

Tennes - Sierran

The Bi-Monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 50, Number 3 - May/June 2017

Our wilderness ethic shows us at our best

by Davis Mounger

On the occasion of the recent Miller Park Protect Our Parks Rally in Chattanooga, sponsored by the Cherokee Group, Sierra Club; Tennessee Heartwood; Tennessee Wild; and the Wilderness Society.

It is important that we remember what our magnificent public lands system is for beyond our personal enjoyment. Yes, we enjoy scenery, recreation, fun, and sport, but when we look up at the towering cliffs in the headwaters of the Gila River in New Mexico, or are trekking through the Citico here in Monroe County, other feelings and experiences can overtake us. There's sometimes feelings of awe, but also of contemplation, of smallness, or even a bit of fear of being far from convenience and comfort, where a whole new set of challenges begin.

It's because we're now in another world. And that world is no longer about us. We're in a world that belongs to the bobcat, the table mountain pine, the Ivory Billed Woodpecker that we hope will come back, the dangers of the cliffline that are sublime and unforgiving, the preciousness of a few drops of water from a spring in a summer's drought. It's nature's world, one that we have made smaller through caprice and greed every year, but luckily still remains.

In that world you can get lost. It's where you tread lightly because the bear or the cougar or your own carelessness can force you to think quickly. I'm very grateful it is there, and I hope you are, too, for as Edward Abbey said, "Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit, and as vital to our lives as water and good bread."

A century and a half ago, some people with foresight saw that such a world was important but disappearing fast, and decided to do something about it, and the American Conservation ethic was born -- giving us the gifts of National Parks, National Forests, and the

rest of our federal lands system. At first they were the places out West that man hadn't claimed and changed much, then in the East, logged and degraded lands were bought and allowed to heal. And more importantly, all that life that depends on that world got to live on borrowed time.

And as the people began to explore our bounty in the 20th century, we came to an even richer understanding of what Conservation was, and that led to the Wilderness Act, which enshrined that ethic into law.

And that ethic was new in the modern world, because its doctrine was different from the idea of mere scenic beauty or the economics of game and timber reserves. That ethic was written as a law, but it was also an admonition. As the text of the Wilderness Act says, it is important for us to preserve places "where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," knowing all too well that our best laid plans often lead to ruin. For the first time, we had a law that said, Lord Man, back off. Be humble. The whole world isn't your plaything. Step away from your dominion fantasies. Your aesthetic biases of what beauty is, or what is supposedly useful and useless in nature, your obsession with control. Your need to have monuments everywhere to yourself.

Remove that heavy hand from your dominion, Lord man. The wild is not a landscape, but a living, complex world.

And written into that ethic is an acknowledgement that wilderness moves to its rhythm not ours, changes on its time, not ours, has its own ebbs, flows, and dangers. And knowing that we believe that we can control almost everything, we put away our best laid plans and tools that we would impose on these places, and let that world live on its own terms.

It takes sober reflection for a people to embrace

such an ethic. Reflection, humility, the sanctity of nature, and the right for all its creatures to live - those are the marks of a mature people.

Our ethic is one that looks past the postcard aesthetic of nature. We now see that deserts, swamps, flood plains, pine barrens and glades, all have an intrinsic value beyond our prejudices of what is scenic, beautiful, or important. That each of those places nurse complex ecosystems that are fragile and that we barely understand, and our need to tread lightly comes from realizing the we may never will.

Yet every year there are those who seek to undermine this ethic, who wish to exploit or sell off our conservation heritage, with claims of "better management," "efficiency," or "improving the landscape." It's easy to see through the rhetoric to the greed for timber or oil, or what could be valuable real estate, but it's also about control. It's about fear of letting nature, and time, be the artist. It's a cop out and a retreat from the philosophy that has made our federal lands system an exemplar to other nations. In the last century when so many emerging countries have worked to develop a land ethic of their own, they have looked to ours. Some nations have emulated our bicameral legislature, others our judiciary, or perhaps our universities, but it can't be stressed enough how so many have admired our philosophy of conservation. Whether Botswana, Costa Rica, or Nepal, the American wilderness ethic is now a part of their environmentalism and their law. Not the sculpted gardens of kings or royal game preserves that is stunted nature, but the preservation of ecosystems is the model that these nations follow. So many countries have taken up the words of Wilderness Act author Howard Zahniser that as stewards of the earth, we should be guardians, not gardeners.

Every year those who wish to destroy this heritage become alternately louder, alarmist, or subtle. They

Continued on page 8..

Looking Ahead: Tennessee Chapter Summer Retreat July 21 - 23, 2017 at Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park

Come enjoy the company and interaction with environmental leaders from across the state. Join us on hikes, star gazing, and interesting chats. Meet others that share your respect for natural resources and appreciation of wild spaces. Engage in the fellowship, interpretive walks, swimming in Kentucky Lake, and clear night skies. Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park is known for fishing, birding, hiking and swimming. It has 25 miles of hiking trails ranging in length from ¼ mile to 20 miles. Trails wind through hardwood bottoms uphill through oak-hickory forests. Over 85 species of birds have been reported from the park.

Weekend Features:

- Friday evening- casual arrivals. Sit and chat with new friends (Bring your own adult beverages if you wish.). Enjoy the fresh country air. Find a gap in the trees to view the stars, or take a short drive down to the beach for a better view.
- Saturday morning and afternoon- Nature hikes led by State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepeth (<https://goo.gl/U0eXlJ>)
- indoor activities will be arranged if the weather is not cooperating.
- Or go to the Beach and swim in Kentucky Lake.
- Saturday evening - music by Antoinette Olesen and her singing partner Buddy. Olesen is a singer and award winning songwriter who has worked independently and collaboratively with several Music Row publishing companies including Writer Zone and Ash Street Music. She has also toured with many artists including Sheryl Crow, Paula Abdul, and Gloria Estefan among others.
- Saturday night- some stay up late and strategize- "How are we going to make lemons out of the lemons we are dealing with in DC?"
- Sunday morning- Nature hike with Randy Hedgepeth OR Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee business meeting

- Sunday noon departure- Everybody pitches in to help with clean-up after 11am Sunday.

Arrival Details & Reservations:

Find your way to the Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park Group Lodge which has separate bunkhouses, bathrooms and showers. Check in begins Friday after 5 PM. Early bird reservation fee is \$50.00 per person for the entire weekend which includes Saturday & Sunday breakfast plus Saturday dinner (bring your own Saturday lunch). Pay by check or cash upon arrival. Registrations after July 14th are \$60.00 (We need to buy the food on the 15th). Specify vegetarian or omnivore when you confirm. Special 1/2 price for first time attendees, children under 15 are free and several scholarships are available with advance approval. Partial attendance pricing: Saturday meals \$30.00; Sunday breakfast \$10.00; attendance only registration \$5.00. Chickasaw Group is hosting. Contact is Dennis Lynch 901-361-8029 or chickasawSierra@gmail.com

Remember To Bring:

Sturdy shoes, weather appropriate clothes, bathing suit, favorite beverages, midday lunches, trail snacks, reusable water bottle, toiletries, towels, pillow and sleeping bag or bunk bed linens.

MAPS AND MORE INFO ABOUT THE PARK (GPS = 36.0858, -87.9811)

Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park- General information about the park (Note- Make your reservations with the Sierra Club and not with the park): <https://goo.gl/3sp0aT>

Geo-referenced PDF Map (Cost: \$0.99):

<https://goo.gl/ug6lqq>

Low-resolution Printable Trail Map (Free):

<https://goo.gl/t9YjgC>

Interactive Digital Park Finder Map (Free):

<https://goo.gl/LUwHwI>

Tennessee Chapter Fall Retreat Pickett State Park October 27th thru 29th

Come north this fall, for a wonderful weekend in Pickett State Park, the first state park in the Southeast to be certified a dark sky viewing location by the International Dark Sky Association. Mark your calendars now!

Come join the fellowship, hikes, campfire and star gazing.

Pickett's 19,200 acres, with many interesting geologic features, adjoin the newly designated Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area and the 120,000-acre Big South Fork National Scenic River and Recreation Area.

We stay in the Group Camp, with a large dining hall and separate heated bunkhouses, or you can pitch your tent nearby. Early bird reservation fee is \$50 which includes Sat & Sun breakfast plus Sat night dinner.

Specify vegetarian or omnivore when you confirm. Everybody pitches in to help with meals and cleanup before Sunday checkout. Special 1/2 price for first time attendees; children 15 and under are free and several scholarships are available with advance approval.

Cherokee Group is hosting this Fall Chapter Retreat. For further information contact Barbara Hurst at barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com or 423-886-9503.

Tennes-Sierran

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail

*Address changes are processed much faster if you include your Sierra Club membership number. To find your membership number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: c.demetreon@mchsi.com and
sean.m.rinehart@gmail.com

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is March 31st for the May/June 2017 issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to c.demetreon@mchsi.com and sean.m.rinehart@gmail.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files. Attached files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in Pages.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or a .tif file format then either attached to e-mail or mailed via U.S. Postal Service on a 3 1/2" diskette or CD RM. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.

3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted: however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.

4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

5. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Tennessee Chapter Ombudsman, Joel Gearhardt at jgearhardt@yahoo.com. The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

**Target Date for the
July/August Issue is
May 31, 2017.**

**All meetings and outings
notices, articles, and
photographs
should be in by then.**

**Send material to
Chris Demetreon at
c.demetreon@mchsi.com
and
Sean Rinehart at
sean.m.rinehart@gmail.com**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



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- John Muir

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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
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**Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed**

MEETING SCHEDULE

Chapter Meeting	Location	Dates
Summer	NB Forrest State Park	July 21-23
Fall	Picket State Park	October 27-29
Winter	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	January 26 - 28
Spring	NB Forrest State Park	April 27-29

Mounger: Americans must speak out for our wild lands

In the late 19th century, farsighted citizens took stock in the rapidly developing country, and realized the need to protect its remaining wild lands. In places like the Yellowstone, the Bitterroot and the Gila River headwaters, the first measures were taken to preserve not only forests and watersheds, but equally important values such as scenery, solitude and an idea that had been with us since Colonial times — that of wilderness. This ethic culminated in the Wilderness Act, whose author, the late Howard Zahniser, implored for us to be "guardians of the land, not gardeners."

The story of federal lands in the East took a different direction. With virtually all of the land settled and cleared, conservation meant reforestation, often on landscapes that were badly eroded and abandoned. It meant a long process of cobbling together forests, usually through purchase, and often through conservation-minded donors. While many of our lands out West had millions of acres that had seen relatively little modern impact, here they are only beginning to recover from over-exploitation. And gradually, some forests are receiving meaningful protection, if in smaller quantities than out West.

Americans have a great love of our federal lands, from National Parks and National Forests, to the rangelands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, or places like the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. The Great Smoky Mountain National Park receives more than 10 million visitors a year. In the Cherokee National Forest, just east of Cleveland, lies the magnificent Ocoee River and the Big Frog/Cohutta Wilderness complex, the largest in the East. These places attract tourists, hikers, hunters and boaters from far and wide, bringing eco-

economic vitality to local communities.

It is unfortunate that some in Congress do not see our federal lands as having such rich value. There is work afoot to begin selling off our public lands to private interests. A new rule, written by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop, R-Utah, establishes as fact that any legislation to dispose of public lands and natural resources would cost taxpayers exactly \$0 — essentially saying that the people have incurred no loss for their lands being sold.

Devaluing our public lands flies in the face of not only the recreation economy, but many other forms of public wealth. Seventy percent of our nation's water supplies begin in federal lands watersheds. These lands are also the strongholds of biodiversity, including game species that support an enormous sporting industry.

Meanwhile, the Arctic National Wildlife, America's great wilderness in Alaska, faces oil exploration, which would disrupt one of the few intact ecosystems left in this country. Work is also happening in Congress to repeal or at least defund the Antiquities Act and the Land and Water Conservation Act, which provide legal and financial support for federal lands conservation. And recently the House voted to overturn and void the Bureau of Land Management Methane and Waste Prevention Rule, which provides basic standards for reducing leaks and other pollution from oil and gas mining. There still is a chance to stop it in the Senate.

Fortunately, there is much that citizens can do. Tennessee benefits from the continued support for additional wilderness protection in the Cherokee from Tennessee Sens. Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander, continuing a

strong tradition that goes back to Knoxville native Benton Mackaye, who worked for National Park designation for the Smokies. The Chattanooga area is well-known for its strong conservationist ethic.

Chattanoogans have recently come together to respond to the challenges in Washington under Protect Our Parks, a coalition of conservation groups and individuals dedicated to engaging the political process to make sure that conservation values are kept the law of the land, including groups focused on our state's forests like Tennessee Wild, the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club and Tennessee Heartwood. Recognizing that public lands issues rarely get the publicity that they deserve, the coalition works to highlight public lands legislation, both good and bad, as well as to bring people closer to their parks and forests — through advocacy, outings and education. If you are one who loves our wild areas, or wishes to know more about them, there is now a network of people ready to get you involved.

We should be grateful that past leaders enshrined the American land ethic into law. It speaks much to what we hold important, as was so ably said by former Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson: "Wilderness is an anchor to windward. Knowing it is there, we can also know that we are still a rich nation, tending our resources as we should — not a people in despair searching every last nook and cranny of our land for a board of lumber, a barrel of oil, a blade of grass, or a tank of water."

Davis Mounger is national forest chairman for the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club and is co-director for Tennessee Heartwood.

EPA budget cuts will severely affect environmental justice communities

By Heather Moyer

Port Arthur, Texas, is home to a tremendous number of hazardous waste incinerators, petrochemical refineries, and a myriad other toxic facilities. The city is also home to many low-income families and people of color, all stuck in this extremely polluted region and trying to cope with dirty air and water.

Hilton Kelley lives in Port Arthur and sees the realities of the pollution every day. "It seems as if there's a toxic release every two months or so from one of the facilities," said Kelley, an activist and Port Arthur native. "All these chemicals are being dumped into our air - some accidentally and some intentionally."

Kelley's been fighting for the community for 17 years now, taking on major chemical and fossil fuel companies and the politicians who try to protect them. When he heard of the severe budget cuts proposed by Donald Trump for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), he found another reason to worry.

"The EPA is important to me because I live in an industrialized community," said Kelley, who won the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2011. "The EPA has been an authority that can really reduce air toxins that we're exposed to. The state of Texas is very friendly

to industry, and the EPA is like that big brother we can go to when there's a major issue in our town."

He says the EPA and its pollution standards must become stronger, not a target for weak-



ening by Trump and EPA administrator Scott Pruitt.

"Weakening is not what we need - it's like taking three giant steps backwards every day," Kelley said. "This will be detrimental to people living in impacted, vulnerable communities like Port Arthur."

Kelley says he knows too many people in

his community who are fighting cancer - that the industry in Port Arthur is severely hurting people's health. He and other neighbors are trying to get the local incinerators and pet coke facilities - which burn leftovers from refineries and chemical plants - to reduce emissions, but it's an uphill battle.

Just this week a Port Arthur facility called German Pellet caught fire and released toxic smoke over the community. "A lot of people went to hospital yesterday due to smoke they inhaled the day before," said Kelley.

Kelley said it's hard to remain encouraged, especially now that Trump and Pruitt have so many EPA pollution standards in their sights for weakening or elimination. "They look at communities like ours as collateral damage. We're just a sacrifice zone - that's what this whole area has been deemed as."

So he keeps contacting his local, state, and federal legislators about strong environmental safety standards, and he's encouraging everyone else to do the same. "This president is going backwards and undoing a lot of good work, he's putting many people in this country and around the world in a vulnerable, dangerous position," said Kelley. "Write those letters to Congress, keep up the pressure on your senators. We have to keep pushing, protesting, and organizing."

Meetings

The public is very welcome at ALL Sierra Club Meetings and Activities! All members traveling across the state should feel free to drop in and attend another Group's meetings. You will find yourself among friends and learning something interesting.

CHEROKEE GROUP

May 23, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. – May Program: at Nutrition World's Speaker Room, 6237 Vance Rd., Chatta. 37421 (behind Nutrition World on Lee Highway)

Jess Riddle, Forest Ecologist at Georgia Forest Watch, will discuss the last remaining tracts of North Georgia's original forests, what they are like, where they are, and how and why they survived. You will learn how to determine the age and well being of forests and understand better any Appalachian forest.

A letter-writing station with talking points will be available for those interested. Hand written letters do count!

Bring a friend. The public is very welcome! FREE as always; look for our banner!

June 27, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. – June Program: at Nutrition World's Speaker Room, 6237 Vance Rd., Chatta. 37421 (behind Nutrition World on Lee Highway)

Activism Training. How can we most effectively change agents for protecting the environment? Learn about lobbying techniques and various forms of non-violent direct action you may use as we resist.

A letter-writing session with talking points will be available for those interested. Hand written letters do count!

Bring a friend. The public is very welcome! FREE as always; look for our banner!

May 1, 2017 & June 4, 2017 – 6:30 P.M. – Strategy/Business Meetings: Held at Second Presbyterian Church, @corner of E. 7th Street and Pine, 700 Pine Street [parking is free in their Pine Street lot, across the street from the church] Come add your ideas, share your concerns as we resist, insist, persist and enlist! We've got committees on outings, clean energy, forest watch/protection, mining/fracking issues, and room to support YOUR concern. The building looks like an old school - knock on the door, and if somebody doesn't answer, call 423-718-5009 for access! All are welcome!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Check <http://www.facebook.com/ChickasawGroup/> for meeting information.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

See our web page (sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs) for details.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

May 1, 2017 – 6:15 P.M. – ICO MEETING: Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet in Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids, and training. Contact Craig Jervis at cmjervis@comcast.net for our new location. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

May 11, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. – Hummingbird Program: Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds. Ruby-throated hummingbirds are iridescent flying jewels. Known for their incredible maneuverability and stamina, these avian helicopters may be small in size but they are certainly large in appeal. Arriving here in Tennessee in early April and gracing our gardens and yards into October, Ruby-throated hummingbirds are one of our favorite backyard visitors. Please join Cyndi Routledge, Master Hummingbird bander and Founder of Southeastern Avian Research (SEAR) to find out more about hummingbirds and the research SEAR is conducting to learn more about these fascinating tiny birds. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Betsy at 615 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com. The program is free and open to the public.

May 16, 2017 – 6:30 P.M. – LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville. Please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com with any questions. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

June 5, 2017 – 6:15 p.m. – ICO MEETING: Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet in Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids, and training. Contact Craig Jervis at cmjervis@comcast.net for our new location. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

June 8, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. – Program: The Status of Coal in Tennessee: Come hear Amanda Garcia, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center who is working on the Gallatin Coal Ash litigation, discuss what's happening with coal ash right here in Gallatin and near Clarksville. Eight years after the Kingston spill, TVA still stores coal ash in unlined, leaking pits. Topics covered will include ash storage sites throughout Tennessee, TVA's plans for the ash, and the effect on ground water and rivers. We appreciate Amanda taking the time to educate us on these critical issues, and hope that we have a large turnout for this program. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Betsy at 615 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com. The program is free and open to the public.

June 20, 2017 – 6:30 P.M. – LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville. Please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com with any questions. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

July 5, 2017 – 6:15 P.M. – ICO MEETING: Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet in Nashville. We

will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids, and training. Contact Craig Jervis at cmjervis@comcast.net for our new location. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

July 13, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. – Program: Nashville's New Transportation Plan: – Transportation emissions account for a substantial percentage of the green house gases emitted in the Nashville area. It is remarkable what Nashville and 9 surrounding counties are planning to accommodate our area's growing transit needs. Come hear Hannah Paramore, the Chair of Moving Forward's public engagement task force, discuss where the transit conversation stands in Middle Tennessee. We appreciate Amanda taking the time to educate us on these critical issues, and hope that we have a large turnout for this program. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Betsy at 615 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com. The program is free and open to the public.

July 18, 2017 – 6:30 P.M. – LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville. Please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com with any questions. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

Program and business meetings begin at 6 PM on the second Tuesday near Doe Mountain Recreation Area from spring through fall at R&D Campground Pavilion at 900 Mining Town Rd., Mountain City, TN. During the wintertime meet up at The Loft 5902 Hwy 421 south Mountain City, TN. Got questions, contact bmw@icloud.com 423- 534-4804 or GLa4797@embarqmail.com 423-727-4797.

Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WataugaGroup

Tennes-Sierran E-News

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Keep those e-mail addresses coming so you will get our E-News: send your e-mail address to Alice at demetreon1981@gmail.com so you get the News about our Programs and Outings!

We have e-mails for only about 1/3 of our members -- so you are missing out on all our activities! We will not give your address away.

Outings

The Tennessee Chapter's Outings and activities are always open to the public and members of the Club from across the state! Sponsored by our local Groups, pre-registration with the trip leader is a must for all outings.

May 6, 2017 – Canoe/ kayak float – Wildlife Float, Rankin Wildlife Management Area, Douglas Lake: This trip is a repeat of the Rankin float trip in April, except at higher lake levels, and with less emphasis on migratory birds. We'll meet about 3 pm and drive to the boat launch, launching our boats by 5 PM (sunset about 8:30 pm). Expect to paddle about 5 miles. Group size will be limited as necessary to facilitate birding activity. One-way drive: 50 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves: 922-3518; ronshrieves@gmail.com (email preferred). (Harvey Broome Group)

May 6, 2017 – 9:30 A.M. – Tennessee Riverwalk: We'll be enjoying part of the newest section, with dramatic scenery as it parallels the Tennessee River, starting from the Blue Goose Hollow Trailhead, the small park off Riverside Drive, where M.L. King Blvd. ends. Afterwards we'll have lunch at 1885 Grill in St. Elmo. Pre-registration required, with John Doyal, 2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com or 423-800-2745. (Cherokee Group)

May 13, 2017 – Dayhike – Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area Day Hike: The 125,000 acre Big South Fork NRRRA protects a lot of land with diverse ecosystems. We'll explore the northern portion of the NRRRA on this day hike, doing what's called the Blue Heron Loop. We'll explore unique rock formations like Devil's Jump Overlook and Crack-in-the-Rock. We'll also hike through the old mining community of Blue Heron and Mine 18 and see an old narrow-gauge tramway bed for hauling coal. Much of the hike will be above the NRRRA's namesake, the Big South Fork River. The hike is about 6.4 miles total and is rated Moderate. Drive distance, about 85 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; C 742-2327; whshome@bellsouth.net. (Harvey Broome Group)

May 20, 2017 – Dayhike – Mt. Cammerer, GSMNP: We'll take the shortest route to Mt. Cammerer, via 2.5 miles on the Low Gap Trail, then 2.1 miles on the AT, and another 0.6 mile on the side trail to the fire tower. The fire tower sits at 4298 ft of elevation, and has wonderful 360 degree views. Hike distance 10.4 miles out and back, with 3215 ft elevation gain, rated strenuous. Drive time is approximately 1.5 hr.; distance, 64

miles. Preregister with Denise Bivens: denisebivens@gmail.com; phone 865-385-5138. (Harvey Broome Group)

May 27, 2017 – Naturalist Ramble – Pine/Oak Forest, Turkeypen Ridge Trail, GSMNP: This relatively level low elevation trail has some areas that were former settler farms but generally follows the south and east flanks of Turkeypen Ridge. There should be plenty of wildflowers in a diversity of dryer habitats as we move from exposed ridge to protected creeks including a cascade on Pinkroot branch. Total distance is 5 miles including a stretch on Schoolhouse Gap Trail and is rated easy. A short shuttle is involved. Families are encouraged to bring children along for a fun and educational day outside. You do not have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate. One-way drive: 47 miles. Preregister with Mac Post: 865-806-0980; mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred) (Harvey Broome Group)

June 3, 2017 – 9:30 A.M. – South Chickamauga Creek Greenway: We'll be walking along the Brainerd Levee to Camp Jordan, crossing the bridge over the Creek, and check out the canoe launch station. We'll meet in the parking behind the Eastgate Tenn Valley Credit Union, 5741 Cornelison Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37411. Pre-registration required with John Doyal, 2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com or 423-800-2745. (Cherokee Group) NOTE: Our Outings Leader Training produced 24 enthusiastic new leaders/Outdoor Ambassadors, now scheduling their apprentice outings! We look forward to our continued partnership with Outdoor Chattanooga, and a host of outings that will reach diverse populations with the joy of nature. It's not too late for YOU, if you're interested in becoming a trip leader -- contact Barb Kelly, bk1rivers@gmail.com or 423-718-5009. Training opportunities still available! (Cherokee Group)

June 10, 2017 – Dayhike - Clingman's Dome, Appalachian Trail, Goshen Prong & Little River Trails: This approximately 14 mile shuttle hike starts off with a short, unnecessarily difficult climb up to the Clingman's Dome Tower, otherwise, this hike is predominantly a spread out 4400 drop down the Goshen Prong Trail and the Little River Trail before ending at Elkmont campground. This hike is rated strenuous for distance. Driving distance 65 miles. There will be a shuttle involved in this hike; we will work out details when I see what the response is. Preregister with Conrad Ottenfeld: co11505@charter.net; home phone 865-288-0975; cell 256-777- 1675. (Harvey Broome Group)

June 17, 2017 – Backpack – Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area Backpack (Jefferson National Forest, Virginia): The Mt. Rogers NRA and adjacent Grayson Highlands State Park, in southwest Virginia, make for one of the most scenic backpacking areas in the southeast, with huge open grassy meadows fringed by spruce trees and rhododendron bushes, usually flowering in June. Portions actually look like the western US. We'll start and end in Grayson Highlands State Park, making a loop into much of the NRA's "Crest Zone," hiking mainly on the Appalachian Trail and the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail, and will camp at an "off-trail" campsite that's pretty much undiscovered in the heart of the area. Total mileage will be around 9 miles. Rated Moderate. Drive distance 174 miles; drive time, 3 hours. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; C 742- 2327; whshome@bellsouth.net. (Harvey Broome Group)

June 24, 2017 – Backpack – Roan Highlands, Cherokee NF: Our destination, the Roan highlands, will provide a welcome respite from the summer heat, though we will have to earn it. We'll take the little used Overmountain Victory Trail from Hampton Creek Natural Area to it's intersection with the AT at Yellow Mountain Gap, where we'll turn left to gain the summit of Little Hump. We have several options for camping; on the top of Little Hump, in the gap between Little Hump and Big Hump, or on Big Hump, depending on the weather and group's energy level. We'll gain about 2500 feet. This hike is more difficult than it first appears. The first 2 miles are through exposed cattle fields and can be brutally hot. Most of the elevation gain is concentrated in the last 3 miles or so, making for some difficult hiking, especially with full packs. Water sources are few and far between. We'll return the way we came. Total hiking distance over two days about 11 miles, +/-, depending on where we camp. Total one-way driving distance is about 120 miles. Hike leaders: Brad Reese and Rob Davis. Please note that this is a joint hike with the Harvey Broome group of the Sierra Club. Pre-register with Brad Reese: bradktn@gmail.com; 865-599-1708 (email preferred) (Harvey Broome Group)

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Time and dates of outings are to be determined. For information check: <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

See our web page (sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/outings) for details.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Nashville Outings! We have an active outings schedule and want you to come along! Many times our outings are planned too late to be included in this newsletter. To check out our outings, please go to <http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures>

CENSORSHIP AT DOE - Climate Office bans term "Climate Change"

By Liz Perera and Adam Beitman

Politico is reporting the absurd once again after the passing of a storm of controversy about climate change and a staff purge at DOE during the transition period.

Reaction from Sierra Club Climate Policy Director Liz Perera:

"What exactly is this office supposed to call itself now? The international C***** office? Ignoring the climate crisis will not make it go away, will not create jobs in the booming clean energy economy, and will not make our country great. Rick Perry lied to Congress about climate science to get a job at an agency he wanted to eliminate, and he has started things off with a blatant dereliction of duty. The only place the climate is not changing is in the minds of those in the Trump

Administration."

Rick Perry previously told Congress "Science tells us that the climate is changing, and that human activity, in some manner, impacts that change," and that "I am going to protect the men and women of the scientific community from anyone who would attack them."

Story excerpt from Politico:

Energy Department climate office bans use of phrase 'climate change'

The Office of International Climate and Clean Energy is the only office at DOE with the words 'climate' in its name, and it may be endangered as Trump looks to reorganize government agencies.

A supervisor at the Energy Department's international climate office told staff this week not to use the phrases "climate change," "emissions re-

duction" or "Paris Agreement" in written memos, briefings or other written communication, sources have told POLITICO.

Employees of DOE's Office of International Climate and Clean Energy learned of the ban at a meeting Tuesday, the same day President Donald Trump signed an executive order at EPA headquarters to reverse most of former President Barack Obama's climate regulatory initiatives. Officials at the State Department and in other DOE offices said they had not been given a banned words list, but they had started avoiding climate-related terms in their memos and briefings given the new administration's direction on climate change.

Pediatrician warns that drastic EPA budget cuts will harm children's health

By Heather Moyer

Dr. Jennifer Lowry is a pediatrician and toxicologist who works closely with Environmental Protection (EPA) staff to protect children from environmental toxins. She worries about how the proposed severe budget cuts to EPA - projected to be anywhere from 31 to 43 percent cuts - will affect children's health.

"The education that EPA provides and the expertise of the staff are invaluable to my work and the lives of the children I care for," said Lowry, the medical director of clinical pharmacology, toxicology, and therapeutic innovations at Children's Mercy hospital in Kansas City. "I am involved with many children that have elevated blood lead levels - and exposures to other sources regulated by the EPA - that require home investigations and remediation by trained staff. I use the staff of the EPA to help in these investigations and as resources for communities."

The EPA, added Lowry, can prevent harm from chemical and environmental exposures by regulating those chemicals and ensuring that they are safe for human exposure.

"The drastic budget cuts will affect the health of children, as there will be less oversight on the chemicals used in commerce and exposed to children," said Lowry, who also directs the Mid-America Pediatric Environmental Health Speciality Unit at Children's Mercy. "Thus, their health will be affected and will require more health resources."

If the budget cuts for EPA are implemented, Lowry says she and many others will lack the necessary funding to research exposures and to alleviate the sources of environmental exposures. While Lowry says her hospital would not cut her off from that work she provides to children in regard to toxic exposures, others may not be as lucky.

In her role as chair to the Council on Envi-

ronmental Health for the American Academy of Pediatrics, Lowry has been busy writing editorials opposing the budget cuts and arranging meetings with legislators.

She's been calling her own legislators as well, and encouraged others who are outraged to do the same. "Congress can allocate more funding to the EPA, but it won't be enough," said Lowry. "Congress will also need to mandate that children's health issues such as lead, climate change and children's health need to be covered in the budget. It is an uphill battle, but worth the fight."

Congress needs to hear from those who want to protect the EPA and its mission - protecting public health and the environment. "Without the EPA, chemicals would be used that would result in harm to humans, wildlife, and the environment," said Lowry.

Trump & Pruitt attack EPA clean water standard

By Mary Anne Hitt

If you like to swim, fish, or drink water, listen up. The Trump administration is coming for your clean water. Just a few days ago, Trump's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took a first step toward trying to roll back standards for our biggest source of toxic water pollution: coal-fired power plants. This is the latest installment in EPA administrator and fossil fuel BFF Scott Pruitt's "Back to Pollution" agenda, and it might be coming to the tap water near you.

As our friend Pete Harrison at Waterkeeper Alliance put it, "This rollback gives a blank check to the power companies, and it directly threatens drinking water supplies across the country."

Coal-fired power plants are our biggest source of toxic water pollution, as they discharge very nasty and dangerous chemicals like lead, arsenic, and cadmium that are linked to a host of serious health problems. But the federal standards for that pollution were almost nonexistent and 30 years out of date, thanks to the political clout of the coal

industry. A court ordered EPA to act, and the agency finalized updated standards in 2015, which went into effect in January 2016.

Power plants have been busy complying with the standard since then, which could ultimately turn off the spigot of this toxic brew into our streams, rivers, and lakes. That's good news for the millions of people living downstream, often totally unaware of the pollution threatening their drinking water. It turns out that nearly 40 percent of all coal plants discharge toxic pollution within five miles of a downstream community's drinking water intake. Presently, coal plant wastewater has contaminated more than 23,000 miles of waterways, including nearly 400 water bodies used as drinking water sources.

However, a polluter lobby group had petitioned EPA to review (and ultimately revoke) the standard, and newly-minted EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has been happy to oblige. He recently informed a court that he would act on the decision and revisit the standard - despite it having been the law of the land for well over a year. To make matters worse, he

also halted upcoming compliance deadlines in the meantime.

Imagine what this feels like for residents in Monroe, Michigan, who enjoy all types of recreation along Lake Erie. Yet because of this stay from Pruitt, a state water quality permit for the DTE Monroe coal plant - which discharges into a part of Lake Erie - will not have to include any prohibitions on discharging coal ash wastewater or any limits on selenium and arsenic coming from its scrubber wastewater.

The new EPA of Trump and Pruitt is one that prioritizes polluters over public health. For them, "back to basics" means listening only to fossil fuel companies.

The good news is that rolling back these standards will not be easy, and there will be opportunities along the way to raise our voices and oppose these rollbacks, in the streets and in the courts.

The Sierra Club and our allies are going to fight these rollbacks every step of the way. We need your help and support. Join us.

Smog safeguards in jeopardy

By Mary Anne Hitt

Take a deep breath, because you might need it. This week the American Lung Association issued a worrying report card about air pollution in America, just days after the Trump Administration took its first step toward trying to weaken our smog standards.

Yes, you heard that right - we're facing a possible rollback of life-saving air pollution protections, and we're going to fight back. Trump's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, in the latest move from their "Back to Pollution" playbook, is actively trying to allow polluters to put more of the smog in our air that's linked to asthma attacks, heart attacks, and strokes. Last week, a court suspended a lawsuit about smog protections at the request of the Trump Administration, to give the EPA time to decide whether to rewrite the standards. This was widely seen by policy experts as the first step by Trump to try and weaken these protections.

A few days later, the American Lung Association (ALA) released their annual "State of the Air" report, and the findings show "con-

tinued improvement in air quality in 2013—2015 in ozone and year-round particle pollution, but an unrelenting increase in dangerous spikes in particle pollution."

The report states that while "the number of people exposed to unhealthy levels of air pollution dropped to more than 125 million people, from 166 million in the years covered in the 2016 report...even with continued improvement, too many people in the United States live where the air is unhealthy for them to breathe. Despite that continued need and the nation's progress, some people seek to weaken the Clean Air Act, the public health law that has driven the cuts in pollution since 1970, and to undermine the ability of the nation to fight for healthy air."

Many cities are still seeing very poor grades for their air quality, including Denver, which received a "D" for its ozone levels and an "F" for its 24-hour particle pollution levels. Denver ranked as 11th on the list of cities with the worst ozone levels. Maricopa County, Arizona, home to Phoenix, failed on both its ozone and 24-hour particle pollution

levels, earning it 5th worst city for ozone levels.

Let's be clear - we still have so much work to do. The standards we have still aren't strong enough to protect our kids, so weakening them further is a dangerous step that Trump is taking because it's doing the bidding of polluters. When EPA updated the standards in October 2015, their panel of medical scientists recommended a much stronger standard of 60 parts per billion (ppb), but the EPA settled on a weaker standard of 70 ppb. It's that weaker standard the Trump EPA now wants to weaken even further.

As a mother, I'm appalled that Trump is forcing the EPA to actually lead the charge in making the air more dangerous to breathe - and yet that appears to be exactly what's happening. This shouldn't come as a surprise - Trump's EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt, was one of the architects of legal challenges to the smog standard when he was Oklahoma Attorney General. We can't let him get away with it.

Your Guide to Town Halls

By Marie Bergen

Once again, it's recess for Congress, as the House and the Senate leave Washington from April 8th to the 23rd. Across the country, people like you are ready to have your voices heard about all that's been going on in the Capitol. After all, the first few months of the Trump administration have been full of dangerous and divisive attacks on the people, places, and things that we love. These attacks eliminate safeguards that protect our health and sell out our public lands, showing over and over again that Trump and his Administration prefer helping corporate polluters rather than protecting our communities and our most cherished landscapes. During this recess, the American people are watching, and they will continue to demand that their concerns are heard and our health is protected. So, where to start? We've put together this guide to help.

1. Find out when your Representative or Senator's next town hall or public meeting is being held. Check Town Hall Project, check local news outlets, or call 1-303-816-3559 and we'll connect you with your member of Congress to ask directly..

2. Prepare! Think of the question you want to ask (we've included some samples below), show up early, find a comfortable seat, and look for any microphones that have been set up to take comments. Sit close to one so you will be more likely to be able to ask a question. If you are planning on bringing a sign that opposes your member of Congress and her or his agenda, remember that it decreases the likelihood that you will be able to ask a question.

3. Be civil, but don't let them off the hook -- demand they answer the question you asked, not the question that they want to answer.

4. Take pictures and video. Having video of what your elected officials say is a great way to hold them accountable. Post pictures and video on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram and tag @SierraClub so we can see and share them.

Sample Questions:

Trump's proposed cuts to the EPA budget put our communities and health at risk. Relaxing enforcement on clean air, water, and climate hurt me and my family because (we have asthma, we are worried about water quality, I'm concerned about climate change, etc). What will you do to stand up to Trump's radical agenda and the deep cuts to essential environmental and public health safeguards he is proposing?

Climate change is a threat to our health, our economy, and our community. Trump's

budget chief, Mick Mulvaney, called climate change funding "a waste of money" and proposes eliminating dozens of critical programs to fight climate change. What will you do to ensure this critical funding is not eliminated?

Donald Trump's anti-climate executive order is the single biggest attack on climate action in U.S. history, period. This action to undo the the Clean Power Plan and other air and water safeguards has real effects in our community--we count on these protections to keep us healthy. Will you publically oppose actions, like this order, that attack air and water safeguards and lifesaving public health protections? Will you support legislation that would stop Donald Trump's anti-climate and anti-public health executive actions?

Senator Bennet has introduced legislation to block the implementation of Donald Trump's executive action targeting the Clean Power Plan, essential clean air protections, and public health safeguards. Will you publicly support and vote yes on this bill?

We are seeing the impacts of climate change around the country, and even here in our state, as wildfires, severe drought, and more dangerous storms are on the rise. Will you support efforts to curb carbon pollution, a major driver of climate disruption?

Both the House and Senate are pushing legislation to make it harder for our environmental agencies to issue standards to protect the environment and public health and our environment. These safeguards protect communities. Will you oppose efforts to undermine agency rulemaking authority?

Will you stand up for critical environmental protections enacted by the Obama Administration, like rules to limit methane pollution?

Some Senators have introduced resolutions to repeal standards protecting downwind states and our national parks from air pollution like smog, will you vote no on any effort to gut clean air standards?

Congress has targeted a number of clean air and clean water standards for repeal. Will you oppose efforts to repeal important clean air and clean water standards so that our kids and communities are safe and healthy?

President Trump and leaders in Congress are threatening to slash the budget of the Environmental Protection Agency and one Florida congressman introduced a bill to eliminate the EPA. Will you oppose efforts to kill the EPA -- an important agency charged with protecting our clean air clean water and kids' health?

Some in Congress have said that the Endangered Species Act should be thrown out. America is blessed with a unique natural her-

itage of wildlife. Will you stand up to those who would gut the ESA?

America has a rich heritage of national parks, national monuments and national refuges. Will you oppose legislation to eliminate protections for new national monuments like Bears Ears in Utah?

Some in Congress have threatened to use the budget process to push for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, will you vote against backdoor efforts to allow oil drilling in America's last great wilderness?

Congress is using a controversial legislative tool to overturn recently finalized standards from the Obama administration. The Congressional Review Act, or CRA, is a blunt instrument that allows Congress to nullify important protections for our air, water, and public health. Will you oppose any further use of the CRA to kill lifesaving safeguards?

Trump has pledged to renegotiate trade agreements, and I'm deeply concerned that his renegotiation will not be based in concern for communities and our climate. My basis for evaluating any trade deal is clear: Does it support -- not undermine -- a more stable climate, clean air and water, healthy communities, and good union jobs? Will you commit to opposing any trade renegotiation that fails to meet this standard?

President Trump has called for walling off the entire U.S.-Mexico border. Building a wall would cost billions of taxpayer dollars and would require condemning land owned by hundreds of private landowners and municipalities. In addition, Big Bend National Park, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, and other public land would be carved up by a wall severely impacting habitats and endangered species. Will you commit to NOT using federal funds to pay for a wall along the southern border of the United States?

President Trump has signed an executive order ordering the EPA to reexamine and reopen a decision by the Obama administration to continue strong fuel economy and greenhouse gas restrictions for passenger vehicles. These standards help protect, our air and climate, while saving money for consumers. Will you commit to protecting and supporting strong car fuel standards?

Can't Attend a Townhall? Send a Postcard!

If you don't have a town hall meeting in your area, then drop off postcards or letters at your nearest Congressional district offices. Also, take a photo and post it to social media tagging @SierraClub and or #ClimateResistance.

Keep an eye out for our new design of the Tennes-Sierran next issue!

Closure of coal plant, opening of solar project marks turning point for Nevada's clean energy future

By Elspeth DiMarzio

Nevada's energy market is at a turning point, and the state is on the cusp of becoming a national clean energy leader. After the Reid Gardner coal plant officially shut down in mid March, the Valmy coal plant in northern Nevada is the last coal plant contributing to the state's electric grid. Only days after Reid Gardner closed, the Moapa Band of Paiutes—who were most directly affected by Reid Gardner pollution—celebrated the opening of a solar farm capable of producing the same amount of electricity as Reid Gardner.

Moapa Band of Paiutes This clean energy progress is great news since it creates jobs and protects the health and safety of all Nevadans. Most importantly, there is significant room for growth. Nevada still gets

about 90 percent of its electricity from other states, mostly natural gas. Despite the relatively small share of Nevada's electricity that comes from renewables, there are 20,752 clean energy and energy efficiency jobs in Nevada—that's more than four times the number people employed by the fossil fuel industry. Considering the state's outside solar potential, eager workforce, and new investment from the private sector—including Tesla's Gigafactory—the clean energy future for Nevada is bright.

The Trump administration, however, is threatening the progress in Nevada and throughout the country by gutting the Environmental Protection Agency and dismantling the Clean Power Plan. Nevadans don't want to roll back life-saving public health and climate protections. Nevadans don't want

to continue to pollute our air, water, and land with toxic chemicals and power plant emissions. Fortunately, Nevada is capable of moving forward despite the backward policies coming from the White House.

Nevada has everything it takes to be a clean energy leader. The Moapa Band of Paiutes are proving that we can replace coal with clean energy that creates jobs and keeps our energy bills low. Tesla is proving that Nevada is an ideal home base for innovative manufacturing that can support renewable energy development throughout the world. Now we need our state's leaders, including Senator Dean Heller, to stand up to the concerted federal inaction on climate issues that threatens to hold our state back.

Former EPA staffer on Trump's slashed budget

By Heather Moyer

Judith Enck has some real worries about the future of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during the Trump administration, but she also has faith in the agency's career staff.

As the former regional administrator of EPA Region 2 (from 2009 to January 2017), Enck said Trump's proposed massive budget cuts to EPA -- projected to be anywhere from 31 to 43 percent cuts - are alarming for an agency charged with holding polluters accountable.

"We knew it was going to be bad, but not this bad," said Enck, who was the longest serving Region 2 administrator in history. "There are million of Americans appalled by Trump's environmental agenda."

And for good reason: Trump's proposed EPA budget eliminates funding used to protect America's most iconic bodies of water, like the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay and Puget Sound. It would slash support for Superfund sites and hinder EPA's ability to monitor air quality and check for signs of deadly and toxic pollution like sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide.

Enck has hope, though. "There are some in EPA who can try to minimize damage."

Her faith in EPA career staff comes from her seven years working so closely with them. She says many have been at the agency for decades and know their jobs well. "In my farewell speech I encouraged the staff to be the first line of defense in reminding any new staff at EPA who do not want to enforce the law or turn away from important pollution problems," she said. "We really need them to stand up to this assault on environmental protections."

She also believes the EPA's role is to help the U.S. be an international leader on climate change action. "I think that's in jeopardy, though, unfortunately."

Trump's budget will hurt Americans in a number of ways. It would strip funding that enables the U.S. to meet its commitment to the Green Climate Fund, hampering our ability to continue to lead the world in climate action. It also slashes innovative clean energy research efforts (ARPA-E), eliminates funding for after-school and summer programs for at risk and underserved youth run by park and recreation agencies (21st Century Community Learning Centers program), and even

puts the EPA programs that respond to crisis like Flint at risk.

But Enck is not discouraged. Her spirit is strong for taking action and encouraging so many others to take action as well.

"I want to be a public voice for the importance of the agency. I want to urge Americans to flex their civic muscle and communicate with their members of Congress about these draconian cuts to the EPA budget."

Enck sees three major points in a movement to protect the EPA and its mission:

- 1- Educating the public.
- 2- Getting members of Congress to act.
- 3- Litigation.

"We need all three of those to hold back the worst," said Enck. She encourages the public to have their members of Congress on speed dial and to call them regularly, no matter how bad the outlook seems for environmental protection.

"I'm the opposite of someone who says, 'pace yourself,'" she laughed. Then she got serious. "We can never lose our sense of outrage. That's what will prompt us to take action. We need to organize opposition early and aggressively and in a sophisticated way."

"We knew it was going to be bad, but not this bad"



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..continued from page 1 (Wilderness ethic)

will use the algebra of today's need to sacrifice the posterity that we would leave future generations. More than ever, we must be guardians. Not only do our grandchildren count on us, but so does the web of life that depends on our public lands. Be a voice for them, as they cannot be with us today, except in our hearts and minds.

Davis Mounger is National Forest Chairman for the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club and co-director of Tennessee Heartwood. He can be reached at wd-mounger@yahoo.com.

Chapter Treasurer Sought for 2018

Are you good with numbers and looking for a way to get more involved? The TN Chapter Sierra Club is looking for a Treasurer starting in 2018!

Spend 2017 learning the ropes with current Treasurer, Alice Demetreon. She will stay on in 2018 as Vice-Treasurer to help you through the first year.

Go to Clubhouse to learn more about the position.

Call or text Alice with any questions at 660-247-2288 or email Demetreon1981@gmail.com with "Treasurer 2018" in the subject line.

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