

Tim Myrick Works to Make Things Better

“Tim Myrick is someone who really works at making the world a better place.” DOE liaison to ORSSAB Dave Adler nailed it when he made that statement.

The list of things Tim is involved in to help people and the environment is as long as an NBA player’s arm.

He’s president of the board of directors of Aid to Distressed Families in Appalachian Counties; he’s raised and contributed money to buy a Red Cross relief van that is used to prepare meals at disaster sites; he works with the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief; he’s been on the board of the Nature Conservancy of Tennessee; and he’s been on the board of the Anderson County Habitat for Humanity, plus he spends two to three days a week building homes for Habitat.

Tim is a member of Trout Unlimited and does stream repair, bank protection work, and river cleanup. He’s taught Sunday school to high school students for about 20 years. He’s mentored a number of teenagers in woodworking projects in his basement workshop. He’s been a Big Brother to a young man with whom he still maintains contact. “I’m about ready to take on another youngster,” he says. “It’s time to do that again.”

He works with a program called Living Waters for the World to help small Central American communities purify and bottle drinking water. He’s working to set up a network to do similar work in local, individual wells in Appalachian communities.

Tim will harvest 50 to 100 Christmas trees each year off his 5-acre spread in Heiskell and donate them to non-profit organizations for fund raising projects.

“The whole point of taking early retirement was to be able to do all this stuff,” he says.

A native of Liberal, Kansas, Tim received a bachelor’s degree from



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Kansas State in nuclear engineering. He earned a master’s degree from the University of Florida in environmental engineering with a minor in health physics.

One of his first jobs when he came to Oak Ridge in 1977 at Scientific Applications International (now SAIC) was to develop environmental impact statements for sites in Louisiana and Mississippi to build pipelines to salt domes for the national petroleum strategic reserve.

But most of his career at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), as well as assignments at East Tennessee Technology Park, Y-12, and at SAIC, was related to some aspect of

environmental restoration and waste management operations. Tim started the cleanup programs at ORNL and was the first environmental management programs director for the five DOE sites in Oak Ridge, Paducah, Ky., and Portsmouth, Ohio.

But when UT-Battelle took over management of ORNL, Tim was placed in charge of the east campus revitalization project, overseeing the construction of six new buildings. That led to him being loaned out to oversee the beginning of the Oak Ridge High School renovation.

Tim retired shortly after joining the ORSSAB in 2004.

“I wanted to get on the board to stay engaged with some of the cleanup work that I initially started at the lab. And there are always at least one or two topics that come up each year that I want to be involved in as an issue manager.”

In the meantime, he and wife Teresa stay busy with community projects and work at Jericho Farms.

“Teresa has an herb business, and we raise blackberries, flowers, and vegetables that we sell at festivals and the Oak Ridge farmer’s market. I also build and sell Adirondack chairs and other wood projects.” Plus they like to hike and canoe and fly fish.

Even with all he’s involved in, Tim Myrick has been a productive member of ORSSAB. Well, they always say if you want to get something done, ask someone who’s busy.