

# Tennesse-Sierran

The Monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 48, Number 6 - November/December 2015

## “What do Memphis’ Candidates Plan to do about Environmental Concerns in our Community?”

by Dennis Lynch and Steve Sondheim

With Memphis’ Mayor and City Council positions up for election this Fall, the Chickasaw Group organized Candidate Environmental Fora (“Forums”) to support the a key part of the Sierra Club’s mission- “to educate the public about how the candidates expect to protect and restore our natural and human environment.” The Fora were held Sept 14 for City Council Candidates (in Districts 4, 5, and 7) and Sept 21 for Mayoral Candidates.

These Fora, co-sponsored with The League of Women Voters, included an environmental questionnaire sent to all candidates in advance, and then follow up questions to be asked “live” at each Forum. Our Political Committee developed question suggestions, and also reached out to local parks, environmental and community organizations. The toughest job was combining, filtering and whittling down the 70 questions to a more manageable number, including a bunch of Yes/No questions. Steve Sondheim and Dennis Lynch bounced the questionnaire back

and forth numerous times as they whittled it down. Candidates were required to complete the Questionnaire in order to qualify to participate in our Fora.

The issues in the questionnaire ranged from local to global, and fell into a range of categories- clean air, clear water, clean energy and conservation, transportation, parks and open spaces, environmental justice, organization/budget, and public participation. Follow up questions at the Fora helped to reveal the depth of candidates’ understanding, perspectives and plans, in contrast to their written responses to the advance questionnaire. Five of the registered ten Mayoral Candidates qualified and participated in the Mayoral Forum that was moderated by Rita Harris (of the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign, and formerly of the Environmental Justice Program). Ten City Council Candidates participated in the three City Council Fora that were moderated by Scott Banbury (the Chapter’s Conservation Projects Coordinator).

## QUESTIONS Asked

**Organization & Budget** - How will you balance environmental and community interests vs. pro-development interests?

**Energy Efficiency** - How will you enforce compliance with the City Council’s Ordinance requiring that all rental property follow the MLG&W / TVA eScore program for energy efficiency?

**Environmental Justice** - Some neighborhoods in Memphis have flooding problems. Will you support robust programs to address these issues? Provide some details.

**Clean Air** - Improved air quality has been shown to reduce disease- like asthma and COPD. Will you sign a letter supporting the new EPA Smog Rule (link to be provided)? What resources would you use to implement this policy?

**Clean Water** - What are your plans to protect the Memphis Aquifer from industries wanting to use excessive amounts of our valuable water?

**Transportation** - Public transit needs a reliable funding source in order to develop and implement effective plans that meet the needs of all riders. How would you strengthen and grow MATA? Why is this important?

**Transportation** - How will you eliminate zoo parking in the Greensward? What’s your timeline? Do you consider the zoo to be a regional resource which should have parking adjacent to a regional road (i.e. North Parkway)?

**Public Participation** - How would you encourage the City’s departments to work with the conservation community? Would you be in favor of having quarterly “coffee table talks” or meetings with locals concerned about environmental issues?

**Parks and Greenways** - What is your view on the importance of parks and greenways in our community? What programs will you fund, and how?



Scott Banbury as Moderator at Podium, plus City Council Candidates

## Tennessee Chapter Family & Friends Winter Retreat Cedars of Lebanon State Park Group Lodge

Mark your 2016 calendar January 29-31

After dinner enjoy the musical style of Antoinette Olesen, an award winning songwriter who has toured internationally and shared the bill with many artists including Sheryl Crow, Paula Abdul, Gloria Estefan and on occasion has been invited to lend backing vocals to artists including Martha Reeves, Ronnie Spector, The Doobie Brothers and Bonnie Raitt.

Co-writing with chart topping writers, producing projects and hosting out of town artists are added to Antoinette’s mentoring of teens in music and local volunteer work.

A frequent industry guest of songwriting organizations and music conferences throughout the country, Antoinette owes her love of country music to riding rodeo and showing horses which garnered her State and National Championships. She owes her love of pop and rock music to her father who would show up with tickets to every kind of concert you could imagine.

### Explore

Hike with State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath on Saturday and/or Sunday morning in the Red Cedar Forest and Glades at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

### Enjoy

Come join the fellowship, hikes, fireplace chats, meetings, live music and celestial star gazing.

### Answers Retreat FAQ

Group Lodge includes two heated bunkhouse wings both with restroom and shower accommodations at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Early bird reservation fee is \$40.00 if confirmed by Jan 24. Regular price is \$50.00. The weekend includes Saturday and Sunday breakfast plus dinner on Saturday night. Specify vegetarian or omnivore when you confirm. Daytripper’s delight: **One day price includes meal: Saturday/\$15 or Sunday/\$10.00.**

Pay upon arrival. Bring bed linens or sleeping bag, towels, toiletries, comfortable walking shoes, flashlight, Saturday lunch, and your favorite beverages, water bottle and tea/coffee mug. Everyone pitches in to help with clean-up before 11A.M. Sunday checkout. Special Offers: 1/2 off regular price for first time attendees, children under 15 are free and several scholarships or student rates are available with two week advance approval. Watauga Group is hosting and reservations may be confirmed by contacting Gloria at Gla4797@embarqmail.com or call 423-727-4797



Antoinette Olesen

Join Us! Meet folks from across the state that share a vision and love for the environment.

Explore, Enjoy and Protect

# Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

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

\*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: [c.demetreon@mchsi.com](mailto:c.demetreon@mchsi.com)

USPS: Chris Demetreon, Editor  
201 Oakridge St.  
Toulon, IL 61483  
815-915-9282

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is November 25 for the January - February issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to [gvanhorn26@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

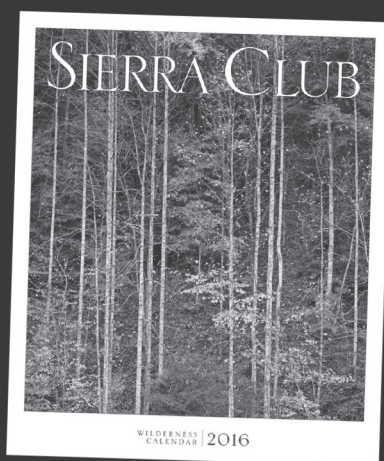
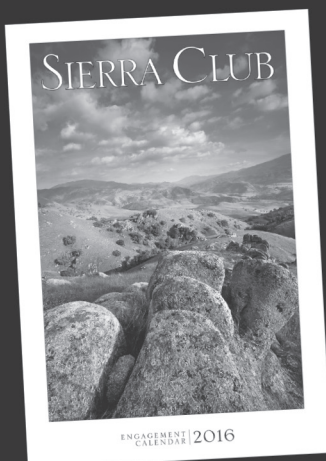
**Target Date for  
January - February is  
November 25, 2015.**

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

**Send material to  
Chris Demetreon at  
[c.demetreon@mchsi.com](mailto:c.demetreon@mchsi.com)**

**Sierra Club Calendars**  
The Wilderness Calendars will sell for \$9.95  
and the Engagement Calendars  
will sell for \$10.95 plus tax and shipping.

Calendar orders can be placed with me, Allan Miller at  
[almiller@discexchange.com](mailto:almiller@discexchange.com).



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## All Creatures Great and Small



“Every good thing, great  
and small, needs defense”

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all  
creatures, great and small.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,  
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968  
or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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

# Climate Denial Is Not An Option: A Message To Ted Cruz

By Aaron Mair

This week, Senator Ted Cruz held a hearing to attack the clean air and clean water safeguards that protect millions of families all across America. Sierra Club President Aaron Mair was there to talk about how communities of color, which are disproportionately affected by pollution and climate disruption, rely on these safeguards to protect them.

A friend to big polluters, Cruz unsurprisingly tried to cover all their talking points. His game? To attack the climate science that shows how carbon pollution from burning fossil fuels is causing climate disruption in the first place while assailing the Clean Power Plan, which would allow us to act on climate disruption and protect people's health.

Well, Sierra Club President Aaron Mair has a few things to share with Senator Cruz. Check out his response.  
Senator Cruz,

There's an old lawyerly adage that "if you don't have the law on your side, argue the facts. If you don't have the facts on your side,

pound the table." You did a very good job pounding the table this week.

This week, you held a hearing on the clean air and clean water safeguards that protect millions of American families. I testified because I wanted to talk about how these safeguards are especially critical for people of color and low-income communities, who are disproportionately affected by pollution and climate disruption.

But, as a friend to big polluters, you derailed the whole hearing with misinformation, claiming there was a "pause" in rising global temperatures -- misinformation already debunked by scientists and the non-partisan Politifact.com. You wanted to talk numbers, so here you go:

**0:** The number of accurate data points you shared when attempting to claim that the climate wasn't changing. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, average global temperatures have been steadily rising for the last three decades.

**97%:** The percentage of scientists who agree that the climate is changing and that human

activity is the cause.

**2015:** expected to be the hottest ever recorded.

**60 and 30:** 60% of African Americans and Latinos reside in communities with a toxic waste site and within 30 miles of a power plant

**7:** 7 out of 10 African Americans live in areas with air that is unsafe to breathe.

**48217:** that's the zip code of the neighborhood in Detroit I just visited -- one of the dirtiest zip codes in the nation. There, massive mounds of petroleum coke waste and coal incinerators are within blocks of schools -- further evidence that the lack of protections has turned Detroit from the epicenter of opportunity into the epicenter of the Asthma epidemic. Schools and smokestacks do not mix.

**90,000:** The Clean Power Plan can help us prevent 90,000 asthma attacks in children, save consumers \$155 billion on energy in the next decade and create 360,000 new jobs. Energy savings, more jobs, healthy families, and safer communities? I think 100% of the American people would go for that.

## Photographs from the 2015 Tennessee Chapter meeting at Watts Bar Lake by Charles High



# Watts Bar Lake

# Election Ballot of At-Large Delegates for the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee: 2016-2017 Term

Please vote below in the election of four (4) At-Large members to the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee, each having a two-year term of office beginning January 1, 2016. They will join our three other At-Large Delegates and Group Delegates in managing the fiscal, legislative, environmental, outings and other responsibilities for our Chapter.

"Paperless Subscribers" may vote, as well as those receiving the Tennes-Sierran ballot by mail, but membership must be current; follow the directions as given below.

Only members (as of November 15, 2015) may vote. Joint Members use the same ballot. Ballots must be postmarked by Monday, December 21, 2015.

## 2015 Tennessee Chapter At-Large Election for 2016-2017 You may vote for Four (4) candidates (listed in random order):

Vote for 4 Candidates	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Dennis Lynch	_____	_____
Axel Ringe	_____	_____
Dave Bordenkircher	_____	_____
Mac Post	_____	_____
Cliff Cockerham	_____	_____

### Submit your Ballot: Only current members may vote.

Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write "ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, write your Sierra membership number (found on the mailing label of your *Tennes-Sierran*) in the upper left hand corner with your name and address.

If you receive your *Tennes-Sierran* electronically and need your membership number, you may contact Barbara Kelly, Nominating Committee Chair at bk1rivers@gmail.com (put "membership number" in the subject line) or 423-718-5009. You will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number, name and address cannot be counted.  
Ballots must be postmarked no later than Monday, December 21, 2015.**

**Mail to: Sierra Club  
Tennessee Chapter Elections  
3712 Ringgold Rd, #156  
Chattanooga, TN 37412-1638**

### Candidate Biographies (in random order):

#### **Dennis Lynch:**

I am a career professional in transportation, and member of the Sierra Club since becoming Chickasaw Group's Transportation Chair 2012. Since then- Chapter's Transportation Chair, Chickasaw's ExCom, then Chapter ExCom. Then Group Chair, At-Large delegate to Chapter ExCom, then Chapter Council of Club Leaders (CCL) Delegate. I don't care about "hats," just helping.

I would like to remain At-Large delegate because I am good at organizing, have good ideas, and am good at discussing/ sharing with other Sierra Club leaders. I would also like to remain CCL Delegate.

At the recent Sierra Club National CCL meeting, I shared many ideas with CCL Reps from around the country. At "open mic" during joint CCL/Board-Of-Directors meeting, I stepped up and mentioned 2 things which received substantial, unexpected applause:

1) I said that I felt that term limits (an issue being discussed) is a difficult issue and the pro/con impacts should be carefully considered, and if implemented it should be with heartfelt thanks to the leaders impacted including appointment to a position as a Mentor, or Emeritus member showing recognition of their past contribution and valuable role as an information and training resource for new leaders."

2) I recommended that the Sierra Club pay more attention to transportation and its impacts- 28% of USA energy use, and 34% of greenhouse gases. Some CCL reps came to me with support, and we met briefly with a board member and added their voices to current transportation conference calls and list-serv.

Thank you for your consideration.

#### **Axel Ringe:**

I would like to be re-elected to the Chapter ExCom as an At-Large delegate. I have served on the ExCom continuously since 2001, have served as Conservation Vice-Chair, Wild Legacy Supercommittee Chair, Water Quality Committee Chair, Population Committee Chair, and Biodiversity Committee Chair. I have also chaired the Chapter Litigation Committee, and consider myself to be a committed activist. I currently serve as the Chapter's Conservation Chair, Water Quality Committee Chair, and Biodiversity Committee Chair. I am active in the TN Beyond Coal Campaign, and supervise our MTR contract organizer. I also serve as the overseer of the Chapter's Conservation Program Coordinator. If elected, I will continue to work for the protection of Tennessee's environment on behalf of the Tennessee Chapter.

#### **Dave Bordenkircher:**

I joined the Sierra Club in 1982 to be part of the Club's effort to amend the U.S. Clean Air Act, being active in the Cherokee Group (Chattanooga.) Moving to Nashville, I got involved in efforts to increase recycling of solid waste, helping several groups advocating recycling, including Sierra, bring about the recycling Nashville has today, including service on the board of Recycle! Nashville. In 2003 I was appointed volunteer coordinator for the Recycle drop off site the Middle Tennessee Group sponsors. I've held many terms on the MTG ExCom, serving as secretary, and as chair twice, often representing the MTG at the Chapter level as Group delegate to the Chapter ExCom over the years.

I've been active in the lobbying efforts of the Sierra Club, nationally to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from proposed oil exploration. And at the state level, for the past 7 years, while the Tennessee General Assembly has been in session, I've attended the weekly meetings of the Tennessee Conservation Voters, helping decide which legislation to focus on, and regularly attend and speak to Sierra Club concerns before a variety of state boards (air pollution, water, and solid waste) in Nashville, reporting to our Conservation and Legal Chairs. Now retired, I worked for the Local Planning Assistance Office, a division of state government advising planning commissions of small towns. A licensed attorney, I'd like to continue to serve at the Chapter level, as an At-Large Delegate if you so choose. Thanks for your vote!

#### **Mac Post:**

I became a Sierra Club member while a graduate student in Ecology at the University of Tennessee about 40 years ago. I am a lifetime Sierra Club member. The Sierra Club continues to be the most significant conservation organization in the U.S. The Harvey Broome Group is an important voice in Tennessee for wilderness protection, environmentally sound land-use, environmental protection regulations, and promotion of education and enjoyment of natural resources, especially wilderness.

I have become very active in the Harvey Broome Group. I am an outings leader, leading 10 hikes each year with a focus on understanding the importance of the rich biodiversity of East Tennessee. I am the HBG Program Chair coordinating monthly program meetings. My favorite involvement is leading a group of dedicated Sierra Club volunteers in forming the Knoxville Inspiring Connections Outdoors (Knoxville ICO) group. In our first year we partnered with 5 agencies that serve inner-city youth and conducted over 30 outings including bike rides, day hikes, overnight camping, and whitewater rafting. I have been a Harvey Broome Group Delegate for the Chapter Executive Committee for the past 4 years. I currently serve as the Chapter Vice-Chair. If elected I will continue to serve the Tennessee Chapter in ways the Executive Committee decides are appropriate.

#### **Cliff Cockerham:**

1973 appointment to NY's Environmental Management Council initiated Cliff's public advocacy, followed by work on diverse environmental education/conservation/ecology programs at Cornell, Georgetown, Emory, Brookhaven Lab, and Ponape A&T. At UN conferences Cliff was: NGO observer at UNCTAD [Trade & Development, Manila-1979]; NGO policy consultation organizer on Energy (Nairobi-1981); invited speaker (environmental issues) at Vadodara-2014 evaluating progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2008 Cliff shifted focused on reviving TN's Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee while pushing student engagement. Dozens of students were awarded scholarships to attend Sierra Club national trainings/conferences and activist events/rallies. He received SC national's 2011-Robbie Cox Award (acknowledging work accomplishment on behalf of Sierra's Student Coalition) and was elected TN's 2015-Chapter Chair. Taking early retirement, Cliff became a full-time volunteer activist dedicating 6 weeks to the Peoples Climate March [PCM] staff, traveling the Northeast corridor specifically assigned to facilitate turnout from 27 campuses. PCM's college team is credited with bringing 40,000 students to Manhattan-Sept 2014.

"Early retirement facilitated focus on making a real difference, explained Cliff. "On 30 November, a group of college students and I begin hour-long webcasts from COP-21 (Paris), building deeper bonds between international negotiations and activists meeting throughout TN and the nation. Through the voices of empowered young people, we can make the phrase "think global, act local" a visceral reality. Moving beyond COP-21, I hope to learn that you have graced me with a second at-large term so that I may continue this work. Either way: protect the planet!"

# Election Ballot for CHEROKEE GROUP

## Executive Committee Candidates

You are in the Cherokee Group if you live in one of these counties: Bledsoe, Bradley, Coffee, Franklin, Grundy, Jackson; Hamilton; Marion; McMinn; Meigs; Monroe; Overton; Polk; Putnam; Rhea; Sequatchie; Van Buren; Warren; and White.

Please vote for the election of four (4) members of the Cherokee Group Executive Committee (ExCom,) each to hold a 2-year term beginning in January 1, 2016. They will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group's actions.

Your ballot must be postmarked no later than Monday, December 21, 2015 to be valid. Only current members may vote. Joint members use the same ballot.

Cherokee Group (Vote for no more than 5)	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Alice Demetreon	_____	_____
Kelly Grant	_____	_____
Barbara Hurst	_____	_____
Cindy Robbins	_____	_____

Submit your ballot: Only current members may vote. Place your ballot in an envelope, seal and write "ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, writing your Sierra Club membership number - found on the label of your *Tennes-Sierran* -- and your return address in the upper left hand corner. If you receive your newsletter electronically, you may contact Barbara Kelly for your number -- e-mail her (put "membership number" in subject line) at bk1rivers@gmail.com or call 423-718-5009.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number, name and address cannot be counted.  
Ballots must be postmarked by December 21, 2015.**

**Mail ballot to:** Sierra Club  
Cherokee Group Elections  
3712 Ringgold Rd, #156  
Chattanooga, TN 37412-1638

### Candidate Biographies:

#### Alice Demetreon:

Alice and her husband Jim live in Whitwell, when they aren't out exploring trails, hiking to waterfalls and other adventures across Tennessee. Her main environmental concern is Fracking, and she was sparked into activism after watching Gasland. A main organizer of the Knoxville Fractivist Conference, she's helping the Cherokee Group become more visible in recent campaigns such as our Global Frack Down Day and XLPipeline marches, and Cool Down Chatt Town. She also serves our Chapter as Treasurer.

#### Kelly Grant:

Kelly is a Master's graduate in environmental science and policy from John's Hopkins. She is active in promoting the use of clean energy in the Tennessee Valley and building on sustainability efforts in the Chattanooga area. She enjoys gardening and spending time outdoors hiking and exploring new places with her girls, 6 and 9, and her husband Neil, a local sculptor. From New Zealand, they have lived here almost 5 years. Right from the start, she jumped into our local Climate Action Team, and is now helping with our communications work.

#### Barbara Hurst:

Barbara is a speech therapist. She's a native of England, has travelled widely through 50+ countries, lived in 5, and been settled here in Chattanooga for many years, though she is often still traveling around the world! She loves to hike, and is a frequent participant on Cherokee outings. A Cherokee Group member for many years, she helped reestablish the current Group; and is serving as Group Treasurer. She and her husband Bill are mainstays at our tabling events around town, and at our booths selling beer at Riverbend!

#### Cindy Robbins:

Cindy's first involvement with Cherokee Sierra was a weekend camping with us, and then selling beer at Riverbed. Now she's a Climate Reality Leader, just back from Florida and Al Gore's training for the Climate Reality Leadership Corps. Last year she marched and testified at the EPA hearings in Atlanta, and she's worked at both our Cool Down ChattTown events. A retired Field Program Advisor and Special Investigator for GA Dept. of Family & Children's Services, she enjoys camping and kayaking, and serves as a campground host for Georgia state parks. She's ready to dive into Climate activism.

## Recent Environmental News Summaries

### Oakland Residents Turn Out in Force Against Proposed Coal Export Terminal

September 24, 2015—Earlier this week the Oakland, California, city council hosted a public hearing on the health and safety impacts of a proposed plan to bring coal through the city for export at the Oakland Global Trade and Logistics Center currently under development. More than 450 people turned out to say "no coal in Oakland."

### 70 Mayors to President Obama: We Support Strong Clean Air Protections Against Smog Pollution!

September 25, 2015—If it's possible to love something else as much as the Pope's statements on climate this week, it's this: On Tuesday, 70 mayors from across the U.S. sent a letter to President Obama signaling their support for a strong clean air protections against smog pollution.

### Biggest Mass Mobilization for Clean Energy Solutions in 2015 Has Been for Electric Vehicles

September 29, 2015—In mid-September, more 130,000 people in 187 cities attended 196 National Drive Electric Week events featuring more than a dozen plug-in vehicle models for sale on the mass market today. This means the fifth annual National Drive Electric Week arguably constitutes the largest mass mobilization for clean energy in the U.S. to date.

### More Than a Dozen Environmental Organizations Warn of Trans-Pacific Partnership Risks

October 6, 2015—On October 5, after more than 5 years of closed-door negotiations, the United States and 11 other Pacific Rim nations finally reached an agreement on the increasingly controversial and unpopular Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal. Here is what some environmental organizations had to say about a deal on the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

# Election Ballot for CHICKASAW GROUP

## Executive Committee Candidates

**You are in the Chickasaw Group if you live in one of these counties:** Benton; Carroll; Crockett; Chester; Decatur; Dyer; Fayette; Gibson; Hardeman; Haywood; Hardin; Henderson; Henry; Lake; Lauderdale; Madison; McNairy; Obion; Shelby; Tipton; and Weakley.

Please vote for the election of six (6) members to the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom.) The four with the most votes will hold a 2-year term beginning in January 1, 2016. The two with the next most votes will hold a 1-year term beginning in January 1, 2016. (They will be eligible to run for a 2-year term the following year). All elected candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding the Chickasaw Group's actions.

**Your ballot must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, December 8, 2015 to be valid.**  
**Only current members may vote. Joint members use the same ballot.**

(Max 6 votes per member)	(Max 6 votes) Single Member or First Joint Member	(Max 6 votes) Second Joint Member
Candidates		
Ed Jones	_____	_____
Spencer Kaaz	_____	_____
Hunter Oppenheimer	_____	_____
Lynn Strickland	_____	_____
Karen Thornton	_____	_____
Tod Underhill	_____	_____
Mondell Williams	_____	_____
Lance Willinger	_____	_____

**NOTE- Only current members may vote.** Ballots must be postmarked by December 8, 2015, and must contain your Sierra Club membership number, name and address on the outside envelope.

**Submit your ballot:** To ensure secrecy of voting, all ballots must be submitted in the following way: Place your ballot in an envelope, seal and write "ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope inside another envelope, writing your Sierra Club membership number (found on the label of your *Tennes-Sierran*) and your name and return address in the upper left hand corner of the outer envelope.

If you receive your *Tennes-Sierran* newsletter electronically and need your number, email Barbara Kelly at [bk1rivers@gmail.com](mailto:bk1rivers@gmail.com) or call 423-718-5009 (put "membership number" in subject line). Print the ballot page from the electronic newsletter, and mark your choices, or just write down your choices on a piece of paper; joint members must vote on the same piece of paper. Then, follow the procedure above.

**Mail your ballot by Dec. 8 to: Sierra Club, Chickasaw Group, P.O. Box 111094, Memphis, TN 38111.**

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### Candidate Statements

#### Ed Jones

Ed Jones is a resident of Memphis TN and is retired from practice of hospital pharmacy. A member of Sierra Club and Chickasaw Group since about 2004, he served on Chickasaw ExCom in the mid-2000's. He has served in the vital job of Chickasaw Group Treasurer for the last 4 years. Ed is currently serving on Chickasaw Group ExCom, and is actively involved in group events and activities. He has served as Group representative to Chapter meetings on many occasions. "My wife, Juliet and I try to consider the environment and nature in our day to day living," says Ed.

#### Spencer Kaaz

Spencer Kaaz is involved in Sierra Club on a city and state level. Spencer has been on the Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Executive Committee and has served as at-large delegate to the state chapter. Spencer got his start in environmentalism as a high-schooler where he restarted his schools Green Club and became the club's president where he helped to organize a campus garden, community and campus clean ups, as well as implement energy efficiency techniques on campus. In college Spencer has been involved in starting a food waste reduction operation at the University of Memphis where food scraps from campus dining halls are composted in the campus garden, where he volunteers. Spencer has been involved in organizing and activism since the age of 16. Among Spencer's most memorable moments are when he took place in a banner drop from a skyscraper during the People's Climate March in New York City, when he went to Atlanta to take part in testimonies given to the EPA concerning the Clean Power Plan, as well as attending many other trainings, events, marches, rallies, meetings, and hearings. Spencer's hobby's and passions include regenerative agriculture, waste reduction, and alternative medicine.

#### Hunter Oppenheimer

Hunter Oppenheimer is a lifelong outdoors-woman and naturalist with a passion for environmental protection. She first became interested in environmental activism in the 1970s when she began speaking out against nuclear power. After decades as a professional horse trainer and field guide, Hunter has returned to activism to help preserve and safeguard the beautiful and vulnerable ecosystems of the mid-south that she knows and loves. Hunter is determined to combat climate change and pass on a healthy, beautiful world to the next generation. Hunter also wants to work with the Excom on increasing membership involvement and inclusion.

#### Lynn Strickland

Lynn Strickland has been a long time advocate for better TVA energy Policy, particularly in the area of renewable solar energy. Very knowledgeable about implementing solar, Lynn is active in Memphis, advocating City efforts toward more effective solar and renewable energy. He leads efforts toward better coordination between TVA, MLGW, Bioworks, local manufacturers, local renewable service providers, and City and County Governments.

Lynn sits on the Sustainable Shelby Committee and is a member of our Rebuild & Repower Tennessee Sierra Committee.

#### Karen Thornton

Karen Thornton is the Public Outreach/ Education Coordinator for the Mississippi River Corridor-TN (MRCT) and the national Mississippi River Network (MRN) - 1 Mississippi campaign. For the past four years she has worked to raise River Citizen awareness in the areas of water quality, outdoor recreation/education and conservation initiatives in West Tennessee and Kentucky. Her public outreach skills will be a valuable asset for the Sierra Club Chickasaw Group. As the Education Coordinator for MRCT's environmental education program (MORE), Mid-South Outdoor Recreation and Education, she understands how critical it is for our youth to learn about environmental issues so they can grow into dedicated stewards for our planet. When students have educational opportunities to actually experience the great outdoors, they begin to make more intelligent and informed decisions on how to protect it. Karen believes that one of the most important ways to encourage stewardship and adoption of healthier water quality laws is to share innovative ways to explore, enjoy and protect our natural, cultural, and historic resources.

#### Tod Underhill

Tod Underhill was born and raised in Memphis and MidSouth. His life's experiences have been focused on the outdoors. He has worked as a Law Enforcement Ranger for the National Park Service and Shelby Farms Park. While working as a Project Assistant for Keep TN Beautiful, he coordinated the very first Great Tennessee Cleanup in all 95 counties. Tod has been teaching for many years now as both full-time and adjunct faculty at the University of Memphis in Health and Sport Sciences. An advocate for our National Parks, he served on the Executive Board of the Association of National Park Rangers. When not teaching, Tod works as a beekeeper with his family business, Peace Bee Farm. He has trained beekeepers in the Mid-South and in Ethiopia for the Winrock Foundation. He volunteers with the American Red Cross where he has serves as Government Liaison. He holds a MS degree from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania in Parks and Natural Resource Management.

#### Mondell Williams

Mondell Williams has been involved in environmental and environmental justice (EJ) issues for over 20 years, fighting a hazardous waste blending & recycling plant in S. Memphis, including groundwater contamination issues. He has also been involved in civic affairs for years, has run for City Council, and served as Co-Chair of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the Memphis Defense Depot.

He lobbied local officials about Martin Luther King Park in the early 1990's and got it cleaned up and restored. Then he was involved in the fight to "Save MLK Park" when the Mapco oil refinery wanted to lease parts of the park and privatize it.

Mondell has worked with Sierra Club Chickasaw members since the 1990's, including Dick Mochow, Rita Harris, and Sue Williams to fight for EJ in his neighborhood. He served on the ExCom in 2007 with James Baker, and worked with Dick Mochow on the Political Committee.

More recently, Mondell attended Good Jobs Green Jobs conferences in Washington, DC, as a representative of Sierra Club's Memphis EJ Program. He has never missed the annual Memphis EJ Conference, helping wherever needed, and was presented with the "Long Haul EJ Award" at the 2010 Conference. Mondell is a fixture at our Chickasaw Group Holiday Parties.

#### Lance Willinger

Lance Willinger is a senior at the University of Memphis, majoring in Sustainable Development and Revitalization. He has been working at the U of M's Office of Sustainability for the past four years, dealing mainly with the manual labor side of outreach, recycling, and event planning. In addition, for the past two years he has worked at the campus bike shop. Last year Lance and some friends created a campus green club called Umpact, which has been working with the Food Recovery Network to help in donating leftover food. The club has actually created two paid student positions to help with composting campus' leftovers. Lance has also gotten a public bike repair station on campus in an attempt to get more people to live a more active, healthy, and environmentally friendly lifestyle.

Over the past two years Lance has been becoming more involved with the Sierra Club, attending the People's Climate March in N.Y., Climate Action in Atlanta, Katrina 10-year Commemoration in New Orleans, winter retreat in Lebanon, TN, and multiple other meetings.

Lance grew up in a very large and poor family in the ghettos of Memphis - He knows the struggle and the passion of everyday people. Lance says that "The fight for a good life has turned me into a passionate and hardworking individual who gets results. I would be thrilled to help out the Tennessee Chapter in any way possible."

# Election Ballot for HARVEY BROOME GROUP Executive Committee (ExCom) Candidates Term: January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017

**You are in the Harvey Broome Group if you live in one of these counties:** Anderson; Blount; Campbell; Claiborne; Cocke; Cumberland; Fentress; Grainger; Hamblen; Jefferson; Knox; Loudon; Morgan; Pickett; Roane; Scott; Sevier; and Union.

Vote for 6 Candidates	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Mary Headrick	_____	_____
JoAnne Logan	_____	_____
Mac Post	_____	_____
Axel Ringe	_____	_____
Mark Shipley	_____	_____
Ron Shrieves	_____	_____

**Prepare your ballot: Only current members may vote.**

Please put your ballot in an envelope and seal, making that envelope **BALLOT**. Place that in another envelope, on which you write your membership number (found on the mailing label of the *Tennes-Sierran* or your membership card) and your name and return address. Ballots must be received by close of business on Monday, December 21, 2015.

If you receive your *Tennes-Sierran* electronically and need your membership number, you may contact Ron Shrieves at [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (put "membership number" in the subject line.) You will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

**Ballots must be received by close of business on December 21, 2015**

**Mail to: Kris Christin, Harvey Broome Group Secretary  
Attention: Election Committee  
1317 Candlewick Rd  
Knoxville, TN 37932-3602**

**Candidate Biographies (in random order):**

**Dr. Mary Headrick**

I am a 66-year old retired physician (Internal Medicine) living in Union County, north of Knoxville, with my husband Detlef Matt, a retired environmental physicist. I have been a long time member of Sierra Club over the past 45 years, hiking often with the Harvey Broome chapter back in my twenties. I've served on boards of League of Women Voters, TN and locals, American College of Physicians TN and, remotely, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning and SOCM. I am a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility. I've worked with local Sierra Club members to call on Nashville for fracking regulations and bans. I view Man-made Climate Change as one of two critical issues to be addressed. Detlef and I have hosted a reading retreat for Pope Francis's encyclical on the Care of our Common Home.

Because of my belief that climate change and campaign finance are critical issues, I ran twice for 3rd District Congress, though I was defeated.

**Dr. JoAnne (JoAnne) Logan**

A faculty member in the Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science at the University of Tennessee since 1987, I teach classes in Climate Change, Waters & Civilizations, Geographic Information Systems, and Professional Development. In addition, I supervise the undergraduate program in Environmental and Soil Sciences, with about 200 students, and am the faculty mentor to The Greenhouse Living and Learning Community and the Students Promoting Environmental Action in Knoxville student club. I was a member of the mayor's committee for the Tennessee River Rescue from 2014-2015; currently serving as treasurer and board member of the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair; and have held several officer positions in the Smoky Mountain Chapter of the American Meteorological Society. I'm an active presenter about climate change through both the Climate Voices, NOAA Climate Stewards, and Climate Reality projects. I'm a member of the Sierra Club and the Union of Concerned Scientists as well. I'm an avid gardener and regularly volunteer at both the Beardsley and Pond Gap Community Gardens. I'm very committed to the protection of our natural world and constantly promote sustainability with my students.

**Dr. Wilfred (Mac) Post**

I became a Sierra Club member while a graduate student in Ecology at the University of Tennessee about 40 years ago. I am a lifetime Sierra Club member. The Sierra Club continues to be the most significant conservation organization in the U.S. The Harvey Broome Group is an important voice in East Tennessee for wilderness protection, environmentally sound land-use, environmental protection regulations, and promotion of education and enjoyment of natural resources especially wilderness.

I have become very active in the Harvey Broome Group. I am an outings leader, leading 10 hikes each year with a focus on understanding the importance of the rich biodiversity of East Tennessee. I am the Program Chair coordinating monthly program meetings. My favorite involvement is leading a group of dedicated Sierra Club volunteers in forming the Knoxville Inspiring Connections Outdoors (Knoxville ICO) group. In our first year we partnered with 5 agencies that serve inner-city youth and conducted nearly 30 outings including bike rides, day hikes, overnight camping and whitewater rafting. If elected I will continue to serve the Harvey Broome Group in multiple capacities as the Executive Committee decides is appropriate.

**Axel C. Ringe**

I would like to be re-elected to the Harvey Broome Group ExCom. I have served on the ExCom continuously since 2001 and have held the position of Group Chair (for four years) and currently serve as Conservation Chair. In addition I hold several positions in the TN Chapter ExCom, including Conservation Chair, Water Quality Committee Chair, and Biodiversity Committee Chair.

I consider myself to be a committed activist, and believe I can continue to be an asset to the Harvey Broome Group.

**Mark Shipley**

A member of Sierra Club and originally from Greeneville, Tennessee. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Geography from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Tech. I'm employed as a land use planner for the Town of Farragut since 1998 and a certified planner (AICP) since July 1999. I now serve as the Community Development Director. I'm a past president of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club and am an Appalachian Trail Maintainer. My hobbies include long distance trail running, road cycling, poetry, hiking (on and off trail,) historic preservation, and traveling. I'm married with two cats (an animal lover).

**Dr. Ron Shrieves**

I have lived in Knoxville for 43 years, and am a retired professor from the University of Tennessee. I am married (Ginger), with two grown children. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1988. Recently I have also been active in our local Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) group. I am also a member of the Nature Conservancy and the Wilderness Society. I have been involved in outings since joining the Club, and served as HBG Outings Chair or Co-chair and as a member of the Executive Committee for almost 11 years. I feel very strongly about preserving the remaining wilderness areas in our national and state forests, and about promoting wildlife refuges, parks and greenways in our urban settings. I feel that I can continue to contribute to the critical work of the Executive Committee.

# Election Ballot for Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee Candidates for the 2016-2018 term

**You are in the Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) if you live in one of these counties:** Bedford; Cannon; Cheatham, Clay, Davidson; DeKalb; Dickson; Giles; Hickman; Houston; Humphreys; Lawrence; Lewis; Lincoln; Macon; Marshall; Maury; Montgomery; Moore; Perry; Robertson; Rutherford; Smith; Stewart; Sumner; Trousdale; Wayne; Williamson; and Wilson.

**You may vote for five:**

Middle TN Group (Vote for no more than 5)	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Penny Brooks	_____	_____
Charlie High	_____	_____
Craig Jervis	_____	_____
Jim Redwine	_____	_____
Grace Stranch	_____	_____

**Submit your Ballot: Only current members may vote.**

Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write "ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, write your Sierra membership number (found on the mailing label of your *Tennes-Sierran*) in the upper left hand corner or your name and address (so we can verify your number). Alternatively, simply write out the names of the five candidates that you are voting for on a piece of paper, and follow the instructions above.

If you receive your newsletter electronically, you may contact Betsy Garber for your number - email her (put "membership number" in subject line) at garberb@hotmail.com or call 615-370-9454.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number, Name & Address cannot be counted.**

**Mail by close of business on December 8, 2013.**

**Mail to: Betsy Garber  
1327 Otter Creek Road  
Nashville, TN 37215**

**Candidate Biographies (in random order):**

### **Penny Brooks**

Penny has a long history of political and legislative activity with the Sierra Club at both the statewide and group level. She has also consistently helped our Group with the less prestigious tasks of working our prior recycling center, tabling, and giving educational presentations at kid-centered environmental events. Recently, Penny spearheaded the endorsement of candidates in the Metro Nashville election for Mayor and at-large council members, and volunteered for the candidates that we endorsed. Penny's depth of knowledge on the environmental issues, legislature, and political possibilities, has always been a great resource. Penny is currently serving as the Chair of our Group.

### **Charles High**

Charlie has been a real workhorse for the Group, spending hours representing our Group at Earth Day, registering folks for chapter meetings, and helping with hikes for our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group (ICO) which leads hikes for disadvantaged youth and children. Charlie has both taken photographs and crawled through muddy caves to further the ICO program. As an attorney who is knowledgeable about local environmental issues, Charlie brings welcomed knowledge and insight to our Group's decision-making process. Charlie has faithfully served on the Executive Committee since 2014, currently serving as the Secretary and taking the minutes.

### **Craig Jervis**

Craig has served on the Executive Committee, and serves as Chair of our outings program (initiating a meet-up page), while also chairing the Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group (ICO) that leads hikes for disadvantaged youth and children. His energy (and wife Marcia's - co-owners of the Mad Platter Restaurant) are infectious, and both programs have grown under his leadership. His knowledge of reptiles, waterways, critters, and plants insure that his outings are always interesting and fun; and his knowledge of environmental issues is a great asset to the Group.

### **Jim Redwine**

Jim recently moved back to Nashville, and has become an active member in our group. Over the last year, Jim has been active in the Beyond Coal Campaign, helped get our website updated, and increased our Group's participation in meetings before the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Metro Nashville Council, and other environmentally related events. At the statewide level, he is helping the Tennessee Chapter on various issues, including legislative and administrative work. Jim's background includes overseeing all of the environmental aspects of the General Motors bankruptcy case; Jim was awarded the 2011 American Bar Association "Award for Excellence in Environmental, Energy, and Resources Stewardship." His background in environmental-related bankruptcy law brings a helpful knowledge of the issues and law to our Group. Jim currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Group's Conservation Committee.

### **Grace Stranch**

Grace is an attorney and an experienced environmental activist who has organized the Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law (APIEL) conference, which brings together hundreds of eco-minded and socially conscious activists, attorneys, students, scientists, and citizens in the interest of achieving environmental and social justice throughout Appalachia and surrounding areas. Grace has recently begun attending the Group's meetings, and adds a welcomed fresh perspective on the issues being considered.

## WATAUGA GROUP EXCOM BALLOT Election Ballot for Watauga Group Executive Committee Candidates for 2016-2017

**You are in the Watauga Group if you live in one of these counties:** Carter; Greene; Hancock; Hawkins; Johnson; Sullivan; Unicoi; and Washington.

Four successful candidates will serve 2-year terms beginning January 2016, joining returning members Bob Carlough, Dennis Shekinah, Gayle Riddervold, Gloria Griffith and Dean Witworth in guiding our Group's Activities. Only current members may vote.

Vote for 4 Candidates	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Linda Carlough - Butler, TN	_____	_____
Becky Kinder - Hampton, TN	_____	_____
Jay Piper - Butler, TN	_____	_____
Dan Reese - Johnson City, TN	_____	_____
Lyn Walker - Mountain City, TN	_____	_____

**How to Submit your ballot:** Write your Sierra Club membership number on outside envelope with your name and return address. Your 8-digit number is located on the newsletter mailing label. Place the *Tennes-Sierran* newspaper ballot in a sealed envelope, within the outside envelope.

If you receive the *Tennes-Sierran* electronically you will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above. Need your membership number? You may contact Chapter Communications Chair Barbara Kelly at bkIivers@gmail.com ("membership number" in the subject line) or call 423-718-5009.

**Vote Today! Election Ballots must be mailed no later than Monday, December 21, 2015. Envelopes without a Sierra membership number, name and address cannot be counted.**

**Mail to: Rita Cowan  
900 Mining Town Rd  
Mountain City, TN 37683**



# 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/Business Meetings: November 16 and December 14 (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]. Come add your ideas and share your concerns. We'll be planning our actions on several fronts: clean energy, forest watch/protection, mining/fracking issues, and energizing our Outings program. All are welcome!

**Program: November 23, Monday, 7:00 P.M. at green|spaces, 63 E. Main St., Chattanooga. Residential Solar Power Panel - Clean Energy for YOU** Residential solar power has an important role to achieve the national goal of 80% renewable "clean" energy by 2035. But adding solar panels to your residence isn't as simple as bolting a panel to your roof and plugging it in.

The cost of your system is going to depend on: A) Whether your system is going to be on-grid, off-grid or on-grid with backup and whether you want to generate 50%, 100% or more of your electrical usage. B) There are potential state, federal, and utility company incentives. C) If you are on-grid, you may be able to sell your extra electricity through utility buyback, but that may be subject to renewable resource capacity caps. D) The price you receive may include avoided-energy cost pricing, peak times pricing, and/or variable pricing/fixed pricing.

Once you figure all that out, you may still have to contend with zoning laws, deed covenants or community association regulations. If this sounds too complicated, or if you are renting instead of buying solar panels, you can lease, buy a community share or a green offset.

With a panel of knowledgeable people, we will try to explain all of this in a single meeting so you can decide how to achieve clean energy for your home. Come with your questions.

**Spread the word!** The public is very welcome, healthy snacks are served. Look for our banner out front.

**December - No Program Meeting in December**, instead mark your calendars for our annual January Covered Dish Supper/Mixer!

**Welcome 2016 Covered Dish Supper/Mixer - Sunday, January 10, 5-8 P.M.**

Our annual covered dish supper/mixer -- **You are invited!** Bring friends and a covered dish. We'll supply drinks, utensils, plates, etc. Come start 2016 off right, with people who share the same interests and dreams for our environment as you. All are welcome, and don't worry if you haven't got a covered dish, there's always plenty!! We'll share a quick walk to the bridge over the Creek before dinner starts. We'll be in the Visitors Center, which is a mini-museum with interesting artifacts to explore! Location: Audubon Acres Visitor Center, 900 Sanctuary Road, Chattanooga, 37424 -- in East Brainerd, off Gunbarrel Road, just follow the signs. Mark your calendar now.

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

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

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Harvey Broome Group monthly programs are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. Our business meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd. Knoxville, TN 37909. Both start at 7 P.M. Both are free and open to the public.

**November 10, 7:00 P.M. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. The Energy of the Earth.** Joan Tomlinson (Blue Jay), Appalachian Trail Through Hiker.

My presentation is "The Energy of the Earth," and it is a non-linear look at the AT through 10 topics, including Trees, Nature Up Close, and Letters & Numbers in the Natural World. I have sprinkled my presentation with post-hike thoughts about things I learned from the Trail.

**December 8, 7:00PM Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Harvey Broome Group Holiday Photograph Show** You and your friends and family are invited for an evening of fun, food, and sharing. Please feel free to contribute - bring a USB flash drive or CD with some pictures from your favorite trips of the year to share. For more information contact Ronald Shrieves, [ronald-shrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronald-shrieves@comcast.net)

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**November 2, 2015 (Monday) - 6:15 P.M.** - **ICO MEETING:** Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet at the Mad Platter restaurant at 1239 6th Ave. North, Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids and senior citizens, and training. Contact Daniel Shaykevich at [daniel.a.shaykevich@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:daniel.a.shaykevich@vanderbilt.edu) to make sure the meeting is still on. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

**November 12, 2015 (Thursday) 7:00 P.M. "Metro Nashville's Outdoor Recreation Program" - PROGRAM:** at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Neel Deshpande, Metro Nashville's Outdoor Recreation Coordinator, will fill up in on what is available and what is happening in Nashville in the way of nature-related recreation. You must enter the park from Granny White Pike to reach the visitor center (which may require ignoring your GPS). Free and open to the public.

**November 17, 2015 (Tuesday) - at 6:30 P.M. LOCAL ISSUES MEETING:** Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Meetings are usually held at the Lucky Bamboo Restaurant, 5855 Charlotte Avenue, but there may be times we meet elsewhere. If you are not a regular attendee, please contact Betsy at (615) 668-1977 or [garberb@hotmail.com](mailto:garberb@hotmail.com) in case the meeting location has changed. Come a bit early if you want to order dinner because we start the meeting at 6:30. We meet in a private room towards the back of the restaurant. Tell them you're looking for the Sierra Club. We look forward to seeing you.

**TVA Board Meeting in Bowling Green, Kentucky - November 20th (Friday) at 8:30 A.M.** - Come swell the ranks and/or speak in support of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and responsible coal ash waste policies. Transportation, exact location, talking points, and other details to

be provided later. Please contact Chris at [chris.lunghino@sierraclub.org](mailto:chris.lunghino@sierraclub.org).

**December 7, 2015 (Monday) - 6:15 P.M.** - **ICO MEETING:** Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet at the Mad Platter restaurant at 1239 6th Ave. North, Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids and senior citizens, and training. Contact Daniel Shaykevich at [daniel.a.shaykevich@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:daniel.a.shaykevich@vanderbilt.edu) to make sure the meeting is still on. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

**December 12, 2015 : 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. - HOLIDAY PARTY!** - Wray and Tom have graciously offered to host our holiday party! Bring a dish to share, and your beverage of choice for a potluck feast at 1116 Arrowhead Drive, Brentwood, TN 37027. New folks are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Betsy at [garberb@hotmail.com](mailto:garberb@hotmail.com) or 615 668-1977.

**December 15, 2015 (Tuesday) - at 6:30 P.M. LOCAL ISSUES MEETING:** Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Meetings are usually held at the Lucky Bamboo Restaurant, 5855 Charlotte Avenue, but there may be times we meet elsewhere. If you are not a regular attendee, please contact Betsy at (615) 668-1977 or [garberb@hotmail.com](mailto:garberb@hotmail.com) in case the meeting location has changed. Come a bit early if you want to order dinner because we start the meeting at 6:30. We meet in a private room towards the back of the restaurant. Tell them you're looking for the Sierra Club. We look forward to seeing you.

**January 4, 2016 (Monday) - 6:15 P.M. - ICO MEETING:** Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet at the Mad Platter restaurant at 1239 6th Ave. North, Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids and senior citizens, and training. Contact Daniel Shaykevich at [daniel.a.shaykevich@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:daniel.a.shaykevich@vanderbilt.edu) to make sure the meeting is still on. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

**January 14, 2016 (Thursday) 7:00 P.M. "Venerable Trees" - PROGRAM:** at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Tom Kimmerer, PhD, botanist, forestry/ tree physiologist, and author of *Venerable Trees: History, Biology, and Conservation in the Bluegrass*, will present this program on the five-hundred-year ongoing story of our historic trees in middle Tennessee and Kentucky. When the first settlers arrived in this region, they found an astonishing landscape of open woodland grazed by vast herds of bison. Farmers quickly replaced the bison with cattle, sheep, and horses, but left many of the trees to shade their pastures. Today, central Kentucky and central Tennessee boast one of the largest populations of Pre-European settlement trees in the nation. Tom will explain the biology of Bluegrass trees, the reasons they are now in danger, and the efforts of those fighting to conserve these remarkable three-hundred to five-hundred-year-old plants. You must enter the park from Granny White Pike to reach the visitor center (which may require ignoring your GPS). Free and open to the public.

**January 19, 2016 (Tuesday) - at 6:30 P.M. LOCAL ISSUES MEETING:** Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Meetings are usually held at the Lucky Bamboo Restaurant, 5855 Charlotte Avenue, but there may be times we meet elsewhere. *If you are not a regular attendee*, please contact Betsy at (615) 668-1977 or [garberb@hotmail.com](mailto:garberb@hotmail.com) in case the meeting location has changed. Come a bit early if you want to order dinner because we start the meeting at 6:30. We meet in a private room towards the back of the restaurant. Tell them you're looking for the Sierra Club. We look forward to seeing you.

## WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

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

# Outings

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

**John Doyal is our Outings Chair, and point-person for outings information for our Group.** Our activities are always open to the public and members of the Club from across the state! For more information, contact John at baldie052@yahoo.com. Also check our Meetup - Green Events page for the latest on our outings.

### 7 November (Sat) Cherohala Skyway.

We are headed to the High Mountain Balds along the Cherohala Skyway for walks on the balds of Hooper Bald and Huckleberry Knob. Please bring your camera for the spectacular views of the Smoky Mountains and Snowbird Mountains. For details and to pre-register, contact John Doyal, 423-596-8171 or baldie052@yahoo.com.

**5 December (Sat.) Hike - Back Way into Point Park.** Civilian Conservation Corps relics & Civil War sites, and invasive landscaping species as indicators of settlement will be viewed. Hike will be about 6 miles and 3+ hours, with 4 flights of steps, moderate pace. (Bathrooms in front of Point Park where there is an entry fee.) Hike leaves at noon from the far W end of the parking lot in front of Ruby Falls. Meet at the trailhead's gravel parking lot by the gate and Bike Route sign. We will go around the north end of Lookout Mountain using the Upper Truck Trail to Rifle Pits Trail to Cravens House, switch back up the end of the mountain to Point Park, then take the Bluff Trail to Sunset Rock. The return trip takes Gum Spring Trail back to the Upper Truck Trail. Leashed dogs are welcome. For details and to pre-register: Richard Foster, habitahound(at)gmail.com or (423) 536 [dash] 8353. Extras! *You may add in a bike ride UP from the Guild Trail from St. Elmo, and/or bike ride DOWN the Guild Trail to St. Elmo (contact me for biking details and meeting times/place; bring your own bike, helmet and lock -- if you'll need help with a car shuttle notify me by Thursday 3 December: habitahound[at]gmail.com or (423) 536 [dash] 8353 .)*

## Cherokee News

With postal rates what they are, we are reduced to reaching out to you through the internet! We have an e-newsletter that goes out 1-2 times a month, and several social media outlets. We'd like you to **take advantage of these!** Did you know that only about 1/3 of Sierra members share their e-mail address? If that's you, you probably have little idea of what the Cherokee Group is doing, and you're missing a lot of fun and satisfaction in helping locally. So please reach out and connect with us:

### 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 can 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)

**7 Nov (Sat). Dayhike. Honey Creek (Big South Fork NRRA).** This is a rather challenging 5.6 mile loop trail. Originally, it was one of the ten Bowater Pocket Wilderness Areas and is now one of two state natural areas located within the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The trail is very rugged and requires crossing small creeks, climbing a series of ladders up and down the bluff, scrambling through boulders, and hiking up the Honey Creek drainage. The trail includes a number of waterfalls, a spectacular rockhouse, and one of the best views from an overlook 250 feet above the South Fork of the Cumberland River. Quite simply it is one of the best trails on the Cumberland Plateau. The hike is difficult and requires about 5 to 7 hours to complete depending on how much time is spent enjoying the trail. The hike is rated moderate to difficult. The driving distance is about 75 miles from West Knoxville. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 229-5027.

**14 Nov (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Old Settlers Trail, GSMNP.** Traveling the Old Settlers Trail, a hiker can see more traces of 19th and early 20th century mountain community life than any place else in the park. This trail illustrates the powerful force of forest succession after settlement. One-way drive: 55 miles. Contact Mac Post: 938-3116, mpost3116@aol.com.

**21 Nov (Sat). Dayhike, Hensley Settlement via Chadwell Gap, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.** Chadwell Gap offers the most direct route to Hensley Settlement, a restored and maintained example of mountain farm, sort of a mini Cades Cove. We'll climb two miles to Chadwell Gap, then take a short side trip to see the Martins Fork cabin and campsite before continuing on the Ridge trail a mile to Hensley Settlement, where we'll explore the many buildings on the site. We'll exit the settlement via the Indian Rock trail to return to the Ridge trail to complete our short loop, then walk out the way we came. Hike, about 8 miles, rated

## 10 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!

moderate due to steep climb at the top of the Chadwell Gap trail. One-way drive: 75 miles. Pre-register with Brad Reese: bradktn@gmail.com; 865-599-1708 (email preferred).

**5 Dec (Sat). Dayhike, Jeffrey Hell, off Cherohala Hwy, and late pizza lunch at Tellico Grains.** "Hell" because a man named Jeffrey went looking for his hunting dogs there and never returned! We'll encounter dense rhododendron and mountain laurel (not to worry - there is a trail) to Falls Branch Falls that is surrounded by old-growth forest. Doris Gove wrote about this hike in her 50 Hikes of TN Mtns. Distance, 4.4 miles. Rated easy. One-way drive: 80 miles. Preregister with Mac Post: 865-806-0980; mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred).

**12 Dec (Sat). Dayhike, Newfound Gap to Kephart Prong, GSMNP.** After shuttling cars, we start his hike at Newfound Gap and enjoy the views along the AT. After lunch at Charlie's Bunion, we turn south and descend to creek-side walks along Grassy Branch and Kephart Prong. Hiking distance about 11 miles, rated moderate. Preregister with Rob Davis: 865-202-6661; hikinrob@charter.net (email preferred).

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

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/>



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# The Chickasaw Group's 2015 Political "Program"

by Dennis Lynch & Steve Sondheim

The Chickasaw Group Excom began discussing whether or not they wanted to become active in the 2015 "political season" in Memphis — October would have a Memphis Mayor up for re-election, with many challengers, and all 13 seats on the City Council also up for a vote.

We discussed in February and March Excoms, but didn't really get started until April, when a long time core Sierra Club member, Don Richardson, helped us along and made sure we knew we'd better get started. Our discussion included thoughts such as: "What do we want to do? Will we endorse any candidate? How will we learn about the candidates? What activities did we want to organize and manage? - A questionnaire, a debate, personal interviews, endorsements," but no plans set in place yet.

In May, Steve Sondheim and Dennis Lynch decided to kick things into gear. Dennis created a "Chickasaw Group Political Committee of the Whole"- the Excom plus other key local Club members. All were invited to participate, and ideas were floated by email. A list of important environmental questions to ask of candidates was created and refined.

Steve is also on the League of Women Voters of Memphis and Shelby County (LWV) Environmental Committee, along with Rita Harris. We decided to co-sponsor a "Mayoral Candidates Environmental Forum" with the LWV. A small joint committee met to officially confirm the plan, go over details,

and set the plans into operation. It was the middle of June and Chickasaw already had a large meeting room reserved at the Main Library for July 23. We felt we could do it by that date, but we needed to sprint!

As it turned out, we were overly optimistic. Some details took longer than expected to resolve. Plus, the very long preliminary list of candidates made it very difficult to design fair Forum procedures. We decided to delay the Forum, and replace it with an "Open House" for all candidates for Mayor and City Council. This was much simpler- "just invite 'everyone' and make the event comfortable, and encourage attendees to talk with the candidates (only a little bit of an over-simplification)." One way we encouraged the conversation was by giving each attendee from the public a copy of our "Sample Environmental Questions".

With 3 weeks remaining, we promoted the heck out of the Open House event, and

were able to make it a very successful event. More than fifty of the candidates were there, and 120+ members of the public were there. In an informal survey of candidates and the public, the universal answer was "Yes, it was a valuable event." Members of the public also said, "We appreciated the opportunity to be here at this open house and meet numerous candidates and ask them questions."

Our suggestions for future political Open Houses are- 1) Definitely do it again, 2) Have a dedicated Sierra Club photographer there, 3) Have a small survey for attendees (candidates and public) to fill out as they depart, 4) Give each candidate a moment to introduce themselves, and 5) Work harder to encourage the attendees to use the sample environmental questions.

Environmental Fora ("Forums") were held in September. A separate article describes those events.



This photo shows the large crowd at the Open House, with Mayoral candidates and City Council candidates among the crowd.

## The World's First Rural Feed-In Tariff?

How do we move clean energy access beyond just a light bulb?

With millions of dollars in new investment capping a record year for beyond the grid solar markets, that's the question many are now asking. This record investment is building markets, starting with pico solar products like lanterns, from the bottom up. But just over the horizon lies much larger solar home systems and the next big opportunity capable of powering whole communities -- mini-grids.

One way to get us from here to mini-grids is a novel new concept: rural feed-in tariffs, or RFITs for short.

What an RFIT does is adapt the principles that made feed-in tariffs (FITs) wildly successful in Germany and other parts of the world -- including certainty for investors and early stage support for nascent clean energy markets -- to a radically different operating environment. That's because policy making beyond the grid requires a whole new approach steeped in the realities of the communities it's attempting to serve. That's how you tame the wild west of beyond the grid policy making.

So what exactly is an RFIT? Here's a checklist:

**Guaranteed Minimum Revenue:** An RFIT provides a targeted payment per household 'connected' to either a large solar home system or a village power/micro-grid installation. This guaranteed revenue will make

projects bankable and investable, triggering much needed capital investment without the need for capital cost subsidies.

**Target Energy Services, Not Kilowatts:** An RFIT guarantees a minimum level of energy service delivery -- one set by policymakers above what the private market is currently delivering. That means an RFIT adheres to the number one rule in beyond the grid markets: energy efficiency unlocks clean energy for low-income populations by prioritizing service delivery, not kilowatt hours.

**Sunset Payments Over Time:** An RFIT sunsets over time with volumetric reductions (as did the much ballyhooed California Solar Initiative).

All of which is well and good, but are there any RFITs actually in use?

Interestingly enough, yes. The World Bank's Lighting Africa program is currently piloting such an approach with mini-grids in Mali. Details are still not forthcoming, and the Bank has not currently labeled the program an RFIT, but conversations with Bank staff suggest all the aspects of an RFIT are present. This means Light Africa could well be the world's first RFIT.

At the same time, many of the concepts integral for RFITs have been in place in the world's most wildly successful beyond the grid solar market for years: Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, their solar program just so happens to be doubling in size and introducing

support for mini-grids and mobile money. More importantly, there are new initiatives being announced all the time, including the Rockefeller foundation's \$100 million, 1,000 mini-grids in India (where Prime Minister Modi has promised solar for all by 2019).

With sky high bills for subsidizing dirty kerosene already in the crosshairs in certain countries, funds for potential RFITs need not be found, only redirected to support all this activity. And to be clear, there is the full expectation households will pay for these services given the large amounts they already pay for dirty, expensive forms of energy like kerosene. This means RFIT revenue may never be needed. But the payments can still help unlock these markets by covering the risk of default by households while helping to get more services to low-income communities than they could otherwise afford themselves.

All of this means governments need to make a choice to use smarter, better targeted, and ultimately cheaper support for rural electrification. That's why it's important for policymakers interested in expanding clean energy access to become intimately familiar with what an RFIT is. Because it just may help unlock clean energy for all.

-- Justin Guay, Associate Director, International Climate Program November 21, 2014 in *Energy Solutions*

# “Building a Stronger More Inclusive Movement” – Training Retreat Reflections

The Sierra Club Board of Directors threw out a challenge to Chapters and Groups in its last meeting by passing the Multi-Year Plan for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Tennessee Chapter along with the TN Beyond Coal Campaign took it up and decided to begin building a more diverse movement by hosting a weekend retreat in Sewanee, TN, September 11-13, 2015. The training retreat, entitled “Dismantling Racism” was a big proactive step taken toward building a stronger, more inclusive organization and environmental movement in the South.

With a focus on diversity equity and inclusion, one of the main goals for the training were: To better understand and overcome barriers that race and culture have on our organizing efforts, issues campaigns, and our interactions inside and outside of Sierra Club. The training provided a safe space for participants to examine and discuss really tough, emotional, and complex issues around racial, ethnic, and cultural differences in our society.

The following testimonials demonstrate the fellowship, learning, and take-a-ways were well worth the time spent at this great training retreat in the mountains. We should not be surprised to look for new suggestions and ideas related to broadening our outreach and inclusion efforts.

**Charlie High:** “The cultural sharing exercise showed me that everyone has history (his story) that generates pride and value. History has negative aspects that can cause shame

and guilt. The training allowed the time to evaluate initial judgments about others and to realize the flaws in stereotypes. All of the participants had a wealth of experiences suggesting that all people have that to offer.”

**Louise Gorenflo:** “I came to the diversity training knowing that it would deepen my understanding of how we need to move forward together. I realized the interconnections among all of our issues, the importance of giving up the role of the white leader, and following the lead of those I know I want to work with.”

**Gloria Griffith:** “After completing the Dismantling Racism Training weekend I know anyone can be prejudiced, but only the group that holds power can commit racism. And in the U.S., that group has always been white.”

**Steven Sondheim:** “I recently attended the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Weekend. During the past year, I’ve realized that I am privileged in that I represent the majority race, a man, with the education and resources to maneuver my way fairly well in my life journey. To me “Privilege” is access without major impediments. Of course, I experience impediments and am subject to prejudice (pre-judgment) sometimes. I am Jewish, short, a liberal, an environmentalist, soft-spoken, stubborn, persistent, and I question unadulterated capitalism, etc.

It is true that one conceived as “other” is subject to being categorized. I am learning

to observe and question these assumptions. I am realizing that some have lived under this yoke for a long time.

This past year I’ve become even more disturbed at systemic and historical mistreatment and racism. The King legacy, the terrible history of racial mistreatment in this country, Black Lives Matter, and the resurfacing of racism, etc., all point out the privilege some of us have. There is much work to be done.

I left the DEI Workshop with resolve to recruit more of the “other” on our team, include underprivileged issues in considering campaigns, and work on EJ issues with our partners.”

**Gary Bowers:** “As a dear friend of mine who is a psychologist says, “Once you know you can never not know again.” The material covered, the videos shown, and the interactive sessions have given me a new level of insight into our culture and its inequities.”

**Sandy Kurtz:** “We from the Cherokee Group returned home after our training and immediately applied for a Sierra Club grant that allows us to partner with people of color who live in a low-income Chattanooga community as they build a trail and establish a green space. Our new knowledge has and will be most helpful.”

*Special thanks to the Sierra Club staff who served as training facilitators – Bill Price (Charleston, WV) and Rita Harris (Memphis, TN)*

## — NASHVILLE AREA HOLIDAY PARTY! — December 12, 2015: 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Wray and Tom have graciously offered to host our Middle Tennessee Group’s holiday party! Bring a dish to share, and your beverage of choice for a potluck feast at 1116 Arrowhead Drive, Brentwood, TN 37027. New folks are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Betsy at garberb@hotmail.com or 615 668-1977.



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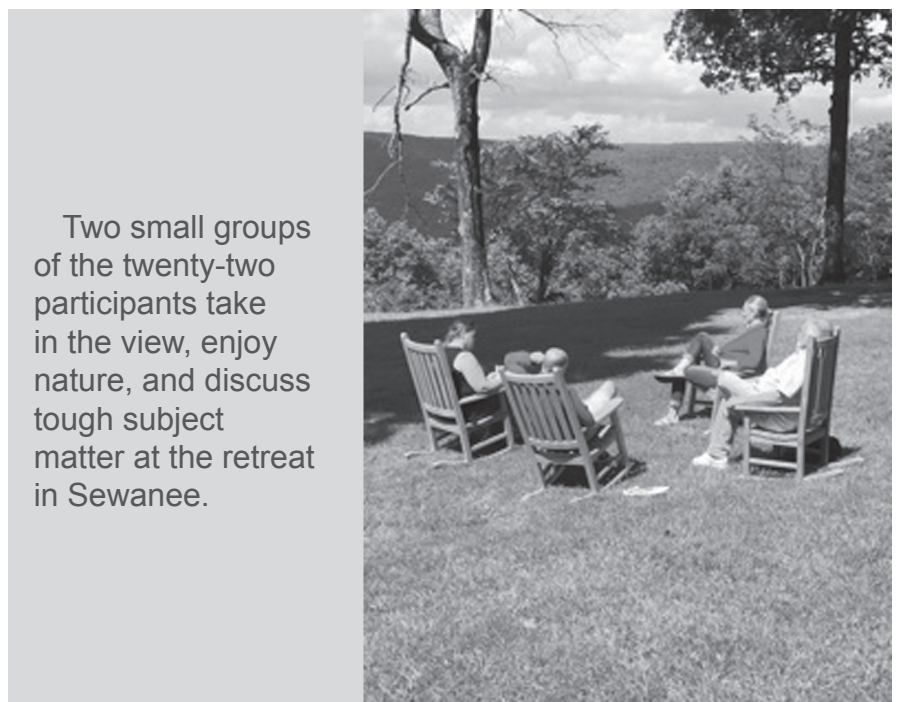
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Two small groups of the twenty-two participants take in the view, enjoy nature, and discuss tough subject matter at the retreat in Sewanee.

