

# Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 42, Number 2 - March/April, 2011

## Decision to Allow Sandhill Crane Hunting Delayed for Two Years

By Melinda Welton

In late January, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission (TWRC) voted on whether or not Tennessee should initiate a hunting season on sandhill cranes in the winter of 2011-2012. Citing insufficient data for establishing such a season, the TWRC decided to delay its decision for two years while more studies are conducted.

Sandhill cranes had almost disappeared in the southeastern U.S., going back at least to the 1930s, but they have been building up well over the last two decades. Still, there are disagreements over the exact number of cranes which migrate in the East, and the species' slow reproduction rate—breeding happens after 5-7 years, and only one in three nests produces a chick that survives to fall migration—raised concerns over a replacement rate in the context of a possible hunting season.

High levels of response to the proposal (72 percent opposed and 28 percent in favor) and commission meetings packed with citizens marked the controversy. But so did courteous and reasoned discussion.

Most birders, such as those represented by the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS), did not

## Tennessee Chapter Opposes Sandhill Crane Hunting

While the Sierra Club does not oppose hunting and fishing when based on scientifically valid biological information and when it does not prevent a population from returning to optimum size, the Tennessee Chapter voted at its fall conservation meeting to oppose the hunting of sandhill cranes in our state. Chapter Vice Conservation Chair Axel Ringe wrote the following letter on behalf of the Tennessee Chapter to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) outlining our rationale:

- The eastern population (EP) of sandhill cranes has come back from the brink of extinction to a more sustainable level, but there is a lack of verifiable information on the numbers of the current population;

- There is danger to the whooping cranes that use the same migration routes, often mingle with the sandhill cranes, and could be mistaken for sandhill cranes;

- Sandhill cranes reproduce slowly, and a juvenile losing a parent is less likely to survive;

- The staging and wintering-over of cranes provides a wildlife viewing opportunity that has attracted thousands of viewers to the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge over the past 20 years;

- During a 10-year period, wildlife viewing by Tennessee residents increased by 81%, while hunting was down 25%. Spending by wildlife watchers was up 112%, while spending by resident hunters was down 10%. Thus, a hunt would serve a small group of special interests while taking time and money from other wildlife management projects.

- The sandhill crane has become an iconic wildlife species to Tennesseans because of its majestic appearance, inherent grace and beauty, and has become a symbol of the wild America that once was.

support making the sandhill crane a game species and initiating a hunting season in the state. TOS took the position that “the fall arrival and overwintering of tens of thousands of sandhill cranes in Tennessee should be celebrated as a wildlife spectacle and a watchable wildlife viewing opportunity.”

Indeed, the state's largest bird-viewing event is the 20-year-old annual Crane Viewing Days festival, which draws thousands of people to watch the migrating birds in mid-January. (A total of 11,000 cranes were counted during the first week of January.) Curiously, sandhill cranes have been attracted to key crane sites in the state because of the corn planted by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to accommodate waterfowl.

Hunters were not of one mind on the issue. In a TWRA survey, about 55 percent of Tennessee hunters favored a season on the cranes, while 45 percent did not or had no opinion. Some pro-hunting elements also called for limiting

hours for the hunt and not permitting it during the festival.

In any case, the decision has been delayed for two years. The real question isn't whether sandhill cranes in the eastern U.S. can sustain a hunt at this time, but rather, how do we want to manage this new-found resource?

Here are two reports on the decision to delay from two newspapers:

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2011/jan/23/holding-pattern/>

and

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20110121/NEWS01/101210355/Sandhill-cranes-hunting-proposal-may-deferred>

Additional information can be found on the Tennessee Ornithological Society website: [www.tnbirds.org](http://www.tnbirds.org)

(Melinda Welton is the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) conservation policy chair.)

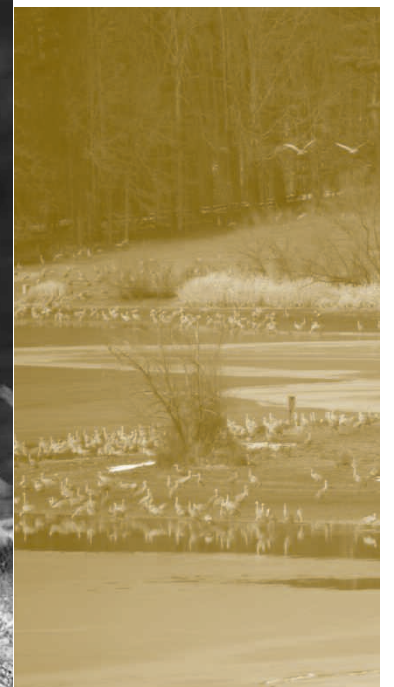


Photo: Leslie Jakobs

Now you can receive your

# Tennes-Sierran

via email

Subscribe simply by going to

<http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/subscribe.htm>

How does it work? Monthly you will receive an email notification and download link for your new Tennes-Sierran in a special email alert. All you will have to do is click on the link and presto, your Tennes-Sierran will appear in an Adobe Acrobat PDF format. View it, download it, save it but whatever the case you will be saving trees, and freeing Tennessee Chapter club funding to work for other conservation efforts. A double whammy win situation!

**So Join the Crowd  
and Go Paperless Today!**



# Tennes-Sierran

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

## SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

\*Email: [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto: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:

Email: [lbaker@usw.org](mailto:lbaker@usw.org)  
Snail Mail: Lynne Baker, Tennes-Sierran Editor  
PO Box 1504, Antioch, TN 37011  
(615) 831-6782

## ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 1st of the month preceding the new month's issue.  
1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to [lbaker@usw.org](mailto:lbaker@usw.org) either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Attached files are preferred. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.  
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. 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 cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.  
**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.**

## Hate Litter?

The next time you see someone throw litter out the window of their vehicle, report it. Put this number in your phone and report the vehicle license tag number of the offender to (Toll Free) 1-877-8LITTER.

Or report online here:

<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/environment/beautification/litter.asp>



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



### Friend or Foe?

America's water, rivers and lakes are at risk from giant, corporate-owned factory farms which are fouling our water with pathogens and chemicals. The air around these farms is contaminated with suspended dust particles, which have been linked to bronchitis and other diseases. Our government wants to pass legislation which would allow factory farms to be free from health and environmental laws. Support Sierra Club's effort to keep our water clean and our air friendly. The hogs have gone wild, now it's our turn.

Cause a stink. JOIN Sierra Club.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Join today and receive  
a FREE Sierra Club  
Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
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,  
P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) F94Q  1

# Sierra Club Officers

## TENNESSEE CHAPTER:

Chair: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877  
[Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com)  
Vice Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797  
[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)  
Secretary: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009  
[bk1rivers@comcast.net](mailto:bk1rivers@comcast.net)  
Treasurer: Scott Kramer (423) 598-9516  
[TNChapSCTreas@gmail.com](mailto:TNChapSCTreas@gmail.com)  
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185  
[GB1Nature@aol.com](mailto:GB1Nature@aol.com)  
Outings: Web Griffith (423) 727-4797  
[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)  
CCL Delegate: Brian Paddock (931) 276-1387  
[bpaddock@twlakes.net](mailto:bpaddock@twlakes.net)

## TN LOCAL GROUPS:

### Cherokee Group

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee)  
Chair: Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway (423) 619-0379  
[elizabethjamestallman@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethjamestallman@hotmail.com)  
Vice Chair: Jami Brown (423) 255-3014  
[jdbrown5188@yahoo.com](mailto:jdbrown5188@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer: Barbara Hurst (423) 866-9503  
[barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com)  
Conser. Chair: Davis Mounger (423) 877-4616  
[wdmounger@yahoo.com](mailto:wdmounger@yahoo.com)  
Secretary: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009  
[bk1rivers@comcast.net](mailto:bk1rivers@comcast.net)  
Outings: Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway (423) 619-6548  
[gazawaypainting@gmail.com](mailto:gazawaypainting@gmail.com)

### Chickasaw Group - Memphis

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw)  
Chair: Keven Routon (901) 485-3960  
[kwratcs@me.com](mailto:kwratcs@me.com)  
Vice Chair: JW Johnson (901) 850-9375  
[bubo1@bellsouth.net](mailto:bubo1@bellsouth.net)  
Secretary: Emily Schwimmer (901) 753-5474  
[eschwimm@gmail.com](mailto:eschwimm@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Susan Routon (901) 413-3888  
[susan.routon@gmail.com](mailto:susan.routon@gmail.com)  
Conservation & Outings Chair: Matt Farr 901-517-8879  
[matt.tennessierran@gmail.com](mailto:matt.tennessierran@gmail.com)  
Membership Co-Chairs: Keith Hoover (901) 363-8299  
[hooverkw@yahoo.com](mailto:hooverkw@yahoo.com)  
Don Richardson (901) 276-1387  
[donrich@juno.com](mailto:donrich@juno.com)

### Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome)  
Chair: Robin Hill (865) 966-9435  
[robin.hill8@gmail.com](mailto:robin.hill8@gmail.com)  
Vice-Chair: David Reister (865) 670-8991  
[dreister@bellsouth.net](mailto:dreister@bellsouth.net)  
Secretary: Linda Smithyman (865) 335-3559  
[lsmithyman@yahoo.com](mailto:lsmithyman@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer: Bob Perlack (865) 675-7668  
[perlack@aol.com](mailto:perlack@aol.com)  
Conservation: Axel Ringe (865) 397-1840  
[onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net)  
Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518  
[ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net)

### Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg)  
Chair: Keith Romig (615) 714-2704  
[krsp@aol.com](mailto:krsp@aol.com)  
Vice Chair: Dave Bordenkircher (615) 333-3377  
[dabordenkircher@mindspring.com](mailto:dabordenkircher@mindspring.com)  
Conservation: Dr. Cliff Cockerham (615) 336-3905  
[clifford.cockerham@mnp.org](mailto:clifford.cockerham@mnp.org)  
Treasurer: Michael Varnell (615) 217-0985  
[rmvarnell@bellsouth.net](mailto:rmvarnell@bellsouth.net)  
Membership: Betsy Garber, (615) 668-1977  
[garberb@hotmail.com](mailto:garberb@hotmail.com)  
Outings: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877  
[katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:katibug1959@aol.com);  
[kdpendleton1@aol.com](mailto:kdpendleton1@aol.com)

### Watauga Group - Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington Counties

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga)  
Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797  
[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)  
Vice Chair: Sandi Cranford 423-727-5044  
[sunshine@highcountryonline.net](mailto:sunshine@highcountryonline.net)  
Treasurer: Cindy Johnson (423) 768-3882  
  
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214  
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797  
[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)

### National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:

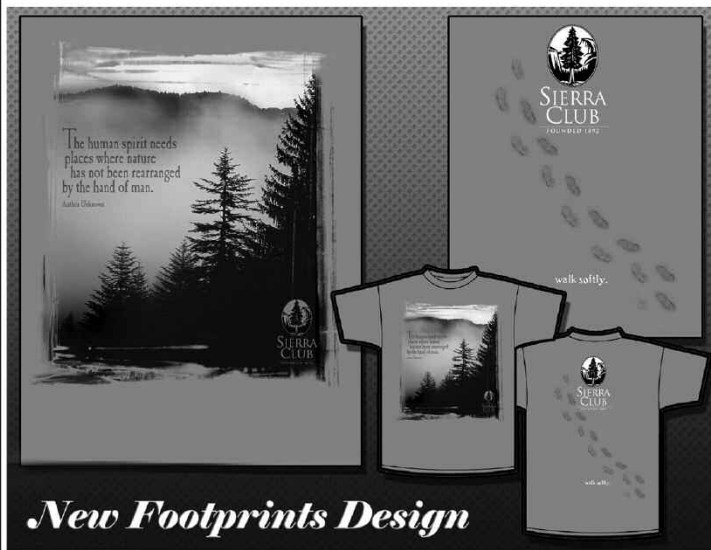
Rita Harris, Field Organizer  
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757  
[rita.harris@sierraclub.org](mailto:rita.harris@sierraclub.org)

Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

## New Design Footprints T-Shirts

Black print quotation:

"The human spirit needs places where nature has not been rearranged by the hand of man on gray background - Unknown Author" on gray background.



New Footprints Design

Size	Qty	Unit Price	Total
Small	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
Medium	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
Large	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
1X-Large	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
2X-Large	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
		Sub-Total	_____
Shipping - Enter			
Total # of T-Shirts	_____ X	\$5.00	= _____
		Grand Total	= _____

Please make checks payable to:  
TN Chapter Sierra Club

Mail To:  
T-Shirt Order Fulfillment  
P. O. Box 290306 - Nashville, TN 37229

OR

Visit us on-line at:  
<http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/footprints.htm>

To pay by e-check or credit card  
(sorry, credit cards only accepts via on-line orders)

## Scholarships Available for Quarterly Tennessee Chapter Meetings

In order to make our statewide Chapter meetings accessible for all, especially families, the Chapter has made several changes during the last year to our Chapter meeting fees.

The basic fee for two nights lodging in a group lodge, breakfast and dinner Saturday, and Sunday breakfast is \$40; however, children 15 years and younger are free. Also, first time attendees are half off—only \$20! And we now offer partial scholarships of \$20.

To apply for a scholarship, make your need known by contacting our Chapter treasurer, Scott Kramer, at 423-598-9516 or e-mail him at [tnchapsctreas@gmail.com](mailto:tnchapsctreas@gmail.com). Up to five scholarships are available for each Chapter meeting.

Our quarterly meetings are a great way to get to know folks across the state with the same perspective, to learn the latest on conservation issues in Tennessee, and to explore and enjoy different sections of our state's parks and forests.

Hosted in turn by our local Groups, and generally held in or near great parks, forests or natural areas, our meetings include hikes and informative speakers. For example, we were treated to an up-close-and-personal visit with the Smokies superintendent last spring and star gazing on top of a bald at the summer meeting!

Put these dates on your calendar, and resolve to

add new adventures, fun and new friends to 2011:

**Winter:** January 28-30, 2011 Cedars of Lebanon State Park

**Spring:** April 15-17, 2011 Natchez Trace State Park (additional information follows)

**Summer:** July 8-10, 2011 Sterchi Lodge, Max Patch (Cherokee Nat. Forest)

**Fall:** October 21-23, 2011 Pickett State Park

### Additional Information for SPRING 2011 Chapter Meeting:

The meeting address for the Natchez Trace State Park Group Lodge is not the park office address but is the address closest to the Group Lodge within the park and is found correctly in two cities! Try both on your GPS to see which will lead you properly: 22421 Natchez Trace Road, Wildersville, TN 38388 OR 22421 Natchez Trace Road, Lexington, TN 38351.

Follow signage to the Group Lodge just a short distance from the park grocery store. We are very excited about the beautiful foliage spring will bring to our visit at Natchez Trace. To enhance our full Chapter agenda we are planning hikes and a "Birds of Prey" program on Saturday night.

For more information on the spring meeting and to register contact Chickasaw Group

To subscribe to the Tennessee News Listserve, email the following text—

**SUBSCRIBE TENNESSEE-NEWS**

YourFirstName YourLastName

(Of course, substituting your actual first and last name in the places indicated.)

to [LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG)



Programs Chair Susan Routon at [susan.routon@gmail.com](mailto:susan.routon@gmail.com). **(Reservations received after April 8th will incur a \$10 late fee.)**

## Help Save Cummins Falls

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Cummins Falls campaign—which will be matched by the Tennessee Chapter—send a check made out to the Sierra Club Foundation with a note in the memo line, "TN Chapter Save Cummins Falls Campaign" to:

**Scott Kramer**

**Sierra Club TN Chapter Treasurer**

**Attn: Save Cummins Falls Campaign**

**5612 Alabama Ave.**

**Chattanooga, TN 37409**

Your check will be mailed then to the Sierra Club Foundation, 85 Second Street, Ste. 750, San Francisco, CA 94105.



Photo: Don Curry

Don Curry ©2010

## Sierra Club Defenders' Generosity Appreciated

Many more Tennessee Sierra Club Defenders have donated to our Chapter's political and lobbying program; these funds are so desperately needed in these difficult times. Many of these defenders are listed below. We thank them and all other Sierra Club Defenders. Please consider sending your own donation. Make the check out to Sierra Club Defenders and send it to:

**Tennessee Sierra Club Defenders**

**P.O. Box 290306**

**Nashville, TN 37220-0306**

One hundred percent of all Defenders donations will be used in Tennessee.

### Sierra Club Defenders December 2010-January 2011

Caty Butcher  
Caty Buchner  
Stewart Clifton  
Mary Mastin & Brian Paddock  
Sharon Boyce  
Patty & Steve Ghertner  
Ken Brame & Judy Mattox  
Diana K. Page  
Dr. Herbert D. Zeman  
Gerald P. Marquis  
K.H. McCorkle  
Phil & Maxine Schoggen  
Emerson Meggs  
Dr. Lisa Langenbach  
Jay Hiatt  
Kwame Leo Lillard

Frances Duvall  
Patrick H. Schipani  
Elizabeth L. Cunningham  
Alan Solomon  
Betsy Garber  
Roger Stolen  
Brittie Tidwell  
Patricia & Christopher Mixon  
James W. Johnson  
Albert Good & Alice M. Feldman  
Robert S. Brandt  
Mayo Taylor  
Maria Uffelman  
Marilyn Rogers  
Lois Thomas  
Lynda & Edward Primka  
Martha Wilson  
Eric B. Robinson  
Anne & Mark Manner  
Maria Pia De Pasquale  
Randall & Jennifer Ellis  
Bill & Dorothy DeVan  
Tom Cullen & Wray Estes  
Axel C. Ringe  
Zeke Graves  
Lynne Baker  
Anne Carr  
Jen Walker  
Jim Blackstock  
Reginald S. Lowe Jr.  
J. Randolph Humble  
Marty Simmons  
Barbara & Vance Johnson Sims

# Meetings

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

All programs will be held at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN and will start at 7:00 PM.

### March 8, 7:00 PM, Preview of Harvey Broome Group 2011 Outings Program

Ron Shrieves, Harvey Broome Group (HBG) outings coordinator, is the presenter. The annual outings program provides a preview of the HBG's outings program for 2011 and a slideshow from past outings. Included in this year's program are 10 backpack trips, 20 day hikes, and two canoe/kayak day trips. This year we'll offer the HBG "Take-a-Hike" program, a series of day hikes that will increase the skills and confidence of first time hikers. A special feature of these beginner day hikes is that they will provide a guided tour of all the major ecosystem types in the biologically diverse Great Smoky Mountains. Invite anyone who is interested in exploring the outdoors to come and find out more about HBG outings.

### April 12, 7:00 PM, Nursing Orphaned and Injured Wildlife Back to Health

Lynne McCoy, state and federally permitted wildlife rehabilitator, will present an educational program about rehabilitation of orphaned and injured wildlife and returning them to the wild. She will bring some non-releasable wild friends as ambassadors. Come and get up close with some of our wild neighbors that add so much meaning to our lives. Lynne will explain the unusual and valuable work that she does and relate to us the specific needs and challenges for mammals, reptiles, and birds that occasionally need help from us. For pictures see <http://www.picturetrail.com/backwoodslynne>.

Lynne McCoy has been rehabilitating wildlife for about 35 years. When she began back in the 70s there was little information on wildlife care, so she has learned or developed the required techniques and procedures she uses. These include special diets for each kind of animal, wormings, vaccinations and other care in order to release a healthy animal back into the wild. From her home in Jefferson County, she cares for between 500-800 critters annually. She publishes a newsletter three times a year, giving advice and sharing her adventures caring for the wild ones.

**Strategy Meetings:** Fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN and will start at 7:00 PM. For time and location contact Robin Hill, 865-966-9435, [robin.hill8@gmail.com](mailto:robin.hill8@gmail.com). All members are invited to attend to get the news on what's happening in our Harvey Broome Group.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

### PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, March 10, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville

BEES! Do you like honey? Flowers? Do you like to eat? The honeybee is crucial for crop pollination, and Jim Garrison, president of the Tennessee Beekeepers Organization, will share his knowledge about one of the most "buzzed about" trends in environmentalism, beekeeping. Bees play a critical and irreplaceable role in the life cycle of plants, and their population is severely threatened by Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Come learn what we can do to protect and preserve the viability of bees in our ecosystem. We'll discuss new developments in modern, scientific beekeeping and how we can educate the general public

about the importance of the honeybee. And Jim will be bringing some of his local honey to sell (along with bee pollen and beeswax candles if he has any left).

### PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville

Kathleen Williams, executive director of Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, presents a program on the rare opportunity to purchase Cummins Falls on Blackburn Fork, preserving it for public access and saving it from development. Blackburn Fork has been designated as a state scenic river and has been designated by the National Park Service as outstanding for scenic, recreational, geological, and wildlife values. The Tennessee Rivers Assessment Project has bestowed its highest rating for natural and scenic qualities, and the river protects wildlife, water quality/quantity, and unique and varied plant life. On top of that, Cummins Falls has been named as one of the Top 10 on the list of the best swimming holes in the US.

Also presenting will be Mary Mastin of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, which has accepted the challenge to work with the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation in its campaign to Save Cummins Falls by matching donations by Sierra members across the state, up to the amount needed to purchase two acres. Tennessee Sierra has set up a special project with the national Sierra Club Foundation to help save Cummins Falls, is circulating a petition to the governor, and is soliciting letters of support for the state to designate the area as a state park or state natural area.

We hope you will attend to learn more about this unique project.

### STRATEGY MEETING: Third Mondays, March 21 and April 18, 6:30 p.m. at the United Steelworkers Union Building, 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211.

Follow the signs to the conference area. If you arrive late, please ring the bell at the side door on the left, and someone will come down to let you in. Conservation issues are first on the agenda, and all members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities.

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

### MARCH STRATEGY: (Board Meeting) 3rd Wed., March 16, 6:00 pm, at our new location for our business meetings -- the Brainerd Bethlehem ReSource Center, 4413 Brainerd Road, by the Balloon Factory next to the Brainerd United Methodist Church. All members and interested people are welcome. We discuss issues and plan our actions! To place an item on the agenda, contact Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway at 423-619-0379. NOTE: Our strategy meetings are now held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

**MARCH PROGRAM: Last Monday, March 28, 7 pm at Green!Spaces, 63 Main Street, Chattanooga. Presenter: Stephanie Cox, of ECotality, The EV Project ([www.theevproject.com](http://www.theevproject.com)).**

Chattanoogans, is an electric vehicle in your near future? Chattanooga is one of only 17 "test" cities in six states and Wash., D.C. selected for a massive electric vehicle (EV) project. The mission is to evaluate the use of

electric vehicles and charging systems in diverse geographies and climates, then use that information to build a foundation to optimize adoption of electric vehicles nationwide. Begun in 2009 with an original grant of \$99.8 million, the EV project will deliver nearly 15,000 residential and commercial chargers to the 17 cities, while working to create new jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Cox will provide information about local citizen involvement opportunities, infrastructure, tax credits for new qualified plug-in electric cars and converted plug-ins. The meeting is open to the public; please invite your friends! And we always have healthy and great snacks!!

**APRIL STRATEGY: (Board Meeting) 3rd Wed., April 20, 6:00 pm, at our new location for our business meetings -- the Brainerd Bethlehem ReSource Center, 4413 Brainerd Road, by the Balloon Factory next to the Brainerd United Methodist Church. All members and interested people are welcome. We discuss issues and plan our actions! To place an item on the agenda, contact Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway at 423-619-0379. NOTE: Our strategy meetings are now held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.**

### APRIL PROGRAM: Last Monday, April 25, 7 pm at Green!Spaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Presenter: Innovative Green Companies (panel)

Get a quick introduction to many of our up-and-coming green companies featured at the 2011 Eco Expo, with a short talk from each, then a long question and answer time. Ask questions and find out all the info you can use! Chattanooga's innovative green companies are leading the way in areas like bicycle/scooter sales; biodegradable plates/napkins/silverware; Recycle Bank; Blue Smoke Coffee; Rhodes Car; air and water purifier systems, and quite a few more. When you think of doing the right thing, Chattanooga has many great folks and companies stepping up! Come meet the green leaders of Chattanooga businesses, large and small. The meeting is open to the public; please invite your friends! And we always have healthy and great snacks!!

*NOTE: Our program meetings continue to be held at Green!Spaces, 63 E. Main Street, which is a nondescript storefront building, the last one on the left in the first block off Market Street. It is kiddy-corner from the fire department. Look for the Sierra Club banner!*

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

(Sign up for our monthly email events list on the calendar page <http://tennessee.sierra-club.org/chickasaw/>)

### Thursday, March 3, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm Monthly First Thursday Gatherings Otherlands, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN

Sierra Club members, activists and friends meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Emily Schwimmer at [eschwimm@gmail.com](mailto:eschwimm@gmail.com) or Deborah Mays at (901) 722-4111.

### Monday, March 14, 6:30 pm Strategy Meeting Fuel Cafe, 1761 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN

The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. For more information or to place items on the agenda, contact the group chair, Keven Routon, at [kwrats@me.com](mailto:kwrats@me.com). Agenda items must be submitted at least three days before

# Outings

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiver> PDF, or call 415-977-5630 for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride-sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. **All people are welcome to participate in Sierra Outings; membership is not a requirement! Nor is geographic area - one may participate in any Group's outings!!**

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

### March 5-6 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Rock and Possum Creek Sections, Cumberland Trail (CT).

On this backpack on the southern Cumberland Plateau we'll visit three river gorges via a portion of the CT completed around 2005. We first descend into Rock Creek Gorge, cross the river on a new 80-foot bridge, ascend, then descend again into the gorge of Little Possum and make camp. The second day we'll enjoy following the creek downstream past impressive rapids to spectacular Imodium Falls, and learn a bit about the geology of the plateau. After crossing two more recently constructed bridges we'll climb out of the gorge of Big Possum Creek to our cars. Distance is 14.9 miles total, rated moderate. One-way drive: 100 miles. Pre-register with Warren or Carol Devine, 483-7894 or [wdevine@bellsouth.net](mailto:wdevine@bellsouth.net).

### March 12 (Sat). Day hike (exploratory), Polly Branch Loop Trail, Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness.

This area adjacent to the Virgin Falls State Natural Area contains numerous streams and waterfalls. The 8-mile loop will pass several small waterfalls leading to the Caney Fork River. We'll learn a bit about the "karst" formations that characterize the area. Though an established trail, it is rated moderate, but beware, as the trip leader has not hiked this trail before (hence, it is "exploratory"). One-way drive: 108 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net)

## Meetings (continued from page 4)

the meeting.

### Thursday, April 7, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

#### Monthly First Thursday Gathering Otherlands, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN

Sierra Club members, activists and friends meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Emily Schwimmer at [eschwimm@gmail.com](mailto:eschwimm@gmail.com) or Deborah Mays at (901) 722-4111.

### Monday, April 11, 6:30 pm

#### Strategy Meeting Fuel Cafe, 1761 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN

The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. For more information or to place items on the agenda, contact the group chair, Keven Routon, at [kwrats@me.com](mailto:kwrats@me.com). Agenda items must be submitted at least three days before the meeting.

### "Nature of Conservation" Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Cable TV Show on WYPL-TV 18 (Comcast):

Days and times vary—see <http://www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/schedule/> (or the Comcast on-screen guide) for the latest schedule. Topic changes every month. For more information, or if anyone has an

(email preferred).

### March 19 (Sat). Day hike, Tellico Lake East Lakeshore Trail.

This is a relatively easy hike along Tellico Lake's eastern shore. We will do the Coytee Loop (1.6 miles) and then connect to the Glendale Branch (5.2 miles). The Glendale Branch will be out and back except for a loop around Power Point. Total hiking distance is 6.8 miles. Construction of the East Lakeshore Trail is a joint venture between the Watershed Association of the Tellico Reservoir (WATeR) and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Currently, about 17 miles of trail out of a planned 35 miles is completed. Hikers will have the option of hiking other portions of the trail – North Branch, Sinking Creek, Lotterdale, and Jackson Bend. These trails are flat or rolling with just a few steeper inclines. The East Lakeshore Trail is located along the east shoreline of Tellico Lake opposite Tellico Village. Rated easy to moderate. The drive from West Knoxville is about 19 miles. Pre-register with BJ and Bob Perlack: [perlack@aol.com](mailto:perlack@aol.com); 675-7668.

### March 19 (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Ijams Nature Center.

This will be a get-acquainted session for those interested in the Harvey Broome Group Take-a-Hike program, and includes a short, easy hike for folks who do not have any wilderness hiking experience, but would like to try it. This will be the first in a series of increasingly challenging hikes for those who have always wanted to find out what it's like. No special equipment, not even hiking boots, is required for this outing. In fact, we'll talk about what you should have in order to hike safely in the Smokies or other nearby wilderness areas. Handouts will be provided with details on information sources and equipment. So if "you always wanted to know, but were afraid to ask," this is your chance. There is no charge. Participants are expected to be in reasonable shape for a 3-mile walk on a paved path, and to have aspirations for advancing to a level where they are comfortable with taking a five mile hike in the Smoky Mountains. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

### March 26 (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Knoxville River Walk.

idea for a future program, contact Judith Rutschman at [jcrutschman@gmail.com](mailto:jcrutschman@gmail.com) or (901) 767-5916.

### Sierra Club Chickasaw Group is now on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

This is a forum for public discussion, so please feel free to post comments, raise issues, and express environmental concerns.

### For More Information about Sierra Club – Chickasaw Group Educational Programs:

<http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/>

<http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

Meetings are held at the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN

For suggestions and further information please feel free to contact our Programs Chair, [susan.routon@gmail.com](mailto:susan.routon@gmail.com).

## WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

### PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Please contact Gloria Griffith at [gla4797@earthlink.net](mailto:gla4797@earthlink.net) or 423-727-4797 for more information.

## Ten Essentials for Hiking



Sierra Club outings offer a variety of wilderness and near-wilderness experiences. It is important to realize that while all trips are guided by a leader, it is ultimately the responsibility of the individual to operate in a safe manner. To this end, the following is a list of essential items which should be modified according to the particular type of outing. These are:

1. Adequate map
2. First aid kit
3. Compass
4. Rain gear
5. Extra clothing (it is a good idea to always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Knife
8. Flashlight
9. Extra food, water
10. The tenth essential: You decide what is the most important thing to bring!

This will be a get-acquainted session for those interested in the Harvey Broome Group Take-a-Hike program. This is an alternate date for those who can't make the March 19 session. We'll describe the program and do a two-mile walk on the Knoxville waterfront and downtown Knoxville. For those who do not have any wilderness hiking experience, but would like to try it, this is the place to start. It's the first in a series of increasingly challenging hikes for those who have always wanted to find out what it's like. No special equipment, not even hiking boots, is required for this outing. In fact, we'll talk about what you should have in order to hike safely in the Smokies or other nearby wilderness areas. Handouts will be provided with details on information sources and equipment. So if "you always wanted to know, but were afraid to ask," this is your chance. There is no charge. Participants are expected to be in reasonable shape for a 3-mile walk on a paved path, and to have aspirations for advancing to a level where they are comfortable with taking a five mile hike in the Smoky Mountains. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

### April 2 (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Porters Creek Trail.

This trail often has spectacular wildflowers from late March through April, so bring your wildflower books and cameras along. The trailhead is located in the Greenbrier area (follow highway US-321 about six miles east of Gatlinburg). The first 1.5 miles of trail offer good wildflower viewing. Lunch at SMHC cabin is possible. Hiking distance 4 miles roundtrip. Rated easy. One-way drive: 52 miles. Pre-register with Mac Post: 938-3116, [mpost3116@aol.com](mailto:mpost3116@aol.com).

### April 2-3 (Sat-Sun). Cumberland Trail Backpack, LaFollete to Cove Lake State Park.

The Cumberland Trail extends from Kentucky to Georgia, and one of the best sections is a short drive from Knoxville. The Eagle Rock section is perhaps the most geologically varied trail in east Tennessee, which we'll learn about as the trail follows the edge of the Cumberland Plateau. After a steep climb near LaFollette there's a wonderland of rock along the edge of the Cumberland Plateau escarpment from LaFollette to I-75 and Cove Lake State Park, ranging from a "Great Wall of China" to a stone arch and lookouts, with vistas of the Powell River valley and the Cumberland Mountains; at the south end is the Devil's Racetrack visible from I-75. We'll also be measuring this section for a to-be-published hiking guide for the Cumberland Trail. Hiking distance is about 11 miles total. Rated moderate. One-way drive: 35 miles. Pre-register with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; [whshome@bellsouth.net](mailto:whshome@bellsouth.net).

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

No outings are scheduled.

(continued on page 6)

# Way Down Upon the Suwannee River

By Gloria Griffith

In search of Florida wilderness several Sierra Club Watauga Group and Johnson County residents packed and headed for a unusual winter getaway. Canoeing 131 miles on the Suwannee River and sleeping under starry December skies held more adventures than the paddlers anticipated.

Expecting Florida temperatures to be pleasantly cool, the campers encountered night time temperatures into the teens. Sunshine helped bring daytime temperatures back into the low forties.

"Reaching river camps, hot meals and cozy campfires were welcomed each day with anticipation," said Dean Whitworth. "No day more so than our arrival at Branford. Cold head winds and choppy waters had us all but done in."

Webb Griffith said, "Not long after landing our canoes an alert deputy sheriff advised us the Branford park, camp and facilities were closed for the season. The deputy, made aware of our predicament, arranged a call to the town mayor, Don Owens." The mayor granted permission for the canoeists to camp.

"The next camping area was 21 miles down river," said Carl Osborn. "Yes, we were very grateful!" Later, Mayor Owens arrived at the riverside park to make sure the tired visitors were comfortable and safe.

Due to low water conditions in the upper Suwannee, Griffith, Tennessee Chapter outings chair, chose to paddle from Holton Creek River Camp to Fanning Springs, an eight-day scouting trip for future outings. This section widens and includes numerous "boiling" springs and small shoals, adding to the river's everchanging character as it heads toward the Gulf of Mexico.

Over 700 springs, with a constant temperature of 72 degrees, supply crystal clear water to the Suwannee River. "The clearest, most litter free river I have ever paddled," Griffith said praising the Suwannee. "These river folks are obviously proud of the waterway that runs through the place they call home."

For about six months a year water levels in the Suwannee make the river accessible only by canoe. During this period of low water, limestone outcroppings, cypress knees, small caves, rock formations and overhangs were visible

along the banks. Manatee, pie bald deer, kites and turtles were viewed in their natural habitats.

"One manatee lifted the bow of my canoe completely out of the water," laughed Griffith. "She must have considered my canoe a good back scratch."

Check out this National Geographic video about the Suwannee River

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/10/061010-suwannee-video.html>

Contact Webb Griffith at 423-727-4797 to inquire about the next Suwannee River trip.



(L to R) Suwannee paddlers Carl Osborn and Dean Whitworth. Photo: Webb Griffith

## Outings (continued from page 5)

### CHEROKEE GROUP

**The Cherokee Group** sponsors outings and hikes at least one or two weekends a month. **Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway** serves as our outings chair and as point-man for outings information for our Group. Our activities are always open to the public and to members of the Club from across the state! We explore interesting and unique parts of Tennessee and gain an appreciation of how wonderful (and sometimes threatened) our area is, while having fun. Outings are planned to take in the interests and skill levels of the participants. For more information, contact Jeremy at 423-619-6548 or [gazawaypainting@gmail.com](mailto:gazawaypainting@gmail.com).

#### **March 12 (Sat.) North Chickamauga Creek Day hike.**

We'll be passing by scenic overlooks of North Chickamauga Creek as well as old mining shafts, giving the opportunity to discuss the effect of past coal mining as well as possible future mining on Waldens Ridge and the watershed. Please be sure to bring plenty of water, appropriate clothes for the weather and something to snack on. The hike is rated easy to moderate, about 4.5 miles. For more information and to register, contact Trip Leader Davis Mounger, 423-877-4616 or [wdmounger@yahoo.com](mailto:wdmounger@yahoo.com).

#### **April 9-10 (Sat.-Sun.) Fiery Gizzard Day hike or Overnighter.**

This will be a beautiful hike, passing many cascades, with a trip down to Sycamore Falls. If you wish to camp overnight, please bring food, plenty of water, extra change of clothes, tent, sleeping bag, flashlight and proper attire for

warmth. For more information and to register, contact Trip Leader Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway, 423-619-6548 or [gazawaypainting@gmail.com](mailto:gazawaypainting@gmail.com).

#### ADVANCE NOTICE:

The Tennessee Chapter's summer retreat and Chapter meeting will be held July 8-10 at Max Patch, up in the mountains along the Tennessee/North Carolina border of east Tennessee. We'll explore this wonderful region with day hikes, learn from naturalists, enjoy star gazing at night under the bright stars (with no city light pollution!) and rock in the huge chairs on the balcony while watching the hummingbirds visit the wild flowers. Plan now for a relaxed weekend and plan on meeting/making new friends. Prices are low, bunk house accommodations. Details will be in the next Tennes-Sierran, but mark your calendars NOW! --sponsored by the Cherokee Group

### CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

#### **Saturday, March 26 10:00 am**

#### **Outing: Wildflower Walk**

#### **T.O. Fuller State Park, Memphis, TN**

Meet at picnic tables just east of C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa (1987 Indian Village Drive) and we will walk about 3 miles looking at wildflowers and discuss the forest/water environment where they are found. Fees for museum if you wish to tour it afterward. Bring drinking water, lunch and a hiking stick. No pets please. Contact Sue Williams at (901) 274-0524 or [z4cmv@juno.com](mailto:z4cmv@juno.com) for more information.

#### **Sunday, March 20, 5:30 pm to about 7:15 pm** **Outing: Mississippi River Bluffwalk Sunset Equinox Hike Downtown Memphis, TN**

Explore the riverfront parks, with information on air and water quality issues and updates on riverfront development issues. Meet at Butler Park with free parking on Tennessee Street. Park entrance is on Tennessee Street at the intersection with Butler Avenue, next to the old Tennessee Brewery. See <http://tinyurl.com/Bulter-Park> for map, or park at Tom Lee Park and walk up the stairs at the south end of the parking lot. Optional dinner after outing. Contact Sue A. Williams at (901) 274-0524 for more information.

Further instructions: On Front St going north, go under railroad bridge at Nettleton and take next right which is Butler. Butler dead ends at Tennessee.

If coming from the south on Riverside Dr., turn right on Georgia Ave which bends and becomes Front St. Turn left onto Butler which is directly after W Calhoun.

**April 16-17 (Sat, Sun) Morning outings will be held at the chapter meeting at Natchez Trace State Park, details TBA. Contact Sue Williams at (901) 274-0524 or [z4cmv@juno.com](mailto:z4cmv@juno.com)**

**Sunday, April 17, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm**  
**Tabling Event: Down to Earth Festival**  
**Shelby Farms Park**

Join us for the Mid-South's largest Earth Day celebration at America's largest urban park.

Sierra Club-Chickasaw Group will be hosting a table at this event along with dozens of other eco-vendors and area non-profit organizations. There will be music, food, kids' activities, and a full assortment of guided hikes and tours led by experts throughout the day.

Contact Matt Farr ([mfarr@shelbyfarmspark.org](mailto:mfarr@shelbyfarmspark.org)) for more information.

Admission is free, with a suggested donation for parking.

# Chickasaw Group Recognizes Community Leaders

*During its annual Christmas party, the Chickasaw Group presented eight different community members and institutions with awards for their work in local environmental stewardship and conservation. Together, the awardees demonstrate Memphis' burgeoning public movement for a more just, sustainable city.*

## **Citizens to Preserve Overton Park (CPOP) — Park & Public Lands Protector Award**

Founded in 2007, CPOP has quickly become a major voice for protecting natural amenities in Midtown Memphis by advocating state protection for Overton Park's Old Forest through hosting bi-weekly educational hikes and exemplary media outreach. By opposing arbitrary construction of detention ponds in the green spaces of Overton Park, the group helped initiate a broad coalition to correct longstanding flooding problems in Midtown neighborhoods.

## **Greater Memphis Greenline Inc. (GMG) — Connecting Communities Award**

Founded in 2004 as a green-ribbon committee of area environmental and conservation group representatives, GMG met for three years in virtual secrecy to expedite land acquisition for the future Shelby Farms Greenway and acted as intermediaries for anonymous donors. Following the highly successful opening of the Greenline in October, GMG continues to identify opportunities to connect Memphians and

green spaces.

## **Livable Memphis — Community Builder Award**

Beginning with the Annual Neighborhood Summit in 2007, the Pizza with Planners public meeting series in 2008, the Bike-Walk Memphis committee this past year, and most recently the promotion of the Broad Avenue Arts District for connecting the Shelby Farms Greenline to Midtown and beyond, Livable Memphis is making its name a reality!

## **Marvin Butler — Environmental Education Award**

A green businessman and talented singer, songwriter, and author, Marvin is Memphis' first green troubadour! Marvin educates as he entertains, spreading his message of hope and a call to action in building a sustainable future.

## **Amy & Scott Banbury — Green Family Award**

As parents, green practitioners, exemplary community leaders, and former Chickasaw Executive Committee members Amy & Scott practice what they preach! Both chose to establish service related businesses to meet local community needs. Both are community leaders. Amy is a family event organizer and local parks activist; Scott is a storm water activist, local political activist, and Cub Scout leader.

## **Bianca Phillips — Environmental Journalism Award**

Bianca has distinguished herself in the Memphis Flyer for her unique and thorough coverage of environmental and sustainability related issues. An exemplary example of her work was the cover story, "Toxic Shock" (October 14-20), featuring the Shelby County Toxic Ten annual report compiled by the Sierra Club's environmental justice program. Her works have resulted in heightened environmental awareness across the Mid-South.

## **Jeanne Richardson — Public Servant of the Year**

As the Tennessee State Representative for the 89th District, Rep. Richardson was co-sponsor of 2010's Overton Park Natural Area bill. She is a tireless champion in Nashville for local and statewide environmental and sustainability concerns.

## **Susan Routon — Volunteer of the Year Award**

Susan has worn a lot of hats: Executive Committee member, Chapter delegate, treasurer, program chair, hospitality chair, event food coordinator, and publicity & PR extraordinaire. She could also be found assisting at most tabling events. Susan has stepped up in her first year with Chickasaw Group to serve in whatever capacity was needed. She is a true role model for how to save the planet one community at a time.

# Outings Leader Training & First Aid Workshop a Success!

The Cherokee Group had a full house recently at its January First Aid and Outing Leader Training 101 Workshop, graduating 17 new outings leaders.

Linda "Sparky" Sparks, of the Red Cross, led a spirited basic first aid class, assisted by RoseAnn Copeland. This was followed by Elizabeth and Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway's team-taught Outings Leader Training 101 seminar, with full group training and break-out sessions. The seminar culminated in all participants receiving their certificates and a Sierra Club outings leader patch.

You can look forward to their diverse outings in 2011! Congratulations to: Mike Bascom; Zach Bopp; Sheryl Campbell, Emily Marr Davis; Tami Freedman; Tacy Gorton; Cameron Gramarye; Macy Hashop; Leslie Jakobs; Barbara Kelly; Scott Kramer; Melissa Meyer; Colleen Mikelson; Davis Mounger; Elaine Montgomery; Trish Woolbright; and Dylan Williams.



Angeleah is getting her arm bandaged by Barbara Kelly, who is checking the circulation in Angeleah's fingers. Photo: Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway.



Dylan William's arm is skillfully attended to by Leslie Jakobs. Photo: Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway



Sheryl Campbell is applying a triangle bandage to keep Davis Mounger's injured arm, already in a sling, from movement. Photo: Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway.

# Memphis Environmental Justice Conference Raises Awareness

By Rita Harris

The 9th annual Memphis environmental justice conference, "An Interconnected Environmental Web," was held November 13, 2010.

It was an all-day conference that was co-sponsored by the Tennessee Chapter, the Chickasaw Group and the Memphis environmental justice program office. We are proud that we annually host the ONLY grassroots environmental conference in the Memphis area!

Thirteen workshops were offered to approximately 85 folks from all over the Memphis metropolitan region. Each year we strive to reach the average person next door to share information, raise environmental awareness on a variety of issues, and add folks to our activist ranks.

The Dick Mochow Environmental Justice Award was presented to two Memphis environmental justice veteran activists: Mondell Williams and Charles Patterson of south Memphis. Both men formed an organization and fought for many years to close down a local hazardous waste recycler, Perma Fix, in their neighborhood. In addition, Mondell Williams served on the restoration advisory board at the Memphis Defense Depot where the military buried munitions, medicines, and

other items that contaminated groundwater in the area.

The Memphis environmental justice program is committed to raising awareness to gain better environmental protection and community services, and to secure safer, healthier communities.

*(Rita Harris is a Sierra Club environmental justice field organizer.)*

(Right) Sue Williams and Keven Routon network at the 9th Annual Environmental Justice Conference, Saturday November 9, 2010 in Memphis, TN.



(Left) Memphis conference coordinator Rita Harris and registrar, Pearlie Estes, register attendees from Rust College in Holly Springs, MS. Photos by Kelvin Butler.

## energy corner



By Steven Sondheim, Chapter Energy Team  
**National Transportation Issues**

President Obama has called for a transportation infrastructure bill with more transportation choices and less dependence on oil. Nationally, our transportation sector is almost entirely dependent on oil and contributes 30 percent of our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, in addition to releasing pollutants that harm public health.

John Mica, House transportation chair, has shown long-term interest in high speed rail, transit, and better use of rail, both passenger and freight, to reduce the need for additional road capacity. There seems to be some willingness to work with the Senate committee, led by Barbara Boxer, on a Fix-It-First strategy that is prioritized for less VMT (vehicle miles traveled) to get needs met, resulting in reduced traffic, increased access, reduced oil use and more transportation choices.

In a Transportation For America [www.T4america.com](http://www.T4america.com) focus group the "Fixing Our Failing Infrastructure" theme ran across all party lines. The idea is

to fix infrastructure where people live now rather than building out, which results in sprawl and greenfield development. It means to maintain existing assets in a smart way in the right places before building new. By leveraging local economic resources, infrastructure is re-engineered including smart land use.

In the short term, Amtrak is threatened, along with transit and New Start projects. All this is happening very fast with little time for public opposition or input. Please let your representatives and senators know of your wishes around these issues.

[www.SteelInterstate.org](http://www.SteelInterstate.org) is a very informative site on freight rail, energy independence, greenhouse gas emissions, Peak Oil, and the natural gas trucking issue.

RailSolution is looking at freight rail along the I-81/I-40/Crescent Corridor instead of new truck lanes.

### National Energy Issues

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune gave a talk to the National Energy Activist Team on protecting public health and building a clean energy economy.

Michael emphasized the importance of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in protecting our health and that we must transition to renewable energy from dirty coal and oil.

The Sierra Club is launching a campaign to defend the EPA and the Clean Air Act. It is also engaged in both the Beyond Oil and Beyond Coal campaigns as well as the Clean Energy campaign.

To learn more and become involved, join the National Energy Activists. There are twice monthly calls regarding federal climate and energy work. Learn about national and international climate change efforts. Contact [christina.yagjian@sierraclub.org](mailto:christina.yagjian@sierraclub.org)

### Green Building Tours Scheduled for March 14-20

The Tennessee Sierra Club and United States Green Building Council will be presenting tours in Memphis, Nashville, Cookeville, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Johnson City. Last year we had five successful tours. Check with your local Sierra Club Group for times and places. See demonstrations of green building technology and participate in advocacy for more of it.

### State Energy Team

Collaborate at the state and local level regarding energy issues. Help your Group work on these issues. Conference calls are usually the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm CST. We will familiarize and train you. For more information contact Gloria Griffith, 423-727-4797 [gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)

### TVA /Beyond Coal Committee

Get involved with bimonthly calls regarding TVA, energy efficiency, renewables, pollution, coal ash, etc. To get involved contact Louise Gorenflo, 931/484-2633 [lgorenflo@gmail.com](mailto:lgorenflo@gmail.com)

### Transportation Committee

Robin Hill is the new transportation chair, (865) 607-4542 [robin.hill8@gmail.com](mailto:robin.hill8@gmail.com)

Brian Paddock, (931) 268-2938 [bpaddock@twlakes.net](mailto:bpaddock@twlakes.net) or Steven Sondheim, (901) 761-1793 [stevensondheim@yahoo.com](mailto:stevensondheim@yahoo.com)

### Rebuild/Repower Committee

This committee works on the Cool Cities project, Generation Partners program, and green building, solar and weatherization issues. For more information contact Mary Mastin, [marymastin@twlakes.net](mailto:marymastin@twlakes.net)

## Moving?



Attach mailing address label, or fill in current name, address & Membership ID#

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Member ID# \_\_\_\_\_

My new address is:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041,  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041.

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group  
**Tennes-Sierran**  
3340 Perimeter Hill Drive  
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Nashville, Tennessee  
Permit No. 3225