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TN Clean Water Network Nationally Recognized for Outstanding Water Protection

2007 American Canoe Assoc. Green Paddle Award Winner

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(Knoxville, TN) Tennessee Clean Water Network is the 2007 recipient of the American Canoe Association's Green Paddle Award for Waterway Conservation. The award is presented annually to an individual or a group that has made an outstanding contribution to Paddlesport by protecting America's waterways. TCWN is located in Knoxville and serves as the only statewide organization solely dedicated to protecting water quality.

"The Tennessee Clean Water Network is honored to receive the Green Paddle Award. We hope this recognition will inspire others to join us in claiming Tennesseans right to clean water," stated Renée Hoyos, TCWN Executive Director.

The nomination cited TCWN's dedication to championing statewide solutions to pollution problems affecting the majority of Tennesseans. The organization works with communities to immediately respond to water pollution threats and utilizes these community experiences to inform its statewide policy program.

"The Tennessee Clean Water Network is one of the most effective statewide river conservation organizations in the country," stated Paul Sanford, Acting Executive Director for the American Canoe Association.

"The Network's tireless efforts help to secure safe drinking water for Tennessee citizens and high-quality recreation opportunities for people throughout the southeastern United States," added Sanford.

Some of the Tennessee Clean Water Network's successes cited in the nomination form include:

2007: Authoring the Tennessee Clean Water Act of 2007 to streamline the enforcement process and fund water protection from the pockets of polluters. The public access portion of this bill passed unanimously and now TDEC posts all enforcement actions on the web so those charged with making decisions on how to use our water resource will have access to an applicant's pollution history. The Act is alive for the 2008 legislative session.

2006: TCWN creates a new program "Build the River Movement" that seeks to empower the community to claim their right to clean water. This program works directly with communities

facing threats to their clean water resources by providing consultations on campaign planning, media, educating decision makers, fundraising and public hearing preparation.

2005: TCWN wrote and helped to pass groundbreaking state legislation to give third parties the right to appeal pollution permits. This right is required under the Clean Water Act. However, until 2005 this right was denied to Tennesseans.

2004: Successfully settled with the Knoxville Utility Board to eliminate all sanitary sewer overflows in 10 years, the most stringent consent decree in the nation. As a result of the settlement KUB commitment to forming the PACE10 program to update the public on their clean up schedule.

2003: Tapoco FERC Relicensing returns 10,000 acres of land to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. TCWN played a role in secured \$100,000 a year for 40 years for restoration projects on those lands, recreational flows on the Cheoah River.

TCWN would like to thank our Rockwood, TN member Steve Scarborough for submitting the application form that resulted in this national distinction.

The American Canoe Association Awards Banquet will be held on November 3rd in Panama City Beach, Florida. For more information visit www.americancanoe.org

The Tennessee Clean Water Network organizes Tennesseans to claim our right to clean water and healthy communities by fostering civic engagement, building coalitions and advancing water policy. For more information visit www.tcwn.org or call 865-522-7007

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