

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 47, Number 1 - January/February, 2015

How Many Pipeline Spills? A Note From Canada

Alberta, Canada is basically a petro state. Oil and gas production rule everything and it's happening everywhere in the north of the province. Pipelines criss-cross most of Alberta. As a result, leaks of wells, facilities and pipelines are a constant thing all over the province.

But we Canadians almost never hear about them. Our main media, CBC, does not provide any coverage of the many, many spills and gas releases that happen every month, nor the efforts to clean up the messes. They're simply not considered news...at least not on the scale of disasters like some attention grabber showing up at the War Memorial on Remembrance day in uniform and bedecked with medals — none of which (uniform included) belonged to him. The guy is under arrest for impersonating an officer.

But back to the non-news. It seems someone is taking notice. West Coast Native News (WCNN) has been quietly keeping tabs on all the spills and leaks. What they have found is shocking!!

More past the toxic orange spill...careful you don't get any on your shoes!!

The WCNN is reporting on all the spills and natural gas releases and have kindly provided the incidence reports to back up their claims.

Over the past year WCNN has reported on many Crude oil and Toxic produced water spills all over Alberta, in fact we have reported over 600,000 Litres of toxic crap that has been spilled just last month and yet not one mainstream media outlet has picked up the incidents. So lets take a look back at just the last month (October) and see just what the mainstream is not telling you.

Oct 3, 2014 – Canadian Natural Resources Limited – 11Km East of Delia – 10,000 litres of Crude oil

Oct 5, 2014 – Nexen Energy ULC – 2.5Km SouthWest of Kinosis – 5,800 litres of Toxic water

Oct 5, 2014 – Cenovus Energy Inc – 56Km East of Brooks – 9,800 litres of Toxic water

Oct 5, 2014 – Nexen Energy ULC – 41Km SouthEast of Ft. McMurray – 13,000 litres of Condensate

Oct 10, 2014 – Husky Oil – 30Km SouthEast of Vermilion – 50,000 litres of Crude oil and 25,000 litres of toxic water

Oct 13, 2014 – Arc Resources – 5Km North of Redwater – 150,000 litres of Toxic water

Oct 11, 2014 – TAQA North Ltd – 44Km SouthWest of Spirit River – 24,000 litres of Crude oil

Oct 14, 2014 – Whitecap Resources Inc – 37Km NorthWest of Sexsmith – 10,000 litres of Toxic water

Oct 15, 2014 – Penn West Petroleum Ltd -14Km SouthEast of Slave Lake – 52,000 litres Crude oil

Oct 14, 2014 – Zargon Oil & Gas Ltd – 26Km NorthWest of Vauxhall – 8,000 litres of Toxic water

Oct 17, 2014 – TAQA North Ltd – 32Km NorthWest of Rocky Mountain House – 18,000 litres of Toxic water

Oct 21, 2014 – Harvest Operations Corp – 20Km East of Galahad – 200,000 litres of Toxic water

Oct 26, 2014 – Apache Canada Ltd -9Km East of Zama City – 50,000 litres of Toxic water

Total = Over 625,000 Litres of toxic crap spilled in Alberta for just the month of October and not one Mainstream media reports about it.
[https://sheet.zoho.com/...](https://sheet.zoho.com/)

Curious, I went back to July, August and September of this year, and found that October's incidents weren't unusual at all!! In July 27 incidents

were reported --16 involved pipelines spilling either crude oil or gas production. August saw 39 spills or releases happen, 28 involving pipelines. September--26, of which 22 were pipeline spills or releases. October-- 41 total incidents (24 pipeline incidents).

The grand total for four months — 133 incidents of which **90 involved pipeline spills...68%!!!!**

What is produced that is mentioned in the incident reports? **OilfieldWiki** states that it is either water mixed with the oil as it comes up from the ground and from two sources: with the oil, or separate from it — OR it's injected fluid.

Sources of this water may include flow from above or below the hydrocarbon zone, flow from within the hydrocarbon zone, or flow from injected fluids and additives resulting from production activities. This water is frequently referred to as “connate water” or “formation water” and becomes produced water when the reservoir is produced and these fluids are brought to the surface. Produced water is any water that is present in a reservoir with the hydrocarbon resource and is produced to the surface with the crude oil or natural gas.

I regret to say that due to my non-existent math

skills, I can't calculate the volume of the spills into liters for you all. Perhaps someone else can do the math for me.

I noticed that in the report of an incident document, every single report mentions that no effects to wildlife or waterways occurred... WHAT?? How can spilling even a small amount of oil not affect the soil and water, and in turn affect the wildlife. Even the removal of the contaminated soil will have an effect. This is the kind of glossing over important facts that happen when there is only self-reporting done. No one follows up or studies the results. And no one calls them on their shoddy reporting.

It shouldn't need to be said, but those who think that putting a pipeline that carries oil, dilbit, or natural gas over any agricultural, environmentally sensitive or heavily populated areas should have their little heads examined. Pipelines are neither safe nor infallible. I see the U.S. House of Representatives **has passed a bill** to allow the Keystone XL to be built and used...folly...sheer idiocy!

Originally potted to GwenNedd on Mon Nov 17, 2014 AT 02:52 P.M. PST.



Now you can receive your

Tennes-Sierran

via email



Subscribe simply by going to

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

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

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

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
*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 Target Date is January 25 for the March-April 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
March-April Issue is
January 25, 2014.**

**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.

Add your voice to protect the planet.
Join Sierra Club

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____ Phone (____) _____
Email: _____

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



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

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts, and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible unless 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 471041, Palm Creek, FL 32740-1041
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org #242 W43M

Sierra Club Officers

TENNESSEE CHAPTER:

Chair: Keven Routon (901) 485-3960
kwrates@me.com
Vice Chair: Charles White (731) 307-8140
conscious.lightbeing@gmail.com
Secretary: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009
bk1rivers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Alice Demetreon (660) 247-2288
demetreon1981@gmail.com
Asst. Treasurer: Bob Perlack (865) 229-5027
perlack@aol.com
Conservation: Axel Ringe (865) 850-0255
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Outings: Phil Davis (423) 247-0473
phildavis2006@gmail.com
CCL Delegate: Keven Routon (901) 485-3960
kwrates@me.com

TN LOCAL GROUPS:

Cherokee Group

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
Co Chairs: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009
bk1rivers@gmail.com
John Doyal (423) 596-8171
baldie052@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Barbara Hurst (423) 886-9503
barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com
Conservation: Davis Mounger (423) 877-4616
wdmounger@yahoo.com
Outings: Sheryl Campbell (423) 693-4729
campfamily63@gmail.com
Upper Cumberland Committee: John Harwood, 931-372-0493
jharwood@ntech.edu

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
Chair: Judith Rutschman (901) 485-3960
judithrutschman@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Mark Plumlee (901) 679-4622
mark.chickasaw@gmail.com
Secretary: Keven Routon (901) 767-3960
kwrates.me.com
Treasurer: Ed Jones (901) 374-0582
edshouse35@comcast.net
Conservation: Scott Banbury (901) 619-8567
smbanbury@gmail.com

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
Chair: Robin Hill (865) 966-9435
robin.hill8@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Dave Reister (865) 670-8991
dreister@bellsouth.net
Secretary: Kris Christen (865) 593-9876
christen@knology.net
Treasurer: Bob Perlack (865) 229-5027
perlack@aol.com
Conservation: Axel Ringe (865) 850-0255
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518
ronaldshrieves@comcast.net

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg
Chair: Cliff Cockerham (615) 336-3905
clifford.cockerham@comcast.net
Vice Chair: Penny Brooks (615) 792-5306
penny.h.brooks@vanderbilt.edu
Secretary: Charles High
cahigh1722@aol.com
Treasurer: Joel Gearhardt (615) 591-0268
jgearhardt@yahoo.com
Conservation: Scott Heflinger (615) 351-2626
sheflinger@aol.com
Outings: Craig Jervis (615) 400-4309
cmjervis@comcast.net

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

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga
Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797@embarqmail.com
Vice Chair: Sandi Cranford (423) 727-5044
sunshine@highcountryonline.net
Secretary: Dennis Shekinah (423) 727-6497
dshekinah@centurylink.net
Treasurer: Cindy Johnson (423) 895-1687
doemtn@hotmail.com
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797@embarqmail.com

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

VICTORIES

St. Croix River Dam Passages Removed So Alewives Can Swim Free

The Sierra Club's Maine Chapter worked in collaboration with state's Environmental Priorities Coalition to pass a bill requiring the state to ensure that the fishways on the Woodland Dam and the Grand Falls Dam be reconfigured or operated in such a way that "allows the unconstrained passage of river herring." The bill, L.D. 72, was passed by overwhelming majorities in both statehouse chambers and took effect May 1. The Portland Press Herald in its coverage called the decision "historic."

Tactical Highlights: To aid in this win, the Maine Chapter used online grassroots action alerts, public testimony, and grassstaps outreach. **When:** 2013.04.23.

Related Campaign: Protecting Waters.

Minnesota Passes First Solar Standard and Innovative Solar Policy

The Minnesota legislature passed a comprehensive clean energy package with particular emphasis on solar, including a 1.5% solar portfolio standard by 2020, new incentives for solar photo-voltaics made in Minnesota, a community solar gardens program, and support for a number of forward-looking studies.

Tactical Highlights: The Sierra Club's North Star (Minnesota) Chapter held a 700-person rally at the state capitol on Earth Day, and the Club was a primary driver behind making that event a success. The Sierra Club

was one of the few organizations that had dedicated staff working on this legislation from the very beginning of the session, including the Chapter lobbyist and significant Beyond Coal Campaign organizing staff support. In addition, several key legislators involved in this work were elected with active support from the North Star Chapter's state PAC. **When:** 2013.05.18. **Related Campaign:** Clean Energy Solutions. **Mississippi Public Service Commission Passes Energy Efficiency Rule**

Three years after it was put on the docket in early 2010, a new Energy Efficiency Rule has been approved 3-0 by Mississippi's Public Service Commission (PSC). In the end, public comments tipped the balance in favor of the rule, much to the surprise of the rural electric cooperatives, which had expected the PSC to kill it.

Tactical Highlights: Since 2010, the Sierra Club and many other groups mounted a persistent campaign to get this rule passed. The most creative thing about this effort was the networking and helpful positive contribution from all kinds of national organizations that promote energy efficiency. While these organizations did a lot of the technical work, the Club and other organizations focused on the in-state advocacy. The Club remains vigilant as the rural electric cooperatives are calling for a re-hearing of the rule. **When:** 2013.07.03. **Related Campaign:** Clean Energy Solutions.

Tennessee Sierra Defenders Needs Your Help As We Mark 19 Successful Years

Thank you so very much to our November Defender contributors, including:

Charles Akers
 Nancy Anderson
 William and Kathryn Bendall
 Jim Blackstock
 Gary Bowers
 Sharon Boyce
 Bob and Anne Brandt
 Gary and Terri Brunvoll
 Carol and Frank Burger
 Charles and Marion Burger
 Craig Canan
 Stewart and Louise Clifton
 Richard and Frieda Coleman
 William and Dorothy DeVan
 Mary Lynn Dobson
 Larry and Carolyn Dunn
 Betsy Garber and Steve Vining
 Tom Gatti
 Senator Doug Henry
 Jay Hiatt
 Charlie High and Deb Dixon
 Dr. Lisa Langenbach
 Daniel Lindstrom
 Richard and Sherry Loller
 Dr. and Mrs. Reginald Lowe
 Joy Mayfield
 Elizabeth and Robert Peelle
 John Pigg
 Meg Robertson
 Cynthia and Steven Rohrbach
 Don Scharf and Teri Davis
 Diane Shifrin
 Marty Simmons
 Gene and Ruth Van Horn
 Anonymous donors and those who did not complete the form

Your name here next issue?

What, you may ask, are the Defenders? This is a group of people who have contributed to our legislative efforts, enabling our lobbyist Mike Murphy and our dedicated volunteers and staff to make an impact on our state legislators. As a result of their hard work, our legislators know who we are and what we want; and they listen! They may not vote our way the first time around, but continuing insistence on what is right for our environment and for the citizens of Tennessee brings the changes of which we are rightly proud. As a result of natural attrition, we must now increase our donor list. Generally, only people who have been part of this effort in the past are sent a letter each year, and those people do not receive other solicitations from the Tennessee Chapter. We ask you to become a Defender by supporting this invaluable program.

We don't know what bills will be brought up next legislative session, but some issues that we may address include:

- Further renewable energy legislation and/or support for community solar projects;
- Continued opposition to reversion of mining regulation oversight to state government;
- Support of any bill opposing mountain top removal mining;
- Defense against any regulations that would adversely affect Tennessee's air, water, and land;
- Container deposit legislation, if brought up again.

Please support the Sierra Club Defenders, and contact your legislators about important bills. We can send you e-mail alerts (only as needed) during the session, and Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) sends out a weekly legislative update. Check the box(es) below if you wish to receive these alerts.

Send the following form with a check **made out to the Sierra Club with "Defenders" on the memo line** to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215.

Thank you!

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

E-mail address: _____ We will not divulge your information.

Check here to receive e-mail alerts when the Sierra Club needs contacts to state legislators on critical votes. Include your e-mail address above. Don't check this box if you already receive these alerts.

Check here to receive weekly e-mail updates from TCV (include your e-mail address above) during the legislative session. Don't check this box if you already receive these updates.

Yes No May we thank you in the TennesSierran?

No acknowledgement letter needed. Please save Defender funds for program purposes.

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

Beyond Coal: Research-Based Messaging

Overall, the Sierra Club's polls and focus groups find that:

- Most Americans do not have a full understanding about where their electricity comes from.
 - Few American adults claim that they are very knowledgeable about electricity issues.
 - Most Americans are unfamiliar with their own state's electricity profile.
 - Americans generally have ambivalent relationships with their electric utilities, but they do not necessarily see local utilities (or local coal companies) as bad actors.
 - Few Americans feel they have control over their energy choices.
- We don't need to spend time convincing people that coal is undesirable – public opinion of coal is already negative.

- Coal is consistently the least-popular energy source among Americans; solar and wind are the most-popular among Democrats and Republicans. Most Americans think we should rely less on coal and more on cleaner sources.
- Coal is seen as dirty, outdated and undesirable but also cheap and reliable.
- Mountaintop removal coal mining is especially unpopular.
- Americans disapprove of federal subsidies for the coal industry.
- The strongest arguments against coal revolve around public health and pollution.
 - In the last year, there is evidence to show that a secondary climate message can work well with certain audiences (namely Democrats and those who accept the reality of climate disruption) but, even

among these audiences, a health message is (usually) even more persuasive.

- Simply showing or talking about the contrast between dirty, outdated coal and clean, growing wind and solar can be a powerful message itself.
- Talking about American clean energy innovation and pioneering is effective with voters across the political spectrum.
- The jobs and economic arguments are important; Americans are sensitive to job loss in this economic downturn.
 - Any talk of retiring coal plants should include specific references to local job creation in other industries and to re-training opportunities.
- Americans are wary of "environmental regulations" in the abstract, but they are supportive of specific protections – especially the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act.
 - There is broad and deep public support for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to limit the amount of carbon pollution power plants can emit.

Messaging Recommendations¹

- 1) Don't assume that Americans already have a negative perception of their electric utility.
 - People are quick to assume that big corporate polluters do not have their best interests at heart, but we need to provide background on their misdeeds and how they relate to electricity supplies. Otherwise, Americans view their local utility (or coal company) neutrally or positively.
- 2) Messages emphasizing the health impacts of pollution from coal-burning power plants are most effective.
 - Avoid getting caught in the other side's frames or repeating their arguments.
- 3) Never talk about coal retirements without mentioning how that electricity would be replaced with cleaner alternatives.
- 4) Local or personal stories or examples are usually more powerful than facts and figures alone.

¹These recommendations are generalized based on research across the country and different audiences. But every coal message should be tailored to be most effective in your local fight. Please work with your local press secretary to figure out what will work best for you.

What Works	What Doesn't Work (As Well)
Using "coal-burning power plants"	Using "coal plants"
Referring to the "nation's coal-burning power plants"	Using the word "fleet"
Saying "retire," "phase out," or "replace"	Saying "shut down," "close" or "kill"
Talking about "standards," "protections" or referring to specific environmental rules	Using "regulations" – especially in the abstract
Saying "pollution" from coal-burning power plants and mentioning specific pollutants ("carbon pollution," "mercury, lead, and arsenic," "carbon dioxide" or "smog")	Saying "emissions" or "greenhouse gases"
Saying "U.S. Environmental Protection Agency" to remind people what the EPA does	Always using the acronym (EPA) without ever spelling it out (<i>this is mostly for longer communications pieces; the acronym is OK in ads</i>)
Highlighting that we have the technology to use more clean energy; use examples	Trying to teach people about the details of specific new technologies (beware of getting too "wonky")
Using local and specific examples, numbers or statistics when talking about health impacts, pollution, or clean energy jobs (i.e. smog pollution causes 3,700 deaths every year)	Being vague arguments about health impacts or pollution rates
Citing health professionals (doctors, nurses, or health associations) when possible	Relying on undocumented statistics or solely on analysis solely generated by advocacy groups

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)

Welcome the New Year Mixer/Pot Luck, Jan. 4, 5 P.M. to 8 P.M., Audubon Acres: You're invited to a Party! Bring friends and a covered dish to share, we'll supply drinks, utensils, plates, etc. Come start the new year with people who share the same interests and dreams for our environment as you. Location: Audubon Acres Visitor Center, 900 Sanctuary Road, Chattanooga, 37424 -- the new building just inside their gate, in East Brainerd, off Gunbarrel Road. Fun and fellowship!

Strategy/Business Meetings: Jan. 12 and Feb. 9 (2nd Monday) 6:30 P.M., - Held at Second Presbyterian Church, 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.] If you want to be connected to the Environmental Buzz in/around Chattanooga -- this is where to be. Come add your ideas and share your concerns. We'll be planning our actions: we're active on several fronts: clean energy, forest watch/protection, mining/fracking issues, and energizing our Outings program. All are welcome!

NOTE: We're moving! 2015 Program meetings will be at Green!Spaces, 63 E. Main St., Chattanooga. 37408. Parking available along the street and around the corner of the building. Mark your calendars now!!!

January Program: 4th Monday, Jan. 26, 7:00 P.M. at Green!Spaces, 63 E. Main St., Chattanooga. 37408. Sustainability at YOUR House: Get the Most Bang for Your Buck! Carylon Smith and Jeffrey Maxwell, from Home Depot, will be showing us how to make our homes more energy-efficient while saving \$\$\$. They have great presentation materials, some hands on demonstrations, and will bring goody bags for everybody. Learn how to make your house over energy-wise, at the same time you lower your electric bills!

The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Invite your friends!! Look for our banner.

February Program: 4th Monday, Feb. 23, 7:00 P.M. at Green!Spaces, 63 E. Main St., Chattanooga. 37408. Looking at Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs): Our State Forests. Shannon Gann, Area Forester for Bradley, Hamilton and Sequatchie, and Jim Lane, Forester for Prentiss Cooper State Forest, will be teaching us about forestry "Best Management Practices" for our state forests. Come learn about how our forests should be handled! We'd like to start a Forest Watch for Prentice Cooper; we'll be having a hike there in March.

The public is very welcome, healthy snacks are served. Invite your friends!! Look for our banner.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

January 13, 7:00 P.M. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Expanding Knoxville's Urban Wilderness. Carol Evans, Executive Director, Legacy Parks Foundation

February 10, 7:00 P.M. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. "Birds" - Listing, Education, and Conservation.

John O'Barr, President, Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

March 10, 7:00 P.M. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. A Preview of Harvey Broom Group 2014 Outings Program. Ron Shrieves, Harvey Broome Group, Sierra Club, Outings Coordinator

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Program: January 8, Thursday, 7:00 P.M. Radnor Lake Visitors Center "Climate Change, Mountain Top Removal & Music" -- Nell Levin and Dan Joranko, Co-Executive Directors of Tennessee Alliance for Progress (TAP), will present a program (with musical interludes) on the facts behind climate change, how to respond to common arguments and resistance to change, and the practice of mountain top removal to mine coal.

Program: February 12, Thursday, 7:00 P.M. Radnor Lake Visitors Center - "Nashville's Recycling - Where Does it Go?" -- We put our recyclables in the bin, but what happens then? Marge Davis, coordinator of the Tennessee Bottle Bill Project (Recycling Refunds), will look at some of the ins and outs of Nashville's recycling program, including how Nashville is doing on recycling, how the recycled materials are processed, and where they end up.

Program: March 12, Thursday, 7:00

P.M., at Radnor Lake Visitor Center.

"Owls" -- Robert English (photographer, naturalist, and very entertaining speaker) has sighted all nineteen species of North American owls and nineteen species of owls from other countries around the world. A birder for 31 years, Robert's photographs have been published in the National Audubon Society books, The Bird Garden and The Audubon Backyard Birdwatcher. Robert is the founder of LEAPS, an environmental consulting service that conducts research to provide natural area interpretation and management techniques to parks and natural areas. He is also a member and instructor for the Tennessee Naturalist Program.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: January 20, February 17, and March 17 - Tuesdays at 6:30 P.M. Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Meetings are usually held at the Mad Platter Restaurant, 1239 Sixth Ave. North, Nashville 37208 (near the Nashville Farmer's Market), but there may be times we meet elsewhere. If you are not a regular attendee, please contact Betsy at 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com in case the meeting location has changed. Come a bit early because we start the meeting at 6:30. The Mad Platter is not open on Tuesday evenings, so be sure to eat before you come or bring something with you. We look forward to seeing you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: (contact Betsy at 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com)

1. We need someone to assist Joel making changes each month to our web page.
2. Joy would welcome folks to assist her in presentations to elementary school students.
3. We need more hike leaders and assistants.
4. We need more ICO (disadvantaged youth) hike leaders and assistants.
5. We need folks to distribute brochures to libraries, etc.

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.

Now you can receive your

Tennes-Sierran
via email

Subscribe simply by going to

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

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

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



Outings

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Sheryl Campbell 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 Sheryl at camp-family63@gmail.com. Also check our Facebook page, Cherokee Sierra, for the latest on our outings.

Jan. 17 (Sat) Basic First Aid & Outings Leader Training: 8:30 to 4 P.M. You will start the day earning your basic first aid certification, enjoy lunch, and then complete Outings training for Sierra Club leaders. You will leave at the end of the day ready to plan your first outing -- be it an afternoon walk, a day hike, canoe trip, water sampling trip, camp out, wild flower outing, whatever! Cost is \$30 members, \$45 non-members. We'll reimburse you after you have led 2 outings! Open to the public! **To Register Contact Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com or call 423-718-5009 for details.**

Jan. 18 (Sun) TN Sandhill Crane Festival, Birchwood. We'll meet at 8:30 A.M. in Chattanooga, then carpool out to the Birchwood Community Center to catch the shuttle buses to the Hiwassee Refuge to view the thousands of cranes that migrate through or spend the winter on and around the Hiwassee Refuge. Bring binoculars, a sack lunch and water. Dress for the weather! In addition to the sandhill cranes, we'll see endangered whooping cranes, bald and golden eagles and other native wildlife at the refuge, and check out the special programs for the Festival at the community center. For more information, and to register, contact Contact Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com or 423-718-5009 for details.

Cherokee News Please Like Us

on Facebook -- our Organization Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/CherokeeSierra>
on Facebook - our Group Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/65310596576/>
Join our MeetUp --Green Events-- Group:
<http://www.meetup.com/greenhome-107/>

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

CHICKASAW GROUP (MEMPHIS)

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

10 January (Sat). Dayhike, Virgin Falls State Natural Area. The Virgin Falls trail winds along and down into a gorge for about 4 miles before reaching Virgin Falls. There is a loss of 800 feet in elevation along the way. 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.

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. It was purchased by the State of Tennessee in 1996. Rated moderate. The driving distance from West Knoxville is about 85-90 miles. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 229-5027.

31 Jan - 1 Feb (Sat-Sun). Winter Backpack, Abrams Falls (the Back Way!), GSMNP. This is a round-trip hike of about 11.6 miles total, but most of it will be concentrated on the second day. The first day, we'll have a short hike into Campsite #17 and set up camp, collect lots of firewood, and enjoy a long evening by the campfire (assuming we get halfway decent weather). Day 2 we'll continue with daypacks to Abrams Falls and then return to the backcountry campsite, where we'll collect the rest of our gear and head back to the cars. We use several trails in the process of this two-day hike: Cooper Road Trail (0.9 mile), Little Bottoms Trail (2.3 miles), Hatcher Mountain Trail (0.8 mile), and the Abrams Falls Trail as far as Abrams Falls (1.8 miles). Most of the trail closely borders Abrams Creek and offers wonderful views of stream and valley. This route is only lightly used and offers a quiet, contemplative alternative to the shorter and much busier trail to the falls from Cades Cove. The backcountry camp fee is \$4 per person – the leader will make reservation for the first 10 participants. This hike is rated moderate because of the season and one fairly steep pitch. Drive: 33 mi each way. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922- 3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

14 Feb (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Laurel-Snow State Natural Area, near Dayton, TN. With the water flowing, the hike along Richland Creek out and up to Snow Falls provides awesome scenery. We'll hike up the historic trail that follows Richland Creek through an old mining area before turning to ascend the ridge on which the falls are located. We'll also take the spur trail out to Buzzard Point, where we'll have great views of the watershed. The lack of leaves on the trees in winter enhances views of the surrounding area, as well as giving great views of the spectacular mountain creek and several waterfalls. Round-trip hike distance, 11 miles. Rated moderate. Two creek crossings, hopefully with boots on. One-way driving distance, 80 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

21 Feb (Sat). Dayhike, Old Settlers Trail, GSMNP. This is a 10-mile out and back hike from Maddron Bald Trailhead along the east end of the Old Settlers Trail. We will visit a cemetery, the McCarter barn, and explore a wonderful historic area covered with walls and chimneys. Icy conditions may make a high

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!

foot-log crossing and a later rock-hop crossing interesting. Rated moderate. Driving distance about 60 miles each way. Pre-register with Rob Davis at 865-202-6661 or hikinrob@charter.net (email preferred).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

January 10 – Sandhill Crane outing to Wheeler Natural Area – Please join us as we travel down I-65 to view the Sandhill Cranes at a favorite stop on their migration south. You will be required to sign a waiver to participate in this outing. Register with Joy at joy.mayfield@comcast.net. (put “sierra club hike” in the subject line).

January 17 – Peeler Park hike – Join us for this hike to one of the newer Nashville parks. This will also serve as a training session for our hike leaders and assistants, but all are welcome. (We would love to have more hike leaders and assistants by the way.) You will be required to sign a waiver to participate in this outing. Please register with Betsy at garberb@hotmail.com. (put “sierra club hike” in the subject line).

February & March Outings: We have an active outings schedule and want you to come along! Many times our outings are planned too late to be included in this newsletter. To check out our outings, please click on the outing of choice at <http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures/events/calendar/>

OUTINGS LEADER NEEDED

We need YOU as an outings leader!

All you need to do to become a certified outings leader for MTG Sierra Club is:

- Complete the on-line OLT 101 course (available on Clubhouse) and take the self-assessment quiz at the end
- Have a current Red Cross Basic First Aid certification (we reimburse after you have led 3 outings)
- Assist or co-lead 3 provisional hikes with a certified outings leader before leading an outing solo.

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT! IF YOU EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING AN OUTINGS LEADER, NOW IS THE TIME TO DO IT!

Outings Chair: Craig Jervis
(cmjervis@comcast.net or 615-400-4309)

Outings leader: Joy Mayfield (joy.mayfield@comcast.net or 615-851-1192)

A Letter to Rep. Charles Rangel Concerning a New Trade Agreement

From The Rev. Stephen Phelps and Stephanie Low, 11/27/2014

While the country contemplates how the midterm results will impact policies, one thing hasn't changed: the administration and some members of Congress are still pushing for a new trade deal that makes the North American Free Trade Agreement look puny.

This agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, includes the U.S. and 11 other Pacific Rim countries comprising 40 percent of global trade. (Negotiating countries include Mexico, Canada, Japan, Vietnam, Australia, Brunei, Singapore, Chile, Malaysia, Peru and New Zealand.) Its provisions could destroy jobs at home, undermine national sovereignty and threaten clean air and water everywhere.

Twenty years ago, NAFTA promised American jobs and economic prosperity by opening trade with Canada and Mexico. We didn't get the jobs, but we sure did get problems. According to Public Citizen's Economic Policy Institute, NAFTA outsourced jobs from all 50 states. Approximately 46,200 were lost in New York alone. Moreover, U.S., Canada and Mexico increased manufacturing that polluted water, land and air in all three countries. To top it off, NAFTA created foreign tribunals where corporations can challenge the environmental and public safety laws of any member nation. Headed by just three private sector lawyers, the tribunals have no obligation to disclose the full terms of their decisions, and their decisions allow no appeal.

In a current suit before a NAFTA tribunal, an American fracking company is suing Canada to challenge Quebec's moratorium on fracking. If Canada loses the case, its taxpayers will be on the hook for a fine of \$230 million. Public Citizen reports, "In the first seven years of NAFTA ... an astonishing \$13 billion [was] claimed by corporations in their initial filings," and more than 85 percent of the \$3 billion already awarded involves lawsuits "against national resource, energy and environmental policy."

This is outrageous. The past 20 years have seen more than enough damage. We cannot and will not stand for more.

But now Congress is considering a "fast track" bill that would allow the TPP to be pushed through to easy passage. Under "fast tracking," Congress abandons its oversight of trade agreements and renders itself unable to change a single word of the TPP or any other trade agreement. Fast-tracking would undermine the system of checks and balances that the Constitution put in place to prevent one branch of government from grabbing too big a share of power. The voice of the elected congressional representatives of the people would be silenced.

Fast-tracking the TPP would put our jobs up against those in countries such as Vietnam, where workers make a shocking \$2.23 a day. It would expand Big Pharma's monopoly protections, trading away low-cost access to medicines. It would mean transnational corporations could sue the U.S. and challenge nearly any law they claim cuts into their "future expected profits." Laws protecting the

air we breathe, the water we drink, the food on our dinner tables and our very health would be threatened.

These provisions are so clearly bad for the U.S. that the most recent attempt to pass a fast track bill was dead on arrival when introduced in Congress last January. Nonetheless, it's likely that a new fast-track proposal will be introduced in the next few months. Early this month, TPP trade ministers from all member nations met in Beijing in an effort to move negotiations closer to a conclusion. That will bring pressure on Congress to facilitate the TPP by passing this legislation quickly.

Trade can be of real benefit if it is done responsibly. But leaks from TPP texts show that the TPP will take us in the wrong direction and send the profits to the very corporations that helped write the texts, not to workers or communities.

Rep. Charles Rangel, we hope you, along with the whole New York congressional delegation, will join us in the fight for our jobs, our wages, our environment, our food and our health. We have elected you year after year because you have continually fought to protect us. We call on you now to protect us once more to publicly oppose any fast track bill, just as you did by rejecting the previous one. We call on you to do it again, congressman. Do it for the sake of your own great legacy and for the sovereignty of our beloved country.

The Rev. Stephen Phelps is a former interim senior minister at Riverside Church and Stephanie Low is chair of both the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter TPP Task Force and the NYC TPP Task Force.



Summit for a Nuclear Free Future

By Steven Sondheim

If someone gave you a bag with \$6 billion in it, and you wanted to reduce or avoid carbon emissions from electricity generation, how would you spend it? Here's a radical idea: Transfer the money planned for new nuclear to renewables. TVA says that they get so much electricity from nuclear that they don't need renewables or efficiency. We say, "Why don't you look at it the other way? If you ramp up efficiency and renewable sources, you won't need nuclear."

We can get three to five times the carbon avoidance for the next same money with energy efficient and renewable energy as we can with nuclear. Spending money on nuclear energy robs us of a clean energy future.

Susan Corbett, team leader of the Sierra Club's Nuclear Free Campaign, has been a leader in anti-nuclear activism since the 1970's. Growing up in South Carolina, the state with the highest dependence on nuclear energy in the U.S., she was drawn into the anti-nuclear movement when a nuclear plant was built ten miles from her childhood home.

This past weekend, Corbett, myself, and Don Safer (Tennessee Sierra's Nuclear Chair) joined almost 100 other leaders in the anti-nuclear movement, representing many concerned Sierra Chapters, over 30 U.S. states, Canada and Japan, for The Summit for a Nuclear Free Future in our nations capital. The Sierra Club's Nuclear Free Campaign was there in force, along with the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Beyond

Nuclear, Nuclear Energy Information Service, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Uranium Watch, Southwest Research and Information Center, the Information Network for Responsible Mining, Earthworks, San Obispo Mothers for Peace and many others.

These activists discussed transitioning off of nuclear power, dealing properly with radioactive waste, fighting nuclear industry attacks on clean energy, and getting to a nuclear-free and carbon-free future.

Nuclear power is not a viable option to lessen our dependence on coal and natural gas. Corbett notes that "without government subsidies and support for nuclear, it would be too expensive. Nuclear energy "would be priced out of the market without the government propping up the nuclear industry."

Nuclear energy is already "risky as an energy source" -- with a poor track record made worse by the recent Fukushima disaster.

Nuclear energy production creates a host of other problems, like radiation and toxic waste, which are harmful to our environment, our wildlife, and our families. "We can barely keep a trash container from leaking for 50 years," said Corbett. "Byproducts can't be safely isolated for 10,000+ years."

The activists at the Summit for a Nuclear Free Future are driven by the belief that nuclear energy's hazardous pollution far outweighs any benefits - and that's the message they took to Congress, the

Environmental Protection Agency, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on two lobby days following their conference

Members of the Navajo tribe took up the issue of nuclear energy on Native American lands including the Yucca Mountain Waste Repository and uranium mines. Others told the EPA that a proposed increase in what is deemed "acceptable" doses of radiation should be scrapped. "There is no acceptable level of radiation," notes Corbett. "It is harmful to everyone at any level."

The lobbying push is more important than ever. With a new Congress taking power in January, fears are rising that the House and Senate will attempt to kick start the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository and fail to clean up nearly 10,000 uranium mines on Native American lands.

Corbett said that's why the planning that happened at The Summit for a Nuclear Free Future is so important. Anti-nuclear activists like Corbett and many others are engaged and ready to fight -- armed with the hope for a clean energy future free of dangerous, expensive nuclear energy.

Checkout/Join Sierra Club's effort:
facebook.com/NuclearFreeCampaign

Other sources:
beyondnuclear.org or nirs.org

Sierra Magazine's A Cleaner South
sierraclub.org/sierra/2014-6-november-december/feature/cleaner-south

Who's Minding the Store?

Observations from a Fledgling Environmentalist

By April Bryant

Why is it that we can no longer depend on our state and federal agencies to protect our environment? Isn't that why they exist? Isn't that why we pay them with our hard-earned taxes? Why would we continue to pay them if we have to protect our own environment, ourselves? Are we going this alone?

A year ago I would have never said I was an environmentalist. Sure, I've always been a nature lover and appreciated the natural beauty of the world, but I don't think I would have classified myself to that degree. All of the sudden, almost overnight, I have become a staunch defender of the environment. Why, you ask? What caused this overnight metamorphosis? The answer is that the environment I need to defend is my back yard and when I say *back yard* that is not a euphemism. I literally mean my own *back yard*.

Our family farm sits on the banks of the Nolichucky River. It is where I grew up, under the shadow of Bird's Hill, a locally famous, huge rock-cliff on the opposite side of the river, playing in the water where 200 years of family generations have done the same. This farm has been handed down since shortly after the Revolutionary War when Joseph Conway, who served with George Washington at Valley Forge, acquired it via a land grant. Am I emotional and sentimental about this land? You bet!

So when I found out that an explosives company wanted to put in pipelines to take water out of and dump wastewater back into the river, my river, I was terrified and angry! I can't tell you if I was more terrified or angry because those feelings alternated (still do) regularly. Even more disturbing is that we were not notified by anything other than a very small public notice sign, a short 30 days

before this was to be approved by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). And just like that, I became an environmentalist!

The reason why this company wants unfettered access to the Nolichucky River? Because it would cost too much for them to get water from the local utility company and to pay for sewer usage. Really? Is this a valid reason? How is this OK?

It wasn't just me, either. Friends and neighbors became environmentalists, too. There's nothing like being a newbie at fighting and getting thrown in the ring with Goliath. Learn on the fly? Oh yes! When it's your children's drinking water you become very passionate. I received some wonderful advice from a friend, one of the main points being to "get big" and be quick about it. I created a Facebook page and shared it to everyone I knew and on all the environmental group's pages I could find, asking for help. The Sierra Club was a Godsend in helping us get rolling and giving us advice on what to do next that would be most effective. I became a member. Look at me, an active member of the Sierra Club, who would have thought?

A few of us met and organized a rally, several, in fact. We handed out fliers and information sheets. We wrote letters and went person to person and had them sign a petition and write comment letters against this atrocity and submitted them to TDEC. Our small group was turning into hundreds of supporters.

What happened next? We submitted over

500 letters and over 4,800 signatures and well, TDEC eventually gave them their permits anyway, just a couple of days after they received the letters that they were, by law, required to read and consider. We found out they must be speed-readers and super fast at considering. Does this show what they are claiming they do? Does it illustrate the reason for their existence?

From their webpage:

TDEC exists to enhance the quality of life for citizens of Tennessee and to be stewards of our natural environment.

Pardon me, but I'm not feeling it. Drinking chemicals is not an enhancement to my quality of life, unless, of course, it would transform me into some sort of super-hero Nor does dumping chemicals on the endangered mussels, only found in one other river anywhere on the planet, seem to be an example of good stewardship of the natural environment. Does it?

What now? We load our slingshot again and seek legal advice on filing an appeal. An appeal. An appeal paid for by everyday people who don't have vast resources. An appeal filed against a government agency that -- wait for it -- is going to use our very own tax dollars to fight us back. Wait. What? That's right. We are funding both sides. There's something inherently wrong about that, isn't there?

Ansel Adams, the great nature photographer, once said, "*It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.*" He was on target with that statement. I will attest, first hand, that it is indeed horrifying. They have vast reserves of our money to spend.

During this discussion of appeal, we

(continued on page 8)



Photo by Kenny Canisla

Who's Minding the Store?

Observations from a Fledgling Environmentalist

(continued from page 7)

received some excellent news. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) had denied their permit to use the state right-of-way (ROW) to run their pipeline.

Their decision read in part:

Upon examination of the application documents, it appears that the proposed pipelines would be for the private use of US Nitrogen, LLC only and would not provide any public services to the general community.

We were elated! Finally a state agency had looked at the laws and honestly evaluated the information. The company started negotiations with the local utility company and the local utility went out of their way to accommodate them. Ah, all was well with the world and we could rest easy from our protective stance of guarding our treasured Nolichucky.

Not so fast! Seems the negotiations were only a ruse to buy time, to get those of us fighting the pipelines, off their backs, all the while getting advice from TDOT officials themselves about how to skirt the law. Wait. What? TDOT, those wonderful folks who had done their appointed job and evaluated the situation, granted their second request for a permit to use the ROW. The only change was that the county Industrial Development Board (IDB) would own the pipelines and transfer them to the company and that other companies could use the pipelines. TDOT told them no new plans or specifications were needed. Where do TDOT officials paychecks come from? Are activities like conferring with companies about finding a way around a state law really what their job entails?

This development was even worse! The IDB could now open the door for other companies to take water from and dump into the Nolichucky. Here again, the county officials, paid by tax dollars, being bombarded by their citizens to stop this since the plant first came to the county under seemingly questionable practices from the very beginning, are letting

those same citizens down. Even went so far as to have a citizen arrested for asking them to speak loud enough so the audience could hear at the reapplication meeting. Why are we paying these guys? Are we paying their salaries to enable them to shove pollution down our throats and have us arrested if we don't agree? What country are we in? I think I may have accidentally wandered into North Korea. Can someone bring me back to the America I thought I lived in?

We just received word that Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Army Corps of Engineers have now signed off on the final permits for the pipelines. Those pipelines are "essential" because a company refuses to pay for water and sewer. It's astounding, isn't it?

Now, here we are at the legal phase, spending hard earned money fighting agencies that are funded by taxpayers. Four lawsuits have been filed in this matter and thousands of citizens are outraged, and as well they should be. Who's minding the store here?

This company is bad for the environment and has bullied their way into the community. They originally came here saying they would help the community and that they would be using "an estimated \$1 million annually in water" and "...buy its water from the Town of Mosheim, which in turn purchases its water from the Greeneville Water Department."¹ This would have reduced water bills for those using the same utility. That was a blatant lie to the community. How can we possibly trust them now?

Our politicians, aside from one faithful State Representative, have been noticeably absent and non-responsive. Don't we pay them, too? Wow, we sure do pay a lot of people who are supposed to represent us, don't we? Why am I having to fundraise for legal fees? I'd like a refund of my tax money because it's not being used properly by the agencies that are supposed to look out for our best interests, not the interests of big business.

It's certainly been an eye opening experience for me and I know for a lot of others, as well. I knew there were issues where bureaucracies were involved, but I had no idea just how bad it really was. Corruption of people seems to be as big of an environmental issue as corruption of our environment itself.

So, maybe the term *environmentalist* doesn't mean what I thought it did. Maybe just caring about the water you drink and the air you breathe, where your children play, and the health of your family and friends doesn't make you an environmentalist with the *tree-hugger* connotation, maybe it just makes you a responsible citizen of your community.

We pay these agencies to uphold the laws and we should be able to trust them to keep us safe and not be pawns in political games, to be immune to politics completely. I'm sure the mussels in the river are neither Republican or Democrat and that they couldn't care less who is; only that they not die of exposure to chemicals, and endangered mollusks should be a bi-partisan issue, bivalve bi-partisan!

Nearly every day I see these same things happening to people all over our country and more and more citizens are having to stand their own ground. We need, and we should have the support of these agencies or they should be disbanded or reorganized, as they are only a waste of taxpayer money if they are not doing their jobs. We become the victims twice if we have to pay to keep them running and then have to fight our own battles with our own money.

We need to take a long, hard look at who we are paying and why.

For more information, or to help keep the Nolichucky clean, please visit www.SaveTheNolichucky.org or visit the Save the Nolichucky Facebook page.

¹Jones, Rich. "US Nitrogen Breaks Ground For \$220-Million Plant." The Greeneville Sun. 18 Feb. 2012. Web. 1 Oct. 2014.

Moving?



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

Current Address: _____

Member ID# _____

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

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

Now you can receive your

Tennes-Sierran
via email



Subscribe simply by going to

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

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

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

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group
Tennes-Sierran
3712 Ringgold Road, #156
Chattanooga, TN 37412-1638

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