



TRVA News



Summer 2010 Newsletter

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Upcoming Events:

National Waterways Conference 50th Anniversary
September 22-24, 2010
Boston, Massachusetts

Waterways Council, Inc.
7th Annual Waterways Symposium
October 4-6, 2010
St. Paul, Minnesota

Tennessee River Valley Association
44th Annual Meeting
October 18-19, 2010
Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Tennessee River Valley Association is now on Facebook

TRVA Planning for 44th Annual Meeting

Planning is almost complete for the Tennessee River Valley Association & Tennessee-Cumberland Waterways Council 44th Annual Meeting.

The Tennessee River Valley Association Board of Directors have once again chosen Gatlinburg, Tennessee in the Beautiful Great Smokey Mountains as the location for their 44th Annual Meeting on **October 18-19, 2010**.

The Clarion Inn & Suites Hotel will host the event held during the most beautiful time of the year in Gatlinburg.

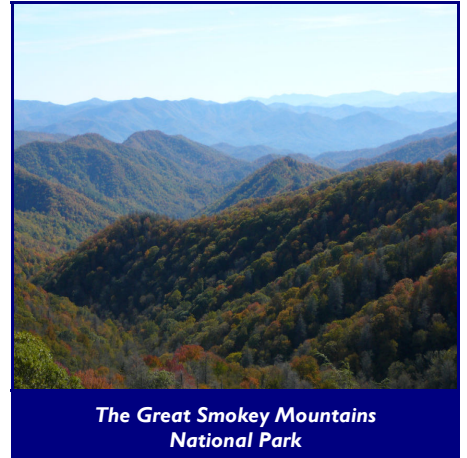
It has never been the policy of TRVA to make a profit from the Annual Meeting, but to make it an affordable, enjoyable opportunity for our membership and guests to network and share information relative to the Tennessee and Cumberland River Valleys.

This year will be no different, the Clarion has agreed to the same \$150 p/night room rate that was available in 2009.

The TRVA Board has agreed on following the format that has made this event a success in recent years, including; a Monday the 18th Golf Outing followed by a Welcome Reception in the TRVA Penthouse Suite.

Tuesday the 19th will see presentations by guest speakers, an informal luncheon, and afternoon navigation updates from the USACE, TVA, and the USCG.

Registration and hotel reservation information is now available on the TRVA website at www.trva-tcwc.org.



The Great Smokey Mountains National Park

Invited speaker information will follow in the coming weeks as the agenda is finalized. A tentative agenda is on Page 4.

Mark your calendars now!

Tennessee River Valley

Association 44th Annual Meeting

October 18-19, 2010

Gatlinburg, Tennessee

TRVA-TCWC 2010

'Janice L. Jones' Friend of the Valley Award

Historically, the TRVA-TCWC Friend of the Valley Award has been presented annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the economic vitality of the Tennessee and Cumberland Valleys.

This year, the TRVA-

TCWC has chosen to present their prestigious award to an institution valuable to our entire region.

The Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be honored as the recipient for 2010 in recognition of their tireless efforts to restore navi-

gation to the Cumberland River after the historic flooding in early May of this year that inundated and severely damaged the Cheatham Lock.

The Award Presentation will take place on October 19, 2010 during the TRVA 44th Annual Meeting in Gatlinburg.

WRDA 2010 Introduced Without Capitol Development Plan

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar, Democrat of Minnesota, has released the House version of the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) for 2010.

Not included in the House version, is the Inland Marine Transportation System Capitol Investment Strategy (IMTS-CIS) for the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF).

The recommendations included in the IMTS-CIS have been developed over the past two years by members of the Inland Waterways Users Board and high ranking members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The IMTS-CIS is supported by over 200 business, industry, environmental, and trade organizations from across the United States.

On April 30, 2010 the Tennessee River Valley Association & Tennessee-Cumberland Waterways Council Board of Directors unanimously adopted a resolution endorsing the recommendations included in the IMTS-CIS.

The recommendations are also supported in the U.S. Senate by members from the TRVA-TCWC region including, Alexander and Corker of Tennessee, Shelby of Alabama, Cochran and Wicker of Mississippi and McConnell

of Kentucky.

One key element included in the proposal is to complete ongoing projects before beginning others. Currently there are four IWTF projects underway including the Chickamauga Lock Replacement and the Kentucky Lock Addition Projects on the Tennessee River.

A Senate version of a 2010 WRDA has yet to be introduced, and there is uncertainty of the eventual passage of a final bill in 2010.

TRVA will continue to encourage IMTS-CIS inclusion in related future legislation.

Chickamauga Cofferdam Contract Nears Completion

Work on the Cofferdam Contract at the Chickamauga Lock Replacement Project on the Tennessee River near Chattanooga, Tennessee is nearing completion.

The multi year construction contract will be complete when the structure is pumped dry and determined to meet the requirements of the contract.

At that time, water will be returned to the structure and further construction will be suspended on the lock replacement project.

Resumption of work on the project that is critical to the Tennessee River Sys-

tem and the Tennessee Valley Region will not take place until funds become available for additional phases of lock construction.

Construction on the Chickamauga Lock Replacement Project is paid for by the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF). The commercial towing industry currently pays a

20 cents per gallon tax on the fuel used on America's fuel taxed waterways.

Industry contributions in recent years has provided approximately \$80 million annually that is matched by the Treasury, providing a total of approximately \$160 million for IWTF funded

projects.

Contributions to the IWTF in 2010 are expected to be comparable to levels in 2009 and, therefore, the 2011 federal budget will not include funding for continued construction at the Chickamauga Lock site.

The Olmstead Project on the Ohio River, the highest priority of the Corps lock construction program, will require the bulk of IWTF funds that will be available for the remainder of this decade under the current funding methods.

U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and U.S. Representative Lincoln Davis of Tennessee have requested \$28 million be included in the FY 2011 Budget to begin lock construction on the project that is critical to our entire region.



Completed Cofferdam at the Chickamauga Lock Project Site that will be pumped dry in the coming weeks. At that time construction is scheduled to be suspended for what could be as much as a decade without a resolution of the insolvency of the IWTF.

Tenn-Tom Authority and Panama Canal Authority Agree to Cooperate

Panama Canal Authority (ACP) Administrator/CEO Alberto Aleman Zubieta and Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW) Administrator Mike Tagert signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on August 25, 2010 to foster economic growth, spur international trade and promote the "All Water Route" (the route from Asia to the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts via the Panama Canal).

During an official ceremony in Point Clear, Alabama held in conjunction with the Tenn-Tom Annual Conference, both parties affirmed their commitment to mutual growth and cooperation. Renewable after two years, the ACP-TTW agreement will allow

for joint marketing ventures, information sharing and technological interchange.

"Today's signing is significant for both of our organizations as we look ahead to a rapidly changing business landscape," said Mr. Aleman Zubieta. "Our partnership with the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway will be mutually beneficial and we look forward to our close collaboration."



Alberto Aleman Zubieta and Mike Tagert Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Based in Columbus, Mississippi, the TTW is a four-member interstate compact consisting of the States of Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee. It serves as many as 17 states, 14 river systems,

and more than half of the nations' population. Open to commercial traffic in January 1985, the TTW provides passage to as much as 1.2 billion ton-miles of commerce each year with significant savings in transportation costs.

"It is increasingly important that we recognize the 'All Water Route' to include the navigable inland systems such as the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway," said Mr. Tagert. "We are pleased that the Canal Authority, such a major component of the global supply chain system, recognizes the value and potential of the inland waterway system."

The ACP-TTW builds upon previously signed pacts between the ACP and the Alabama State Port Authority at Mobile, as well as the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport. Now, the two states will be engaged in the Panamanian economic partnership.

Colonel Steven J. Roemhildt Assumes Command of Mobile District



Colonel Byron Jorns passes Command of the Mobile District to Colonel Steven Roemhildt during the Change of Command Ceremony

Colonel Steven J. Roemhildt assumed command as the 50th District Engineer in the history of the Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in a ceremony May 26, 2010 at

the historic Battlehouse Hotel. Roemhildt succeeds Colonel Byron Jorns, who had been commander and district engineer since July 2007.

Roemhildt had been Deputy Commander for the Transatlantic Division (TAD) since July 2009. As such, he was responsible for a Division command and control organization overseeing U. S. Army Corps of Engineers construction within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Prior to this assignment he worked as an Assistant Director, Civil Works, responsible for policy formulation and program level reporting.

On June 1, 2010, Colonel Jorns assumed the position of Executive Assis-

tant to Jo Ellen Darcy, Assistant secretary of the Army (Civil Works).

Both Colonels Jorns and Roemhildt have previously served as District Engineer in the Nashville District.

Members of the Coalition of Alabama Waterway Associations present Colonel Byron Jorns with a print of the First USS Alabama



U.S. Coast Guard Opens Center of Expertise in Paducah

The Coast Guard is seeking to improve its partnership with the commercial towing industry.

To do that, the Coast Guard and Paducah city leaders cut the ribbon on a new "Towing Vessel National Center of Expertise" in Paducah, Kentucky on May 22, 2010.

Commander Greg Case said the center will help train towing vessel examiners and inspectors, be an asset in towing vessel expertise and form and strengthen partnerships within the industry.

"It's really important for us to be here, to be able to partner with Seaman's Church Institute and all the companies here," Case said. "It's really the perfect place for us to be.

Seven national centers of expertise were established last year to help increase the knowledge of coast guard commercial vessel inspectors and to help improve customer service to the maritime industry.

As part of the Maritime Day Celebration that included the Center of Expertise ribbon cutting, the Propeller Club of Paducah presented their annual Maritime Person of the Year award to Norb Whitlock, retired executive of American Commercial Lines.

Also during the event held in the Maiden Alley Cinema, the Propeller Club also honored Ron Hunter, President and Owner of Hunter Marine Transportation and long time supporter of the TRVA-TCWC, with their Port Person of the Year Award for 2010.

U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Kevin

Cook, Director of Prevention, Headquarters, Washington, DC performed the duties as Keynote Speaker of both events that were well attended by members of the maritime community of Paducah.

The days events were culminated with a Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony on the Paducah waterfront.



Maritime Person of the Year Norb Whitlock and U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Kevin Cook



Hole #12 on the Gatlinburg Municipal Golf Course, the site of the TRVA 44th Annual Meeting's Golf Outing on Oct. 18, 2010. "Sky High" plays 194 yards from 200 feet above the green.

Tennessee River Valley Association Tennessee-Cumberland Waterways Council

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TRVA 44th Annual Meeting Tentative Agenda

Monday October 18, 2010

10:00AM Golf Outing, Gatlinburg Municipal Golf Course

5:30PM Welcome Reception, James K. Polk Penthouse Suite

Tuesday October 19, 2010

Governor John Sevier Ballroom

8:00AM TRVA Board of Directors Meeting

9:15AM Morning Session

Guest Speaker Presentations

10:30-10:50AM Break

12:00PM Luncheon and Awards Ceremony

1:30PM Afternoon Session

Navigation Updates by USACE, TVA & USCG

3:30PM Adjourn