

TVA River Neighbors



Navigation • Flood Control • Power Supply • Land Use • Water Supply • Water Quality • Recreation

Contents

- 3 Dock Permits
- 4 Reservoir Levels
Reservoir Operations Update
- 5 The Name Game
- 6 Clean Marina Awards
- 7 Wildlife Refuge Celebration
- 8 Sport Fish Ratings
- 10 Preserving the Past
- 12 Reservoir Study Update

A Conversation with Bridgette Ellis Taking Care of Business—and the Environment

Spend just a few minutes with Bridgette Ellis and you'll get the sense that she is goal-driven. From her days as a walk-on UT Lady Vol basketball player under Coach Pat Summitt to her present position as Vice-President of TVA's Resource Stewardship organization, Ellis is all about discipline, work ethic, accountability, and—most of all—results. We talked with her recently about what lies ahead for Resource Stewardship.

How has your background influenced the perspective you bring to this job?

I was born in Knoxville and grew up in Oak Ridge. I received a degree in forestry from the University of Tennessee and have the distinction of being the first female forester ever hired by TVA. I went back to get my MBA from UT in 1997. I've been an East Tennessean all my life and have a deep appreciation for the beauty of this area. This is home.

How would you describe TVA's approach to the management of reservoir lands, shorelines, recreation, and watershed protection?

TVA works for the public good as a faithful steward of the Valley's resources, creating and maintaining an environment for economic growth. Our job is to help citizens who live near the river decide how they want their local economies to grow. TVA staff who work in the watersheds facilitate those decisions by engaging citizens in the decision-making process and providing them with information about the trade-offs related to growth. We also share our technical knowledge—bringing the science of environmental management



to bear on the decision-making process.

That's an important contribution, especially given the tremendous growth pressures on river systems across the country—and on the Tennessee River system in particular. The Tennessee Valley already is one of the most intensively used watersheds in the country, and our population is growing. We're seeing

continued on page 2

TVA Resource Stewardship

At a Glance

Through a central technical staff and 12 Watershed Teams strategically located across the Valley, Resource Stewardship builds partnerships with communities, state and local agencies, citizen volunteers, industries, and others to:

- Protect and improve water resources
- Care for 11,000 miles of public shoreline
- Provide land- and water-based recreation opportunities
- Manage 293,000 acres of public land.

For more information about these stewardship activities, call your local Watershed Team or 800-TVA-LAND.



continued from page 1

significant increases in both economic and residential development. Many retirees are choosing to live by the water and folks from urban areas are building second homes on TVA reservoirs. If we are to preserve the advantages that have attracted these new industries and new residents to our region, we must keep economic development and environmental protection in balance through open discussion, negotiation, and compromise.

Your organization has a broad mission: managing TVA public lands, protecting the Valley's waters, guiding shoreline development, providing recreation opportunities. What do you consider the toughest part of your job?

It ties back to the population and economic growth our region is experiencing. As people move to this area to take advantage of the potential for prosperity and quality of life, they bring new and different attitudes and hopes for the region and its resources. Our challenge is to be responsive to these changing values and priorities.

I've learned how important it is to be open-minded—to listen to what stakeholders are telling us about the way we manage the public lands and waters in our care. TVA's Reservoir Operations Study is a good example. We've asked the people of the region to help us determine if changes in the way we operate the river system would result in greater public value. In the past six months, we've held 21 community workshops, gathered comments by electronic and regular mail, and conducted a telephone survey to get input from people not usually involved with TVA issues. We're learning more and more about what's important to Valley citizens. But people have different concerns and priorities. Deciding what actions we can and should take in response—that's the hardest part of this job.

How would you characterize the public's chief concerns regarding reservoir use and land management? What is TVA doing to address those concerns?

Every time I talk to stakeholders, I am struck by how much they care about the land and



Resource Stewardship Vice-President Bridgette Ellis (center) helps collect fish to evaluate water quality conditions on Bluewater Creek in north Alabama.

water. Protecting the environment is always near the top of the list—and it's a priority for TVA, too. We have monitoring programs in place not only for fish and aquatic insects, but for everything from archaeological and historical resources to threatened and endangered species. We have crews out regularly taking water samples to measure dissolved oxygen levels, water temperatures, etc. And when it comes to erosion control—another topic of great importance to the public—we key our shoreline stabilization efforts to the protection of archaeological sites.

People also value the recreation opportunities available on TVA reservoirs—and one of our goals is to ensure the availability and variety of these opportunities. We operate some 100 public recreation areas, maintain over 40 miles of hiking trails, and provide thousands of acres of open space. We also support commercial recreation by locating sites for marinas and other businesses and by promoting clean boating and offering technical advice.

How are TVA's Watershed Teams doing in terms of building partnerships and leveraging resources?

Our Watershed Teams have helped to start dozens of grassroots coalitions, and they're constantly on the lookout for opportunities to partner with others—community groups, businesses, agencies, etc. Partnerships are simply the way we do business, which explains our motto: "If we're out there by

ourselves, we're in the wrong place." We wouldn't be able to accomplish anywhere near what we do without these collaborative efforts. The same is true for leveraging resources. It isn't just a matter of finding the money to fix an immediate problem; it's a way to get more people personally involved in watershed protection for the long term.

What do you see as an emerging issue with respect to stewardship of the Valley's natural resources? What is TVA doing in order to meet that challenge?

The trend toward increased development pressures in the Tennessee Valley is driving an issue that will be coming to the forefront more and more: water quantity. Even in a region like the Southeast—historically so rich in water resources—we are seeing impacts. There are serious water supply issues on

the Cumberland Plateau, and the rapid growth of Atlanta and Birmingham is prompting requests to withdraw water from the Tennessee River to help meet the demands of those cities. Since TVA has the responsibility for issuing permits for intakes on the river system, we'll be scrutinizing the potential consequences for water quality, navigation, flood control, etc.

When you look back on your career at TVA, what do you expect or hope will be your greatest accomplishment?

I hope people will have found me to be fair and honest in our organization's efforts to provide multiple benefits to the citizens of the region. My greatest sense of satisfaction would come from knowing that I've done my part to help the Valley grow, while still protecting the environment.



In Answer to Your Question...

I'd like to build a new dock. Are there any restrictions I should be aware of? How do I apply for a permit?

Winter is a good time to build a dock. You can take advantage of lower water levels and avoid the longer processing times that can occur in the spring when TVA receives a rush of permit applications. TVA Shoreline Specialist Bob Curtis offers these tips.

Any activity that alters the shoreline—from building a dock, pier, boathouse, or launching ramp to removing vegetation, placing riprap to stabilize the shoreline, or installing fish attractors—requires written approval from TVA.

The first step is to contact your local TVA Watershed Team office (see list at right) for a permit application. They'll send you a package containing information sheets and sample drawings—everything you need to know in order to be able to complete your application.

Your new dock will need to stay within a 1,000-square-foot footprint of total space (measured from the lake end of the access walkway) and extend no farther than 150 feet from the shoreline or one-third of the distance to the opposite bank. Be sure to use commercially manufactured flotation specifically designed for docks. If styrofoam is used, it must be fully encased. Access walkways should not be wider than six feet.

Applications for water-use facilities, including both fixed and floating docks, require a \$200 processing fee. Most permits are processed and approved within 30 days. Watershed Team members can provide additional information about permit requirements and will be glad to meet with you on-site to discuss your project.



TVA Watershed Teams

Boone, Bristol Projects, Fort Patrick Henry, South Holston, Watauga, Wilbur:
423-239-2000

Cherokee, Douglas, Nolichucky:
865-632-3791

Norris:
865-632-1539

Melton Hill, Watts Bar, Great Falls:
865-988-2440

Fontana, Fort Loudoun, Tellico:
865-988-2420

Apalachia, Blue Ridge, Chatuge, Hiwassee, Nottely, Ocoee 1, 2, 3:
828-837-7395

Chickamauga, Nickajack:
423-697-6006

Guntersville:
256-571-4280

Wheeler:
256-386-2560

Pickwick, Wilson, Bear Creek Projects:
256-386-2228

Kentucky, Beech River Project:
731-641-2000

Tims Ford, Normandy:
256-386-3442



Less Rainfall, Less Hydropower

Power production at TVA's 29 hydroelectric plants has been below normal every month so far this year due to the continuing dry weather across much of the Tennessee Valley.

By restricting releases, TVA was able to keep tributary reservoirs at or above their minimum summer target levels through July despite the drought (except for Watauga, which dropped one-tenth of a foot below the target for a single day). But this reduced the amount of water available to spin the turbines at TVA dams. From January through July, hydropower production was only about 73 percent of what would be expected in a year with normal rainfall.

Hydropower production was increased in August with the start of the annual unrestricted drawdown, which helped to meet peak power demands during a heat wave early in the month.



TVA Reservoir Levels¹

	Observed September 1 Levels		January 1 Flood Guide Levels	
	feet	meters	feet	meters
Tributary Reservoirs				
Blue Ridge	1674.3	510.3	1668	508.4
Boone	1381.5	421.1	1357	413.6
Chatuge	1919.5	585.1	1912	582.8
Cherokee	1051.3	320.4	1030	313.9
Douglas	976.3	297.6	940	286.5
Fontana	1681.4	512.5	1644	501.1
Hiwassee	1506.8	459.3	1465	446.5
Normandy	870.7	265.4	864	263.4
Norris	1003.1	305.7	985	300.2
Nottely	1762.2	537.1	1745	531.9
South Holston	1714.0	522.4	1702	518.8
Tims Ford	885.1	269.8	873	266.1
Watauga	1943.8	592.5	1940	591.3
Main-River Reservoirs				
Chickamauga	681.2	207.6	677	206.4
Fort Loudoun/Tellico	812.3	247.6	809	246.6
Guntersville	594.6	181.2	593	180.7
Kentucky	356.1	108.5	354	107.9
Nickajack	634.0	193.2	633	192.9
Pickwick	411.9	125.5	410	125.0
Watts Bar	740.0	225.6	737	224.6
Wheeler	555.3	169.3	552	168.3
Wilson	506.7	154.4	506.2	154.3

¹ Elevations above mean sea level.

For the latest information on reservoir levels and releases, visit TVA's Web site at <http://lakeinfo.tva.com>, or call our toll-free information line: 632-2264 in Knoxville, 751-2264 in Chattanooga, 386-2264 in Muscle Shoals, or 800-238-2264 for all other locations. If you are hearing-impaired, call 800-438-2264.

Reservoir Operations Update

Whitewater Recreation Releases— Releases for whitewater recreation will continue on specified dates through November below Ocoee No. 2 and No. 3 Dams (see www.tva.com/river/recreation/ocoe.htm).

Fort Patrick Henry Drawdown—Starting November 4, TVA will begin a drawdown on Fort Patrick Henry Reservoir until the water level reaches elevation 1226 (about 35 feet below normal) on December 9. This is necessary for repairs to the spillway gates. During this time, TVA will also modify the dam by installing a steel barrier, called a bulkhead, that will keep water off the spillway gates so they can be tested without releasing water or requiring a drawdown. This should reduce the need for future drawdowns below normal operating levels. The work is scheduled for completion by late January—in time for the reservoir to fill to normal levels by February 2003.

Clear Creek Drawdown—Starting November 4, TVA will lower Clear Creek Reservoir near Bristol, Virginia, to elevation 1915 (about 15 feet below normal). This operation, which will drain the reservoir, will allow TVA to work on the intake structure. The work is scheduled for completion in December, after which the reservoir will be refilled as quickly as possible. TVA will continue to release water through the dam for the duration of the project to protect downstream aquatic life.

Pine Reservoir Drawdown—Pine Reservoir near Lexington, Tennessee, will be held near elevation 462.5 (about two feet below normal) for about a month beginning October 4. The drawdown was requested by the Beech River Watershed Development Agency for the benefit of residents interested in making shoreline improvements or constructing boating facilities. The reservoir should fill to normal levels by the end of the year.

TVA Dams: The Name Game

What's in a name? When it comes to TVA dams, nothing less than a pocket history of the Tennessee River and the people who settled the Valley.

It's pretty obvious how some TVA dams got their names. Kentucky Dam is called that because it's in Kentucky. Norris Dam is named for George Norris, the Nebraska Senator who, with the exception of FDR himself, was probably the single most influential politician behind the founding of TVA. But other TVA dams have gotten their names from a British earl, a Confederate general, and even a 19th century English novel. And where one name came from is anybody's guess.

A lot of people assume that Fort Loudoun Dam was named for a Civil War garrison. But in fact, Fort Loudoun goes back much further—to the colonial-era conflict known as the French and Indian War. When it was established in 1756 in what is now east Tennessee, Fort Loudoun was the westernmost British fort in America. It was named for John Campbell, the fourth earl of Loudoun, a British nobleman who never actually saw it.

Joseph "Fightin' Joe" Wheeler gave his name to Wheeler Dam, which is located near his hometown in north Alabama. One of the most unusual characters in American military history, Wheeler fought under the Confederate flag in his twenties, then commanded thousands of troops under the flag of his former enemy in the Spanish-American War of 1898. Some claim that Wheeler, who also served in the U.S. Congress, single-handedly inspired the South to start celebrating the Fourth of July again, after a hiatus lasting decades in many parts of the former Confederacy.

Fontana Dam also has a connection to the Valley's military history. Built to help power the war effort in World War II, it was named after a nearby lumber-company town called Fontana, a Latin word meaning "fountain." Many different stories explain the name's origin. According to one, it was the inspiration of a lumber company executive's wife; she was impressed with the waterfalls of the area, which reminded her of fountains. Another



Fontana Dam is the highest in the TVA system.

story holds that the town was named for Felice Fontana, an Italian naturalist who visited the area in the late 1700s. Others claim that Fontana is an ancient Native American word meaning "at the foot of the mountain."

Pickwick Dam also got its name from a nearby town: Pickwick, Tennessee, named by an antebellum postmaster for his favorite novel. Perhaps the most popular fictional work of the 1830s, the novel was *The Pickwick Papers*, a comedy by a young

English writer named Charles Dickens. It may seem fortunate that the postmaster didn't decide to name the town after one of the novel's other characters: Count Smorktork, for example, or Nathaniel Winkle, or the evil Alfred Jingle.

Whether paying homage to military heroes or alluding to works of literature, the names of TVA dams are colorful reminders of local history—and intriguing reflections of what was important to the people of the Valley when they were built.



Kentucky Dam forms TVA's largest reservoir.

Progress on Kentucky and Chickamauga Locks

Completed in the 1940s, the Tennessee River navigation system is in generally good shape, but there are two major problems that TVA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are working to solve.

Kentucky Lock, near Paducah, Kentucky, is too small to efficiently handle the amount of traffic that needs to use it. The lock has become a major bottleneck, impeding the movement of both commercial and recreation traffic. A new 1,200-foot lock is currently under construction. Work to date has been directed at relocating the existing highway and railway and building a temporary dam to facilitate lock construction. The project is scheduled for completion in 10 to 12 years, depending on funding.

Chickamauga Lock, on the upper end of the river system near Chattanooga, is also small by modern navigation standards, but has a more immediate problem. The concrete used in construction in the 1930s is deteriorating and causing structural problems. TVA and the Corps of Engineers have completed planning studies and recommended that a new, larger lock be built before this problem becomes bad enough to require closing the lock. The recommendation is currently awaiting Congressional approval.



For more information on TVA's history, visit the TVA Heritage page at www.tva.com.

First Three Valley Marinas Receive Clean Marina Awards

Join the Celebration 30 Years of Clean Water

October 2002 marks the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act—a major milestone in efforts to protect our nation's water resources—and Congress has proclaimed 2002 as the Year of Clean Water.

America's Clean Water Foundation, a nonprofit organization, is coordinating events that will commemorate the occasion. Major activities planned for October include a World Watershed Summit, watershed summits for youth and seniors, and a National Storm Water Conference.

In addition, October 18 has been designated National Water Monitoring Day. Volunteer monitoring groups, as well as families, school groups, and other civic organizations, are invited to participate.

TVA Watershed Teams are available to help with celebration activities in the Tennessee Valley. If you'd like assistance in planning an event or monitoring a local site, please call Regina McCoy at 256-386-3550, or send her an e-mail at rlmccoy@tva.gov. To learn more about the Clean Water Act and national commemoration plans, visit www.yearofcleanwater.org.



Clean Marina flags were hoisted over three Valley marinas this summer in recognition of their achievements in making the Tennessee River a cleaner place.

Ditto Landing on Wheeler Reservoir and Gold Point Yacht Harbor on Chickamauga Reservoir were designated as Clean Marinas at the National Clean Boating Campaign Celebration held in Chattanooga on June 22. Laurel Marina & Yacht Club on South Holston Reservoir received the same designation on August 10, the first observance of National Marina Day.

More than 40 other marinas throughout the Tennessee Valley are currently working to attain the Clean Marina designation.

"To receive this designation, marinas must meet all federal, state, and local regulations related to marina management," says TVA Clean Marina Coordinator Linda Harris. "They must also implement a number of recommended practices to minimize pollution and encourage boaters to become effective stewards of the water resources."

Ditto Landing is a public marina and recreation facility operated by the Huntsville-Madison County Marina and Port



Boat owners who rent slips at Ditto Landing Marina must review the company's environmental policy before signing the boat storage agreement.



From left, Gold Point Yacht Harbor Manager Jeff Bryson and staff member J.D. Adams, with TVA's Linda Harris, display their Clean Marina flag in Chattanooga.

Authority. Ditto developed and implemented a stormwater pollution-prevention plan and has an environmental policy that is included with each boat-storage agreement. Ditto also provides educational information and learning opportunities for boaters.

Gold Point Yacht Harbor underwent a complete transformation aimed at meeting the needs of boaters while protecting the environment. Dilapidated piers and structures and noncompliant boathouses were removed. A pump-out boat operated by the marina provides convenient, regular sewage-management service for marina users.

Laurel Marina & Yacht Club, a privately owned facility, provides reservoir users with educational information and learning opportunities to improve water quality and encourage safe environmental practices. "Everyone here at the marina has worked diligently to exceed Clean Marina standards and to be responsible stewards of the environment and the waterway," says owner and general manager Dalie Thomas. "We're exceptionally proud to receive this designation."

National Wildlife Refuges

Celebrating a Century of Conservation

March 14, 2003 will be a milestone in the history of wildlife conservation in America. That date marks the centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System. In the 99 years since the first refuge was established, the system has evolved into a 95-million-acre network of lands and waters dedicated to protecting and providing habitat for more than 2,000 species of fish and wildlife and countless invertebrates and plants.

The Tennessee Valley, with its four national wildlife refuges encompassing more than 87,000 acres, will be a part of the centennial commemoration. These refuges are especially important in providing critical habitat for wintering waterfowl. But they also offer other benefits, including year-round homes for wading birds, songbirds, deer, foxes, turtles, and other wildlife and a variety of wildlife-oriented outdoor activities for the recreating public.

The 51,000-acre Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, located in west-central Tennessee, often attracts 300,000 ducks and 20,000 geese during fall and winter months. It also hosts a sizable population of bald eagles, with up to 90 birds spending the winter in the area.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, located near Decatur, Alabama, provides habitat for large concentrations of waterfowl on 35,000 acres. A wildlife observation building located near the Visitor Center provides an excellent opportunity for waterfowl-viewing from December through February, when the duck population typically reaches 70,000.

Both the Tennessee and Wheeler National Wildlife Refuges offer hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, hiking, canoeing, and many other activities. Wheeler Refuge has a 10,000-square-foot interpretive center where wildlife displays, hiking trails, and educational programs are available to the public free of charge.

Sauta Cave National Wildlife Refuge, located just off the Tennessee River near Scottsboro, Alabama, protects habitat for more than 250,000 federally endangered gray bats. During summer months, thousands of gray bats can be observed leaving the cave at dusk for their nightly ritual of feasting on mosquitoes and other insects.

Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge near Florence, Alabama, contains the only known population of the Alabama cavefish in the entire world and serves as a maternity cave for about 40,000 gray bats each spring and summer. It also offers hunting for small game, dove, and quail, along with wildlife viewing.

In terms of both conservation and recreation, refuges are an important part of our national heritage. Visit a refuge near you and help celebrate 100 years of wild America!

To find out more about national wildlife refuges in the Tennessee Valley, go to <http://southeast.fws.gov>.



Tennessee River Swim Continues

This summer, marathon swimmer Mimi Hughes completed the fourth leg of her five-year quest to swim the entire length of the Tennessee River.



The 45-year-old high school teacher and mother of four from Taft, Tennessee, began her journey just above Knoxville in 1999. Her goal is to raise public awareness about the need to protect the river.

"Many people take the river for granted and may not realize that their actions, not just on or near the water but anywhere in the watershed, can be harmful to the river," Hughes says. "I hope that my effort will get people interested in learning what they can do to help protect the precious, life-sustaining waters of our planet."

Hughes has swum about 510 miles in four years to reach Decaturville, Tennessee, where she ended her swim this year. She expects to complete the 652-mile journey next summer.

To see a day-by-day journal recounting Hughes's experience on the river, visit www.riverswim.com.

Sport Fishing Index Ratings

Where to Go for Black Bass, Bluegill, and Crappie

Early Monitoring Reveals Record-High Chlorophyll Levels

Based on preliminary monitoring results, 2002 could be another record year for chlorophyll levels on many reservoirs.

Of the 59 locations sampled by TVA in April, May, and June, 48 had higher average chlorophyll concentrations than last year, and 23 had the highest average concentrations since TVA began monitoring in 1990.

Chlorophyll determines the amount of algae in the water. A healthy community of algae is important to the aquatic food web, but too much can affect water clarity, oxygen levels, and water treatment costs. In extreme cases, potentially harmful blooms of algae and imbalances in aquatic species can occur.

The weather has been a contributing factor. Although rainfall has been below normal, localized storm events have washed large amounts of nutrients into the water, leading to extremely high chlorophyll concentrations in many reservoirs. At the same time, near-record low flows on the main river have given algae more time to become established.

TVA monitors a variety of reservoir health indicators. Visit www.tva.com/environment/water for the latest information on conditions in your reservoir.

For anglers in the know, deciding where to drop a line involves more than just listening to the buzz down at the bait shop.

They frequently turn to science to help them decide where they have the best chance of catching their favorite types of fish. TVA and state fishery resource agencies created the Sport Fishing Index (SFI) precisely for that purpose. “It’s very gratifying to us that folks are using the Index ratings to improve their chances of fishing success,” says TVA Environmental Scientist Gary Hickman. “We’ve worked hard to ensure that the SFI data accurately reflect the quality of the fishery for different species in reservoirs throughout the Tennessee Valley region.”

SFI scores are based both on fish population characteristics (the number and size of fish collected in population studies) and information about angler use and success (the number of anglers looking for a particular type of fish and the number of that type they actually catch based on data collected by the states and—for black bass species—tournament results).

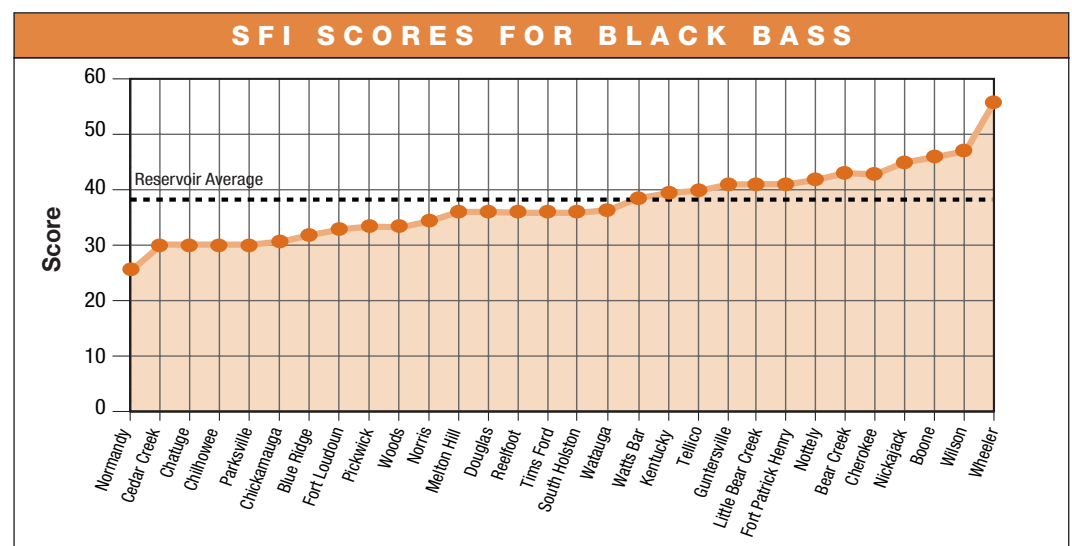
This information is scientifically weighted



Several factors affect a reservoir’s potential for developing a good fishery for a particular species, including the amount of nutrients in the water and the availability of suitable habitat.

and used in assigning a numerical score to each reservoir for each individual sport fish species. SFI scores range from a high of 60 (excellent) to a low of 20 (very poor).

According to Hickman, the collaborative effort between the state fishery resource agencies and TVA has been a “win-win” situation. “By sharing data, we’re able to put together a more complete picture of



Because ratings for black bass are derived from combining largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass scores, results for a single species can significantly affect the results for an entire reservoir. Cherokee’s rating is heavily influenced by largemouth, for example, and Bear Creek’s rating is based almost totally on the reservoir’s spotted bass population. Exceptionally high scores for Wheeler and Wilson Reservoirs in 2001 were based on thriving largemouth and smallmouth bass populations.

the status of the different fisheries,” he explains. “For example, we rely on their spring electrofishing data for bass and bluegill—as well as their trap-netting results for crappie. We both do fall gill-netting for catfish, sauger, walleye, etc. The states turn to us for our catch depletion results and data generated through the reservoir fish community assessments that are part of TVA’s Vital Signs Monitoring program.”

Hickman says that anglers can potentially use the SFI ratings in a couple of different ways. First, they may review the scores for a particular species to plan their next fishing trip: “Anglers who have typically fished in the same location for many years

may decide to try a new reservoir in hopes of improving their catch rate.” They may also use the ratings as hard evidence of the need to improve habitat on their reservoir—perhaps deciding to enlist the help of their fellow anglers to install some fish attractors. Hickman says there’s help available to folks willing to pitch in: “TVA Watershed Teams are a great source of information for those interested in projects to improve fishing.”

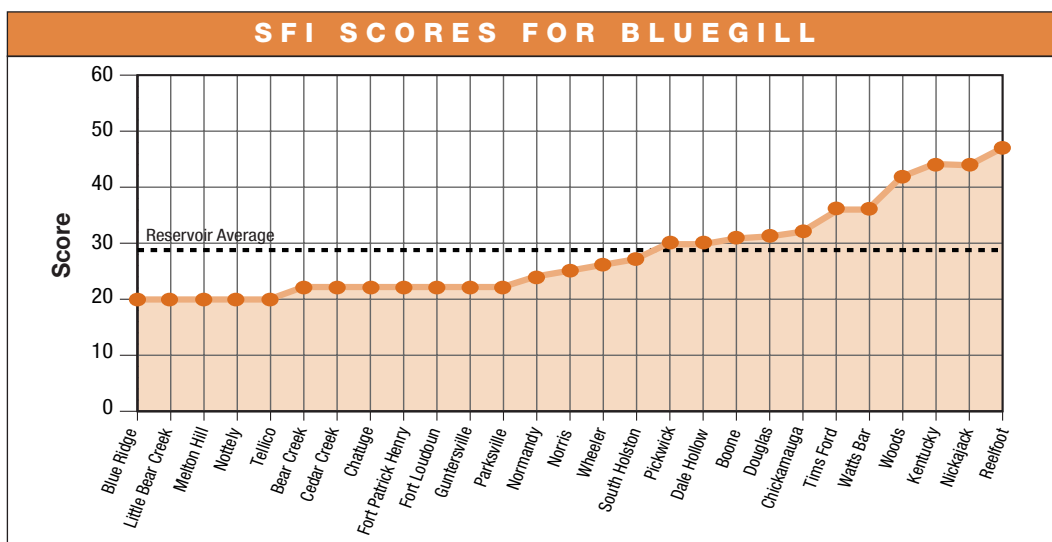
The graphs on these pages are based on data collected in 2001. Visit www.tva.com/environment/water for the latest SFI scores for other species, including white bass, striped bass, walleye/sauger, and channel catfish.

New Boater’s Guide

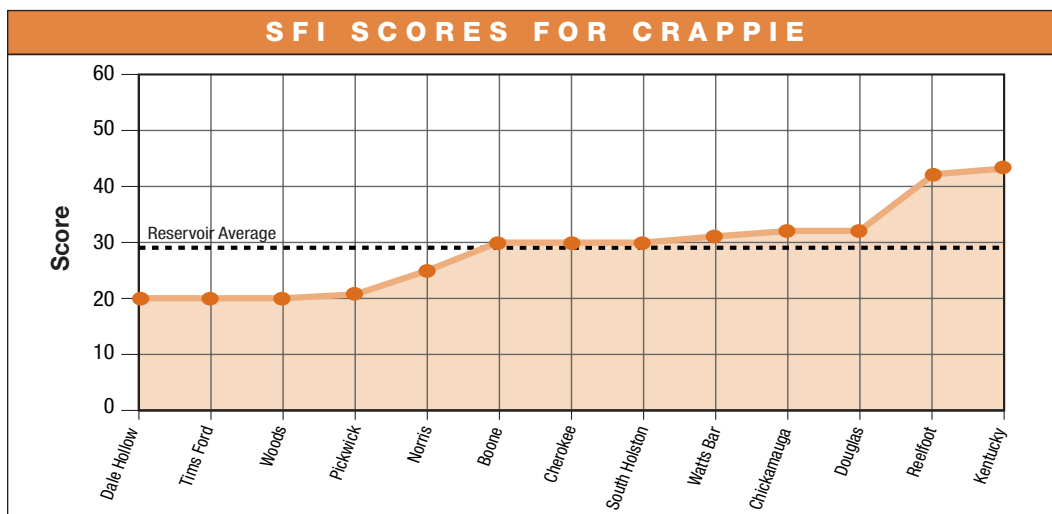
It’s everything you need to know about safely negotiating the waters of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers.

TVA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have just published a handy guide for recreational boaters. *Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers: A Boater’s Guide to Safe Travel* is packed with information on locking through, sharing the water with commercial vessels, and avoiding hazardous waters.

The free booklet also includes basic recreational boating guidelines, as well as phone numbers for all the Tennessee and Cumberland River locks, information on ordering navigation charts, and addresses for boater education Web sites. You may request a copy by calling TVA at 865-632-4678 or sending an e-mail to rjriberich@tva.gov.



Reelfoot, Nickajack, and Kentucky Reservoirs typically score high for bluegill because of their fertility—the amount of nutrients in the water. In contrast, the bluegill fishery in Melton Hill has been on the decline for the past several years.



With plenty of shallow water areas and an abundance of cover for spawning, Kentucky and Reelfoot score consistently high for crappie. Douglas is well-known for its winter crappie fishery, though it has fallen off somewhat in recent years.

TVA Holds Native American Consultation Workshop Working Together to Preserve The Past

What's new on tva.com?

Which TVA dams have visitor centers? What is the Bear Creek Floatway? How much electricity does Allen Fossil Plant generate? Which TVA reservoirs are noted for good fishing? How many nuclear plants does TVA have?

You'll find answers to these questions and much more at www.tva.com/sites. The page features an interactive map that will lead you to a wealth of information on power generation, recreational opportunities, and interesting bits of history for each TVA reservoir and power plant. Just click on the site names and you're on your way to a guided tour of the TVA system.



Waterfront sites in the Tennessee River Valley have been prime real estate for years—at least 11,000 years, say archaeologists. Early Valley residents settled near streams and rivers for many of the same reasons people do today: fertile bottom soil, convenient transportation, and bountiful fishing and hunting.

“Anywhere you have a tributary river you are going to have habitation sites along it,” says Russell Townsend, archaeologist with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Cultural Resources Office. “You’ll find some archaeological remains on the hilltops. But, in this region, the lion’s share is right there in TVA reservoirs.”

Bennett Graham, TVA’s Senior Archaeologist, agrees: “As steward of the Tennessee River system, TVA has a tremendous responsibility to protect these irreplaceable links to the past. We take this obligation very seriously and work in partnership with Native Americans to make sure that we do it right.”

Improving this partnership was the goal of the first-ever Native American Consultation Workshop hosted by TVA earlier this year. “TVA has worked with tribal representatives on archaeological resource issues for years,” explains Graham, “but this was the first time representatives of all 18 federally recognized tribes with historical ties to the lands in the seven-state power service area have been invited to meet with our Cultural Resources staff.”

An important focus of the workshop was a new federally mandated process requiring TVA to consult with the tribes



Consistent with federal regulations, TVA has implemented a program to conserve and protect significant archaeological sites along the riverbank through the placement of riprap—a permanent cover of rocks often used to stabilize shoreline. The riprap, which is delivered by barge, is carefully placed over the undisturbed site to protect it from erosion and looting.

regarding agency actions that may affect historic properties which they hold to be of cultural and religious significance. TVA is also required to notify the tribes regarding any burial sites that are identified on TVA property and to consult with the tribes on the care of all Native American remains and burial-related objects.

Significant progress was made in improving the consultation process during the day-and-a-half workshop, says Townsend. “It was an important meeting because it gave tribal representatives and TVA’s Cultural Resources people the opportunity to meet face to face and work out the kinks in the process we are both federally mandated to follow. The tribes also were able to provide input to TVA on geographical areas of interest within the TVA power service area.”

Another goal of the workshop was to make the tribal representatives aware of TVA’s efforts to stabilize and protect archaeological sites.

TVA has a long history of supporting archaeological investigations, explains Graham:

“TVA pioneered the concept of ‘salvage archaeology’ prior to reservoir construction, beginning with Norris Dam on the Clinch River. Construction was delayed until an archaeological survey was completed and excavations were conducted. Most of the artifacts collected over the years from TVA projects are housed at museums associated with the universities of Alabama and Tennessee.”

With the end of the dam construction era, TVA’s focus shifted from excavation to protecting and preserving archaeological sites. This year alone, TVA already has stabilized 19 critically eroding archaeological sites along approximately 1.5 miles of shoreline.

Townsend emphasizes the importance

of these protection efforts: “Prehistoric and historic Native American sites are nonrenewable and irreplaceable. By preserving them now, we can study them in the future if excavation becomes necessary. Archaeologists can gain a more complete understanding of who these people were and how they lived as long as artifacts are kept in the context in which they are found.

“TVA has been very good about balancing progress and their stewardship of lakes for recreation, power generation, navigation, and flood control with archaeological research and with the concerns of Native Americans,” adds Townsend. “We are very pleased with what TVA is doing.”

Hats Off to Cub Scout Pack 3111!



About 20 Cub Scouts and their families gave up a Saturday morning this summer to plant butterfly and hummingbird gardens at TVA’s Raccoon Mountain Pumped-Storage Plant near Chattanooga, Tennessee. The boys, from St. Jude Pack 3111, also are monitoring nesting boxes on the 3,000-acre reservation once a week during the breeding season as part of a national effort to measure the reproductive success of migratory birds. These and other wildlife activities at the Raccoon Mountain plant have been recognized by the Wildlife Habitat Council, a nonprofit group dedicated to helping large landowners, particularly corporations, manage their lands in an ecologically sensitive manner for the benefit of wildlife.

Recycle Your Leaves

Disposing of fall leaves—it’s on everybody’s list of chores this time of year. But no matter how convenient it may seem, leaves should never be dumped into streams or reservoirs. They add nutrients to the water, which can result in harmful algal blooms, increase mosquito production, and decrease the amount of oxygen in the water available for fish and other aquatic life. Consider recycling your yard waste instead.

Composting is a way to turn leaves, twigs, grass clippings, vines, and plant stalks, as well as certain kitchen waste, into healthy mulch and soil by accelerating the natural decay process.

Buy or build a compost bin. Then fill it with equal parts of brown compost (leaves, straw, sawdust) and green compost (grass clippings, fruit and vegetable scraps). Mix in a few shovelfuls of soil to introduce some extra microbes and add enough water to keep the pile about as moist as a squeezed-out sponge. Then simply turn it periodically to introduce oxygen.

More information on composting is available on the Web. A good place to start is www.greenworks.tv.



Reservoir Study Moves Forward Analysis of Operating Alternatives Begins

TVA River Neighbors is published three times a year for people who live near and use the Tennessee River, its tributaries, and reservoirs.

Send comments and suggestions to Editor, TVA River Neighbors, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 10D, Knoxville, TN 37902.

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The first phase of TVA's Reservoir Operations Study, known as scoping, is now complete. TVA sought and received input from thousands of citizens across the Tennessee Valley on how they value the multiple benefits provided by the reservoir system and on the issues the study should address.

"TVA now has a sound basis for identifying alternatives for how the system might be managed," according to Project Manager David Nye. "The next step is to analyze these alternatives in light of what we've heard during scoping to understand the potential consequences of changing our current operations."

On tributary reservoirs, TVA will examine the consequences of changing maximum and/or minimum summer pool elevations; raising winter pool elevations; filling reservoirs to summer levels earlier; delaying the



unrestricted drawdown until later in the year; replacing the unrestricted drawdown with a restricted or stepped drawdown; providing tailwater flows to support fishing and boating below TVA dams; and modifying the rate of flood storage recovery.

Policy options affecting main-river reservoirs include changing winter and/or summer pool elevations, filling reservoirs to summer levels earlier, and delaying the summer drawdown until later in the year.

TVA also will examine the potential impacts of increasing minimum flows to improve water quality and biodiversity and of decreasing power generating costs and increasing power system reliability.

For a copy of the scoping report, visit www.tva.com.