

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 43, Number 2 - March/April, 2012

Public Forum on Nuke Waste

By Rita Harris, Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program

Memphis' campaign to STOP Nuclear Waste Going to Two Local Landfills kicked into high gear on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at a Public Forum we (Sierra Club) convinced the County Mayor and the County Commission to host for the Memphis area. The forum was well attended with an overflow crowd in the meeting room of the Main Library; head count estimates range between 168 and 180 attendees!

Attendees demanded answers to how and why the Bulk Storage for Release (BSFR) program for managing radioactive waste has been permitted for the past six years and no one, even elected officials knew about the arrangement. The State of TN gave time-killing presentations that answered very few questions and we captured it all on videotape by Keven Roton. There was a strong showing from the media with reporters from WREG TV Channel 3 and Channel 24 TV news. Reporters from the Memphis Flyer, our progressive weekly, and also from the Commercial Appeal daily news were present.

<http://www.wreg.com/news/wreg-residents-worry-about-radioactive-drinking-water-20120124,0,165395.story>

Expert speakers supporting our side included, Diane D'Arrigo with Nuclear Information & Resource Service in Takoma Park, MD; Don Safer, President of the TN Environmental Council; and Kathy Ferris, community activist from Murfreesboro, TN. This forum was the FIRST ever to deal with this issue and many if not all of the participants were very concerned about the safety of this 'secret program'. We now have a large group of people who want

more info and are ready to fight to get this radioactive waste stream out of our County. The following day Diane D'Arrigo was interviewed by Rita Harris on the Nature of Conservation cable TV show. The show usually airs several times a week for a month and will give us added awareness-raising power!

Chickasaw Vice Chair Keith Hoover was moved to write a letter the following day, to County Mayor Mark Luttrell. Keith echoes the thoughts and feelings of many concerned about the protection of the Memphis Sands aquifer and the safety of local residents. As a huge concern, we all want to keep our drinking water supply pure and safe. An excerpt from Keith's letter states, "...The criteria and measurement of LLRW (low-level radioactive waste) is questionable. They use a hypothetical model... The state's "experts" danced around the questions about politics and the influence of the nuclear industry in the state's environmental decisions. They spent their half of the presentation trying to confuse the audience with technical informa-

tion about the regulations and natural sources of radiation. NO level of radiation is "safe" and a large population should not be exposed to it! EPA's maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for radionuclides in drinking water is ZERO. How can that be obtained by allowing LLWR in landfills? The audience left with a lot more questions than answers. Another public forum or two is needed with shorter presentations and more time for questions."

We feel an environmental assessment of this program needs to be done, especially after the past six years and the burial of over 17 million pounds of radioactive waste. This public forum raised even more questions than people had when they came, and is only the beginning of our campaign! We are asking TDEC to respond to questions they collected at the forum in writing and distribute to everyone on the sign-in sheet. More information on the BSFR program and low-level radioactive waste can be found here:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/ej/programs/tn-nuclear.aspx>



Attendees at Nuclear Waste Forum; photo by Sue Williams

The Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club presents:

2012-2013 TAKE-A-HIKE PROGRAM

For people who have no wilderness hiking experience and are interesting in the possibility of incorporating wilderness hiking into their lifestyle, the Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club is offering a year-long Take-a-Hike Program, comprised of a series of increasingly challenging hikes. You do not have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate. Leaders will talk about what it takes to hike safely in the Smokies or other nearby wilderness areas. At the outset, participants are expected to be in reasonable shape for a three-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. Are you more ambitious? That's O.K., come with us and we can direct you to other hiking resources and groups that will suit your aspirations and capabilities.

So what can we offer to a prospective hiker? We'll tell you "what you always wanted to know, but were afraid to ask" (about hiking). Participants can acquire needed equipment over the course of the year. Some of the hikes provide a "biodiversity tour" of the Smoky Mountains, and will include discussion of the climate-vegetation relationships in these mountains and how they contribute to the area's biodiversity. Other hikes may emphasize park history or just enjoyment of the beauty of the wilderness. There is no charge for participation, though participants lacking equipment may want to purchase a few necessary items of equipment and clothing.

** Hiker's objective: over the year, to complete at least one hike from each of 6 levels of difficulty. If you can do more, fantastic - we have over 30 hikes to choose from.

For information, contact Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net, or Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com.

On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Harvey-Broome-Group-Outings/282757555156>



Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: gvanhorn26@gmail.com
USPS: Gene Van Horn, Editor
895 Red Cloud Trail
Spring City, TN 37381
423-365-0692

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is March 25 for the May-June issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to gvanhorn26@gmail.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files. Attached files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in Pages.

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

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

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

5. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Barbara Kelly, Communications Committee, bk1rivers@comcast.net.

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.

**Deadline for
May-June 2012 Issue is
March 25, 2012. All
meetings and outings
notices, articles and
photographs must be in
by then. Send material
to Gene Van Horn at
gvanhorn26@gmail.com**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



**With your help,
we can clean up our water.**

Over the last 30 years, we've made great progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands.

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|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Special Offer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | |
| 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.

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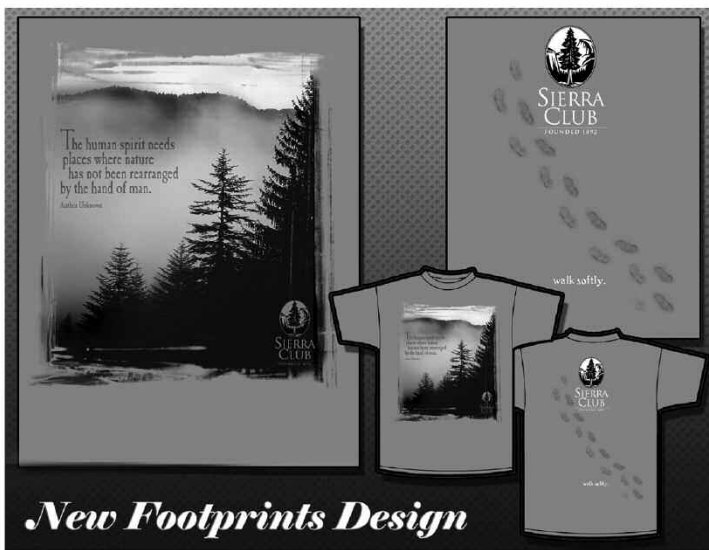
**Please notify the Editor when changes
are needed**

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.



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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)

Cool off at Natchez Trace State Park

The Tennessee Chapter 2012 Summer Retreat and Executive Committee Meeting will be held at Natchez Trace State Park on July 20-22.

Events are still being finalized, but we have confirmed that our sensational State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath (<http://tn.gov/environment/parks/naturalist/>) will lead a canoe float on Maple Creek Lake on Saturday at 4 P.M. He'll also lead a walk at 7 A.M. Sunday morning. These times are chosen to take advantage of the cooler parts of the day. There is also a possibility of a Pontoon Boat ride on Saturday afternoon.

Other events are yet to be finalized, but you can be assured that they will be engaging, informative, and most of all fun!

This location differs from other retreats in that lodging accommodations are air-conditioned and consist of four cottages and a bunkhouse, see <http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/NatchezTrace/lodging/#grouplodge> for more information. The cottages enable couples and/or families to lodge together. The bunkhouse provides lodging by gender. Note that this is the **Group Lodge**, not to be confused with the Pin Oak Lodge also located at Natchez Trace State Park.

The Natchez Trace State Park is located 97 miles west of downtown Nashville just off of I-40. After exiting the Interstate turn south and you'll soon find yourself in the park. The Natchez Trace State Forest surrounds the park. Hiking trails, navigable lakes, and equestrian trails are all available within the park and forest. If you're so inclined the park also has a shooting range.

Be sure to look for additional information the next Tennes-Sierran, where there will be registration information. (Early bird rates are in effect as long as you register at least 1 week before the meeting!)

The members of the Chickasaw Group hope to see you there!

On A Clear Day You Can See Forever



Tennessee Chapter 2012 Spring Retreat will be held April 27-29 at Sterchi Lodge, nestled between both Pisgah and Cherokee National Forests. Near the Lodge is Max Patch, a 350-acre tract of open land on a high knob with 360-degree views. What a splendid picnic spot and great for star gazing or enjoying wildflowers. On a clear day, you can see from Mt. Mitchell on the east to the Great Smoky Mountains on the south. Hiking is available on the Appalachian Trail, which is located ½ mile from the Lodge on Max Patch.

Hosted by Watauga Group Sierra Club, please confirm your reservation, and omnivore or vegetarian preference, with Gloria Griffith at Gla4797@embarqmail.com or 1-423-727-4797.

Early Registration Price until April 20: \$40

Regular Registration Fee: \$50

Single day only price with no lodging: Sat-\$20; Sun-\$10

(Children up to 15 attend free)

SPECIAL: ½ price for first-time attendees!

Note: A limited number of partial scholarships are available by request to the Chapter Treasurer, Michael Varnell at rmvarnell@bellsouth.net

Prices are low with bunk house accommodations for 40 people, including breakfasts and Saturday night dinner. Attendees need to bring their own linens or sleeping bag, towels plus Saturday & Sunday lunches and beverages.

Silent Auction: Plan to participate in the Defenders Auction and bring items to donate.

Directions FROM KNOXVILLE

Take Interstate 40 East through Newport and across the North Carolina state line.

Take the first North Carolina exit, which is 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 Sterchi Lodge is on the left, approximately 2/10 of a mile past the pond.

The Chair's Corner



Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

One of our conservation focuses this year is encouraging Tennesseans to participate in home energy audits for the purpose of reducing consumption of energy that overall will impact the use of coal for TVA's coal fired power plants. Educating the public regarding this initiative is crucial for positive outcomes and success. The first week of March you will be receiving our Tennessee Chapter fundraising appeal letter. I strongly encourage you to be as generous as possible in making your donation to our Tennessee Chapter to help achieve the goal of reducing the need for coal dependency in Tennessee for electricity. Your donations will be used solely in Tennessee to help make our communities cleaner and healthier.

I'd like to welcome our new Tennes-Sierran editor, Dr. Gene Van Horn, retired UTC biology professor, who lives in Spring City. Gene likes to hike and to travel. He and his wife (Ruth) have just returned from a trip to the upper Amazon and a trip to Machu Picchu; they have visited all seven continents. He looks forward to meeting Sierrans from all over the state.

The election for the Sierra Club board of directors is coming up. You will receive your ballot in March. Please take a moment to vote! Candidates include the following: Katherine Pendleton TN; Lane Boldman KY; Spencer Black WI; Chuck Frank IL; Arjun Makhijani MD; Liz Walsh TX; Chris Warshaw DE; Chip Wolfe TX and David Scott OH.

A special "thank you" goes to Joel and Cindy Gearhardt and Sherry Cummings for their cooking during the Winter TN Chapter meeting at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. The Cuban meal on Saturday night was fantastic!

Mark your calendar now to attend the spring TN Chapter meeting at Sterchi Lodge near Max Patch April 27-29 with Watauga Group hosting.

**Katherine Pendleton
Chair
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club**

Meetings

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

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

March Strategy Meeting: March 12 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6:00 P.M., at the Eastgate Town Center on Brainerd Road, at the south end near the indoor waterfall. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome — this is where and when we plan our actions! To place an item on the agenda, contact Chair Davis Mounger at 423-877-4616 or wdmounger@yahoo.com, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

March Program: Last Monday, March 26, 7 P.M. at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: "Discovering Native Old Growth Forests," by Jim Scheff. Jim, director of Kentucky Heartwood, brings one of our main Cherokee Sierra 2012 projects to the forefront with this outstanding visual presentation. Come join Jim Scheff in our discussion of native old growth forests and the current state of debate on public lands management.

This is an excellent opportunity for conservation-minded landowners, sportsmen, and outdoors enthusiasts to learn more about native forests. Jim is a doctoral student in dendrology at Eastern Kentucky University. He is currently studying the ecology of native forests in the region, with a special interest in old growth forest dynamics. He has extensive field research experience in native forests of the Ozarks and the Southern Appalachians.

Bring your friends -- The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Plenty of parking – take the first left at the corner (just past GreenSpaces) and there's plenty of parking at a public lot. Come and be inspired!

April Strategy Meeting: April 9 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6:00 P.M., at the Eastgate Town Center on Brainerd Road, at the south end near the indoor waterfall. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome — this is where and when we plan our actions! We'll be finalizing our Earth Day plans – come help! To place an item on the agenda, contact Chair Davis Mounger at 423-877-4616 or wdmounger@yahoo.com, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

April Program: Last Monday, April 30, 7 P.M. at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: Yosemite! Our speaker is Ranger David Rose, a seasonal park ranger at Yosemite National Park. Come view outstanding slides of one of the first of our nation's National Parks, forever tied, by his actions to preserve the park, to our founder John Muir: "But no temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite. Every rock in its wall seems to glow with life." Come to share your experiences of Yosemite, have plenty of questions ready for David, and through his photographs, "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine into trees."

Bring your friends -- The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Plenty of parking – take the first left at the corner (just past GreenSpaces) and there's plenty of parking at a public lot. Come and be inspired!

Note: Our Program Meetings continue to be held at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, which is a non-descript storefront building with little-to-no signage -- it is last on the left in the first block off Market Street. It is kitty-corner from the Fire Department across the street. Look for the Sierra Club banner!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

(Sign up for our monthly e-mail events list on the calendar page <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/>)

March 1, (Thurs.) 5:30 p.m., Monthly First Thursday Gathering at Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN. Sierra Club members, activists, and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. First Thursday. Contact: Mark Plumlee at mark.chickasaw@gmail.com

March 13 (Tues.) 6:00 P.M., Executive

Committee Strategy Meeting. Contact Sue Williams for location information. The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. This is a business meeting where members are welcome to attend. Come and see exactly what we are planning. If you have an issue that you would like to see discussed, agenda items must be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to the Executive Committee Chair Sue Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524

April 5 (Thurs.) 5:30 P.M., Monthly First Thursday Gathering at Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN. Sierra Club members, activists, and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. First Thursday contact: Mark Plumlee at mark.chickasaw@gmail.com

April 10 (Tues.) 6:00 P.M., Executive Committee Strategy Meeting. Contact Sue Williams for location information. The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. This is a business meeting where members are welcome to attend. Come and see exactly what we are planning. If you have an issue that you would like to see discussed, agenda items must be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to the Executive Committee Chair Sue Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524

Thursday, April 26th, Program: April Showers: Impact on Infrastructure and the Environment, Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN, Meeting Room C. 5:30 P.M. Meet & Greet & Snacks. 6:00 P.M. Program Presentation and Discussion time: The "April Showers" program will focus on sewer and storm water related issues with a panel of experts discussing and answering questions ranging from lawsuits to flooding problems throughout the Memphis area. Specific topics will likely include Lick Creek plans and impact on rivers and public health. Watch FaceBook and our web page for more information. Programs contact: Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or 901-413-3888.

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.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

March 13, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Topic: Preview of Harvey Broome Group 2011 Outings Program, Presenter: Ron Shrieves, Harvey Broome Group, Sierra Club, Outings Coordinator.

The annual outings program provides a preview of the HBG's outings program for 2012 and a slideshow from past outings. Included in this year's program are 11 backpack trips, 21 day hikes, and 3 canoe/kayak day trips. This year we will again 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 that is interested in exploring the outdoors to come and find out more about HBG outings. For more information contact Mac Post mpost3116@aol.com.

April 10, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Topic: Tennessee Youth Environmental Network (TennYEN), Presenters: Laura Rigell and Alex Durand, Founders of TennYEN

The Tennessee Youth Environmental Network (TennYEN) is a newly established youth-led organization that supports young environmentalists in Tennessee through awareness-raising school visits, youth conferences, and an online network. TennYEN encourages Tennessee Youth to pursue a sustainable future for our state. In today's predominantly adult-centric setting, they consider it vital that youth are engaged in the development of more sustainable communities.

In their presentation they will explain and demonstrate methods they use to cultivate skills and confidence in Tennessee youth for the purpose of enabling a transition in our homes, schools, and communities to an environmentally sustainable lifestyle. TennYEN emphasizes practical ways that students can achieve

change. For more information contact Mac Post mpost3116@aol.com.

Executive Committee (Strategy) Meetings: Fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN and will start at 7:00 P.M. For additional information 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: March 8, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. **TOPIC:** Inner City Outings Program (ICO). Sierra Club Inner City Outings is a community outreach program that provides opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world. It provides positive outdoors experiences with the goal of allowing participants to discover the beauty of wild places.

Betsy Garber and Clay Hardy of the Middle Tennessee Group's ICO leaders will provide a glimpse into the ICO program. They will give a presentation describing the Sierra Club's history and growth with the Inner City Outings Program and also an in-depth look into the local ICO program. The presentation will include a slideshow with pictures of some of our local outings as well as an outing leader's perspective of the importance these experiences mean to the youth involved. Many outings consist of hiking and canoeing and all contain the element of getting out, learning about and enjoying nature. These experiences can create more understanding about the natural world around them and spark more interest and further exploration.

PROGRAM: April 12, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. TOPIC: Old Growth Forest of Warner Parks. Many of us who live in the Nashville area know the treasure that is Percy and Edwin Warner Parks. We have run, biked, and walked through it in spring glory and summer heat, always appreciating its quiet beauty. The Warner Park Nature Center is a special place for children and adults alike, offering programming including environmental education, school field trips, educator training workshops, outdoor recreation programs and other special activities for people of all ages.

Eleanor Willis, Executive Director of the Friends of Warner Parks, will bring us a slide presentation that focuses on the Hill Tract, an area of old growth forest that encompasses 451+ acres of undeveloped land across Highway 100. The Friends began to purchase the first 129 acres of this old growth forest in 2004 to protect the viewshed, enlarge the Parks, and to expand educational and recreational opportunities. Ms. Willis will talk to us about the special attributes of this land and give us a preview of the master plan. Please join us for the slide presentation and the questions and answers that follow.

PROGRAM: May 10 Preview: Environmental Justice. Dr. Clifford Cockerham, AP Science Teacher at School of Community Health & Public Service at Whites Creek H.S. Campus, will bring us a presentation on environmental justice and his efforts to make school stimulating and as fun as possible while providing students with challenging experiences.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: March 13 and April 10, 6:30 P.M. at the United Steel Workers Union Building, 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville.

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. **Please note that the meeting dates may change depending on the needs of the newly-elected Executive Committee. Please contact Betsy at 615-668-1977 if you want to confirm.**

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Tuesday at 7 P.M. Please contact Gloria Griffith at gla4797@earthlink.net or 423-727-4797 for more information.

Outings

Welcome to the Tennessee Chapter's master list of our outings. Members, and the public, are always very welcome at any of these events. Listed by the sponsoring Group, you are welcome to attend as many across the state as you wish! We believe that what you come to love, you will stand up to protect.

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/SignInWaiverPDF>, 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.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

The Cherokee Group sponsors outings and hikes at least 1 or 2 weekends a month. Leslie Jakobs serves as our outings chair and point-person 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, 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 Leslie at 423-886-2465 or lesliejakobs@yahoo.com

March 10 (Sat) Prentice Cooper Hiking. A hike of 2-2.5 miles among the 35 miles of hiking trails in Prentice Cooper State Forest, just 10 miles from Chattanooga. This hike will cover part of the south end of the Cumberland Trail State Park, cross a swinging bridge, and view multiple rock formations and bluffs. We will meet, and leave from, the Red Bank Baptist Church parking lot at 10 A.M. For details call trip leaders Sheryl Campbell, 423-693-4729, or Davis Mounger, 423-877-4616.

March TBA Kayaking! Easy flat-water kayaking, kayaks will be available for rent. Plans still in the works for this fun day, when boat availability is known; trip leader Emily Marr Davis, 423-413-3083 or emily.marr.davis@gmail.com. Of course, you are welcome to use your own personal gear. Details will be on our Facebook page (Cherokee Sierra) and in our local e-News.

April 7 (Sat) Cloudland Canyon Backcountry Trail Hike. Meet at the parking lot at Cloudland Canyon State Park, GA, right near the Gorge lookout, at 10 A.M. We'll be hiking the Backcountry Loop, which features the Park's most inexpensive and secluded camping sites, situated within pristine hemlock trees. Recommended for those in good physical condition. Though only 2.5 miles, we'll be progressing down a moderate grade into a hollow (filled in the spring and summer with flowers!) and back to the trail level among oaks and hickories, returning to the parking lot. Be sure to carry adequate water, wear sturdy shoes or boots (no flip-flops). Cameras and walking sticks encouraged. Afterwards you may choose to explore some of the other trails on your own. Please e-mail your RSVP no later than 6 P.M., Friday, April 6 to trip leader Scott Kramer at sk1.mtns@gmail.com. Also contact him if you need directions to the park.

April 14-15 (Sat-Sun) Overnight Hiking/Camping Trip, Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. One of the largest old-growth preserves in the eastern U.S., North Carolina's Joyce Kilmer unveils the magic of a primeval forest on a 2-mile national recreation trail perfect for families. Trail is easy to moderate. Bring your camera, camping gear and food, water, hiking shoes and sticks. We will meet at 9:30 A.M. Saturday, at the parking lot adjacent to Rock Creek's store off Manufacturer's Rd. in North Chattanooga. For further details, contact trip leaders Sheryl Campbell, 423-693-4729, or Davis Mounger, 423-877-4616.

April 21 (Sat) Earth Day Celebration at Coolidge Park. Plan now to come have fun, and volunteer for an hour at our Sierra tent/table!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Contact Matt Farr, outings chair, at 901-517-8879 for a list of the outings or go to the Group's Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group> for further information.

March 20, (Tuesday) Equinox Sunset Walk on the Bluff, Downtown Memphis, 5:30 P.M. to 7 P.M. Meet on the Bluffwalk in Butler Park. The park's entrance is at Tennessee Street at the intersection with Butler Avenue, next to the old Tennessee Brewery. Free parking on Tennessee St. Alternatively, park in Tom Lee

Park and walk up the stairs to Butler Park. Contact: Sue Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524

April 10-11 (Tues.-Wed.) Generating Solar Energy Advancement Across the Tennessee Valley, Cook Convention Center, Memphis, TN 2012 Tennessee Valley Solar Solutions Conference. No registration charge for the conference. Registration closes March 23, or when capacity of 500 participants is reached. Let's get lots of Sierrans there! <http://www.tnsolarsolutions.org>

April 14 (Sat.) 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. Clean Up of the Workhorse Bayou. Precise location will be confirmed and posted to our Facebook page; this area is located in North Memphis between Douglas Park and Warford St. ExCom contact: Scott Banbury at 901-619-8567 or smbanbury@gmail.com

April 20 (Fri.) Earth Day "Smoke Out" at Overton Park, Memphis, TN, 4:20 P.M. Climate Action Team press events to coincide/spin 420 coverage (suggested by Overton Park Conservancy) – stay current by checking our FaceBook page.

April 21 (Sat.) DOWN TO EARTH FEST At Shelby Farms, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. \$5 suggested donation for parking. To volunteer for the Sierra Club table, contact Mark Plumblee at 901-679-4622 or mark.chickasaw@gmail.com

April 28, (Sat.) GreenUp Memphis Festival, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the Downtown Farmers Market, next to Central Train Station. Celebrating things citizens can do to make Memphis both more eco-friendly and a more attractive place to live. Free parking on street. Contact Barbara Standing at 901-210-1328 or bluebabs@gmail.com to volunteer at the Sierra Club table.

NOTE: CHICKASAW GROUP (MEMPHIS) NEEDS OUTING CO-CHAIR & A VOLUNTEER CERTIFIED TO TRAIN FIRST AID

The Chickasaw Group needs an outings co-chair to help train new outings leaders. The Co-Chair will become a certified outings leader as a part of this process. We would also like another person who is able to teach first aid so we can do the outings training all in one day. For more information, contact Sue A. Williams at 901-274-0524 or z4cmv@juno.com

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

March 10-11 (Sat-Sun). Spring Breakout Backpack, Leatherwood Ford to Bandy Creek, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. We will begin the backpack at the Leatherwood Ford trailhead and end at Bandy Creek. This route includes a climb to the Angel Falls Overlook, part of the Grand Gap Loop trail, and the Fall Branch trail. This hike offers great views from the overlook and from parts of the Fall Branch Trail, a spectacular rock house, and a number of waterfalls. We'll make camp in a secluded spot along Fall Branch Creek. Total hiking distance is about 9 miles. Rated moderate to difficult. The driving distance is about 75 miles from Knoxville. Contact BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 675-7668.

March 17 (Sat). Dayhike, Tellico Lake East Lakeshore Trail. We'll do an 8 to 10 mile portion of the East Lakeshore Trail probably starting at the Sinking Creek Branch Trailhead and finishing at the Glendale Branch Trailhead. A short car shuttle will be required. These trails are flat or rolling with just a few steeper inclines. Construction of the East Lakeshore Trail is a joint venture between Watershed Association of the Tellico Reservoir (WATeR) and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Currently, over 22 miles of trail are completed out of a planned 35 miles. Rating easy to moderate. The drive from West Knoxville is about 20-25 miles. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 675-7668.

March 24 (Sat). Dayhike, Imodium Falls, Cumberland Trail. This date is selected in hopes of viewing this impressive waterfall at peak flow—the condition that led to its name. (The expert kayakers who discovered the falls wished they had taken some of this over-the-counter drug when they saw it.) We'll begin our hike off TN-111 south of Soddy Daisy, cross two new bridges in Big and Little Possum Creek gorges, and arrive at the falls for a leisurely stay. Then we'll hike out via a short (unofficial) route to our shuttle. This results in a total hiking distance of around 6 miles instead of the usual 9.5. Rating: moderate. One-way drive: 100 miles. Pre-register after Mar. 12 with Warren or Carol Devine, 483-7894 or warrendevine@comcast.net.

March 31 (Sat). Dayhike, Gee Creek Wilderness, Cherokee National Forest. Gee Creek is notable as the

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!

very first wilderness area designated in the Cherokee National Forest, in 1975, and it remained the only wilderness until 1984. The 2,495 acres wilderness is essentially a "hanging" valley cut into a Southern Appalachian ridge, through which flows the small but beautiful Gee Creek. It is located only a few miles from Etowah, TN, and the Hiwassee River. We'll learn a bit about the history of Tennessee wilderness as we hike up Gee Creek on a dead end trail, and then will continue off-trail to an old road and return on the Chestnut Mountain Trail. Total mileage will be around 8 miles and rated easy. One-way drive: 70 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H:523-2272; C:742-7327 or whshome@bellsouth.net.

April 7 (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Little Briar Trail (Walker Sisters Cabin) GSMNP. We'll do an up-and-back hike on a gently sloping trail in a historic area of the Smokies. Along the way, we'll talk about hiking in the wilderness, what it takes, generally, in terms of fitness and equipment, and describe this year's Take-a-Hike program. The high point is the Walker Sisters cabin and outbuildings, which provide a glimpse of life in the "old days" before the Park. Total distance, 4 miles. Rated easy. One-way drive: 44 miles. Preregister with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (e-mail preferred).

April 14 (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity Tour (Cove hardwood Forest), Cucumber Gap/Jakes Creek/Little River GSMNP. This classic cove hardwood forest is over a century old. The gap was probably named for towering cucumber trees that are numerous here. This loop starts up the Jakes Creek Trail for about 1/2 mile, turns 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. For those who did not make the previous week's hike, we'll also talk about hiking in the wilderness, what it takes, generally, in terms of fitness and equipment, and describe this year's Take-a-Hike program. Total distance 5.1 miles, rated easy. One-way drive: 50 miles. Preregister with Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (e-mail preferred).

April 21-22 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Piney River segment of the Cumberland Trail. This segment of the Cumberland Trail is located near Spring City. The trail was one of the ten original Bowater Company Pocket Wilderness Areas. It is a linear trail alongside Duskin Creek and the Piney River of about 10 or 8.5 miles depending on whether one starts at the Newby Branch or Duskin Creek trailheads. The trail includes a number of interesting features – steel suspension bridges, an old narrow gauge railroad bed, waterfalls and cascades, rock houses, and wildflowers. The trail is noted for its wildflowers and at this time of the year they should be incredible. We will begin the backpack at the Duskin Creek parking area, hike downstream crossing a couple bridges and passing White Pine Cascades and Hemlock Falls, camp near Rockhouse Branch to allow exploration of the old lumber camp and the creek, hike out over a 100-foot suspension bridge, see lots of amazing wildflowers, and end the backpack at the Piney River trailhead (Shut In Gap Road). We will do a car shuttle. Rating moderate. The driving distance is about 60 miles from West Knoxville. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 675-7668.

May 5 (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity tour (Mixed Oak-Hickory-Red Maple) West Prong/Bote Mountain, GSMNP. This low elevation hike starts at Tremont and goes up the protected slope side of

(continued on page 6)

Spring Break Cleanups – Tennessee River, Memphis

Living Lands & Waters hosts community river cleanups each year with the assistance of the muscle power of local volunteers of all ages. The day begins with a brief discussion on safety rules and potential hazards during the cleanup. From there, volunteers load up into LL&W work boats, piloted by the LL&W crew, and head out to the pre-designated garbage sites along the shorelines and islands of the river. Once there, the search for garbage is on.

Sierra Club Members and Living Lands and Waters are looking for volunteers to assist anytime during “Alternative Spring Break” and on the “Community Cleanup” times. The Alternative Spring Break Cleanups (M-Th) will take place in two shifts roughly, 9 A.M.-noon and then again 1-4 P.M. The “Community Cleanup” dates are tentative...we will do them if we have groups available. We know that we’ll book a few of these dates but nothing is set in stone at this point so if you have an organized group that is interested in participating, let Nora know and we can lock in a date and time.

Here is the tentative MARCH schedule for Memphis and some more information on how to get involved!

MARCH

- 2-3 Community Cleanups
- 4-8 Week 2 of Alternative Spring Break
- 9-10 Community Cleanups
- 11-15 Week 3 of Alternative Spring Break
- 16-17 Community Cleanups

All cleanups will be launching out of the boat ramp at Riverside Park Marina located at 1875 McKellar Lake Dr.

Nora Coyne-Logan
Program Coordinator
Living Lands & Waters
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**So Join the Crowd
and Go Paperless Today!**

**"You can make more
friends in two months
by becoming interested
in other people than
you can in two years
by trying to get other
people interested
in you."**

Dale Carnegie

Outings (continued from page 5)

Fodderstack Mountain though a mature forest that was once dominated by chestnut. At 2.7 miles after gaining 600 feet in elevation we'll intersect the Bote Mountain Trail and descend 1.2 miles to the Laurel Creek Road. We'll have some training in basic topographic map reading skills and use of compass and GPS devices. Total distance 3.9 miles rated easy. Car shuttle involved. One-way drive: 46 miles. Contact Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (e-mail preferred).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

March 10 (Sat.) Beaman Park Day Hike, 1:00 P.M. - We will hike approximately 4 miles, rated strenuous in parts; wear green (optional). Hiking boots recommended and bring water. Meet at the visitor center. Please let us know you're coming. Contact: John Pigg at j.t.pigg@comcast.net or 615-851-1192.

April 7 (Sat.) Sellars Farm State Archaeological Area tour and hike, 10:00 A.M. Join Mark Tolley of the Tennessee Ancient Sites Conservancy for a tour of the site of a Native American mound and village dating from 1000-1300 A.D. Two miles. Rated easy. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water. Meet in the parking lot. Sellars Farm is near Lebanon, TN. From Nashville take I-40 to Exit 239A to merge onto TN-26 E/US 70 E/ Sparta Pike toward Watertown. Travel 1.9 miles and

turn left on Poplar Ridge Road. Sellars Farm is approximately one-half mile on your left. Please let us know if you're coming. Contact: John Pigg at j.t.pigg@comcast.net or 615-851-1192.

April 13-15 (Weekend) - Mill House Outing - Enjoy hikes and good company during a weekend stay at the historic mill house at Cumberland Mountain State Park. Newcomers welcome. Cost \$20. Contact Joel at jgearhardt@yahoo.com. Please put "Mill House retreat" in the subject line.

Inner City Outings Hikes for the Middle TN Group:

• *April 3, Tuesday: Shelby Park* with Coleman Community Center, 10:00.

• *April 4, Wednesday: Owl's Hill*, Hadley Community Center, 10:30. Allow 2-3 hours for the hike and an owl program. Pack your own picnic lunch.

• *April 5, Thursday: Radnor Lake*, Easley Community Center, 10:30.

For more information contact: Clay Hardy, Inner City Outings, 720-204-0037, nclay.hardy@gmail.com

EVERY SATURDAY - 9:00 - 12:00 - Volunteer at the recycling Site. The bins are in front of the Kroger at 3955 Nolensville Road, Nashville, TN. It's a great place to get involved with our Group! Contact Joel for more information, 591-0268 or e-mail laurenhasmail@yahoo.com. Please put "Recycling Volunteer" in the subject line.

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Amend Citizens United: We the People, Not We the Corporations

The Tennessee Chapter meeting afforded a chance to voice an opinion about *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that allows corporations the right to spend unlimited amounts of money to elect candidates who will be politically beholden to them. It will take a constitutional amendment to overturn this decision, which was two years old on Sun. Jan 22. The Chapter was joined by representatives of Sierra Club Student Coalition and Tennyen, a statewide youth environmental organization who painted the signs.

We, the People of the United States of America, reject the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling, and move to amend our Constitution to firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights.



Knowing Corporations are Not People @ Winter TN Chapter Retreat --photo by Keven Routon

Your Support Is Needed to Defend Tennessee's Environment

The Sierra Club Defenders campaign, which funds our legislative and lobbying work, is in its 15th year and needs your support! We win battles but must continue the war to protect our natural heritage. Please support this grassroots campaign by sending the form below, with your check made out to Sierra Club, to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Dr., Nashville, TN 37215. These contributions are not tax-deductible.

Thank you!

Penny Brooks, Legislative Co-Chair
Tennessee

Adelle Wood, Defenders of
Tennessee

Amount of donation \$75 \$150 \$250 \$1,000 _____ Other

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Check here and include your e-mail address above if you want to receive updates during the legislative session. We will not divulge contact information.

Donations to this fund are not tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Thank you to Defender contributors December and January.

Ken Brame and Judy Mattox
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Robert P. Thomas
Sue Williams
Adelle Wood and Bill Terry





By Steven Sondheim, Sierra Club Delegate, UN Climate Conference

Breaking News: World Matches U.S. Climate Change efforts 10 Fold!

If only that were true. Actually if the U.S. were to aggressively deal with climate change, it would have a tremendous effect on the other countries, many of which are holding back waiting for US.

What Can You Do? The #1 most effective thing we can do is to join the effort to convince the public and our leaders to recognize the urgency and take climate change seriously by committing to aggressive actions. We are already expecting at least a 2°C rise. Some say that if we continue on our current course, worldwide temperatures could rise as much as 4 degrees (7.2° F).

In the last Energy Corner November/December issue of the Tennes-Sierran, I wrote about the Sierra Club's activities in Durban.

What were the results?

First of we joined the hundreds of grassroots organizations who are not waiting on formal agreements, but instead are demonstrating progress and worldwide cooperation. There is world-wide recognition of both the seriousness and the urgency of the problem. I was personally struck by the plight of the peoples of many of the delegates I met from islands soon to be under water, to people suffering from drought, hunger and

pollution, to the greed and insensitivity of many of the financial and energy corporations.

There were 4 potential breakthroughs in negotiations:

1. Green Climate Fund
 2. Continuation of the Kyoto Protocol
 3. Agreements to work towards legally binding carbon emission limits
 4. Agreements that both developed and developing countries will contribute to lessening emissions,
- Sooner or later we will transition into a Green Economy, with plenty of jobs that support sustainability. Contrary to the fears of deprivation, this economy will support an enriched, healthy existence.

The next 5 years are crucial, because what we build today commits us for decades to come.

Renewable is the answer. Consensus at the conference was that the world needs to stop wasting money on Coal, Oil, Gas, and Nuclear Power and transition with a crash program to renewables -- supported by conservation and efficiency. Fortunately many have already started.

What else can you do? Join a committee:

TVA, Climate Action, Beyond Coal - contact Louise Gorenflo, lgorenflo@gmail.com or our TN_Climate_Action_Campaign Sites:
The Campaign
<http://www.tnclimateaction.net/>

Activist Network
http://connect.sierraclub.org/Team/TN_Climate_Action_Campaign

Transportation Issues - contact Robin Hill, robin.hill8@gmail.com or Brian Paddock, bpaddock@twlakes.net or Steven Sondheim at stevensondheim@yahoo.com

Renewable, Mountain Top Removal, Global Warming - contact Mary Mastin, marymastin@twlakes.net or Gloria Griffith, gla4797@embarqmail.com

Additional links:
National Transportation
<http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/transportation/>

Carbon Calculator
<http://www.coolcalifornia.org/calculator>



International Delegates, UN Climate Conference photo by Steven Sondheim

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