

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 44, Number 2 - March/April, 2013

Gallatin Fossil Plant Public Hearing

Chris Ann Lunghino

Thursday night, 2/7/13 over 200 people turned out in Nashville, Tennessee for the People's Public Hearing on the future of Tennessee Valley Authority's Gallatin Fossil Plant.

Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign and our allies knocked this one out of the park, exceeding attendance goals for this conservative-leaning state. Sierra Club activists, including Kevin Routon, Scott Banbury, Megan Spooner, Louise Gorenflo, Brian Paddock, Mary Mastin, and many others, traveled from all around the state to support our ace team on the ground in Nashville. Gretchen Hagle of Tennessee Environmental Council and Sierra Club's own Brian Paddock did an awesome job of wrangling the press.

A sea of yellow t-shirts dominated the hearing venue. Renowned Native American flutist and cultural speaker JJ Kent performed as guests arrived. University of Tennessee Environmental

Law Professor Dean Rivkin moderated the hearing. Sustainability Professor G. Dodd Galbreath opened the hearing with a compelling 20-minute presentation on the adverse health impacts of coal. The remaining 90 minutes of the hearing were devoted to public comment. Every one of the 42 people who made public comments spoke in favor of closing the plant.

Speakers represented a broad cross-section of the community, including students, boy scouts, fathers with babies in their arms, health professionals, scientists, teachers, farmers, business owners, solar and energy efficiency industry representatives, moms, grandparents, relatives of stroke and heart disease victims, asthma sufferers, and many others.

This successful hearing is the result of a team effort that involved more than 60 volunteers over the past two months, who in addition to planning for and manning the hearing, sent hundreds of

emails, made thousands of phone calls, and collected over 2000 petitions. Some of my top-contributing volunteers include Linda Rebenstorf, Deanna Bowden, Gretchen Hagle, Dan Joranko, Lynette King, Cynthia Hernandez, Cliff Cockerham, and Kris Brown. Special thanks to Don Joranko, Local Climate Action Team organizer, who shared his Nashville organizing wisdom with me, and Gary Bowers, who alerted me to the presence of buffaloes.

National Sierra Club staff provided invaluable support. Special thanks to online organizer Seth Long for generating approximately 1500 online petition signatures, including 177 personalized messages, and 110 RSVP's for the hearing, and to our Press Secretary Jenna Garland for doing her magic with the media.

Quote from Appalachian Voices JW Randolph: "...CRUSHED IT tonight at the Gallatin public hearing"

TVA Board Comments at February Meeting Presented by Louise Gorenflo, Climate Action Team/Sierra Club

The age of coal has passed, having so damaged the Earth that we have eroded the very conditions that make it possible for the human species to flourish. We are at the point that continuing to pump out more carbon into our atmosphere may alter climatic conditions to the point that our civilization and ultimately our species can no longer survive in ways we can imagine.

Now is the time for TVA to retreat from coal and retire more coal plants. TVA is the largest emitter of carbon in Tennessee. TVA must act in this window to retire Gallatin, Allen, Colbert and Shawnee coal plants.

TVA will find wealth in walking away from coal. By not throwing money at an increasingly dangerous technology, it can invest in energy efficiency, which will allow all of us in the Valley to keep our money in our pockets instead of it flying out of our communities to pay higher power bills. By transforming itself, TVA will allow the Tennessee Valley to prosper, the very purpose for its creation.

Don't ask how much coal can we burn before some regulation orders you to stop. We all know the dangers of burning more coal. To perversely persist in burning coal is like licking honey off a razor's edge. We will end up doing even greater climatic harm. It is time for TVA and all of us to respond responsibly to what we have come to know as a clear and present danger.

We cannot allow ourselves to get distracted by warmed over old plans and old promises. We know that you will restart the IRP process in the fall, years early because the past IRP went off the tracks even before it started. TVA does not have to wait eighteen months for the next IRP to be completed to move ahead with reducing carbon and making available more energy efficiency and renewable energies.

In the end, the process of climate protection will change how we live and do our business. It

is time for TVA to grow beyond its current business model that sees energy efficiency as a threat to its revenue. TVA can learn from the leading electric utilities about how to embrace reducing its power sales in a way it can prosper and increase the wealth of the Valley.

You know what is happening, and you know

what has to be done. Respond to what is here and prepare for what is coming. You can't stay where you are. Don't be afraid to stand on your own. That is the definition of leadership.

**May what you do benefit all.
Thank you.**

Thank You Gary Bowers

I wish to express my deepest personal thanks to Gary Bowers for his fourteen years - WOW!!! - of service as the TN Chapter's Conservation Chair. Few within our Club, or across the nation, can make an honest claim to have served as loyally. Gary has been a friend, mentor and confidant; his continued service to the Chapter as At Large delegate is

most appreciated. Those who know Gary well recognize that he's a big teddy bear. He's an extremely caring individual who dearly loves this Club!

Thank you Gary!

Keven Routon, Chapter Chair

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via email

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



Tennes-Sierran

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

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*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 Target Date 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.

**Target Date for
May-June
Issue is
March 25, 2013.**

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

**Send material to
Gene Van Horn at
gvanhorn26@gmail.com**



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

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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.

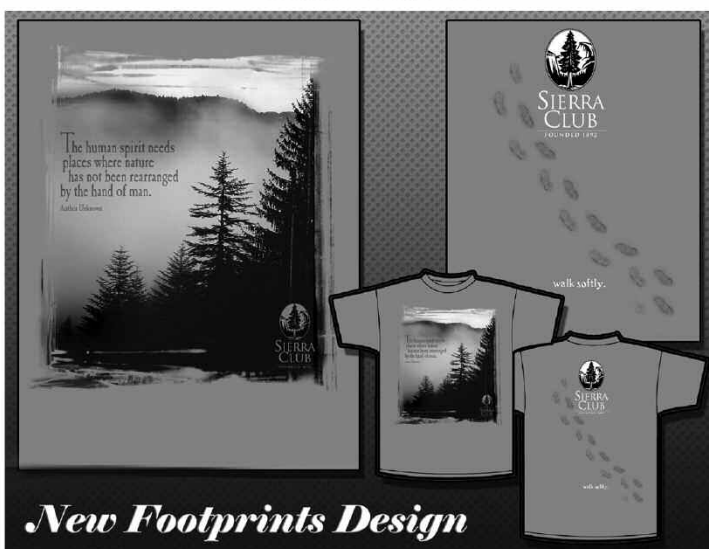
Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org **F94Q W4300** 1

New Design Footprints T-Shirts

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

Sandhill Cranes

More than 2 years ago the Sierra Club, Tennessee Chapter, voted to support the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) and other conservation groups in opposing a potential hunt in Tennessee of Sandhill Cranes. Although the Sierra Club does not oppose hunting, we opposed this particular hunt because the eastern population is probably not large enough to sustain hunting; the cranes are a source of eco-tourist revenues that would likely be larger than revenues from hunting; and we believe these creatures have more intrinsic value alive than dead.

During 2013 the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) will go through the Federal regulatory process to determine if Tennessee qualifies for a season and will decide during the summer whether or not to propose a season for consideration by the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission (TFWC). If TWRA proposes a hunting season they would send out a press release during July 2013, and the TFWC would make a decision at the August Commission.

As part of the effort to support the watchable wildlife aspect of the Sandhill Cranes, TOS and Sierra Club encourage you to make donations to the Tennessee Crane Fund in the

amount of \$28, the cost of a hunting and fishing license. Donation information follows, and the Sierra Club is contributing the equivalent of 10 hunting licenses per year for 3 years to encourage you, our members, to make personal donations to the Fund. The Harvey Broome Group (Knoxville area) has also committed to donate.

The Tennessee Crane Fund, a restricted fund of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation, promotes *“viewing, research, and habitat management for Whooping and Sandhill Cranes in Tennessee, to ensure the future of these magnificent wildlife treasures.”*

Contributions can be sent to:
Tennessee Crane Fund
TN Wildlife Resources Foundation
5000 Linbar Drive, Suite 265
Nashville, TN 37211

Remember that the gazebo at the Hiwassee Refuge offers Sandhill Crane viewing through late February. If you eat or spend the night, be sure to tell the proprietor why you are there.



DON'T FORGET!

In March we send out an appeal to each of you, our members, asking for contributions directly to our Tennessee Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities as we work together to close dirty coal plants and protect our water supplies from fracking, and promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able -- and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible.

Mail your contribution to:
Sierra Club
3712 Ringgold Road, #156
Chattanooga, TN 37412

The Tennessee Chapter 2013 Spring Retreat and Executive Committee Meeting will be held at Natchez Trace State Park on April 26-28.

SAT: 9:00 Wildflower Walk with Sue A. Williams.
Other hikes to be announced.

Lodging accommodations are air-conditioned and consist of four cottages and a bunkhouse (see <http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/NatchezTrace/lodging/#group-lodge> for more information.) The cottages enable couples and/or families to lodge together, with the bunkhouse providing lodging by gender. Some cabins may be co-ed by bedroom depending upon registration. We'll be meeting and eating in the adjacent **Group Lodge**, not to be confused with the Pin Oak Lodge (and restaurant) 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 and approximately 100 miles east of Memphis. 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 (with a riding stables with fees for rides) are all available within the park and forest.

Early Registration Price until Apr. 16: \$40

Regular Registration Fee: \$50

Single day only price with no lodging:

Sat-\$20; Sun-\$10

(Children up to 15 attend free)

Special: ½ off for first-time attendees!

Note: A limited number of partial scholarships are available by request to Sue A. Williams, (901) 274-0524.

Prices include breakfasts and Saturday night dinner. Attendees need to bring their own linens or sleeping bag, towels, plus Saturday and Sunday lunches and beverages. Plan for fun!

Register by e-mail with Ed Jones at edshouse35@comcast.net

For further information, call Chickasaw Group Chair Sue A. Williams at (901) 274-0524 or z4cmv@juno.com

Thanks to Our Defender Contributors

The Sierra Club's Defender program supports our important legislative and lobbying program. Whether or not you have contributed to the Defenders, you can participate in keeping our legislators informed of your views on important environmental bills and issues. To receive alerts, give your name, address, phone, and legislative district (check your new voter registration card) to one of your chapter's legislative chairs: Mary Mastin, marymastin@twlakes.net, 931-268-2938; or Penny Brooks, penny.h.brooks@vanderbilt.edu, 615-702-5306.

We thank Defender contributors through January 24.

Andrew Abernathy

Theresa Ball and David Bate Parsons

Jeanne Bolen

Ken Brame and Judy Mattox

Penny Brooks

Mary Buckner and Jack Lyle

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Don Scharf and Teri Davis

Will Skelton

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Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation

Bill Terry and Adelle Wood

Glen and Martha Wilson

Anonymous Contributors

Meetings

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

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Strategy Meetings: March 11 and April 8 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6 P.M. Our Strategy Meeting is held downtown, at Second Presbyterian Church in their excellent meeting room! Second Presbyterian is located at the corner of E. 7th Street and Pine, 700 Pine Street - parking is free in their Pine Street lot, across the street from the church, next to the old Blue Cross (orange) building. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome -- this is where and when we plan our actions! Come add your ideas and share your concerns. To place an item on the agenda, contact Secretary Barbara Kelly at 423-718-5009 or bk1drivers@comcast.net, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

NOTE: We have moved!! Our Program Meetings are now held at Outdoor Chattanooga, located in Coolidge Park, on the south side of the Walnut Street Bridge, at 200 River Street. Come join us -- spread the word that we've moved to the Northshore!!

March Program: Last Monday, March 25, 7:00 P.M. at Outdoor Chattanooga, Coolidge Park, 200 River Street, Chattanooga. Topic: Outdoor Chattanooga: Come Out and Play! Ruth Thompson will introduce us to our new home! Outdoor Chattanooga, an initiative of the City of Chattanooga, was established with facilities dedicated to the recreational use, education and stewardship of the region's natural areas. Not only will Ruth introduce us to the many outdoor programs they sponsor on land, air and water, but she will also highlight the various features of the building that have earned it LEED certification. We will be partnering with them later this year to lead several outings -- but join us this evening, after the program, for a bike ride over the Walnut Street Bridge--see details on the Outings page!

The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Parking is free along the sidewalks in Coolidge Park, or there is paid parking in the Theatre lot. Invite your friends!! Be sure to let them know we're meeting now on the Northshore.

April Program: Last Monday, April 29, 7:00 P.M. at Outdoor Chattanooga, Coolidge Park, 200 River Street, Chattanooga. Topic: Randy Whorton, Wild Trail Exec. Director, will be talking about all the hiking trails in the Chattanooga area, and will fill us in on the progress of our newest trail, to run from High Point on Lookout Mountain to Cloudland Canyon State Park. Randy, a passionate conservationist, quoted in the Times-Free Press, says, "We have 54 trailheads within 30 minutes of downtown Chattanooga. I'll bet no other city on the planet can say that. I'll bet no other city has even 30 trailheads within 30 minutes -- and those 54 lead to hundreds of miles of trails." Come learn more about how easy it is to get out in the woods!

The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Parking is free along the sidewalks in Coolidge Park, or there is paid parking in the Theatre lot. Invite your friends!! Be sure to let them know we're meeting now on the Northshore.

Chattanooga Climate Action Team Meetings: (Co-Sponsored by the Cherokee Group): We meet monthly at Grace Episcopal Church, 20 Belvoir Ave., in Brainerd, for planning our actions. Coming in March/April we'll have several events to highlight the need for TVA and our distributors to ramp up energy efficiency programs and to close down dirty coal plants. Come be a part! For more information, contact Megan Spooner, 646-764-6974..

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

TUESDAY, March 12, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Strategy Meeting Contact Sue A. Williams for location information

A strategy meeting that is open to all members. To place an item on the agenda -- or for current

location -- contact Chairperson Sue A. Williams at (901) 274-0524 or z4cmv@juno.com at least five days before the meeting.

MONDAY, March 25, 6:00 P.M. Program, 5:30 P.M. refreshments and social time Program: "Energy Alternative: Wind Power" Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN

Representatives of Plains and Eastern Wind Power Cleanline, a proposed transmission line, will discuss possible wind power coming to Memphis. For more information contact Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or (901) 413-3888.

THURSDAY, April 4, 5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Monthly First Thursday Gathering Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN

Sierra Club members, activists, and friends meet in a casual setting to talk about environmental issues and interests. For more information contact Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or (901) 413-3888.

TUESDAY, April 9, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Strategy Meeting Contact Sue A. Williams for location information

A strategy meeting that is open to all members. To place an item on the agenda -- or for current location -- contact Chairperson Sue A Williams at (901) 274-0524 or z4cmv@juno.com at least five days before the meeting.

SATURDAY, April 20 Tabling Event: Shelby Farms Earth Day Shelby Farms Park, Memphis, TN

Contact Sue A. Williams at (901) 274-0524 or z4cmv@juno.com to volunteer.

MONDAY, April 22, 6:00 P.M. Program, 5:30 P.M. refreshments and social time Program: "Reelfoot Lake Eagles" Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN

Tennessee State Parks Interpreter David Haggard will present a program with a live eagle and other birds from one of our most important lakes and wetlands. For further information contact Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or (901) 413-3888.

NOTE: For more details, additional events, and updates, see our website and Facebook page. 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.

"Nature of Conservation" Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Cable TV Show on WYPL TV 18 (Comcast/Xfinity) and Online at Vimeo:

Days and times vary -- see <http://www.memphis-library.org/tlc18/schedule/> (or the Comcast/Xfinity 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 judithrutschman@gmail.com or (901) 767-5916. Previous programs are now available online at: <http://vimeo.com/user10896810>

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

March 12 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville Preview of Harvey Broome Group 2013 Outings Program

Ron Shrieves, Harvey Broome Group, Sierra Club, Outings Coordinator. The annual outings program provides a preview of the HBG's outings program for 2013 and a slideshow from past outings. Included in this year's program are 9 backpack trips, 22 day hikes, and 6 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.

April 9 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville Speaker and Title To Be Determined

May 14 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville. Climate Reality Joanne Logan, The Climate Reality Project

Joanne Logan is a professor in applied climatology in the Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN, where she directs the undergraduate program in Environmental and Soil Sciences. She teaches classes including Environmental Climatology, GIS, Professional Development, and Waters and Civilization, and often gives guest lectures on climate change.

March 26, April 30 - Harvey Broome Group Executive Committee Meeting. All members that are interested in becoming involved in the activities of the HBG are welcome to come and participate. All HBG Meetings are free and open to the public.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM: March 14, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center

What are GMOs (genetically modified organisms)? Are they dangerous, and how does eating them affect your family's health? In what ways are they affecting insects, soil, seeds, health of people and animals, as well as the environment, and what are the top crops in the U.S. that are genetically modified?

A number of other countries have banned genetically modified foods, but here only two major retailers surveyed have said definitively that they would NOT carry genetically-engineered salmon. Is this an issue for you? Will genetically modified foods lead to "Frankenfish," or are they the answer to the problem of feeding people across the world?

Come to this program and learn from Misti Schroeter what you can do to help. Free and open to the public.

PROGRAM: April 11, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center

Coal is our country's dirtiest energy source, from mining to burning to disposing of coal waste, and the Gallatin Steam Plant is the third largest point source of carbon dioxide emissions in Tennessee. The Sierra Club, at the national, chapter, and local levels, has initiated a grassroots campaign to move America beyond coal, which is an outdated, 19th-century technology. Coal burning is responsible for one-third of U.S. carbon emissions, contributing greatly to climate change and illness. The Beyond Coal campaign's main objective is to replace dirty coal with clean energy such as wind, solar, and geothermal; and to foster energy efficiency.

The Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club has been working hard to forestall a proposed \$1.2 billion in renovations to the Gallatin Steam Plant. A study commissioned by the Sierra Club suggests that emission-control and energy savings are achievable by a 1.2 % annual energy efficiency savings rate, thus saving health, environmental and customer costs.

On April 11, the Middle Tennessee Group program will examine this issue, including an update, progress in moving TVA on energy efficiency and closing down coal, and other emerging issues. Please join us for this important program, which is free and open to the public.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: March 12 and April 9 at 6:30 P.M. Note change of location.

Everyone is welcome at this local issues & business meeting. We will meet in March and April at the Mad Platter restaurant, 1239 Sixth Ave. North, Nashville 37208. (It's near the Nashville Farmer's Market). Please come a bit early because we start the meeting at 6:30, and please contact Betsy at 668-1977 to let her know you're coming. The Mad Platter will provide snacks and promises there will be plenty to eat. Thank you, Craig and Marcia Jervis!

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

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Emily Marr Davis is 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 our state! Outings are planned to take in the interests and skill levels of the participants. For more information, contact Emily at 423-413-3038 or emily.marr.davis@gmail.com

March 25 (Monday) Walnut Street Bridge Evening Bike Ride: This short evening ride will start from Outdoor Chattanooga right after our program meeting. Helmets are required. You may bring your own bike, or buy a pass (24-hour access pass is \$6) to one of the Bike Chattanooga bikes at the kiosk located at Outdoor Chattanooga. We plan to cross the Walnut Street Bridge and do a bit of riding downtown and then back to where we started. Contact Emily for more information: emily.marr.davis@gmail.com, 423-413-3038 for more information.

April 20 (Sat) Earth Day in Coolidge Park: Come one, come all, for a celebration of our environment and spring! There'll be lots of interesting booths to visit, including our own. Volunteer for a shift tabling at our tent, by contacting Barbara Kelly, 423-718-5009 or bk1rivers@comcast.net.

April 21 (Sun) John Muir Birthday Hike, Stringer's Ridge, 2 P.M.: Come along on this easy hike, families with kids very welcome; you'll be able to see spectacular views of the city as we walk through this tranquil urban forest of oaks and dogwoods, as well as Civil War history thanks to plaques along the trail. We'll meet at Nikki's at the corner of Cherokee Blvd. and West Bell Avenue at 2 P.M. Contact trip leader John Doyal for more information: 423-596-8171 or baldie052@yahoo.com. We'll be honoring the founder of the Sierra Club, John Muir, on his birthday!

CHICKASAW GROUP (MEMPHIS)

Check our webpage and Facebook for additional outings and updates.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

9-10 Mar (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Cumberland Trail (Cove Lake State Park to LaFollette). The Cumberland Trail extends from Kentucky to Georgia, and one of the best sections, Eagle Rock, is a short drive from Knoxville. It's one of the most geologically varied trails in east Tennessee, which we'll learn about as the trail follows the edge of the Cumberland Plateau. We'll start hiking at the Bruce Gap Road Trailhead near Cove Lake State Park and finish at the Tank Springs Trailhead near LaFollette. Along the way there's a wonderland of rock ranging from a "Great Wall of China" to a stone arch and lookouts, with long vistas, and at the south end is the Devil's Racetrack visible from I-75. Saturday will be around 8.9 miles of hiking (unless we find someone to do a shuttle which could cut off 2.4 miles) and 2.8 miles on Sunday, with a camp near a shelter. Rated Difficult because of distance on Saturday. One-way drive: 33 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

16 Mar (Sat). Dayhike, Piney Falls and Stinging Fork State Natural Areas, Grandview and Spring City. This dayhike combines two short spectacular waterfall hikes – Piney Falls and Stinging Fork. Both hikes are in the Walden Ridge section of the Cumberland near Spring City and are separated by a distance of about 10 miles. Each trail is about 3 miles round trip, but there are some slippery trail sections and some elevation change. The Piney Falls hike features the 80-foot upper falls with a concave ledge circling behind and around the falls. Below the falls is a large pool, and a bit further down stream, the 40-foot lower Piney

Falls. This hike also features gorges, overhangs, and old growth forest. Stinging Fork Falls is a segment of the Cumberland Trail. This hike features the overlook into the Stinging Fork Gorge and the creek cascading over a 35-foot fan-shaped fall into a blue-green pool. This trail was one of the original Bowater Paper Company Pocket Wilderness Areas. Rated Moderate. The drive from West Knoxville is about 50 Miles. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 229-5027.

23 Mar (Sat). Dayhike, Cades Cove off-trail, GSMNP. This hike uses old roads/trails in the area between the Dan Lawson cabin and Forge Creek Road. These roads/ trails are shown in the 1931 area topo map. Nevertheless, this hike is "off trail," since the old roads are not maintained, and for a short stretch involves bushwhacking through a bit of rhododendron. We'll go up Cades Branch, which runs beside the Dan Lawson Place, cross a low gap to get over into the Whistling Branch watershed, then descend Whistling Branch (crossing #1) for a short distance before ascending Whistling Gap. From there we'll follow some old trails that descend to Mill Creek (crossing #2) and connect with the Cades Cove Loop Road. Along the way we'll see several old house sites and perhaps even a few relics from the 1930s or earlier. A short hike along or parallel to the Loop road gets us back to the Dan Lawson Place. Distance about 5.5 miles, rated difficult due to blow-downs and rhododendron. Two creek crossings. One-way drive: 49 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

30 Mar (Sat). Take-a-Hike, White Oak Sink, GSMNP. This is our introductory hike for the Take-a-Hike program. 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. Though renowned for its wildflowers, the White Oak Sink has something to offer in all seasons. This hike takes out on the Schoolhouse Gap trail, and then into the Sink. Distance about 5 miles. Rated easy. One-way drive: 45 miles. Contact Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

6 Apr (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Obed Wild and Scenic River. After meeting at Obed WSR headquarters in Wartburg, we carpool to the trailhead at Lily Bridge and ascend the short Bridge Trail to Lily Bluff Overlook where we'll watch kayakers running the Class IV rapids below and discuss what is necessary to paddle this river safely. Then we'll follow the Point Trail for 2 very scenic miles to an overlook high above the confluence of Clear Creek and the Obed River. We'll try to spot the Cumberland Trail across the canyon as it winds 14 miles through the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area on its way to Signal Point near Chattanooga. The more adventurous among us may choose to descend the slope to the river. Hike distance, 5 miles. Rated easy. One-way drive: 50 miles. Pre-register with Warren or Carol Devine, 483-7894 or warrendevine@comcast.net.

13 Apr (Sat). Day Hike, Virgin Falls State Natural Area. The Virgin Falls trail winds along and down into a gorge for about 4 miles before reaching Virgin Falls. Virgin Falls is formed by an underground stream that emerges from a sinkhole, runs over a large flat rock, drops over a 110-foot cliff, and disappears into a cave at the bottom. There is a loss of 800 feet in elevation along the way. Before reaching Virgin Falls we will pass some outstanding geologic features – Big Branch Falls, the Caney Fork Overlook, Big Laurel Falls, and Sheep Cave. This trail has steep sections, and is rated moderate to difficult, requiring about 6-7 hours to complete. Virgin Falls was the first Pocket Wilderness Area established by Bowater Southern Paper Corporation in 1970 and subsequently purchased by the State of Tennessee in 1996. Rated Moderate. The driving distance

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!

from West Knoxville is about 85-90 miles. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 229-5027.

20 Apr (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity Tour (Classic Cove hardwood Forest), Porters Creek Trail, GSMNP. This trail has spectacular wildflowers from late March through April, so bring your wildflower books and cameras. The trailhead is located in the Greenbrier area (About six miles east of Gatlinburg highway via US-321). The first 1.5 miles of trail offer good wildflower viewing. Lunch at SMHC cabin is possible. Hiking distance 4 miles round trip. Rated easy. One-way drive: 52 miles. Contact Mac Post: 938-3116, mpost3116@aol.com.

4 May (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity tour (Pine-Oak), Turkeypen Ridge, GSMNP. This relatively level low-elevation trail has some areas that were former settler farms but generally follows the south and east flanks of Turkeypen Ridge. There should be plenty of wildflowers in a diversity of dryer habitats as we move from exposed ridge to protected creeks including a cascade on Pinkroot branch. Total distance is 5 miles including a stretch on Schoolhouse Gap Trail and is rated easy. A short shuttle is involved. One-way drive: 47 miles. Contact Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

March 9, 12:30, Radnor Lake Ridge Hike - Join us for a 2 1/2 mile hike on the South Lake trail, connecting to the South Cove trail, up to the ridge, and finishing off with the new and beautiful trail down to the Old Valve House built by the railroad. Difficult in parts, some heights involved, bring water and sturdy shoes. Contact Betsy at garberb@hotmail.com or 668-1977.

On April 7 at 2 P.M. please join us as we feast our eyes on the wildflowers of Middle Tennessee on the property (land trust) of Mr. Jack Corn in Millersville. We will stroll 1/2 mile on an old road to view one of only two known stands of Blue Eyed Mary's in the state. Bring your wildflower field guides and cameras. Be prepared to be dazzled by the wildflowers on this exquisite wildflower preserve. Wear appropriate shoes for wet spots. The walk is leisurely. 1-2 hours in duration. We will cancel if it rains.

Contact Joy Mayfield at 615-851-1192 or joy.mayfield@comcast.net to make your reservation.

Sunday Float Trips - Join us as we explore area waterways —from fast-paced spring creek paddles to leisurely Family Floats. Participants must provide their own Canoe or Kayak, Paddles and Pfd.

Contact Craig cmjervis@comcast.net or text/call (615) 400-4309

March 17: Harpeth River Float- Del Rio Pike to Old Natchez Rd 9 A.M. — 1 P.M.

April 7: Sunday Float-Turnbull Creek 9 A.M. — 3 P.M.

April 21: Sunday Float - Harpeth River Hidden lakes - Kingston Springs

May 5: Sunday Float-Harpeth River Kingston Springs- Narrows

May 19: Sunday Float - Piney River

Financing Energy Efficiency

By David Trentlage

In my previous articles, we've examined the energy efficiency impact of whole house air seal, full HVAC system duct seal, additional insulation at ceilings or walls common to attic, etc. These measures make our homes safer, more comfortable, and less drafty and lead to lower power bills.

Now let's consider other financial benefits. Under the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), we benefit from the Energy Right program. When homeowners call for an appointment, TVA sends an auditor to visually inspect and document necessary energy measures. The fee for this service (including a post-work inspection) is just \$50. The auditor generates a printed report as well as a list of TVA approved contractors to bid the work.

Once the work has been completed and re-inspected, TVA will issue participating homeowners an incentive check for up to \$550. This amount reimburses the \$50 inspection fee and 50% of the first \$1000 spent on energy measures

listed in the initial report. Additionally, 10% of all material costs up to \$500 can be taken as a tax credit (consult your tax professional). All this works great for homeowners who have cash to invest because these measures historically "buy back" to zero in approximately 5 years. That's a 20% return on investment.

So, what if cash isn't an option? There are two programs: one exists now and the other is beta testing in 7 states (not Tennessee). The first program is offered by Iberia Bank as an unsecured home improvement loan. This loan has no dollar cap, but its maximum term is 5 years. The interest rate is 8-10% APR depending on credit score. As an example, \$10,000 at 8.2% APR for 5 years would cost \$176.32 per month. Lower interest rates and/or longer terms are available from Iberia as a second mortgage. Other lenders have similar products.

The other program is the FHA Power Saver 2nd mortgage loan program through Sun West Mortgage. This product is currently being beta-tested in 7 states and is approved by FHA for

nationwide rollout once the Sun West pilot phase is completed. Homeowners with substantial equity in their properties will be the primary customers. The advantage of the FHA Power Saver loan is its 15-year term and 6% or lower interest rate. The same \$10,000 loan would cost less than \$90 per month. This means dollars saved on power bills would pay the loan. The benefit is obvious – no large initial cash investment required. I mention this program because it will soon be available in Tennessee and I believe it will make energy efficiency measures more attractive and affordable for homeowners.

Generally, TVA reports that the average energy project throughout its area is approximately \$5,000. Since there is no way to guess what individual projects might cost, homeowners should take advantage of the low cost audits offered through the Energy Right program. It's an easy way to get started on an energy efficiency roadmap for your home. You'll have lower power bills and leave a smaller carbon footprint.

The Front End of Nuclear Power

When industry promoters talk about nuclear power, they don't tell you about what goes on at the "front end" — that is, how a reactor gets its fuel. **Front-end industries are not only dangerous and expensive, they also irreversibly pollute our lands and endanger public health and workers.** Mining, milling, enrichment and fuel manufacturing consume large quantities of fossil fuel energy, making nuclear power anything but carbon free.

Uranium occurs naturally in the ground, but when it is mined and exposed to air and water, radioactivity is released into the environment. In the United States, uranium mining takes place chiefly in the West, where it has heavily impacted Native American, Latino and low-income communities. Underground mines create massive above-ground piles of waste rock. In-situ leach mining pumps large amounts of chemically-laden water into the ground, bringing the uranium to the surface in solution. In-situ mines pollute aquifers and put communities' water supplies at risk. Mining accidents, loss of traditional lands, declining property values and public health concerns plague mining and milling communities. Abandoned mines dot the landscape. The Navajo reservation, located in Arizona/New Mexico has 500 abandoned uranium mines. Cancer rates on the reservation are high.

Both mining and milling produce dangerous waste piles and emissions of radioactive and hazardous materials, including radon gas.

Groundwater, surface water and community drinking water systems have been contaminated.

After uranium ore is removed from the ground, it undergoes milling to extract uranium from the rock. Over 99 percent of the ore is left over from this process in the form of a toxic sludge referred to as tailings. Uranium tailings are radioactive for 800,000 years and contain 85 percent of the original radioactivity — plus other rock substances such as heavy metals and arsenic, along with processing chemicals. Over the past 70 years, most uranium tailings were dumped into large, unlined piles. The largest piles in the United States and Canada contain up to 30 million tons. Cleanup of historic tailings is costing taxpayers billions.

Uranium tailings must now be disposed of in 40-acre, lined impoundments. The Department of

Energy takes ownership of all tailing piles for long-term maintenance — i.e., forever — at taxpayer expense.

Enrichment is a technically complicated and energy-guzzling process that involves converting uranium to uranium hexafluoride and then "enriching" or increasing the amount of fissionable uranium in the product. Taxpayers heavily subsidize enrichment for nuclear power plants, and totally subsidize enrichment for nuclear weapons. Over 99% of the uranium is left as a waste known as "depleted" uranium, which is still radioactive and has been used in armor-piercing shells and bunker buster bombs. Hundreds of tons have been detonated in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The old gaseous diffusion enrichment plant at Portsmouth, Ohio, used as much electricity as the city of Chicago, according to the former U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. Some of the largest buildings in the world, covering 93 acres, are now radioactively and chemically contaminated and in need of cleanup, which is costing billions. A similar plant in Paducah, Kentucky, still uses this outdated process. Nine coal plants at the Shawnee Station produce two-thirds of this plant's electricity needs. The Paducah plant uses ozone-depleting freon gas as the primary process coolant.

This plant alone accounts for 70% of all U. S. freon emissions.

The Sierra Club opposes a "new" centrifuge enrichment plant at Portsmouth, which has received multiple taxpayer bailouts since 2007. The builder, USEC, Inc., is asking for a

\$2 billion federal loan guarantee to finish the plant, even though their stock is junk-rated and their technology is unproven. A competitor, Urenco USA, has a working centrifuge process and is currently enriching uranium in New Mexico.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted a license for a laser enrichment plant in North Carolina. When fully deployed, this technology will be a nuclear weapons proliferation risk because the buildings will be too small for international detection.

Conversion plants convert uranium to uranium hexafluoride for enrichment. After enrichment, **deconversion plants** are needed to reverse the

process. **Fuel fabrication** consists of forming enriched uranium into pellets, placing the pellets into fuel rods and putting the rods into assemblies. **Downblending facilities** make nuclear fuel from dismantled nuclear weapons. All these are dirty, dangerous processes.

The nuclear power industry benefits from a vast array of government subsidies. These include limited accident liability, massive loan guarantees, ratepayer subsidies and the eventual public responsibility for isolation of radioactive waste. Mining is subsidized indirectly since uranium extraction is exempt from royalty under the 1872 Mining Law. Milling and fuel fabrication are subsidized by the Department of Energy's control and release of uranium from its stockpile. Other front-end subsidies come in the form of tax breaks and services at the local and state levels, including water development to supply the industry. The Union of Concerned Scientists stated in a 2011 report that nuclear power subsidies often exceed the value of the energy produced.

Mixtures of radioactive and chemical pollutants have so contaminated many front-end facilities that some have become Superfund sites and others have been declared public health hazards. Rivers, roads and railroads have been contaminated. National parks and monuments — even the Grand Canyon — are threatened by uranium mining. America needs energy sources that don't irreversibly pollute our land and contribute to global warming. Help us debunk the myth that nuclear power is carbon free. Start a conversation in your community about the dangers of the front end of the nuclear fuel chain.

The Sierra Club is working to end bailouts for expensive, out-dated nuclear power — subsidies that compete with funding for real energy solutions like efficiency and renewables. Go solar, wind and geothermal!

Join the Sierra Club
Nuclear Free Campaign
to replace nuclear power with
energy efficiency and clean,
renewable power.

You can join our campaign at:
sc.org/no_nukes



Chickasaw Group members gathering signatures to protect Shelby Farms.

...Lot's going on in Transportation in the Chickasaw Group...

The Chickasaw Group has been busy in recent months getting information to the people, and increasing public awareness of local transportation issues. Here's a little bit of info on our efforts.

The Group continues to lead a campaign "against" the current plans (in the Supplemental Final EIS- "SFEIS") to build a roadway across Shelby Farms Park (the largest urban park in the country). Presentations have been made in various venues, and over 750 signatures have been obtained on a petition asking the mayors to not approve the plans, and to consider an alternative that we have proposed.

Chickasaw Group also created an informal coalition of citizen groups- 9 in total- to support a referendum for a 1 cent gas tax to provide funds to enhance specific Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) services. The referendum received 38% of the vote, which was considered a strong result, considering the public's general inclination against any taxes. Strong relationships were created with groups that can become allies for future campaigns.

The Chickasaw Group nominated I-269, a highway in the sparsely populated extended suburbs of Memphis, to National Sierra Club for their "Smart Choices, Less Traffic: Best and Worst Transportation Projects in the US" report. Lo and behold, the project was selected because it continues to encourage sprawl, increases our dependence on oil, and has negative climate impacts. Some local media picked up the story, but not as many as we had hoped.

Note- TN DOT Commissioner Schroer has recently announced that he is "cutting off funding for the segment of I-69 in Tennessee" (a segment which was to pass through Memphis). I-69 could have provided some benefit to redevelopment of brownfields in North Memphis. Instead I-269 will remain in a position to attract jobs away from Memphis. The Chickasaw Group will be digging into this issue, to see what can be done, what can be learned.

One other project worth mentioning is "Complete Streets." Steven Sondheim and Dennis Lynch of the Chickasaw Group Transportation Committee went to the Sierra Club's Complete Streets training in Minneapolis in early December. Memphis and Shelby County are already talking about the subject, in cooperation with the local Livable Memphis group. The Sierra Club is now pitching in to help the process along, and has scheduled its monthly program meeting on January 31 to present the concept and its status to local citizens and Sierra Club members.

Now, we just have to find some things to do for 2013.

Dennis Lynch, MS MIT
Sierra Club Chickasaw Group (Memphis)
Transportation Chair
dmlynch@alum.mit.edu

Inner City Outings

Inner City Outings (ICO) is an all-volunteer outreach program of the Sierra Club that provides wilderness experiences for individuals who might not otherwise have them. Most participants are young people from urban communities, but ICO also conducts trips for other groups that do not have access to outdoor activities.

The goal of the Inner City Outings program is to help people discover the beauty and challenges of the wild places we treasure, acquire the skills necessary to enjoy them safely, and learn that human activities and the natural world are interrelated. The program's success helps increase environmental awareness, interpersonal skills, and the participants' self-esteem through active involvement with nature.

ICO Outings Spring 2013

This is our schedule for some of 2013 Restricted Youth Outings.

If you would like to help on one or more of these outings, contact Craig cmjervis@comcast.net or Joy Joy.mayfield@comcast.net

March 20 (Wed) ICO/Hadley Community Center- Radnor Lake --Helen, Craig, ????

March 22 (Fri) ICO /Boys and Girls Club- Owl's Hill - Helen, Joy, Suzanne

March 27 (Wed) ICO/ Generation Connection -Tentative All day Outing Water theme.. Cedars of Lebanon- Hermit Cave?-Craig, Joy, Helen...???

March 28 (Thur) ICO/ TAP Outing to Radnor Lake 12:00-5:00--Craig, Suzanne

Additional Spring Break ICO Outings are in the works March 16-31.....Are you getting pumped up for spring?!

April 20 (Sat) ICO/The Afterschool Program- Earth Day Outing

May 22? ICO/Generation Connection



Introduction to New Leaders of Our Tennessee Chapter

Chair: Keven Routon

Hello Sierrans, my name is Keven Routon and I'm your Chair for 2013. I'm excited to serve with a proactive leadership team this year. Angela Garrone (Vice Chair) brings a wealth of knowledge in Environmental and Energy Law, while Scott Banbury (Conservation Chair) has achieved more experience in environmental activism than anyone I know twice his age. As you come to know these two skilled activists I am confident you will be extremely impressed by their talents, dedication, and contagious spirit.

My priorities, as expressed to the ExCom at our Winter Meeting, are to focus on expanding our Grassroots base (membership) and empowering our activists. I've met many passionate activists across this broad state from both within and outside of the Club. I believe there is much to be gained by aligning our organization's resources with individuals willing to dedicate the hours to protect our environment and make our concerns known through their voices. Whether high school students or retirees, everyone can make a difference and we need to amplify their collective voices.

I look forward to expanding our Chapter Outings program by providing greater opportunities to participate in Outings of varying degrees of difficulty. Don't overdo it! But I strongly encourage you to get outdoors and have FUN! Look to our website for upcoming events: <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/programs/calendar.asp>

We have a lot to do and YOU have a role to play. If you don't know what that role is, we'll help you find it. My first contact with the Club was showing up - without reservations - at a Chapter meeting at Monteagle on 31 July 2009. Everyone immediately welcomed me and leaders from my local area provided guidance of what I could do to assist and get involved. We need YOU to be involved and take a stand for our environment and our future. If you have a friend, spouse, and/or children get them involved too. If you don't know who to contact in your area contact me, my e-mail is keven.routon@sierraclub.org.

Oh, and if you're a music fan look for our booth at Bonnaroo this summer. Saving the Earth can be fun! Come join us.

I'm honored to be your Chair and I hope to see you at an event soon!
Keven

Vice Chair: Angela Garrone

Angela Garrone is honored to have been elected Vice Chair of the TN Chapter and is excited to help the Chapter continue to grow and prosper in its goals. Angela lives in Knoxville and works at the Southern

Alliance for Clean Energy as its Southeast Energy Research Attorney, but has joined the TN Chapter in an unofficial capacity. She previously worked with the Solar Electric Power Association in Washington, D.C., after finishing a yearlong legal intern position at the Environmental Protection Agency's headquarters. She completed a year in George Washington University's Energy and Environmental Law L.L.M. program and is finishing her thesis on distributed generation regulations and microgrid implementation. Angela graduated from Pace University Law School, with a Certificate in Environmental Law and participated in Pace's Environmental Litigation Clinic, where she helped represent the Hudson Riverkeeper. Angela attended the University of Memphis and is a proud native Memphian.

Conservation Chair: Scott Banbury

Over the years my involvement has included campaigning to extend sewer lines off the coast of California so we didn't have to paddle through human waste to get to our favorite surf spot, rigging tree sits in the Redwoods of Northern California during Redwood Summer, helping to found the Dogwood Alliance to stop the proliferation of chip mills in the Southeast, and, here in Memphis, working to promote a sustainable locavore economy, addressing environmental injustices and promoting the appreciation and protection of our natural heritage. I've run for office twice, helped many others run with more success and attend every public meeting I can get to. Public citizenship is my religion.

As I type this, I'm listening to the wind blow through the trees of my private forest on the banks of the Cypress Creek, a superfund site and 303d listed stream subject to ongoing RCRA corrective action. I can also hear occasional gunshots that ring through the neighborhood as if to punctuate the poverty left after the boom and bust of the pillaging of the great bottomland forests of the Mississippi Delta. I'm reminded that all of our society's problems are, in fact, hitched to all the rest. It's really the reason I settled in Memphis. If we can't solve the problems here, there's no hope for wilderness.

As the Tennessee Chapter's Conservation Chair I will strive to strengthen the relationships between us and our sister organizations, recruit new activists and members from non-traditional communities, empower our youth to engage our issues, enhance the Club's stature in the eyes of the public and, most importantly, make sure that we have fun and share our love of life with all along the way. Explore, enjoy and protect the planet. It's that easy.

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

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My new address is:

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

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood To Step Down

Washington, D.C. – Today U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced that he will step down.

In response, Michael Brune, Sierra Club Executive Director, issued the following statement:

“The Sierra Club thanks Secretary Ray LaHood for his service and his forceful advocacy for building a 21st century transportation system that will reduce our nation’s addiction to oil.”

“Sec. LaHood will leave behind a legacy of helping establish historic increases in fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks, implementing the first-ever fuel efficiency standards for medium and heavy duty trucks, investing in forward-thinking transportation infrastructure projects, bringing together federal agencies to build livable, sustainable cities, and advancing programs to ensure safe biking and walking in our communities.

“In short, Sec. LaHood leaves behind a cleaner, more efficient transportation system for America. He is truly deserving of the Sierra Club’s 2012 Edgar Wayburn Award, the highest award given to a public official for service to the environment.”

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group
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