A Quest to Protect Wild and Scenic Tennessee
(and make it more accessible)
George Lindemann
CoalCreek.Farm
Finding the farm on the Cumberland Plateau

A Change of Scenery, An Investment.
Exploring the Region

Grassy Cove
Windless Cave
Ozone Falls

Endless Exploration

Black Mountain

Piney Falls
Stuff to do:
Paddling, Birding, Hiking
About the Farm: clear cutting, cows and creating savannas
Expert Help
Native Plants
Why do I have to drive so far to kayak???
Doing it together: A family activity on Clear Creek—A Federal Wild and Scenic River
Small rapids can hold big surprises
American Whitewater Provides Paddlers Info

Information is Everything!
Our Creeks: Whites and Coal
The Big Idea: Soak Creek and Whites should both be Wild and Scenic Rivers
The Cumberland Plateau and the Soak Creek area
About Soak Creek: Biodiversity
Protecting Soak Creek: Endangered Species

Purple Bean Mollusk

Flame Chub

Tangerine Darter

Hellbender
A New Species of Grasshopper, Found on Coal Creek Farm
About Soak Creek: Economic value

• The Ocoee River in TN generated 622 full time jobs, and $43.8 million in economic activity in 2012.
• The near by Obed Wild and Scenic River created 47 jobs and had a cumulative benefit of a $3.8 million boost to the local economy.
• Whitewater paddling nationwide creates 308,000 jobs, and outdoor recreation contributes more than $730 billion each year to the US economy.
Public Access: There was none!
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Neal Randall</td>
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<td>Cook James Franklin</td>
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<td>RLF Soak Creek Properties</td>
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<td>Piney Falls Farm LLC</td>
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The general assembly finds that certain rivers of Tennessee possess outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, botanical, historical, archaeological and other scientific and cultural values of great present and future benefit to the people of Tennessee. It finds further that the policy of the general assembly to preserve and, if necessary, reclaim for the benefit of the people selected parts of the rivers of Tennessee needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.


- The general assembly finds that certain rivers of Tennessee possess outstanding scenic, recreational, botanical, historical, archaeological and other scientific and cultural values of great present and future benefit to the people of Tennessee. The general assembly further finds that the policy that has resulted in dam and other construction on many of the rivers of Tennessee needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing natural or scenic condition and protect their water quality and adjacent lands. It is the policy of the general assembly to preserve and, if necessary, reclaim for the benefit of the people selected parts of Tennessee’s diminishing resources of free-flowing rivers. It is the policy of the general assembly to maintain a proper balance between reservoirs and free-flowing rivers, to provide, thereby, a desirable variety of scenic, recreational, scientific, or other other values. It is the policy of the general assembly to preserve, within the scope of the general assembly’s power, several different types and examples of river areas, including the mountain streams and deep gorges of east Tennessee, the pastoral rivers of middle Tennessee and the swamps and wide rivers of west Tennessee.

- It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dams and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.

- The general assembly affirms that it must not deny the people of this generation and their descendants the opportunity to refresh their spirits with the infinite beauties of the unspoiled stream. To implement these policies, it is the purpose of this chapter to establish a state scenic rivers system by designating certain scenic river areas for immediate inclusion in the system and by other similar means, and by acquisition of fee title of areas set aside for access, camping and recreation. Acquisition of fee title or other areas would not be precluded, particularly where the cost of alternative methods of land use control is comparable to the cost of acquiring the fee with lease-back or other similar arrangements.

- Classes of Scenic River Areas:
  1. Class I Natural River Areas: those free-flowing rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpollluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
  2. Class II Pastoral River Areas: those free-flowing rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
  3. Recreational River Areas: those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

- FEDERAL DESIGNATION- The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968

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- Classes of Scenic River Areas:
  1. Class I Natural River Areas: Those free-flowing rivers or sections of rivers with shorelines and scenic vistas unchanged, or essentially unchanged, by man, with no extensive paralleling roads closer than one (1) mile (except in gorge rivers where there must be no extensive paralleling roads closer than one (1) mile on each side of the river, and with only a limited number of crossing roads or spur roads existing at the time of designation as a state scenic river. Additional access would be limited to trail. Waters would be kept unpolluted.
  2. Class II Pastoral River Areas: Those free-flowing rivers or sections of rivers the lands adjacent to which are partially or predominantly used for agriculture and other dispersed human activities which do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of the rivers and their shores. Waters would be kept unpolluted. Lands adjacent to these rivers that are not already in state or other public ownership should be protected by acquisition of fee title or by conservation easements to the full extent necessary to preserve a true natural environment. These rivers should be managed in accordance with the concepts embodied in the national Wilderness Act, 78 Stat. 890, compiled in 16 U.S.C. § 1131 et seq., and would represent samples of natural America saved unpolluted for this and future generations to enjoy as precious pieces of our natural heritage.
  3. Recreational River Areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.
By Travis, Sargent, Marsh, Swann, Lambeth, Matthew Hill, Van Huss, Reedy, Windle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 11, Chapter 13, relative to scenic rivers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 11-13-104, is amended by adding the following under "Class III Developed River Areas":

Soak Creek — That segment of Soak Creek beginning in Bledsoe County at its confluence with Georgia Branch continuing to a point downstream to its confluence with the Piney River in Rhea County.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.
Soak Creek Named Tennessee’s First Scenic River in 15 Years

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 | 10:21am

Soak Creek, a tributary of the Piney River in East Tennessee, has been named Tennessee’s newest Scenic River – the first designation since 2001.

After unanimous bipartisan approval by the State House and Senate, Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam has signed legislation adding Soak Creek to the list of 15 state waterways designated as Scenic Rivers. Winding through Bledsoe, Cumberland and Rhea Counties, a specific segment of Soak Creek – from its junction with Georgia Branch near Stinging Falls State Natural Area to its intersection with the Piney River near Piney Falls State Natural Area – received the designation.

“This scenic river designation will preserve and protect the pristine ecology and waters of Soak Creek,” said Deputy Commissioner of Parks and Conservation Brock Hill. “It will also provide a high-quality outdoor experience on the water or hiking trails on the adjacent Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park. The opportunities for place-based economic development from tourism in the area have the potential to be significant.”
For People, For Families
Media Coverage

Cumberland Trail gets 1,034-acre donation

The Cumberland Trail got a 1,034-acre, $8.27 million boost this week. George Linderman, a farmer and businessman who owns nearly 10,000 acres in Cumberland, Rhea and Bledsoe counties, including Cool Creek Farms, donated the land around the Soak Creek in Rhea County to the late Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park.

New section of Cumberland Trail opens

A celebration was held in Spring City on Saturday, marking the opening of the section of the Cumberland Trail in Rhea County as well as celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Wild and Scenic River of the Cumberland Trail, which will span from the state's southern border to the Soak Creek Trail, a seven-mile length of trail. Pictured are volunteers involved in the establishment of the trail, holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Crossett Chronicle

Soak Creek, a tributary of the Pigeon River, flows through Bledsoe, Cumberland and Rhea counties. Soak Creek, a tributary of the Pigeon River in East Tennessee, has been named Tennessee's newest Scenic River - the first designation since 2001.

Winding through Bledsoe, Cumberland and Rhea Counties, a scenic segment of Soak Creek - from its junction with Georgia Branch near Olgieta Falls State Natural Area to its intersection with the Pigeon River near Pigeon Falls State Natural Area - received the designation.

SOAK CREEK IS TENNESSEE’S NEWEST SCENIC RIVER
Putting my land where my heart is...
Special Request: More public access
A philanthropreneur is an entrepreneurial philanthropist. ... The core objective of philanthropreneurship is to increase the philanthropic impact of non-profit organizations. Traditionally non-profit organization solely depended on donations, grants, or other forms of charitable-giving.
There’s no such thing as The End. There’s just the next challenge—here’s mine.
1,000’s of acres of loblolly pine plantation can be restored to pine savanna on the Cumberland Plateau
What’s Yours?