



## BHA Tennessee Chapter Newsletter - Spring 2026

### FROM THE BOARD >>>

Hunters and anglers across Tennessee know what's at stake when it comes to the future of our wild public lands and waters. From the hardwood ridges of the Cumberland Plateau to the trout streams of the Great Smoky Mountains and the wetlands along the Mississippi River, a critical decision is being made that could impact access, habitat, and the outdoor traditions we hold dear.

We need you to raise your voice. Decision makers are listening — and when BHA members take action, we make an impact.

Whether you're in the woods calling in that big gobbler, casting for smallmouth on a Tennessee river, or gathered around the table with family and friends, the freedom to hunt and fish on public lands is worth fighting for. Let's show our elected officials that our community is united in defending what matters most.

Thank you for standing with us,

Courtney Grantham  
Tennessee Chapter Secretary  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

### UPCOMING EVENTS >>>



#### **Miners Branch at Unaka Springs Packout**

Location No Business Knob, Cherokee  
Nat'l Forest; Meet up @ Food City,  
[North Industrial Drive Erwin, TN 37650](https://www.foodcity.com/locations/erwin-tn)

**Date: April 4th 9am - 1pm**

Its spring time, that means it's time to get out and clean up Cherokee National Forest before Turkey season! Miners Branch is located along the old Unaka Springs Rd (FS 107) going into No Business Knob CNF. It has had heavy use over the years w/ ATVs and the old home site at Miners Branch has been used as a dumping ground for trash. We are looking to go in and along FS107 get as much trash out

of there as we can. Please bring a good pair of leather gloves, good boots and a rain jacket. Trash Bags provided.

Friends of the Cherokee National Forest will be teaming up with TN Backcountry Hunters and Anglers for this event. Its open to everyone, if you're not familiar with TNBHA come on out help and find out about us!

We will meet at Food City, get a plan going and carpool into Miners Branch. Please follow link to RSVP and don't forget to sign that digital waiver. We will spend a couple of hours picking up trash and then get it to the area trash centers.

Afterwards if anyone wants to we can meet up at Red Fork Restaurant on Main Street in Erwin for lunch.

Chris Lennon 423.943.4378 please txt and I will contact you back if you have any questions.

**[CLICK HERE to RSVP](#)** so we know you're coming, and we look forward to making an impact!

See you then!

## STEWARDSHIP >>>



In March, our Middle TN Members participated in a tree planting event put on by local Kentuckian Kevin Murphy's non-profit, Jackson Purchase Foundation at Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area. This was a successful stewardship project with 2,000 Cypress trees planted. Pictures below of LBL Tree Planting Event, March 2026.



## Chapter News >>>

### **SENATE BILL 2187**

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, which manages over 1.6 million acres of public land across Tennessee, is currently experiencing a funding shortfall.

In response, the Tennessee BHA chapter has issued an action alert regarding Tennessee Senate Bill 2187. This legislation would help address the funding gap by requiring 10 percent of the payments made to the state from the Tennessee Valley Authority in lieu of taxes to be allocated to the Wildlife Resources Fund, supporting boating access and wildlife management efforts.

The bill has already passed the Energy, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee and is now awaiting a vote in the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee.

## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES >>>

We are seeking dedicated members to join the Chapter Board. As a board member, you'll help cultivate a positive impact on public lands and waters conservation through guiding events, growing membership, and driving conservation projects that protect the wild places we all love.

If you're ready to bring your skills and passion to the forefront of public lands advocacy, we'd love to hear from you.

We need your help to keep our public lands and waters thriving!

Here are a few ways you can get involved:

- Social Media/Marketing
- Western TN Board Rep – Memphis area

**Email us at [Tennessee@backcountryhunters.org](mailto:Tennessee@backcountryhunters.org) to get involved!**

## VOLUNTEER >>>

We need your help to keep our public lands and waters thriving! How can you be involved? Be sure to attend our public land events and be sure to invite your friends and family! Engage with us on social media, and please let us know if you have any suggestions or public lands/waters concerns!

Thanks!

## NATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS >>>



## Protect the Boundary Waters

The Boundary Waters is the most visited Wilderness Area on the continent, and once again it needs your voice.

We urge you to contact your representatives and ask them to oppose [HJ Res. 140](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) for more Information and to Take Action now!



The days are getting longer. That can only mean one thing: Suns Out, Guns Out. Grab your entries now for 11 premium firearms from Weatherby and Savage Arms. Enter early and you'll stay in the running to win now through April 30.

Every entry supports Backcountry Hunters & Anglers' work to protect wild public lands, waters, and wildlife.

Don't miss your shot.

Enter here:

<https://go.bhafundraising.org/sunsout26>

## MEMBERSHIP >>>

Are you ready to be the voice for your public lands, waters, and wild places? Join BHA Today, and be that voice for all hunters & anglers that use our shared places!

**[CLICK HERE TO JOIN TODAY](#)**