

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

Clarence Coffey named Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award winner for his environmental work

NASHVILLE – Influential conservationist Clarence Coffey has been named winner of the 2024 Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award, part of the Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Awards administered by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).

The announcement was made on October 18 at the annual awards luncheon at the Franklin Marriott.

“Clarence Coffey embodies the spirit of conservation,” said TDEC Commissioner David Salyers. “He not only recognizes steps necessary to protect our natural resources but has been an innovator in how to address big problems. Our state has benefited greatly from his long career of work.”

Coffey’s work has influenced methods in conservation now recognized by leading experts in multiple fields of study. In a long career spanning many titles and accomplishments, Coffey is known most for creating a prescribed fire as a solution to a massive outbreak of the Southern Pine Beetle that killed pine trees across the Southeast in the early 2000s. The beetle took its toll on a large stand of old growth shortleaf pine trees, including a large stand of trees at the Catoosa Wildlife Manage-



Clarence Coffey

ment Area.

At Coffey’s urging, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency implemented a prescribed fire in salvaged areas of the Catoosa WMA, an October action that became known as the Halloween Burn, resulting in a surge of native grasses and wildflowers emerging not long after the fire. The response became an awakening about the need to thin a forest canopy and apply fire to the landscape, a practice Catoosa managers repeated. Within a few years, lots of shortleaf pine reproduction, native grasses and herbaceous layer emerged. The

strategy created awareness of the need to use Coffey’s approach throughout the Southeast.

Coffey collaborated with Gary Myers, then TWRA director, in the acquisition of 4,000 acres from the Bridgestone Firestone Corporation in White and Van Buren counties that became the Big Bottom Wildlife Management Area, north of Fall Creek Falls State Park.

From an early age, Coffey roamed the rivers and “hollers” of Roane County, where he was raised. His love of the nature led him to Tennessee Technological University, where he obtained an

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agricultural bachelor’s degree. Shortly after graduating, the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission hired him to work as a wildlife officer in Carroll County.

After a reorganization of the commission in 1974 into the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Coffey became Assistant Law Enforcement Supervisor over all southeastern Tennessee, later becoming Information and Education Specialist in TWRA’s Region 3 office in Crossville. In the mid-80s, Coffey advocated for active, professional forest management on TWRA wildlife management areas, and in 1984 with urging from him and others, TWRA implemented a forest management

initiative at the Catoosa WMA in Cumberland County. Coffey became Assistant Regional Manager in 1994, and in a few years his forest management skills led to the Halloween Burn.

Coffey became part of academic endeavors – inside and outside Tennessee – on topics surrounding restoration of native ecosystems, grasslands, and shortleaf pine throughout the Southeast. Although retired from TWRA, Coffey’s outreach continued to foster significant interest in shortleaf pine ecosystems and the forgotten grasslands of the Southeast, which harbor many of the most endangered plants and animals in the country.

In 2008, Coffey met Dr. Dwayne Estes, a professor at Austin Peay State University, at a Natural Areas Association conference in Nashville. Estes learned from Coffey and saw the need for a larger collaborative effort to research and restore Southeastern grasslands, the most imperiled ecosystems in eastern North America, which harbor many of the most endangered plants and animals in the country. Estes launched the Southeastern Grasslands Institute (SGI), a collaboration of leaders in international biodiversity conservation.

The first interagency and inter-

state meeting on range-wide shortleaf pine restoration was held in 2010 in North Carolina. Forest managers from federal and state agencies and other organizations met to discuss the future of the rapidly declining species. The Shortleaf Pine Initiative came from it, a multi-agency, multi-organizational collaboration across 22 states. The United States Forest Service contracted the retired Coffey to travel throughout the historic range to speak at landowner meetings and lead field trips.

To this day, Coffey is a booster and expert who reaches out to all potential stakeholders, spreading the word, and catalyzing cooperation and progress in conservation. Conservationists are fortunate to have his friendship and leadership.

Naturalist Robert Sparks Walker, namesake of the award, was a founder the Chattanooga Audubon Society. He turned his childhood home and surrounding farmland into a wildlife sanctuary. Among his many writings, he published “Torchlights to the Cherokees: The Brainerd Mission” in 1931, gaining a nomination for the Pulitzer Prize. Walker was editor of the magazine The Southern Fruit Grower and wrote a weekly column in the Chattanooga Times. He died in 1960 at age 82.

November 11th is Veterans Day. Let us pay tribute to those who sacrificed for America’s Freedom.

The General to host a variety of family-friendly activities at the first-ever Winter showcase ... from sports page 1

season - starting with the Winter Showcase Fan Day."

The General is giving fans a chance to win an exclusive Winter Showcase experience through its Winter Break Sweepstakes. One lucky winner and a guest will have the opportunity to win roundtrip flights and overnight accommodations in Orlando, as well as two tickets to the Winter Showcase Fan Day. For more details or to enter, visit The General's NBA G League Partnership page before December 2, 2024.

"Throughout our partnership, The General has brought fans closer to our game with unique

storytelling and engagement opportunities, and we're thrilled to expand our relationship to bring The General's fan-first approach to the Winter Showcase," said George Wilson, Head of Partnerships at the NBA G League. "I'm confident that this expanded collaboration will not only continue to spotlight the incredible talent in our league but also give our fans unparalleled access to the G League's exciting brand of basketball through The Break Season 3."

The expanded collaboration builds on the multi-year marketing partnership announced in 2022, which made The General

the exclusive auto-insurance provider of the NBA G League. The General will continue to serve as the presenting partner of "The Break, presented by The General," the G League's award-winning docuseries that captures the intense and inspiring journeys of G League players chasing their dreams to get their break in the NBA.

The third season of "The Break, presented by The General" will debut in December, with all episodes available to view on the G League's YouTube channel. Featuring dynamic Mexico City Capitanes' Dink Pate, among other players to be later an-

nounced, the upcoming season will include candid interviews and behind-the-scenes footage, once again revealing the reality of the challenges and personal sacrifices required for athletes to play at this level.

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About NBA G League The NBA's official minor league, the NBA G League prepares players, coaches, officials, training and front-office staff for the NBA while acting as the league's research and development laboratory. Featuring 31 teams, 30 with direct affiliations to NBA franchises for 2024-25, the league offers elite professional basketball at an affordable price in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere. More than half of all players on end-of-season 2023-24 NBA rosters boasted NBA G League experience. In fostering the league's connection to the community, its teams, players and staff promote health and wellness, support local needs and interests, and assist in educational development through NBA Cares programs.

The General Winter Break Sweepstakes Disclosure NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.

Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries. Enter from 9:00 AM (EST) on 10/30/24 to 11:59:59 PM (PST) on 12/1/24. Employees, contractors, directors, officers, and agents of The General or NBAGL Entities and their respective affiliates, distributors, web design, advertising, and immediate family and household members of each not eligible. Legal entities not eligible. Must agree to Official Rules. Must be US legal resident & 18+ to enter. Void in IN, KY, ME, MA, MN, RI, WA, US territories, Guam, and where prohibited by law. Approx. retail value of prize is \$3,300. 1 entry per person. Official Rules at thegeneral.com/blog/winter-break-sweepstakes Sponsored by The General Auto Insurance Services, Inc., 2636 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214.

Brig. Gen. Charles Young Historical Corridor Signage Unveiling from sports-Military 2

ernor Andy Beshear and Governor Mike DeWine for signing the Bills that made the ceremony possible. Senator Gerald Neal and Representative George Brown represented Kentucky. Ohio was represented by Legislator Terrence Upchurch, and Ronald C. Todd, II, Chief of Social Impact and Opportunity External Operations. In attendance representing the Young Family was Denese Johnson, Dennis, and Sherry Russell. The cabin

committee was represented by its chairperson James L. Gallenstein, former Kentucky Representative Mike Denham, Reverend L. Rodney Bennett, and Retired Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Cordingly. We also acknowledge representatives from both states prominent Black History Museums, the Cincinnati Underground Railroad, and the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage for their participation. The Underground

Railroad was represented by Novella Nimmo-Black, Manager of Community Engagement and Special Projects and Aukram Burton, executive director of the Louisville Kentucky Heritage Center.

We hope to see you on the Corridor.

You may contact Charles Blatcher at cnmmmf@aol.com

Tigers defeat Missouri in season opener from sports page 1

and Trent Pierce each added 13 points, while Aidan Shaw chipped in 11.

The visiting Tigers shot 45.6 percent overall (26-57) and hit 7-of-24 from long range. The Tigers will hit the road later

in the week when they travel to Las Vegas on Saturday to take on the UNLV Runnin' Rebels in a 7 p.m. CT showdown on the Mountain West Digital Network. Memphis will then return home to host Ohio on November 15.

For complete information on Memphis Tiger Men's Basketball, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.



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