

# Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 42, Number 3 - May/June, 2011

## Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference Motivates Environmental Justice Activists

By Rita Harris

Our Sierra Club Environmental Justice (EJ) Program supports the national organization's vision of partnering with unions, and encouraging and supporting the creation of good paying clean jobs for now and into the future. The neighborhood residents that make up environmental justice communities across the country are the hardest hit by unemployment and are keenly interested in jobs that are not associated with polluting factories and manufacturing processes that leave a huge carbon footprint.

The Sierra Club nationally has played an integral role for the last four years in promoting the Blue-Green Alliance, a national, strategic partnership between labor unions and environmental organizations dedicated to expanding the number and quality of jobs in the green economy.

Each year we invite Sierra Club volunteers, community partners and friends to join us in one of the biggest opportunities of the year to network, listen to expert speakers, and meet and learn from groups and businesses that are actually making headway in creating a greener economy.

This year's Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference drew 2,000 attendees from across the country. Zorina Bowen, Danette Leonard, Marvin & Kelvin Butler (all Sierra Club members and EJ activists) and EJ organizer Rita Harris attended as representatives of the Memphis EJ Program. At the customary Sierra Club delegation meeting we found out we were part of a 400-strong Sierra Club delegation, which was a very impressive group.

In addition to listening to a host of great conference plenary speakers, including EPA's Lisa Jackson, our group absorbed great information from numerous workshops, such as youth education initiatives, state & local partnerships, successful green jobs training programs, and how to engage communities in impoverished areas in green energy discussions. The daily list of workshops was too many to list here.

### Horizons Broadened

Zorina Bowen, a high school chemistry teacher, was excited to meet so many new and interesting people from across the country that had similar interests to her own.

The most interesting workshop I attended was the one on community gardening," Zorina said. "We had an opportunity to find out about each other and what we were doing, as well as what worked and what didn't and why.

"I took the initiative in our session to send around a sign-in sheet; I took it home, typed it and sent it out to everyone in the workshop. I gained a wealth of information from all the workshops I attended and I will definitely share ideas with as many power brokers as possible in order to create more green jobs here in Memphis," she added.

Danette Leonard, who works for the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department stated: "I enjoyed being among like minds from various parts of the country who shared similar environmental concerns. I felt a great sense of support from government officials who made it clear that they agreed there is a need for green alternatives to be implemented. Finding common ground and



Pictured in the photo (left to right) are: Rita Harris, Marvin Butler, Danette Leonard, Zorina Bowen, and Kelvin Butler.

organizing priorities are extremely important to allow the goals of environmental and human protection to be accomplished. I found it interesting that green jobs and promoting alternatives can be both profitable and environmentally friendly. I have always been given the impression that one has to choose between the two."

### Mr. Organic Goes to Washington

Marvin Butler, singer, children's book author, and well-known for his Mr. Organic book character, performed some of his original environmental songs and wowed the crowd at the Sierra Club delegation gathering.

Marvin shared that he will always remember "the positive response that I got from everyone, especially the key speakers, during the delegation meeting who each commented how the environmental movement needs more movement songs to keep all of us motivated.

"I enjoyed being interviewed by Rick Smith, who was blogging live at the conference, for his internet radio talk show ([www.ricksmith.com](http://www.ricksmith.com)). Rick was so impressed with my music and book

that he gave me an interview on the spot after he listened to my music on YouTube.

"The way people go to Capitol Hill and either promote or protest issues is something that I will always remember! My experiences gave me ideas for my next children's book and CD, 'Mr. Organic Goes to Washington,'" Marvin said.

Kelvin Butler works alongside his brother Marvin as a photographer and videographer promoting the Mr. Organic book. Kelvin said he also enjoyed the phenomenal experience of going to Capitol Hill on Advocacy Day and visiting Senator Corker's office. Marvin and Kelvin both got the opportunity to talk with one of Corker's aides on some upcoming bills that might become law.

Kelvin explained that "the sessions on energy conservation and weatherization and home energy audits that helped homes that were 60 to 70 years old reduce energy bills were very helpful. Learning more about environmental justice issues in other parts of the country like Amarillo, Texas, California, and even Jackson, Tennessee were especially eye-opening."

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and Go Paperless Today!**



# Tennes-Sierran

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

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- \*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.

## Next Deadline for July-August Tennes- Sierran Meeting & Outings Notices, Photos and Articles:

**June 1, 2011**

Please send to Lynne  
Baker, editor, at [lbaker@usw.org](mailto:lbaker@usw.org).



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.

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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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# 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)  
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[bk1rivers@comcast.net](mailto:bk1rivers@comcast.net)  
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[TNChapSCTreas@gmail.com](mailto:TNChapSCTreas@gmail.com)  
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[GB1Nature@aol.com](mailto:GB1Nature@aol.com)  
Outings: Webb 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  
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[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)

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Chair: Keven Routon (901) 485-3960  
[kwratcs@me.com](mailto:kwratcs@me.com)  
Vice Chair: JW Johnson (901) 850-9375  
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[matt.tennessierran@gmail.com](mailto:matt.tennessierran@gmail.com)  
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[donrich@juno.com](mailto:donrich@juno.com)

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- [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)  
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[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  
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[clifford.cockerham@mnp.org](mailto:clifford.cockerham@mnp.org)  
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[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)

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Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797  
[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)  
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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)

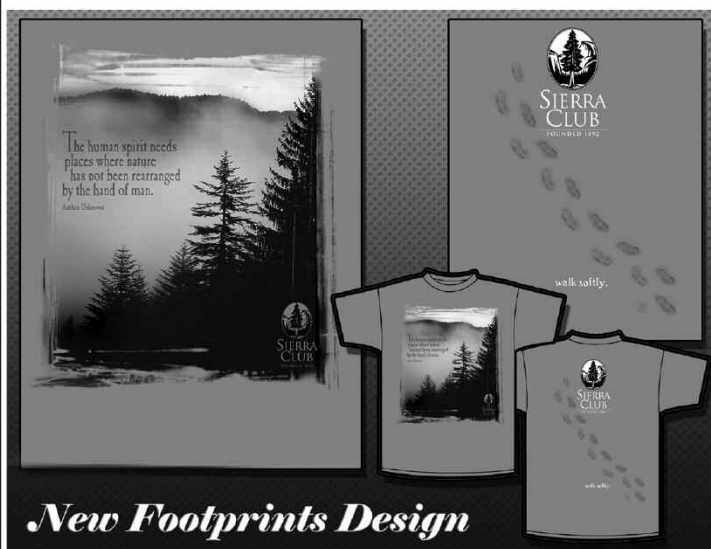
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are needed

## New Design

## Footprints T-Shirts

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# You're Invited to the TN Chapter's Summer Retreat! Max Patch Bald July 8-9-10!

## Special Opportunity -- Mark Your Calendars Now!

Come and meet new people from the Sierra Club! Bring your friends: Non-members are welcome at all of our events.

For our summer retreat we'll be gathering at Sterchi Lodge, located on a mountaintop along the Tennessee-North Carolina state-line, about 80 miles from downtown Knoxville off Interstate 40. High up in the mountains, we're on Max Patch Bald with the Appalachian Trail crossing over the top just 1/2 mile from the lodge!

The Cherokee Group is hosting this event and will be on hand to welcome people beginning at 4 pm Eastern on Friday afternoon.

The lodge is a modern facility designed to be in harmony with its setting at the top of 35 wooded mountaintop acres bordering both the Pisgah and Cherokee National Forests. There are beds for 42 people, couch space for 5 more. The lodge features modern bathroom and shower facilities, comfortable couches, a fully-equipped kitchen, a volleyball court, basketball goal, and picnic tables on the porch. The large deck with rocking chairs is a favorite place to

enjoy the spectacular views of the mountains and valleys, the cool breeze and the hummingbirds fluttering among the wild flowers.

\*Saturday hikes are planned for 9:30 am and 1:00 pm on and around the Bald (blueberries may be ripe!), with star gazing on Max Patch Bald about 10 pm when it's dark. A Sunday hike is planned for 9:30 am.

\*Two special programs are on the agenda for Saturday evening as well: Bill Reynolds will start the evening off at 7:30 pm with a talk on electric vehicles, and at 9:00 pm Gary Bowers will bring us the latest on media reform and how current changes are/will affect us and our environmental work.

The Chapter will be holding various committee meetings (Communications, Conservation, Budget, Administrative) beginning at noon Saturday afternoon and on Sunday morning.

You are welcome to sit in on one or all of these meetings, but if not, take the time to relax and



recreate at this wonderful spot! This is a great time to get to know folks from across the state who share the same perspective.

Breakfasts and Saturday dinner are provided, as well as coffee and plenty of snacks—you bring your own trail lunches. Bring your own sleeping bag, linens/towels and toiletries, as well as your re-useable beverage container. (There is an optional Friday cookout \$5/person.) At registration please state your preference: omnivore or vegetarian!

### Early Bird Price BY JUNE 30: \$40

(children up to 15 attend free!)

### After July 1: \$50

#### 1-day only price with meals: Sat/\$20 and Sun/\$10

**SPECIAL:** 1/2 price for first-time attendees!

A limited number of partial scholarships available by request to Scott Kramer, TN Chapter Treasurer: [TNChapSCTreas@gmail.com](mailto:TNChapSCTreas@gmail.com)  
Friday Evening Cookout: \$5/person

To REGISTER: Call or e-mail **Barbara Kelly** [bk1rivers@comcast.net](mailto:bk1rivers@comcast.net) or 423-718-5009. Registering before June 30 gets you in at the **Early Bird Price!** Let us know about the Friday Cookout too!

Further details, specifics on the hikes, and directions will be sent after you register with the Cherokee Group.

#### Directions to Sterchi Lodge: ([http://www.churchstreetumc.org/sertchi\\_faq.php](http://www.churchstreetumc.org/sertchi_faq.php))

##### FROM KNOXVILLE:

Take Interstate 40 East through Newport and across the North Carolina state line. Take the first North Carolina exit (Exit 7 - Harmon Den). Turn left at the bottom of the exit ramp - the road turns to gravel almost immediately. Drive approximately 6.8 miles and make a sharp left turn just past a brown forestry sign. (You will also see a sign pointing to Max Patch at this turn.) Drive approximately 2 more miles, passing the Max Patch Trailhead on the right and a large pond with a boardwalk also on the right. The driveway to the lodge is on the left, approximately 2/10 of a mile past the pond.

##### FROM KNOXVILLE (ALTERNATE ROUTE)

Note: This route takes longer, but may be useful in the event of traffic jams or snow. Take Interstate 40 East to the 1st Newport exit (Highway 25). Take Highway 25 towards Newport. Continue on Highway 25 through downtown Newport to Del Rio. At Del Rio, turn right on Highway 107. Continue on Highway 107 for several miles. Turn left on Round Mountain Road. This will turn into a gravel road almost immediately. Follow this road for approximately 9 or 10 miles, winding through the mountains. The lodge driveway will be a sharp turn to the right. If you reach the pond with the boardwalk on your left or the Max Patch Trailhead, you've gone too far.

\*The Lodge has 2 street addresses, one in North Carolina and one in Tennessee.

\*The driveway is marked with both addresses:

-5000 Round Mountain Road, Del Rio, Tennessee

-6303 Max Patch Road, Hot Springs, North Carolina



## Defenders List for Tennes-Sierran

Listed below are more Tennessee Sierra Club members and supporters who have donated to the 2010 - 11 Defenders campaign. All of the money raised by this campaign stays right here in Tennessee and is earmarked for the important legislative work of our Chapter. Donations may be sent to:

**Tennessee Sierra Club Defenders**  
P.O. Box 290306

Nashville, TN 37229-0306

If you would like your name on this list, please be sure to tell us when you send your donation.

Nora Harvey  
David Bordenkircher  
Robert W. Peelle  
Sherry Kekkonan  
Ben M. Petty  
Clark Buchner

# 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. June 14, 7:00 PM – to be determined.

**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). All members are invited to attend to get the news on what's happening in our Harvey Broome Group.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**PROGRAM: June 9, 7:00 p.m., Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville**

For those who wanted to hear award-winning author Amanda Little at our February program (canceled because of weather), she has kindly agreed to reschedule for June 9! Little has published widely on the environment, energy and technology for more than a decade, and you may have seen her work in Outside magazine, the New York Times Magazine, Vanity Fair, Rolling Stone, Wired, New York, In Style, Men's Journal or The Washington Post.

She is the recipient of the Jane Bagley Lehman Award for excellence in environmental journalism and has published interviews with public figures ranging from Barack Obama and Al Gore to John McCain and Rupert Murdoch. Little has appeared on MSNBC, Fox News, National Public Radio, and has delivered keynotes for wide-ranging audiences. For a sample of her work, see her recent provocative op-ed on energy obesity at "Making Every Oil Calorie Count."

Little's most recent book is Power Trip, in which she maps out the history and future of America's energy addiction in a big-picture, solutions-oriented adventure story. She went on a cross-country "power trip" to understand America's energy crisis and to describe the most extreme and exciting frontiers of our energy landscape. Energy is everything while our energy addiction poses political and environmental dangers to the U.S. and to the world. However, she also explores the clean-energy solutions that can solve these problems.

Little will offer a book signing following the program. Don't miss the special opportunity to hear this dynamic speaker and author.

Free and open to the public.

**STRATEGY MEETINGS: May 16 and June 20, 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. 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)

**MAY STRATEGY: (Board Meeting) 3rd Wed., May 18, 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, preferably a few days before.

**MAY PROGRAM: 4th Monday, May 23, 7 pm at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: GAINING GROUND, http://growchattanooga.org/ Presenter: Jeff Pfitzer, Gaining Group Program Director.**

Launched in 2010 as a Benwood Foundation initiative, Gaining Ground is part of a growing movement of local growers, sellers and others committed to increasing the production and consumption of LOCAL food in the Chattanooga region, all of which bolsters the economy, helps conserve the environment, promotes good health and builds community! Come learn how they are creating cooperative partnerships among local farmers, markets, wholesalers, agencies, schools, chefs and other to bring healthier and fresher food. Bring friends and family and plan to attend. Free to public and healthy snacks provided!

**JUNE STRATEGY: (Board Meeting) 3rd Wed., June 15, 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, preferably a few days before.

**JUNE PROGRAM: Last Monday, June 27, 7 pm at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: Tennessee and the Environment. Presenter: TN State Senator Andy Berke. Tennessee got lucky. When Ward Crutchfield's state senate seat opened, the public elected attorney Andy Berke.** Since then, Berke has been saying "no" to nuclear waste importation and downblending, fought hard to stop mountaintop removal in our state and is one of the few state leaders supporting clean air and water. Last year the Tennessee Conservation Voters named him a top-ranked senator and gave him the "Good Green Deed Award." Come with your questions and be ready to share your concerns. Democrat Andy Berke of Chattanooga is state senator from Tennessee District 10, which includes parts of Hamilton and Marion counties. He can be reached at sen.andy.berke@legislature.state.tn.us. Bring friends and family and plan to attend. Free to public and healthy snacks provided!

*Note: Our Program meetings continue to be held at GreenSpaces, 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.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/>)

**Thursday, May 26, 6:30 pm - Refreshments & Networking, 7:00 pm – Presentation. Presentation: Topic TBA, Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, Meeting Room C, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN.** Topic to be announced at a later date. For more information, contact Susan Routon at [susan.routon@gmail.com](mailto:susan.routon@gmail.com) or (901) 413-3888.

**Thursday, June 2, 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, June 13, 6:30 pm, Strategy Meeting, Trolley Stop Market, 704 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.

**Thursday, June 23, 6:30 pm - Refreshments & Networking, 7:00 pm – Presentation. Presentation: Topic TBA. Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, Meeting Room A, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN.** Topic to be announced at a later date. For more information, contact Susan Routon at [susan.routon@gmail.com](mailto:susan.routon@gmail.com) or (901) 413-3888.

**"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 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. Updates and details about upcoming events are posted here.

## 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.

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# 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.

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**May 21 (Sat.) Wildlife Float, Rankin Wildlife Management Area, Douglas Lake.** Guided by Michael Sledjeski, we'll explore backwaters accessible only by canoe or kayak and learn about wildlife that inhabits this wetland paradise. Expect to see ospreys, herons & egrets, wood ducks, warblers & orioles. The float is suitable for paddlers with reasonable flat-water paddling skills - no currents to contend with. The paddle trip will commence at 5 PM, making a loop from the tippie area for sunset & birds flying to roost. Limited to 4 boats in addition to the leader. You can expect about 3 or 4 miles of flatwater paddling. You'll have to arrange your own canoe rentals if you need a boat. For rentals, you might try Michael Sledjeski of the Rankin Bottoms Project, email [mtnsylvania@earthlink.net](mailto:mtnsylvania@earthlink.net), or one of the outfitters in the Knoxville area. This trip will be repeated on later dates (see below) as necessary to accommodate additional participants. One-way drive: 50 miles. Contact Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

**28 May (Sat.) Take-a-Hike, Lumber Ridge Trail, GSMNP.** This is an easy hike to a mixed-oak pine forest ecosystem. Starting at Tremont, Lumber ridge trail with a well traveled manway back to Tremont (about 3 miles) with a short hike to Spruce Flats falls (a 70-foot waterfall) possible near the end. Rated moderate. One-way drive: 42 miles. Contact Mac Post: 938-3116, [mpost3116@aol.com](mailto:mpost3116@aol.com).

**June 4 (Sat.) Wildlife Float, Rankin Wildlife Management Area, Douglas Lake.** This trip is pretty much a repeat of the one described for May 21, so see that description. Contact Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

**June 11-12 (Sat.-Sun.) Backpack, Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area, 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 and we'll learn about the geology of the area. We will start and end in Grayson Highlands State Park and will make a large loop around the head of the NRA and the "Crest Zone," utilizing the Appalachian and Pine Mountain Trails. Total mileage will be around 11 miles (6.6 miles Saturday and 5.4 miles Sunday). Rated Moderate. One-way drive: 171 miles. Contact Will Skelton: H 523-2272; W 521-6200; [whshome@bellsouth.net](mailto:whshome@bellsouth.net).

**June 25 (Sat.) Day hike, Gregory Ridge Trail to Gregory Bald, GSMNP.** The first two miles of this trail offer good wildflower viewing. Gregory Bald, a spectacular example of a grassy bald, has naturally hybridized rhododendrons and azaleas that are in full bloom around June 20 each year. 10 miles round trip with a 3,000 ft elevation gain up, and of course 3,000 ft back down. Rated moderate to difficult. One-way

drive: 55 miles. Contact Mac Post: 938-3116, [mpost3116@aol.com](mailto:mpost3116@aol.com).

**July 1-4 (Fri.-Mon.) Backpack, Dolly Sods Wilderness, WV.** Dolly Sods is a 32,000-acre high plateau area in northeastern West Virginia, most of which is designated wilderness or Nature Conservancy lands; it is known for sphagnum bogs, spectacularly scenic open meadows, heath barrens and scattered spruce forest that are characteristic of areas much further north. As we do a large loop backpack through the heart of the area, we'll also learn of its interesting history, ranging from use as a practice artillery and mortar range area to mining and logging. The HBG has visited the area several times over the years (most recently in 2007). Because of the long 7-8 hour drive to the area, the trip will require three full days; we will leave Knoxville late on Friday afternoon and spend the night in a motel north of Roanoke, returning on Monday. Rated Moderate. Contact Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; [whshome@bellsouth.net](mailto:whshome@bellsouth.net).

**July 9 (Sat.) Canoe/Kayak Float, French Broad River.** This 5-mile float starts just upstream from the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge on the French Broad River, about 35 minutes from Knoxville. We'll ride the current downstream for about five miles, enjoying the scenery and wildlife in this area. There may be some shoal water, but no whitewater. Basic canoe/kayak skills required. Sorry but we cannot provide boats, so you will have to contact a local outfitter and make your own arrangements for boats, paddles, and pfd's. One-way drive: 20 miles. Contact Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

**July 16 (Sat.) Take-a-Hike, Jakes Creek to Cucumber Gap to Little River Trails, GSMNP.** This 5.1 mile loop hike explores a bit of the old Elkmont area, dominated by the activities of the Little River Lumber Company at the time of the park's creation. This area has been embroiled for many years in the controversy over disposition of old buildings that were occupied on leases after the establishment of the GSMNP. We'll start up the Jakes Creek Trail for about 1/2 miles, turn east for about 2.1 miles on the Cucumber Gap trail, where we may hope to see some wildflower displays. We'll head north where the Cucumber Gap trail ends at the Little River. The end of the hike will take us down an "avenue" with remnants of many of the finer cabins that once occupied the Elkmont area. Rated easy. Driving distance about 45 miles. Contact Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

**August 6 (Sat.) Take-a-Hike, Bob's Bald, Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness.** Enjoy great views from this high elevation destination in the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness. We access the bald by way of Beech Gap from the Cherohala Skyway. This would also be a good opportunity to look for higher elevation late wildflowers. 6 miles roundtrip, but by starting at Beech Gap there is only an 800 foot elevation gain on the hike to a magnificent bald at 5,420 feet elevation. Rated moderate. Driving distance/time 90 miles/2 hours. Contact Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

## CHEROKEE GROUP

The Cherokee Group sponsors outings and hikes at least 1 or 2 weekends a month. **Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway** serves as our outings chair and 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

## 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!

and unique parts of Tennessee, gaining 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)

**May 21 (Sat.) Red Clay State Park Butterfly/Dragonfly Hunt & Walk.** Red Clay State Historic Park is located in SE Tennessee on the GA/TN border, 260 acres of forested ridges bordering a narrow valley. Its Blue Hole Springs arises from beneath a limestone ledge to form a deep pool that flows into Mill Creek, a tributary to the Conasauga River; the spring was used by the Cherokee for their water supply during council meetings held at Red Clay, and it is here that the Trail of Tears began. We'll be visiting the small visitors' center, which has exhibits on the 19th century Cherokee, the Trail of Tears, and prehistory. Then we'll walk the easy 1.4 mile loop trail as we look for dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies. Bring lunch/beverages for a picnic on the grounds and your binoculars and cameras. Plan to depart Chattanooga at 9:30 am, and return in the afternoon. For meeting place and further details, contact Trip Leader Barbara Kelly, 423-718-5009 or [bk1rivers@comcast.net](mailto:bk1rivers@comcast.net).

**June 11-12 (Sat.-Sun.) Citico Creek Overnighter.** This is a moderate to strenuous overnight in the Citico Creek Wilderness in the Cherokee Forest. Saturday we'll travel to Citico, checking out a few proposed timber sale areas on the way, establish our base camp near Citico Creek, and take a short 1-2 mi. hike nearby. Sunday we'll pack up and take a longer (6 mile) moderate to strenuous hike into the wilderness. Great wildflowers, towering trees, creeks to swim in, fun times to be had! Bring your bear bells! Trip Leaders are Sheryl Campbell and Davis Mounger; to register and for further trip information contact Davis, 423-877-4616 or [wdmounger@yahoo.com](mailto:wdmounger@yahoo.com).

**June 12 (Sun.) Chattanooga Green Festival at the Tennessee Pavillion, Chattanooga Market.** Wanted: People to represent the Sierra Club at our booth! We will again "table" at this event and need help from you! Contact Tami Freedman, [tamifreedman@aol.com](mailto:tamifreedman@aol.com), or call Barbara Kelly, 423-718-5009, if you are willing to sign up for an hour or two at our booth at this fun festival. Last year there were more than 50 interesting exhibitors and about 10,000 enjoying the day! Make plans to come!

**June 18 (Sat.) Edwards Point Day Hike, 10:00 am.** One of our most popular hikes, it is an easy to moderate hike of about 4-5 miles roundtrip, with the spectacular view from Edwards Point showcasing the long stretch of the "Grand Canyon of the Tennessee," with historic Williams Island below on the left,

(continued on page 6)

# A Typical Hike in the Life of a Nashville Inner City Outings Leader

By Craig Jervis

Inner City Outings Middle Tennessee Group

We enjoyed a beautiful early spring day outside with a group from All the Kings Men (AKM).

Joy Mayfield of Inner City Outings (ICO) and Tifinie Adams (AKM) originally organized the hike, but conflicting schedules made them unable to attend. Tifinie was able to enlist three volunteers, led by Dywuan Brown, along with Timothy and Jamie, who were willing to rearrange their schedules.

ICO was represented by four leaders: myself, Betsy Garber, Sonia Chavez and Mike Doukas. I was very grateful for all their help as this was one of my first experiences under the spotlight of "leader." Joining us were Katavius, Deonta, Simmie, Rodwell, and Arlen.

When I asked the group what they thought we might encounter, Rodwell said, "I hope we don't see a snake, 'cause I'm allergic."

After a brief stop at the nature center, we set off on the Ecology Trail...not looking for snakes.

Beaver signs (girdling of some old cottonwoods), a bird's nest constructed with pieces of litter and a length of shed snakeskin, and a turkey vulture were early observations. Betsy



Craig shares his feathers, raccoon skull, and good sense of humor on an ICO hike.

had brought along a bluebird's nest which, along with the nest we discovered, allowed us

to observe some of the different materials and construction methods used by separate species of birds.

I discovered that I need new props, as returning hiker, Arlen, called out "raccoon skull" almost before I had passed it around for identification.

Crossing the boardwalk to songs of chorus frogs, we split into two groups. Those of us willing to risk wet feet took the meadow path, while Betsy led the rest on high ground. Along the muddy sections of the path, we discovered deer "scat" and the tracks of raccoon, canines (dog and maybe coyote) and many deer, before reuniting with Betsy's group at Hidden Pond.

One of the highlights for me was, upon bending to examine a fallen tree flower, I heard someone exclaim, "Dang! Dude'll pick up anything!" This led to a discussion on scat and scatology...and the use of hand soap as well.

**It was a pleasure to spend time with this group of young men who were well-behaved and willing participants. I look forward to future outings with All the Kings Men.**

If you'd like to help us with the hikes, the financial costs of transportation, or know of agencies who would like to get their kids outdoors, please contact Betsy Garber at garberb@hotmail.com.

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

## Outings (continued from page 5)

Chattanooga in the background and the full length of Raccoon Mountain across the way. We'll leave from the Rainbow Lake Wilderness Area trailhead on Ohio Avenue, Signal Mountain, hiking first to Rainbow Lake, and then on to Edwards Point, returning the same way. Be prepared to walk by hemlocks towering over tangled growths of laurel and rhododendron! Bring plenty of water, wear sturdy hiking shoes, appropriate clothes for the weather, and pack a trail lunch for when we reach Edwards Point. Trip Leaders are Macy Hashop and Leslie Jakobs; register with Leslie at 423-886-2465 or lesliejakobs@yahoo.com

**June 26 (Sun.) Blueberry Hill Trip to Pick Blueberries.** We'll be driving up Hwy. 27 to Sale Creek and Blueberry Hill, the most wonderful place to pick-your-own blueberries. Such a peaceful place, up in the hills, with gobs of bushes ripe with plump berries and birds chirping as they pick their own too! Bring along plenty of water to drink and a container to carry home all that goodness! They supply buckets for picking -- but at the end you only pay for

what's in your bucket, not in your mouth! We'll depart Chattanooga at 1:00 pm. Register with Trip Leader Barbara Kelly, 423-718-5009 or bk1rivers@comcast.net

### CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**May 28 (Sat.), Time TBA, Outing: Memorial Day on the Ghost.** Join the Sierra Club in a joint outing with the Wolf River Conservancy for a day on one of West Tennessee's most treasured aquatic assets. The Ghost River is a 2,220-acre section of the Wolf River in Fayette County. The natural area includes approximately 14 miles of the Wolf River beginning from the parking area near La Grange to just west of Bateman Road Bridge. The Ghost River section of the Wolf is an unchannelized river section that meanders through bottomland hardwood forests, cypress-tupelo swamps, and open marshes. Experienced river guides and American Canoe Association certified instructors will be on hand. Canoe rentals available at \$45/canoe. Space is limited. For more details please contact Matt Farr at matt.tennessierran@gmail.com or 901-517-8879.



# Sierra Club Congratulates Douglass High School

The Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program congratulates Douglass High School in North Memphis for officially being granted Partner status in the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation's TP3 Green School Program. The TP3 School Program promotes environmental education of students and school staff year-round through hands-on, school-based projects in the areas of clean air, energy conservation, hazardous materials reduction, land & water conservation, and waste reduction.

The high school has students involved in a number of special programs such as the Recycling Club and the Watt Busters Club that encourages energy efficiency practices at school and at home. Students participating in these programs attended local conferences and participated in tabling events where they shared what they learned with the public.

A number of community cleanup campaigns were initiated with students enthusiastically leading the way. The Eleanor Roosevelt Green Garden was started during the 2010 school year and is continuing on a vacant lot across from the school campus.

Two hundred fifty Douglass community

residents received energy savings kits, including CFL light bulbs during a Green the Block event. Plus, Douglass High School saved an estimated \$7,000+ on its energy bill by adhering to a campus policy of turning off and unplugging idle computers and other electrical equipment all year long, especially during week-ends and holidays.

These activities are extraordinary accomplishments that are to be applauded for exposing students to green career paths, encouraging community involvement, and promoting environmental stewardship. Their "green" achievements go far beyond the few that are mentioned here, but demonstrate the high caliber of dedicated team leadership that has resulted in the TP3 Partner Award for Douglas High School.



**Left to Right standing:** Brandon Pearce, DHS Gardening Club sponsor; Curtis Hopper, TP3 Green Schools; Dean Sandra Williams, DHS Freshman Academy; Cynthia Rohrbach, coordinator, TP3 Green Schools; April Jones, DHS student president of the Recycling Club & Watt Buster; Mera Baker, DHS math coach for the Alliance to Save Energy Green Schools Program; and Sandra Upchurch, DHS Green School director, Alliance to Save Energy, project leader & science department chair.

**L to R Kneeling:** Garden Club: Kalon Lobbins, Mason Hollins and Lazera Thompson. Watt Busters: Adam Coleman, Darius Grandberry and Nicolaus Pollion (not photographed: Saderick Roberts).

## Sierra Club Participates in Nashville Earth Day Festival

By Joy Mayfield

On Saturday, April 23, Music City celebrated its 9th annual Earth Day Celebration at Centennial Park, attracting well over 10,000 participants from communities throughout Middle Tennessee.

The 2011 festival theme was MAKE YOUR MOTHER PROUD. This year's focus was on making Nashville the greenest city in the Southeast. The exhibits and activities in this year's festival promoted this initiative by demonstrating ways in which each of us can help, from something as small as toting reusable canvas bags to the grocery store to something as large as purchasing an electric motorcycle!

The festival hosted a number of environmental displays with a wide variety of interactive educational opportunities for children and adults as well as an exciting and diverse live musical lineup, all in a family-fun atmosphere. There was a scavenger hunt for kids, a youth area where kids could create pieces of art out of reused and recycled materials, and a local food and farming section focused on eating locally and seasonally. There also were workshops that covered wild plant foraging, preserving food, growing your own food and composting. Oh and of course there was live music from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. We're Music City!

It was the perfect sunny spring day to get out, have fun and learn about conservation.

Our thanks to the following Sierra Club members who volunteered their time to make this a successful and enjoyable day: Keith Romig, Katherine Pendleton, Scott Heflinger, Cliff Cockerham, Linda Smithyman, Don Scharf, John Pigg, Steve Vining, Adelle Wood, Bill Terry, Vanessa Saenz, Jennifer Thompson, Roman Weber and me!

## Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) Referendum Ballot

FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT, you must enclose your marked ballot in an envelope marked "Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope for mailing. Write your membership number, which can be found on the address label of your newsletter, on the outer envelope with your return address.

ENVELOPES WITHOUT A MEMBERSHIP NUMBER CANNOT BE COUNTED.

Please vote Yes or No on the resolution presented below, "Resolution to Promote Expanded Leadership Capacity." Your ballot must be received by June 27, 2011.

Membership			
Single	Dual		
_____	_____	YES	
_____	_____	NO	

Mail your ballot to: Middle Tennessee Group  
Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 290306  
Nashville, TN 37229-0306

### Resolution to Promote Expanded Leadership Capacity

The Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee resolves to modify the Middle Tennessee Group Bylaws to increase the number of Group Executive Committee members from seven to nine. This increase shall take place in the following manner and using the following timeline.

Middle Tennessee Group ExCom vote: Jan. 17, 2011 Executive Committee meeting.  
Tennessee Chapter vote to approve: Jan 29, 2011 Chapter Executive Committee meeting.  
Middle Tennessee Group member vote: May/June 2011 *Tennes-Sierran*.

Election of the two additional group ExCom members shall occur as follows:  
The Group Executive Committee would expand by the end of 2011. Group members would vote on the year-end ballot for five Executive Committee members instead of the current three. The terms of these five members will end in 2013 as at present.

The Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee approved this resolution at its meeting Jan. 17, 2011 by a margin of 5-0, which meets the required threshold of two-thirds.

The Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee approved this resolution by unanimous voice vote at its meeting Jan. 29, 2011.

*As noted in the text of the resolution immediately above, this resolution must be approved by a majority of MTG members voting in this referendum, because it is a bylaws change.*

## energy corner



By Steven Sondheim

**Re-Evaluating Nuclear Power Since Fukushima**

Below are excerpts from Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune's web column, <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/michaelbrune/> Scroll down to the Time For Humility posting on 3/31/11.

"Questioning the wisdom of an energy source that can pose such a global health threat."

"We can talk all day about reactor safety, nuclear proliferation, the lack of a solution for long-term waste disposal, exorbitant cost, and the vast subsidies (including a public assumption of financial risk) without which the nuclear industry would not exist. Based on just those issues, the case against nuclear power is more than damning. Now the issue has

regained a moral dimension that transcends wonky facts."

"High-level nuclear waste currently remains lethal for more than 100,000 years. Nuclear power has been in operation for less than 60 years, and in that time three serious incidents have now meaningfully endangered the public and/or caused a loss of human life."

"Watch the costs of ever-more-innovative renewable energy technologies fall day by day, while increasing numbers of workers strap on tool belts to build and maintain solar farms and wind generators...future based on renewable energy and efficient technologies that will never, ever -- not in a million years -- threaten to spread a cloud of lethal poison over the globe."

**National Transportation Issues**

As we prepare for a National Transportation Reauthorization bill, the Sierra Club and its partners are calling for a transportation infrastructure 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.

House Transportation Chair John Mica has shown long term interest in high speed rail, transit, and the 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 prioritized for less VMT (vehicle miles traveled) to get needs met, resulting in reduced traffic, increased access, reduced oil use and more transportation choices.

The idea is to fix where people live now rather than building out, which results in sprawl and green field development. 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.

Please let your representatives and senators know of your wishes around these issues by contacting them or writing letters to the editor.

**Green Transportation Webinar-Beyond Oil with Michael Brune**

This is a conversation about lessening our dependence on oil through fuel efficiency, electric vehicles and making the automobile an option, not a necessity. As we decrease our dependency on fossil fuel and our reliance on coal and nuclear power for electricity, we want to make sure we fill in any

gaps with solar, wind, distributed energy, geothermal, wave, and other forms of renewable energy.

Audio link at [www.sierraclub.org/transportation/21st/](http://www.sierraclub.org/transportation/21st/)

Read about Beyond Oil and get involved in the campaign at: [www.sierraclub.org/transportation/](http://www.sierraclub.org/transportation/)

**Tennessee Sierra Hosts Four Green Building Tours**

As part of the national "Green Buildings for Cool Cities" partnership between the Sierra Club and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), our Green Building tours were among dozens around the country aimed at making green building a key component of economic and environmental sustainability efforts. Thanks to our Sierra and USGBC volunteers in Memphis, Nashville, Cookeville, and Knoxville.

**Retain EPA Regulatory Authority: Protect Our Environment and Health**

Please support the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authority to protect our environment, public health and clean air. Transition to renewable energy to replace dirty coal, and get beyond oil and beyond nuclear by defending the EPA and the Clean Air Act. Engage in our Beyond Oil, Beyond Coal and Clean Energy campaigns. 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)

**Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference of the Blue-Green Alliance**

For reports and videos see the link below. After the video introduction, be sure to click on EPA Director Lisa Jackson's speech on reasonable regulation & regulatory certainty (16:52). [www.youtube.com/user/goodjobsgreenjobs](http://www.youtube.com/user/goodjobsgreenjobs)

**Call on TVA to Utilize Energy Efficiency to Avoid Nuclear Energy**

The Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club has called on TVA to delay making any decisions to move forward with new nuclear construction until the lessons of the Japanese nuclear reactor accidents can be incorporated. In the meantime, the TN Chapter urges TVA to set a 1% energy efficiency target beginning in 2016 which will avoid the need for additional power plants.

According to Michael Brune, executive director, of the national Sierra Club, "The advisability of nuclear power in our energy mix is under serious review and reconsideration. Future sourcing can be satisfied with renewable energy—a less expensive, safer source of any new supply necessary after full utilization of energy efficiency.

For the latest developments, Google each of these phrases exactly: Delay Bellefonte, Ramp Up Energy Efficiency in SavingTheEnergy.Info Decision to complete Bellefonte put on hold Clean Air Victory -- TVA Phasing Out 18 Coal Plants

For information on these issues or other issues for this column contact [stevensondheim@yahoo.com](mailto:stevensondheim@yahoo.com)

**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:

Mary Mastin, Project Director  
Tn. Chapter Sierra Club Save Cummins Falls Campaign  
360 Roberts Hollow Ln.  
Cookeville, TN. 38501

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



Photo: Don Curry

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