

TSRA Board Nominations

Do you love protecting Tennessee's rivers? Do you enjoy getting out on the water and want to make a difference? TSRA is currently seeking new board members for the 2024 calendar year.

Interested? Read the commitment below and fill out the Nomination form with your bio [here](#) by: November 25th, 2023.



TSRA Purpose and Mission

The purpose of TSRA is to ensure an adequate number of free-flowing, clean and wild rivers, streams, wetlands, water bodies and watersheds for the use and benefit of all citizens, and to promote paddling skill and river safety through training and leadership.

We believe these two purposes are inextricably bound together. By teaching schools, we earn money to support environmental protection. By welcoming more people into paddling recreation, we create new outdoor lovers who will help protect our natural environment. By protecting our streams, water bodies and watersheds, we ensure our long-lasting enjoyment of paddling.

Board Member Commitment

Monthly meetings are held at 6:00 pm at REI in Brentwood, Tennessee with the option to attend via online conferencing. Other venues will be used as needed. They are held on the 4th Thursday of each month except for November and December when we meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month to avoid holidays. A TSRA Board Orientation will be held one Saturday in January for informational and training purposes as well as formation of committees. A Board Retreat may be held one weekend in November to reevaluate the year and plan for the following year.

Board members make a commitment to attend at least two-thirds of monthly meetings, to guide TSRA's direction, be on one of the committees and to take on at least one major responsibility in TSRA's growing list of tasks.

It was a BIG job. Big rocks! A mountain of RIPRAP piled high above the steep access ramp on the **Harpeth River at the Franklin Rec Center off of Fulton Greer Rd.** The access site built in 2019 was getting washed out and needed to be refreshed. The only way down was buckets, hands and a little creativity.

It took two days. On **October 17th**, a mighty crew made up of Amazon Safety Directors from across the US muscled up and passed buckets of RIPRAP down the stairs. They were told to: "Dress warm! You'll be picking up trash from 9 until 11." Spirits were still high when they were told what they would really be doing. Layers came off and the Volunteers worked fast and hard from 9 until 11. Thank you Amazon Safety team!



Sat. October 28, 2023: Next up was a mighty group of TSRA volunteers, TSRA board members, REI staff and other recruits, in addition to, Patty's pickleball team: Daniel, Morris, Sarah, Lina, Lisa Steinke, Jennifer, Connor, Diego, Cat, Heather, Mary, Kevin, Megan, Mike, Georganne, Tom, Woody and Johnny Fussell. Big thanks to Daniel, Woody and Johnny for their role in designing a chute that eventually we were able to send buckets of rock down.

TSRA appreciates all this work to keep our accesses usable. These access points not only allow paddlers to protect and enjoy our waterways, but also help rescue teams access the rivers for rescues.



Trip Report “3rd Sat Paddle”

Harpeth River- Section 1

By Trip Leader, Steve Morris

We had an excellent group of paddlers and a wonderful day on the Harpeth River this month for the 3rd Saturday trip of October. We did Section 1 of our 5-section adventure to paddle the Harpeth River State Park. This trip was from Hwy 100 to Newsome Mill, about 9.6 miles.

The weather was in the high 70's, sunny with big white puffy clouds, little wind, and cool water. The fall tree colors were beginning to reveal themselves and falling leaves were covering the water in many places. The water level was low, so we had to pick our lines carefully through the shoals or even walk boats in some places but without complaint.

The wildlife also seemed to be enjoying the day. We saw two different horned owls hunting from the trees. A red-tailed hawk that was circling and soaring above on the gentle winds and gave us quite the show for some time. Beaver, white tailed deer, blue herons, king fishers, ducks, birds and fish of numerous kinds, all were giving us many moments of wildlife sightings. All in all, it was a great day, and I am anxious to continue the next river sections in coming month.



“Fall on Falls” Nantahala

October 21, 2023. What originally began as a trip to run laps Lesser Wesser, tuned out to be a beautiful fall trip down the Nantahala- as racers descended on the NOC. Despite this, traffic on the river was light, fall colors were amazing and we had the pleasure of seeing racers, released one-by-one at Patton’s Run paddle ferociously by.



Save the Date

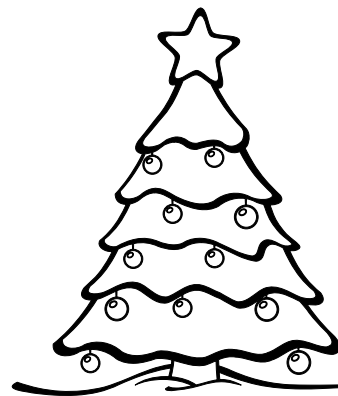
Dec 9, 2023: Holiday Party & Annual Meeting

Jan 4, 2024: Rendezvous Registration Opens

April 4-7, 2024: Rendezvous

TSRA Annual Holiday Party and Meeting

Join us at the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center, December 9th from 5-8pm for our annual holiday party and meeting. We will vote for our 2024 board members and more. Festivities include food and drink, bonfire and excellent company. Bring your favorite dish, and BYOD (or BOYB). More information to follow.





Duck River Jam and Fundraiser

For more information or to buy tickets, click [here](#)

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8/25/23

COLUMBIA, Tenn. — Duck River Jam, a community event intended to raise awareness and funds to fight a proposed landfill along the Duck River, will take place at **1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 5, at Cherry Theater at Columbia State Community College**. The event, which will feature performances by local musicians as well as a silent auction, is being organized by the concerned citizens' group Protect the Duck River.

The group has advocated against plans by Louisiana-based Trinity Business Group to build a 1,300-acre trash disposal complex as close as 1,000 feet from the Duck River at a former Monsanto phosphate processing site in Maury County. The property contains multiple Superfund sites and is mandated for EPA rehabilitation because of hazardous waste contamination.

“Protect the Duck River” was previously involved in successful efforts to convince state lawmakers to pass legislation designating that segment of the Duck River as a Class II scenic river. In April, Gov. Bill Lee signed the new law requiring certain water resource projects to be permitted.

Trinity Group filed a lawsuit in May appealing the Maury-Marshall Solid Waste Regional Planning Board’s rejection of its landfill application. Funds raised at the Duck River Jam will help defray legal fees for opponents of that appeal.

“The Duck River is the most biologically diverse river in North America as well as the source of drinking water for more than 300,000 people in this community,” said Columbia Mayor Chaz Molder. “The Duck River Jam is an opportunity for Middle Tennessee residents to support this precious, fragile resource while enjoying a great day of music and fun.”

For more information about Duck River Jam or to purchase tickets, please visit duckriverjam.com.

Storing Your Kayak

by, ANDe Demitri



With Winter approaching, it's time to start thinking about how to store your kayak for the colder months. Proper storage will help protect your kayak from the elements and ensure it's in good condition.

Here are a few things to keep in mind when it comes to your kayak and the colder months:

Choose the right storage location. The best place to store your kayak is in a dry, well-ventilated area. This could be a garage, shed, or even your basement. If you don't have indoor storage, you can store your kayak outside, but be sure to cover it with a tarp or kayak cover.

Clean and prepare your kayak. Before you store your kayak, it's important to give it a thorough cleaning. This will remove any dirt, salt, or other debris that could damage the kayak over the Winter. You should also check for any cracks or damage and repair them as needed.

Store your kayak in the correct position. The best way to store your kayak is on its side or upside down. This will help prevent the hull from warping or becoming damaged. If you're storing your kayak outside, be sure to place it on a level surface and support it with sawhorses or other sturdy supports.

Protect your kayak from the elements. If you're storing your kayak outside, be sure to cover it with a tarp or kayak cover. This will protect it from the sun, rain, snow, and other elements.

Check on your kayak regularly. It's a good idea to check on your kayak every few months during the Winter to make sure it's still in good condition. Look for any signs of damage or mold growth. If you find any problems, address them immediately.

Here are a few additional tips for storing your kayak for the Winter:

Sit-inside kayaks: remove the seat and any other gear from the inside of the kayak. This will help prevent mold and mildew growth.

Sit-on-top kayaks: remove the seat and any accessories such as paddle holders, rod holders, fish finders.

Store your kayak in a cool, dark place. Avoid storing it in direct sunlight.

Inspect your kayak regularly for pests and rodents.

It's also a good idea to go through your gear at this time, too. Make sure your first aid kit has everything you want in it, make sure your dry bags/dry boxes don't have leaks, make sure any electronic devices you have are in working order.

By following these tips, you can help ensure that your kayak is in good condition when you're ready to use it.