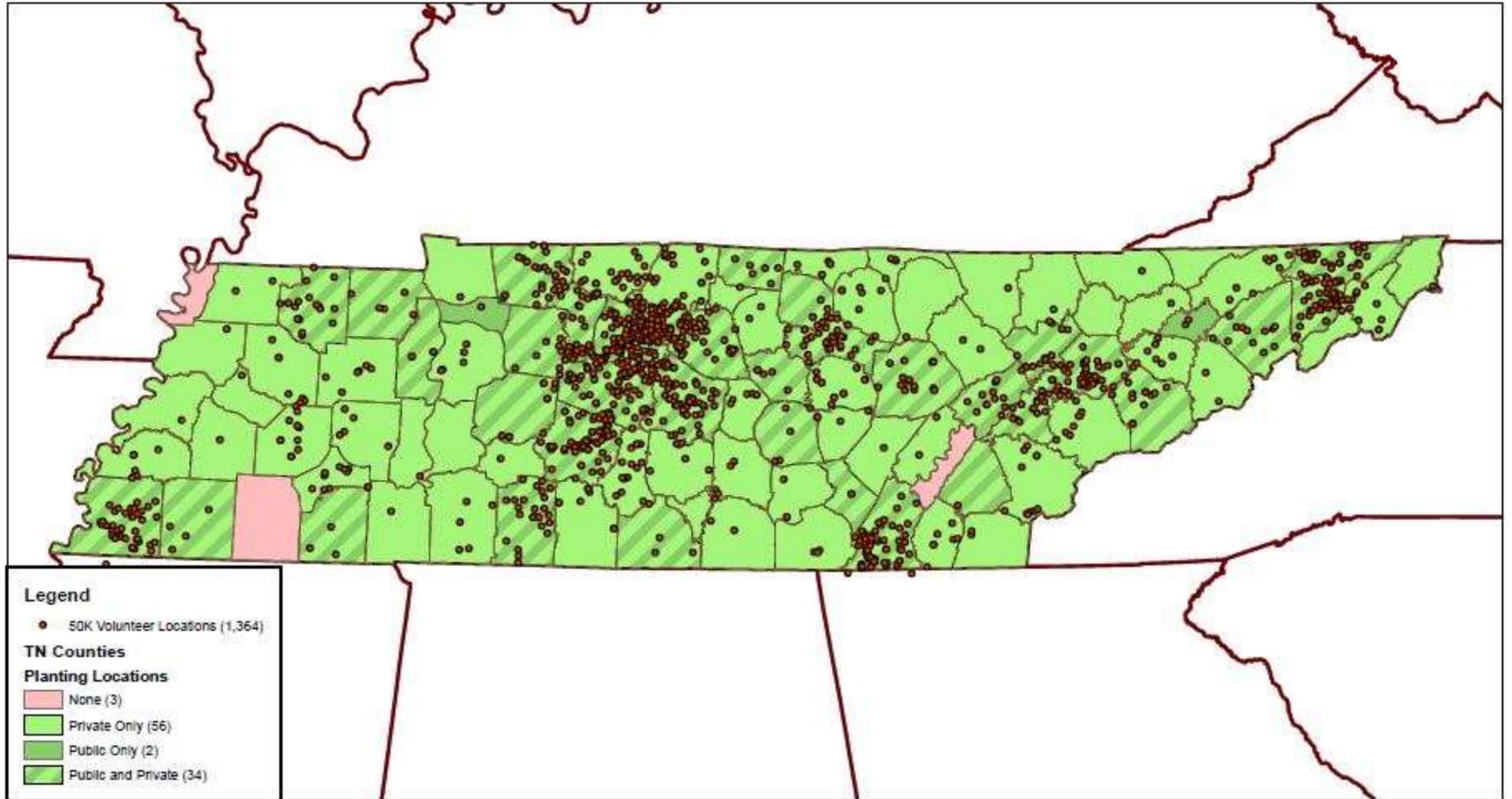
Future benefits include: mitigating potential air pollution over the 50-year lifetime of the trees, 543-million pounds of carbon dioxide sequestered over a 50-year lifetime once the trees reach maturity, and 823 million gallons of rainfall intercepted in the tree canopy which reduces stormwater runoff and downstream flooding. Additionally, the Council engaged underserved communities in the tree planting event supporting environmental justice in these areas.

This effort expands and supports the native flora and fauna, while also insuring Tennessee's tree canopy for future generations. Trees contribute significantly to not only ecological health, but also economic health through beautification.

50K Tree Day marks the first time the Council actively tried to engage all 95 Tennessee counties. This event uncovered a huge demand that far exceeded the 50,000 trees that were available. There is a clear opportunity for increasing the scale of the event in the future with even greater results than 2015.



50K Tree Day Volunteer Locations







50,000 Trees.
95 Counties.
1 Hour.

CUMBERLAND RIVER
COMPACT



Tennessee's
WILD SIDE

Middle Tennessee Electric
CUSTOMERS CARE Inc.





A Very Successful 50K Tree Day





L-R: Governor Bill Haslam; Mekayle Houghton, Cumberland River Compact, Executive Director; Chris Jones, Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Cooperative, CEO; Bob Freeman, Council Board Chair; Dr. John McFadden, Tennessee Environmental Council, Chief Executive Officer; Jeff Barrie, Tennessee Environmental Council, Director of Sustainable Tennessee; Scott Perry, Memorial Foundation, President; Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation





The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Sustainable Performance

Sharp Transport, Inc.

Goes Green

Lawrence County, Tennessee



Sharp Transport, Inc., a for-hire freight carrier, has increased their overall trailer fleet efficiency by 11 percent over the last four years. In late 2012, Sharp began participating in TVA's Energy Efficiency Program, through which they were able to reduce facility energy costs by half while improving their lighting and reducing maintenance costs. Around the same time, Sharp began participating in the EPA's Smartway Carrier Program which helps the freight transportation sector improve supply chain efficiencies. As part of the program, Sharp updated nearly 100 tractors with selective catalytic reduction technology engines; implemented low rolling resistance tires over the entire tractor fleet and over 300 trailers; purchased new, lighter weight trailers equipped with side skirt aerodynamic devices to reduce wind drag; and installed automatic tire inflation devices on all trailers.

In April 2013, Sharp implemented onboard recording systems that monitor every aspect of fuel economy and calculate idle time, use of cruise control, RPM management, and speed control. This data is used to provide financial incentives to drivers for achieving fuel economy milestones. Also, Sharp Transport, Inc. has a number of trailers equipped with Trailer Tail aerodynamic devices and average efficiency has improved by three to five percent. Recently Sharp Transport, Inc. became the first carrier in the United States to be awarded with the EPA's Smartway Elite certification recognizing their overall trailer fleet efficiency.





Cumberland



"Efficiency Partners"



Neely Coble Company



**First Driver to Achieve Over
9MPG Average Over 30 Days!
\$500 Cash!**





Sharp Elite Tails





L – R: Governor Bill Haslam; Allie Sharp Schwalb, President/CEO; Becky Sharp, Co-Founder; John Sharp, Founder; Chase Adkins, Director of Sales; Gary Shelton, Vice President; Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation





The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Pursuit of Excellence

**Nashville's Sustainable
Music City Center**
Davidson County, Tennessee



Since opening in 2013, the Music City Center has strived to incorporate sustainability into all aspects of their operations, and the success of these endeavors was most recently recognized by their receipt of a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification in April 2014. As part of the LEED certification, the building was designed to use 40 percent less water and 20 percent less energy than similarly engineered buildings.

In their first fiscal year the Center exceeded their water goal, decreasing water use by 54 percent equating to over three million gallons of water. This savings was accomplished through installation of low-flow fixtures, motion sensors on faucets, and a 36,000-gallon cistern that collects stormwater runoff and HVAC condensation for use in the Center's toilets and outdoor irrigation system.

In 2015, the Center's rooftop solar panel system produced enough energy to save approximately \$26,600, which translates into enough energy to power 27 homes for an entire year. The building is also designed to reflect heat in the summer and to conversely prevent heat loss in the winter. All of the lighting and HVAC systems are efficient and further decrease energy usage, and the building has a green roof.

The Center has a strong recycling program and in 2014 they diverted over 170 tons of material from the landfill. Excess edible food from the kitchen is donated to organizations in need, while inedible food is composted. Around 30,000 pounds of leftover food has been donated to community members in need. The kitchen puts priority on local food, purchasing from over 60 nearby farms, and has recently installed four beehives on their green roof that will provide honey to the kitchen.



LEED Gold Certification

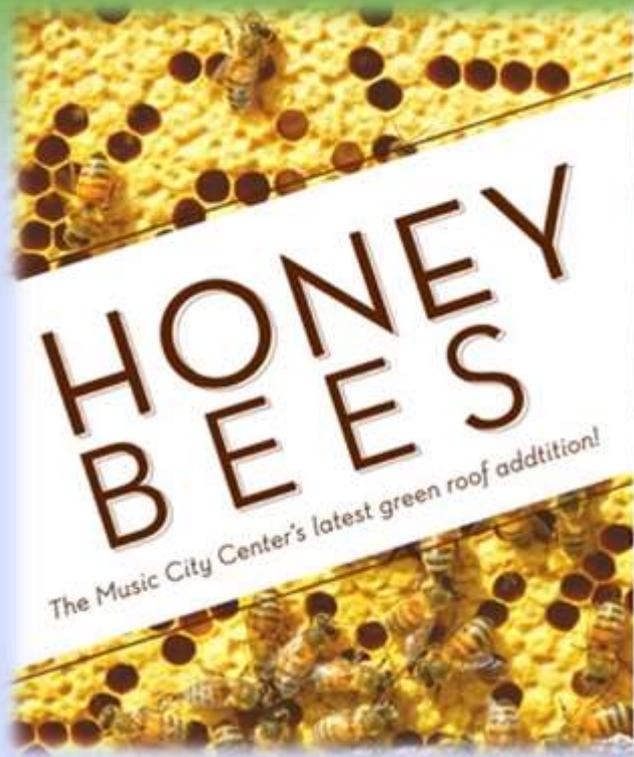






Sunset Elementary School Supports the Music City Center





Incorporating Honey Bees into Sustainability Efforts





L-R: Governor Bill Haslam; DeWayne Smith, Director of Facilities; Amanda Littleford, Sustainability Coordinator; David Williams, Sr. Engineering Manager; Max Knoepfel, Executive Chef; Charles Starks, President/CEO; Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation





The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award
for
Pursuit of Excellence

**Lipscomb Academy
Elementary**

*Making a Difference Locally and Abroad
Davidson County, Tennessee*



In 2015, Lipscomb Academy Elementary School further expanded its environmental education program to include practical applications of renewable energy production and environmental remediation.

Student members of Lipscomb Academy's Green Team used money raised by recycling to purchase a unit to convert cow manure into biogas for an orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya. The orphanage is run by an organization called Made in the Streets that is dedicated to giving Kenyan teens a home, education, and job skills. Lipscomb's donation of a conversion unit made it possible for Made in the Streets to convert the cow manure they already acquired into biogas that can be used for cooking, while decreasing the volume of recyclable materials sent to the landfill. Made in the Streets no longer has to purchase gas monthly. Additionally, the project reduces methane emissions and provides a more sanitary method of waste control.

Green Team members also worked to improve water quality and ecosystem health in a local creek after noticing that there was no life in the stream. With assistance from Metro Water Services, a significant public water leak that was providing up to 70 percent of the creek's flow was identified and stopped. Working with several partners including Tennessee Division of Forestry, the Cumberland River Compact, GroWild Native Plant Nursery, and Monroe Harding, the students then completed a riparian buffer restoration that has brought more life to the stream area improving the overall condition of the watershed.



The Green Team



LAES S.T.R.E.A.M.ING NEWS

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS AND INFORMATION

2014-15 WORLD EXCLUSIVES

GREEN GOALS GO ON-STREAM



*S.tudents T.aking
R.esponsible
E.nvironmentally A.ctive
M.easures (S.T.R.E.A.M.)* characterized the Lipscomb Academy Elementary School (LAES) *Green Team* in 2014-15. Students channeled their energy toward environmental problems in their schoolyard and across the world.

Led by advisors, Ginger Reasonover and Becky Collins, students immersed themselves in experiments with 10 sources of energy.

Team members waded into a stream restoration project, bringing life back to their campus creek.

By following through the waste stream of recycling, the team raised money to buy a biogas recovery unit for an African orphanage. The unit changes cow manure into biogas, to power their cook stove, saving money for Made in the Streets (MITS).

The group pushed their stream of knowledge through mentoring groups who visited the campus and invitations to speak at workshops and conferences.

STREAMING GOALS KEY

1. *Education Stream:* slides 2-5
2. *Conservation Stream:* slides 6-8
3. *Waste Stream:* slides 9-12
4. *Information Stream:* slides 13-15

**Stream
Restoration
Project Brings
Life Back to
Campus Creek**



**Lipscomb Academy Elementary
Students Work to Identify Problems
and Solutions for the Creek**



RIPARIAN PLANTS

Most of Tennessee's riparian areas are part of a plant community classified as Bottomland Hardwood Forest. These forests are occasionally flooded and are dry at other times. The plants found in these riparian areas vary depending upon how often they flood. A wide variety of plants that are adapted to both wet and dry soil conditions flourish here. Look for some of these more common species.

Spartina patens *Populus deltoides* *Hydrophyllum virginicum*

ANIMAL HIGHWAYS

As roads and highways are important to humans, forested riverbanks are important to animals as they journey up and down the river during daily movements and seasonal migrations. As plant and animal habitats shrink it is important to keep riparian zones connected, and not fragmented, to allow for this movement. Riparian zones offer an all-in-one package of critical resources for nesting, cover, food, water, and breeding grounds. Look for these animals along your way.

Great Egret *Green Turtle*

INVERTEBRATES

Healthy well-buffered streams and rivers are home for many small animals called invertebrates, which include insects, mollusks, annelids, and crustaceans. The term invertebrate describes animals that have no backbone. These animals live in the water for all or part of their lives and are a significant food source for other wildlife. Invertebrates are sensitive to the chemical and physical conditions of water. The richness of an invertebrate community composition in a waterbody can be used to provide an estimate of waterbody health.

Butterfly *Dragonfly* *Crayfish*





L-R: (Back) Governor Bill Haslam; Ginger Reasonover, Science Lab Coordinator, Lipscomb Academy Elementary School, Co-Director LAES Green Team; Ruy Bautista -- Graduate Student - Institute of Sustainable Practice - Green Team helper; Jesse Savage, Lipscomb Academy Administration;

Dr. Dodd Galbreath, Assistant Professor of Sustainability, Founding Director & Director of Community Outreach, Institute for Sustainable Practice, Lipscomb University; Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN Department of Environment and Conservation

L-R: (front) Jackson Savage - Green Team Member (2years); Kyrien Hardy - Green Team Member (4 years); Becky Collins - Kindergarten Teacher, SEED School - Lipscomb Academy and Co-Director LAES Green Team; Carrigan Carter - Green Team Member





Robert Sparks Walker
Lifetime Achievement

Henry “Woody” McLaughlin

Davidson County, Tennessee



Growing up in Pensacola, FL, Henry “Woody” McLaughlin developed a love for nature and the environment. His summer visits to his grandparent’s home in New York’s Adirondack Mountains furthered his appreciation for the outdoors. He was an accomplished swimmer and a track star in prep school at The Hill School in Pennsylvania. He graduated from Sewanee: the University of the South and holds a master’s degree in economics from the University of Florida and an MBA from Virginia.

It was during his time as a student at Sewanee that Woody’s love affair with the South Cumberland State Park began. Years later, Woody and his wife Pookie would buy a vacation home in Monteagle so they could be close to the park. His love of South Cumberland, and especially of the Fiery Gizzard Trail, ultimately brought him into contact with others who shared his passion.

In 1992, shortly after the state passed legislation enabling the formation of State Park Friends groups, South Cumberland’s park manager invited Woody and a few other strong supporters of the park to an organizational meeting. This handful of conservation-minded people saw the challenges facing the park and was willing to take them on. In 1993, the Friends of South Cumberland was formed and Woody’s knowledge of the real estate world and his Nashville connections made him a leading force on the inaugural board.



Woody's vision for South Cumberland helped to shape the mission of the Friends group, and he remained on the board for 18 years. During those 18 years, he served twice as president and was head of the Lands Acquisitions Committee for each of those years. Woody was on the board during the formative years and was instrumental in identifying other committed people to join with the group. Working in partnership with groups like The Land Trust for Tennessee and the Conservation Fund, Woody was tireless in forging relationships with landowners. In recognition of the valued role Woody played in the organization's first decade, he was awarded the Jim Prince Award, the highest award given by the Friends Group.

In 2002, it had become evident that several million dollars would be needed to protect critical land identified in the park master plan. The task seemed impossible, but it was one that was vitally important to the park's future and failing to act could result in the land being handed over to developers or timber companies. Determined to preserve the beauty of the park, the Friends Group decided to launch the Saving Great Spaces Campaign with a goal of raising \$500,000. Woody's business acumen, his range of contacts, and his determination were major factors in the board's decision to take on this challenge.



From 2004-2008, during the time the campaign was in full swing, Woody was serving his second term as President. He also served as a member of the Campaign Steering Committee and worked tirelessly to encourage others to join the effort. He made personal donations to the campaign and was invaluable in contacting local, state, and federal leaders to secure their help.

Woody played a vital role in completing the purchase of the most expensive piece of property the Friends Group acquired. This 100-acre tract of land included the most visible line of bluffs seen from the Stone Door overlook and was in the center of a larger tract that had high priority for protection by the State. Robert McCaleb, the Group's land conservation coordinator, asked Woody to be the contact with the reluctant landowner. Woody's 30 years as a real estate broker and experience in handling complex land transactions proved invaluable. Woody served as the primary negotiator with the landowner, who ultimately agreed to the purchase price of 30% less than the list price. Woody's tireless, good-natured negotiations were the key to the successful transaction resulting in one of the foremost views in all of Tennessee's state parks being preserved forever. In the end, the Friends Group's fundraising campaign was successful beyond anyone's expectations. More than \$600,000 was pledged, and building on the contacts made during the campaign, the Friends were able to obtain an additional \$2 million in federal funding for land preservation.



The Friends joined with TDEC and Governor Phil Bredesen's administration, which approved \$3.5 million in grant funding from the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund and \$2.5 million from the Lands Acquisition Fund. The Conservation Fund and the Trust for Public Lands assisted with critical negotiations and strategies. In the end, some 5,495 acres of land was added at Savage Gulf and the Fiery Gizzard.

The State of Tennessee is indebted to Woody for his decades of devotion to the land and people of South Cumberland State Park, a park with most of its acreage in economically depressed, sparsely populated Grundy County, a place where champions are needed most. Woody has accomplished more than anyone would have believed possible. If you stand at the Great Stone Door and look out on the uninterrupted view of bluff and forest, if you hike the Fiery Gizzard Trail and know that acres of surrounding land is protected for generations to come, you can thank Woody McLaughlin, the winner of this year's Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award.





**Woody was born in New York City on October 5, 1946.
He grew up in Pensacola, Florida.**

THE SEWANEE PURPLE



Woody graduated from the University of the South in 1969, and later married Elinor “Pookie” Banks on August 30, 1969.





**Woody and Pookie at
Foster Falls, South
Cumberland Park**



On a hike to Savage Gulf's Virgin Forest



Some of the group: Woody, Latham Davis, Mary Priestley, John Canale, and Mack Pritchard (taking the picture)

Woody was the proud recipient of the Jim Prince Award in 2003.

He later presented the Jim Prince Award to Governor Phil Bredesen.



Stone Door Overlook



Saving Great Spaces Campaign Reunion



Woody and key members of the Friends of South Cumberland's 2002-2004 fund raising campaign are reunited. Along with honorary chair Marvin Runyon, now deceased, this group led the effort to raise \$600,000 and leveraged an additional \$2 million in federal funding for land preservation.



2016 Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award



Henry “Woody” McLaughlin



*L-R: Governor Bill Haslam; Henry “Woody” McLaughlin; Commissioner Robert J. Martineau, Jr., TN
Department of Environment and Conservation*





2016 Governor's Award Winners





