



# SWPBA Newsletter 2011 - Tennessee

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## Message from the President

### Howdy from Tennessee,

Hope everyone is having a wonderful and productive summer. This year's meeting is starting to come together. We are planning on organizing the meeting by topics into modules with panel discussions following the related talks. A few of the sessions we are planning are biological responses to disasters, mercury, mining, and climate change.

The 2011 Annual SWPBA Meeting will be November 15 – 17, 2011 at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns, TN which is about 40 miles west of Nashville. Room rates are \$68 (+ tax) and a couple of villas are available for \$155 (+tax). Please identify yourself as part of the SWPBA meeting and specify code 5830 when you make your reservation. Reservations need to be made by October 10<sup>th</sup>. This beautiful state park has over 18 miles of hiking trails, 20 miles of mountain biking trails, golfing, three lakes with great fishing and boats, without outboard motors, are allowed on two of the lakes. Additional details can be found at: <http://tn.gov/environment/parks/MontgomeryBell/index.shtml>. There is another nearby State Park, Harpeth River, with unique natural and historical areas including The Narrows, Newsome's Mill, Hidden Lake, Mace Bluff and Mound Bottom. For more information see the parks website at: <http://tn.gov/environment/parks/HarpethRiver/index.shtml>.

Now is the time to issue a formal call for papers. Debbie has done a great job putting together a draft agenda and selecting topics that she knows are issues for our states. Some of the topic include: climate change, biological responses to natural and unnatural disasters, such as droughts, floods, oil spills, ash spills, and hurricanes, mercury air deposition and mercury dripping from bridges, mining impacts, emerging pollutants or old pollutants of concern, endangered or threatened species, headwaters, wetlands, periphyton and probabilistic monitoring. A draft agenda can be found on our website at [www.SWPBA.org](http://www.SWPBA.org). If you would like to give a presentation on any of the topics, please let Debbie know. Of course all topics are welcome, so if there is something else you would like to present, we will work it into the agenda.

I want to personally thank Joy Jackson, Cheryl Swanson and all the other Florida Department of Environmental Protection folks who helped with the 2010 meeting in Tallahassee, for all their hard work. Since that meeting, they have been a great help in passing along the information we needed to put together the 2011 meeting. Also, I wish to thank, Brandon Moody with Georgia Department of Natural Resources, who has been a life saver with website.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Secretary, Debbie Arnwine, who has done an amazing job organizing the meeting and keeping me focused. None of this could have even gotten started without the extraordinary organizational skills of Linda Cartwright, who has managed all the details with park, contracts, hosting, and planning. Jimmy Smith, Amy Fritz, and Sharon Kingston have also provided immeasurable assistance with planning and networking.

Please start thinking about who you would like to nominate for the SWPBA Biologist of the Year Award and SWPBA Lifetime Achievement Award. We are blessed with so many dedicated, passionate members it will be hard to choose. Nomination procedures and criteria can be found on our website at [www.SWPBA.org](http://www.SWPBA.org) on the "About SWPBA" page.



The centerpiece for this year's t-shirt is the gorgeous new giant crayfish, *Barbicambarus simmonsii*, which was recently discovered in Shoal Creek in southern middle Tennessee. Here's an article about our new celebrity: <http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/science/2011/01/giant-crayfish-species-found-in-tennessee>.

I've decided to go with full color digital printing on the front of t-shirts incorporating the drawing at the top of the top of this newsletter. A negative of going with a full color digital printing is that it has to be on a light colored shirt. The printers I've talked to like white, but I hate white, so it will be printed on a light blue shirt. Also, it is cost prohibitive to digitally print on 2 sides, so it will just be a front design. This year in addition to the usual unisex

size short sleeve and long sleeve, we will offer women's sizes short sleeve shirts.

Again this year we will have a photo contest, so start looking through your pictures for your favorites. This year's categories will be: aquatic critters, terrestrial, scenic and funniest. Please select only one picture per category and email to Debbie Arnwine by October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your patience and hopefully we will see you in a few months.

Kim Sparks