



Turkey Creek Wetland Nature Park, Present and Future to be discussed at August 4 meeting

Wednesday, August 4, marks a special occasion: it will be the first KTOS August meeting in many years. Our very own member, Mark Campen, plans on sharing with us "Turkey Creek Wetland Nature Park, Present and Future." Campen, Conservation Education and Membership Director of the Tennessee Izaak Walton League (IWL), has been working with the league, also referred to as the Clean Water Center, since the fall of 2001. The IWL currently oversees the conservation easement for Turkey Creek Wetland, located in the West Knoxville-Farragut area.

The IWL has been working closely with developers of the Turkey Creek area to maintain the wetland while allowing for building on the surrounding land. Permits were issued and construction of the shopping area began in 1997. This past December, Knox County accepted the deed to the 58-acre wetland and Knox County Parks and Recreation will now maintain the area as a Public Natural Area Park. Through the conservation easement mentioned earlier, IWL is working with Knox County to manage Turkey Creek for recreational and natural resource values.



Campen and other area birders frequent Turkey Creek Wetland. The area is host to a myriad of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and other organisms. Birds identified in the wetland include a transient Snowy Egret as well as regular inhabitants such as Tree Swallow, Green-winged Teal, Swamp Sparrow, Yellow-rumped warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Widgeon and nesting Red-shouldered Hawks. Other residents include beaver, muskrat, fox, deer, and painted turtles.

During his presentation, "Turkey Creek Wetland Nature Park, Present and Future," Campen plans on displaying maps, talking about wildlife seen and discussing the impacts on and conservation of Turkey Creek Wetland, including how the public can become involved in the process. Additionally, he hopes to discuss the future of the wetland and watershed as a whole. He wishes to keep the presentation focused on the present and future, rather than dwelling on the past. See you on August 4 to learn more about Turkey Creek. Also you can join a field trip to Turkey Creek

(Continued on bottom of page 3)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, August 21, 7:30 AM

Turkey Creek Wetland Nature Park, Knoxville

Saturday, August 28, 4 PM

Kingston Steam Plant

August field trips.

For complete details see page 2.

"It was one of those perfect summer days—the sun was shining, a breeze was blowing, the birds were singing and the lawn mower was broken."

- James Dent, The Charleston Gazette, Charleston, West Virginia

August field trips. Let's get going.

Saturday, August 21, 7:30-11 AM

Turkey Creek Wetland Nature Park, Knoxville, TN

Leader: Mark Campen (mcampen7@hotmail.com; cell 865-414-5593) We will meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Earthfare parking lot across from Walmart in the new Turkey Creek shopping center. Traveling south on Lovell Road from I-40 turn right on Parkside Drive. We will carpool and walk from the upper springs down to the wetland and beyond. There is a good chance of seeing sparrows, waterfowl, raptors, swallows and woodpeckers. This area has been newly expanded and is a good location right in the heart of west Knoxville. Come prepared for possible wet conditions. We will finish no later than noon.



OF NOTE!

President and vice president have baby

In what is surely a first for KTOS, our president and vice president have gotten together to bring a new life into the world. (At least we think this is a first.)

At 5:11 p.m. on May 26, Tracey and Charlie Muise had a boy: Allan Franklin Muise, named for Tracey's dad who died last summer and whose birthday would have been May 25. Allan came into the world weighing six pounds and one half ounce and was 18 inches long. Both Allan and Tracey are doing very well.

A pat on the back!

Special thanks to the people who helped with the 80th Birthday Party: Kathy Bivens for organizing the Silent Auction, Harold Howell for photographing, Madeleine Hassil and Carol Lammers for the name tag table, Janet McKnight for bringing drinks, Charlie Muise for the plates and flatware, Jean Alexander for procuring the cake and to all of those who donated auction items.

Thanks also goes to Madeleine Hassil for folding, labeling and mailing this and next month's newsletter.

Club officers and directors elected

In addition to the festivities enjoyed at the 80th Birthday Party in June, we also took time to vote on officers for the upcoming year. Congratulations to those elected: KTOS officers: President-Charlie Muise, Vice President-Tracey Muise, Secretary-Kathy Bivens, Treasurer-Marie Oakes; directors to TOS: Ron Hoff and David Trently.

Charlie Muise, Tracey Muise, Kathy Bivens, Marie Oakes, Dan Mooney, Laurie Mooney, Chris Welsh, David Trently, Jean Alexander and Kim Henry will also serve on the Executive Committee.

Saturday, August 28, 4 PM

Kingston Steam Plant

Leader: David Trently (dtrently@utk.edu; 974-8664 w; 531-1473 h)

Leave at 4:00 p.m. from the Stokely Building parking lot 320 N. Cedar Bluff Road The purpose of this trip is to view the migrating shorebirds and terns on the ponds. In the afternoon we will have the sun behind us for better viewing. We will also search the fields for sparrows and the pines for Brown-headed Nuthatches.

-Best regards, Harold Howell, field trip coordinator

Enjoy nature and children?

Volunteer weekday naturalists are needed to work with school students this fall at Ijams. Volunteers receive training on the grade level specific curriculum. Flexible volunteer schedules. Rewarding experience. Contact Misty Gladdish at Ijams: 577-4717, Ext. 12.

KTOS Financial Report • August 2004

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Treasurer

	June-July	May	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$128.00	\$116.00	\$1,562.00
. Mugs & Patches	\$6.50	\$0.00	\$21.00
. Interest	\$39.21	\$0.00	\$120.37
. Dividend	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26.38
. Owen Memorial	\$569.87	\$2.00	\$575.87
. Fuller Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$743.58	\$118.00	\$2,305.62
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$204.40	\$229.10	\$753.90
. Supplies	\$48.05	\$88.53	\$184.14
. Member Dues to TOS	\$94.00	\$84.00	\$1,578.00
Total Expenses	\$346.45	\$401.63	\$2,516.04
Other:			
. Foothills Conservancy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Friends of UT Gardens	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Fuller Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Owen Award : J. Powers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
. Transfer to J.B. Owen	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
. Memorials	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Total Other	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$1,600.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,136.53	\$3,344.68	
. J.B. Owen Memorial	\$6,864.78	\$6,259.50	
Memberships	171	168	

Note: The Owen Memorial Income Amount of \$569.87 includes \$547.87, which represents our 50% share of the 80th Birthday Silent Auction. The remaining \$22.00 is from the sale of boxes.

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge • The Vision and Concept

By Wayne H. Schacher • whschacher@natreserv.com

Author's note: This is the introduction to a series of newsletter articles on Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge in Knox County. The Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society has actively supported the concept and development of SIWR, and its members are providing invaluable information on avian fauna usage of the refuge and other technical assistance. The partnership of KTOS at SIWR is most gratefully appreciated.

While Pete Claussen's vision of the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge dates to the late 1990's, my participation in the project began in July of 2001. At first visit to the 410-acre property, located on Kelly Bend Peninsula on the French Broad River at the Knox-Sevier County line, I was immediately struck by the incredible setting, the variety of terrestrial landforms and the potential of the property and project. Claussen, a local businessman and President of the Seven Islands Foundation (SIF), wanted guidance and assistance to help convert the property from its past land use of fescue pasture and hay production toward his vision of a refuge with a diversity of native plant communities to provide home and habitat for an even greater variety of wildlife species.

In 2001, I was contracted by SIF, a family-run land conservancy, to conduct field work and write an ecological assessment of the property, to describe existing land use, vegetative cover types, array of

habitats present and the botanical and zoological species representative of those habitats. It didn't take long afield to verify that Seven Islands was already a special place, with open, alluvial bottomlands lying adjacent to a major river, several wooded islands, an intermittent stream leading to limestone outcrops in small fingers of woodlands, sinkholes, a pond in rolling uplands, a wooded knob, some steep bluff habitat along the river frontage, even some vacant barns, houses and a silo. The property had a lot of landscape "assets": a total of 27 terrestrial habitats were characterized.

As part of the assessment, the wooded, upland pond was surveyed and described and projections were made for the potential presence of state and federal-listed botanical (32) and zoological (22) species, based upon natural range, the existence of suitable habitat on the property and database queries. Field observations recorded regular usage of the river frontage and islands by listed species including Bald Eagles and Osprey, along with river otter and seasonal use by Double-crested Cormorants. Open, early successional habitats were being used by Grasshopper Sparrows and wintering Northern Harriers. Common Barn Owls were roosting in the vacant barns. These listings before any intensive search efforts were initiated. What a start!

(Next Newsletter – The Plan)

GOOD NEWS

Record 66 whooping cranes hatched in Canada

Whooping crane production surveys carried out June 16-21 by Regional Pilot/Biologist Jim Bredy, Tom Stehn, USFWS and Brian Johns, Canadian Wildlife Service, documented a record number of 66 chicks hatched from 54 nests, surpassing the previous high of 58 chicks produced in 1997.

Productivity was excellent with 85% of the nests producing one or two offspring. From the 54 nests, 20 pairs hatched twins, 26 hatched singles and 8 pairs

did not hatch any offspring.

I am brimming with optimism that the number of chicks found in June will result in a population increase this winter. Last winter, a record 194 whooping cranes wintered at Aransas.

*Tom Stehn, Whooping Crane Coordinator,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Aransas NWR*

Turkey Creek Program

(Continued from page 1)

later this month led by Mark Campen—check out the field trip calendar for more details. The August meeting will be Wednesday, August 4 at 7 p.m. in Room 117 (across the hall from Pendergrass Library), UT Vet School on Center Drive off Neyland Drive. See you there! If you need directions call an officer listed on the back of this newsletter. - Tracey Muise, program coordinator

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society • June 2, 2004



*Birthday Party
and
Homecoming*
JUNE 2, 2004

KTOS's 80th Birthday Party. Members and invited guests. Left to right, front row (sitting in the grass): Chelsea Bennett, Janet McKnight, Meredith Clebsch with Nanner, Emily Cary, Mark Campen, Jerry Hadder, Marie Oakes, Tracey Muise with five-day-old Allan, Charlie Muise and Lyn Bales.

Second row (sitting in chairs): Dylan Myrick, Ellen Bean, Grace Foster, Kathy Bivens, Mary Laura French, Tony Koella, Johneta Smith, Autumn Nauman, Betty Reid Campbell, Jim Campbell, Frances Owen, Dee Snyder with Paige, Bill Yambert, Nancy Tanner, Boyd Sharp, Mary Jane Sharp and Mary Carpenter.

Back row, two staggered lines standing, left to right: Harold Howell, Carole Gobert, Vic Vaughan, Janet Vaughan, Harriet Howell, James Mason, Bettie Mason, Ginger Goolsby, Marcia Davis, Tony King, Mia Trently, David Trently, Carol Lammers, Chuck Nicholson, Julia Scott, Madeleine Hassil, Bob Scott, Cindy Day, Norm Day, Martha Rudolph, Patty Ford, Susan Hoyle, Karen Petrey, Tony Headrick, Stephen Krauss, Louise Collier, Bob Collier, Angela Snow, Tim Snow, Alison McNutt, Howard Chitwood, Ryn Daugherty, Judy Massey, June Welch, Ron Welch, Jean Alexander, David Johnson, Jane Beinterna, Bill McNutt, Eileen Wilson, Steve Henry, JoAnn Benard, Kim Henry, Alex Wyss, Rowan Wyss (child on shoulders), Linda Perazzelli, Alane Wyss, Mary Alice Tabor, José Vowell and Don Vowell.

KTOS celebrates 80th birthday at Ijams – By Lyn Bales

On Wednesday, June 2, KTOS celebrated its first 80 years with a party and homecoming at Ijams Nature Center. The local chapter was founded in January 1924 at the home of H.P. and Alice Ijams; and for several years thereafter the South Knoxville location served as the center of the birding community in the area.

By all accounts the party was a big success and underscored the club's camaraderie. It was heart-warming catching up and visiting with old friends.

After the traditional potluck picnic the celebrants assembled on the lawn for group photos, in a sense recreating a similar photo taken on the Ijams' lawn in 1940. KTOS member Harold Howell served as the

official photographer documenting the occasion.

Luck was on our side. As dark clouds moved in, Harold managed to get the last shot just before a thunderstorm sent the party-goers scrambling back indoors for a short business meeting which included the election of next year's officers and directors (*see page 2*).

A silent auction held the night of the event raised \$1,095.75 to be split between the J. B. Owen Memorial Fund and Ijams. The nature center will use its portion to help construct a new raptor enclosure to house two large adopted and injured birds of prey.

Thanks to everyone who attended. Wasn't it great seeing us all together again?



KTOS Members for 25 years or longer. Front row: Tony Koella, Johneta Smith, Chuck Nicholson, Betty Reid Campbell, Jim Campbell, Frances Owen, Jane Beintema, Bill Yambert, Nancy Tanner, Boyd Sharp and Mary Jane Sharp. Back row, standing: Susan Hoyle, Marcia Davis, James Mason, Bettie Mason and Bob Scott.



Presidents All! Members that have served as president, either chapter or state. Front row: Tony Koella-TOS 1983-85, Marcia Davis-KTOS 1982-84, Boyd Sharp-KTOS 1975-78, David Trently-KTOS 2001-03, Jim Campbell-KTOS 1965-67 and Bill Yambert-KTOS 1950. Back row, standing: Charlie Muise-KTOS 2003-05, Chuck Nicholson KTOS 1978-80 and TOS 2001-03, Tim Snow-KTOS 1992-95 and Bob Collier-KTOS 1990-92.

KTOS members celebrate club's birthday – Photos by Harold Howell



Long-time members Jim Campbell, Johneta Smith, Nancy Tanner, Frances Owen and Charlie Muise cut the cake.



Harriet Howell, Mia Trently and Marie Oakes chat during the silent auction.



Club members at the business meeting included: Jane Beintema, Jean Alexander, David Johnson, Cindy Day and Howard Chitwood.

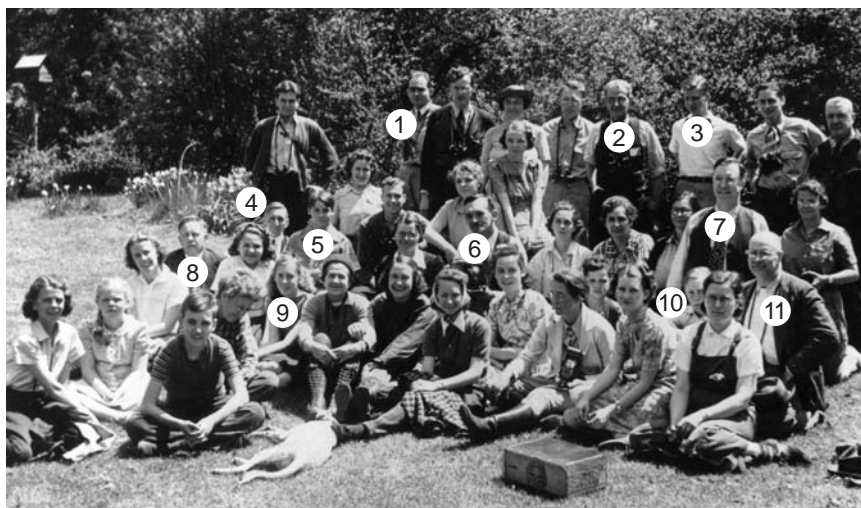


Jim Campbell, Bill Yambert, Johneta Smith and Nancy Tanner conferred to identify people in the 1940 KTOS group photo.

CLUB HISTORY

Of particular note: long-time club member Bill Yambert was the only one in both the 1940 and 2004 group photos taken 64 years apart at Ijams. Those ID'd in the 1940 photo were:

1. Dr. Earl Henry
2. H.P. Ijams
3. Bill Yambert
4. Dr. George Mayfield, Sr.
5. Dr. George Mayfield, Jr.
6. Albert Ganier
7. Bill Johnson
8. John Hay
9. B. J. Hay
10. Frelan Goddard
11. Brockway Crouch



'Working our plan' with plovers – Part one, by Ed and Carlyle Manous

The Manous brothers have a saying: "plan your work, then work your plan." We also say we're not just listing birds—we're collecting *experiences*. Last May we worked a plan that produced some memorable experiences.

The most memorable experience involved a major "target" bird for our trip, the Piping Plover. The ranger at the Cape Lookout National Seashore office in North Carolina was very helpful. We learned the refuge had several nesting pairs in a cordoned off area that we could look into but we would have to take the Harker's Island Ferry to the island. Oh yes, it would require a four-wheel drive vehicle. (We figured this business about four-wheel drive was just a sort of required disclaimer that we could ignore.) We got to the ferry and discovered that there would probably be only one more run that day. We would have to wait to talk to the captain about the possibility of a final run to get us back. While waiting for the ferry to return we talked with an old boy who was set to go on the next run. He asked, "Do you have four-wheel drive?" No, we didn't. "Do you have a shovel?" No, we didn't. "You know," he said, "you fellows are not really prepared to go to the island." It transpired that even with four-wheel drive it was necessary to let a lot of air out of one's tires just to get out of the parking lot! Fortunately (as it turned out) there was not to be a second ferry run later that day to bring us back, so going over became a moot question.

But we really wanted to see the plovers, so what to do? We thought of all the options we could and the only one that seemed remotely possible was to take the ferry the next day as pedestrians and bird on foot. Problem was, the plovers were seven miles up the

beach! For a very short time we actually contemplated walking the 15 mile round trip in the hot sun over very soft sand carrying food and water and our scopes. We decided such an experience was more remote than possible and that such an experience was one we would forego.

But we might collect the experience of the Piping Plover just north on the Pea Island Refuge. A ranger there directed us to the place they had roped off and said there *might* be plovers there. We spent several hours over two days combing the area with our scopes to no avail. We spotted hundreds of nesting Least Terns but nothing else.

The final plan to work for the plover experience was on Assateague Island, but when we went to the ranger station to ask about the birds this is how it went:

Ed Manous: "Can you tell us about seeing Piping Plovers?"

"Calamity Jane": "We have nesting plovers but you can't see them."

Ed Manous: "You mean they're totally inaccessible?"

"Calamity Jane": "Yes, and you're just not going to be able to see these birds."

Manous brothers are not easily put off when they have a plan, and we did get her to show us the restricted area on one of her maps—and this is where we promptly headed.

It turned out that beyond the last parking lot there was an area where one could (for a healthy fee) drive on the beach. Parallel to this was the restricted area set aside for plovers and other nesting birds. At the end of the parking lot we found people deflating their tires on their four-wheel drive trucks for their drive on the sand. Since all sorts of people were driving down the beach we could certainly walk there too. We also noticed a couple of Chincoteague National Seashore trucks that had already driven down the beach. Fortunately for us the ranger's trucks were stopped and a group of naturalists were talking. Soon after we reached these trucks the girl in charge finished her conversation and we asked if she had a minute. She did, and we asked if she could just sort of point us in the right direction to see a Piping Plover. "Sure," said "Helpful Hannah," and she pointed. In less than five seconds we both had a Piping Plover in our scopes, first walking around and then settling down on its nest. So much for old "Calamity Jane," and "You're just not going to be able to see any plovers!" To top off the experience, the next day we had a Piping Plover feeding on a mud flat off the "reservation."

The second most memorable experience of the Manous brothers' trip will be in the September newsletter.

Presidential Perch *(Continued from page 8)*

coffee maker for the club, and will supply us with shade-grown coffee (anyone who saw Chan Robbins' presentation two years ago knows that it is vital to many birds to use only shade-grown). There will be a donation box next to the maker, and we ask members to bring their own mugs. Of course, KTOS mugs will be available at most meetings for the low price of \$6.50. Janet is sticking to club tradition by asking folks to bring cookies and other light snacks to the meetings.

Whenever you see him, make sure to say *bon voyage* to long-time member Dev Joslin. Dev has done loads for our chapter but he and his wife Harriett will be moving to Central America this fall.

KTOS Membership

Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues to: **Marie Oakes**,
18 Rockingham Lane,
Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Membership fees are \$18 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Sustaining memberships are \$28 and a Life membership with TOS is \$200 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter.

DEADLINE for the September issue is August 21. Due to space restrictions, please try to limit your articles to 500 or 600 words.

For a color version of this or past issues go to "local chapters/Knoxville" starting at the TOS Home Page:

HTTP://www.tnbirds.org



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Presidential Perch - By Charlie Muise

Hello KTOSers, Happy Dog Days! Some of you may be surprised to receive a newsletter this time of year. In that case, you may also be surprised to hear we will have an August meeting. I hope to see many of you on Wednesday, August 4 when Mark Campen will tell us of the goings on at Turkey Creek. It'll be a great excuse to venture out of the house if you've been too cooped up trying to avoid the Knoxville heat.

Another way KTOS has avoided hibernation this summer is by enjoying the great trips planned by Harold Howell. There have been some nice ones so far. Please look elsewhere in this newsletter to see what is on tap.

Though East Tennessee isn't the best place to catch it, "fall" shorebird migration is on. Folks in the Mississippi River Watershed have been reporting lots of birds. This is a great time to head to Kingston Steam Plant, Rankin Bottoms or your favorite spot along the Tennessee River to see what birds are returning south from their Canadian, Alaskan or other northern breeding areas. Some of these birds don't stop until they are well into South America. So let's all go wish them a good journey!

Among the interesting birds to show up around here was an immature White Ibis. Who says there isn't good birding this time of year?

Please let me or Mark Campen know when are the best times of year for us to conduct a clean-up at Sharps Ridge. I think that twice a year would be necessary. Mark led a successful one this spring, so maybe fall is another good time? The sign dedicating the area to J.B. Owen will soon be joined by a sign announcing that our club has adopted that area. Let's all try to pitch in. I bet that if every member tried to pick up two bits of trash every time he or she birds the area, it'll continue to look good between clean-ups.

Not to get ahead of ourselves, but Vice President Tracey has some interesting new plans in the works for the September picnic.

Big thanks go to Janet McKnight, who has agreed to manage snacks at meetings. You may remember that Holly Overton, who passed away last year, took care of this for us for many years. Janet has purchased a large

(Continued on page 7)

through the biKNOXulars

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