

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 40, Number 4 - July/August, 2009

Friends of Tennessee Chapter Founder Carl Leathers Give Him His Final Resting Place

By Bill Terry

Memorial Day weekend 2009 actually became a memorial to Carl.

Carl Rowan Leathers, age 76, passed away on April 12, 2009. He was one of the founding members of the then Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club's Cumberland Chapter in 1971. The Tennessee Chapter was formed from that original group.

He also helped found the Tennessee Trails Association and was a long-term member of the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club. He mapped and led many hikes and spent much time in the Smoky Mountain National Park and the adjoining national forests.

He was an active and vigorous environmental advocate and an avid outdoorsman. He was passionate about his issues and never backed down. He served on conservation committees and the chapter and group executive committees for many years. He served the Sierra Club faithfully and well.

Carl and I met in 1961 when both of us started to work for the Tennessee State planning office on the same day. We became friends then and remained friends until his death. He also signed me up with the Sierra Club in 1971.

Carl received his BA from the University of Tennessee (UT) and served in the U. S. Navy prior to coming to work at the planning office. He later went on to obtain his master's degree in planning from UT and continued to work with the planning office until his retirement.

Carl wrote his master's thesis on the effect of highway transportation on parks, specifically the Smoky Mountain National Park. At the time there was a movement to build another trans-mountain road in the park.

Carl helped me start what for many years was a Middle Tennessee Group tradition, the annual Memorial Day weekend backpack. The idea germinated when he and I did a backpack in 1982 to Bob's Bald, which is almost on the state line and

in the Nantahala and Cherokee National Forests. In 1983, we mapped out the first backpack that started the long series of trips on that particular weekend of each year, and for several years the first night on the trail was spent on the bald.

So, it was just natural that some of his old friends carry out his final wishes on the Memorial Day weekend hike. He had requested that his ashes be spread somewhere in the mountains.

Six of us spent the weekend camped on the edge of the Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Creek Wilderness. Included were Adelle Wood, Meg Robertson, Joe McCaleb, Deborah Narrigan, Judy Wolgast and me. We, of course, hiked up to Bob's Bald, spent some quiet time there and spread some of his ashes on the bald. I placed them in about the spot that we camped in 1982.

On Monday, Memorial Day, we broke camp and drove to the Greenbrier section of the park with the major part of Carl's ashes, where we were joined by Ray Payne, Joy Mayfield and John Pigg. We hiked to the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club cabin and then on up the Porter's Creek trail to a spot above the creek.



In accordance with the permit from the park superintendent, all of us participated in the spreading of his ashes. There were some readings and expressions of memories and the shedding of some tears. And, of course, a toast to Carl with champagne glasses held high.

Public Input Wanted on TVA's Future Generation of Power

TVA will chart its options for generating electricity and managing natural resources for the next 20 years in a new integrated resource plan called TVA's Environmental and Energy Future.

The plan will outline various sources for producing electricity, their costs and reliability and their potential impacts on the environment. It also will review ways to conserve and manage natural resources and consider types of viable renewable generation that are available.

TVA will conduct meetings beginning in July to get public input on its natural resource management activities and power source options to ensure a reliable supply of electricity for the future with minimal environmental impacts. A schedule of integrated resource plan public meetings throughout the Tennessee Valley will be available on the Web site, www.tva.gov/irp.

All meetings will be held from 4-8 p.m. local time. The meeting schedule for Tennessee is as follows:

- Monday, July 20 — Ellington Agricultural Center, Ed Jones Auditorium, 440 Hogan Road, Nashville, Tenn.
- Tuesday, July 21 — University of Tennessee Chattanooga, University Center, Chattanooga Room, 642A E. 5th St., Chattanooga, Tenn.
- Thursday, July 23 — Mississippi State University, College Center, 10915 Hardin Valley Road, Knoxville, Tenn.
- Thursday Aug. 6 — Bridges Center, High Adventure Room, 477 N. 5th St., Memphis, Tenn.

"These meetings and the resulting plan will help TVA determine what is most important to Tennessee Valley stakeholders and ratepayers in

energy and environmental matters," said TVA Senior Vice President of the Office of Environment and Research Anda Ray. "At the meetings, the public will have an opportunity to review TVA's environmental guiding principals and to provide input on power generating options for the future."

TVA completed a similar 20-year integrated resource plan in 1995, titled Energy Vision 2020.

TVA is the nation's largest public power provider and is completely self-financing. It provides power to large industries and 158 power distributors that serve approximately nine million consumers in seven southeastern states. TVA also manages the Tennessee River and its tributaries to provide multiple benefits, including flood damage reduction, navigation, water quality and recreation.

Tennes-Sierran

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

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Email: lbaker@usw.org
Snail Mail: Lynne Baker, Tennes-Sierran Editor
108 Pepper Ridge Circle, Antioch, TN 37013
(615) 831-6782

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 10th of the month preceding the new month's issue.

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to lbaker@usw.org either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Attached files are preferred. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.

3. Hard-copy hand written or type written articles may be accepted; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.

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

The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



With your help, we can clean up our water.

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

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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.

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

Deadline for
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Tennessee Sierra Club Members Asked to Support New Federal Transportation Legislation

New federal legislation to reauthorize the U.S. Department of Transportation and revise the basic statutes that govern federal transportation policies and spending should be introduced any day now—it may have happened by the time you read this.

National groups of all kinds have set out the principles that new federal legislation and federal and state transportation spending should aim to achieve.

You can help the Chapter Transportation Committee work for the best possible new federal transportation laws. We have lots of help and information from national organizations. The main need is YOUR EFFORT to contact the media and grassroots lobbying. Contact Brian Paddock, the Chapter Transportation Committee chair, at bpaddock@twlakes.net if you can help and/or want to find out how to be in the loop as this critical federal legislation moves through Congress.

The text of the letter 48 national organizations and 54 regional and local organizations signed in support of S. 1036, the Federal Transportation Policy and Planning Act of 2009, is as follows:

June 2, 2009
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

The 102 undersigned national, regional and local organizations write to request your support for S. 1036, the Federal Transportation Policy and Planning Act of 2009, introduced by Senators Rockefeller and Lautenberg. This legislation addresses the current and future needs of our economy, health, energy security, and environment, including the urgent need to tackle global warming emissions from the transportation sector. The measure establishes a unifying mission for the federal surface transportation

program and sets needed and achievable performance targets, including goals to increase system safety, to repair and maintain existing assets, and to reduce congestion and carbon emissions through increased use of transit, rail, marine, and non-motorized transportation. These performance targets should be effectively integrated into the federal transportation planning process as part of the next transportation bill.

The following goals, which are enumerated in the Federal Transportation Policy and Planning Act of 2009, are critical benchmarks for future transportation policy:

- Reduce national per capita motor vehicle miles traveled on an annual basis
- Reduce national motor vehicle-related fatalities by 50 percent by 2030
- Reduce national surface transportation-generated carbon dioxide levels by 40 percent by 2030
- Reduce national surface transportation delays per capita on an annual basis
- Increase the percentage of system-critical surface transportation assets that are in a state of good repair by 20 percent by 2030
- Increase the total usage of public transportation, intercity passenger rail services, and non-motorized transportation on an annual basis
- Increase the proportion of national freight transportation provided by non-highway or multimodal services by 10 percent by 2020
- Reduce passenger and freight transportation delays and congestion at international points of entry on an annual basis.

America needs a new transportation future based on national priorities that enhances our economy, environment, and quality of life. We respectfully ask you to co-sponsor the Federal Transportation Policy and Planning Act of 2009.

Thank you,
(List of 102 national, regional and local organizations.)

Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Summer Meeting July 31-August 2, 2009 Dubose Conference Center Monteagle, Tennessee

Please register by contacting Katherine Pendleton via email at katibug1959@aol.com or 615-360-3481 by July 20 in order to reserve your meal selection of vegetarian or omnivore for Saturday night supper. The first 30 people to register will receive a gift!

Breakfast Saturday and Sunday will consist of muffins, pastries, coffee, juice, and milk.
Saturday supper will be catered by Dubose Conference Center.

Bunk style accommodations. Bring your own sleeping bag/towel/toiletries.

\$40/Adult for entire weekend
Pro-rated rates for partial attendance.
Please join us at the Summer Chapter meeting for the following evening events.

On Friday evening at 9:00 PM, we will be showing the movie, Who Killed the Electric Car.

Corner

The Chair's

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

Our summer Chapter meeting will be held July 31 thru August 2 at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, Tennessee. A registration form can be located in this newsletter. Registration is half price for first time attendees! The Chapter meeting week ends provide an excellent opportunity for making new friends and conversing with like-minded individuals about environmental issues. I look forward to seeing you there!

In June I had the pleasure of visiting Cherokee Group during their monthly strategy meeting. It was exciting to see the enthusiasm of the people attending the meeting getting involved in activities of the group! Cherokee Group Chair Elizabeth Tallman is doing a great job of leading this re-organized group.

It isn't too late to send in your contribution for the "March Window" appeal. Thus far, our Chapter has received \$9,000 in contributions since March. We still need everyone to pitch in and help out with a contribution of any size. Our success in fighting environmental battles within our state depends on all of our financial support.

Our Chapter office was moved recently to 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, TN 37211. Our office is now located on the third floor of the United Steelworkers Union building.

It seems that outside of my circle of Sierra Club friends and acquaintances that nobody knows about the Sierra Club. I routinely receive blank-faced looks from folks when I mention my involvement in the club.

In May I completed a master degree in nursing administration and have been interviewing for management positions. I thought that having my Sierra Club administrative work listed on my resume would be impressive to those interviewing me. However, after a long explanation of what the Sierra Club is, the resulting result has been confusion.

These experiences have made me begin to realize that in order to make our club known everyone is going to have to let people know who we are. It is everyone's job in the Tennessee Chapter to educate the public about who we are and what we do. I challenge each of you to talk to your friends and neighbors about the Sierra Club. Additionally, let your actions reflect our club principles.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Chapter meeting this month!

**Katherine Pendleton, Chair
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club**

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Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

JULY 2009 PROGRAM: Tuesday, July 14, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

Zoologist John H. Tullock will speak on "Saving Native Fishes in the Southeast." He is the founder of the American Marine Life Dealers Association and serves on the board of Conservation Fisheries, a non-profit organization that operates the only private hatchery in North America that raises endangered and threatened species of native American fish for habitat restoration and species-recovery projects.

Everyone is welcome. For further information, contact John Finger at 865-573-5908.

AUGUST 2009 PROGRAM: Tuesday, August 11. Our Annual Cookout and Picnic!

We start at 5:30 p.m. at the shelter in "The Cove," in Concord Park, off Northshore about half a mile west of the Concord Road intersection. The HBG will furnish burgers, veggie burgers, drinks, plates, cups and plastic ware. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and some great stories (or lies) about your summer activities. We light the grills at 5:30 p.m. (volunteers are needed) and continue until 9:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For information, call John Finger at 865-573-5908.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, July 9, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.

Lawns and watersheds will be the focus of our meeting. Professor James Fraser from the Department of Human and Organizational Development at Vanderbilt's Peabody College will speak.

As cities become home to the majority of the world's population, understanding urban environmental behaviors is becoming increasingly important. While many of us try to reduce our carbon footprint, how many of us are guilty of non-source point pollution (NSP)? Unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, NSP comes from many diffuse sources such as rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground to be deposited in our waterways and underground sources of drinking water.

Because most urban environmental pollution is non-point in nature, any attempt at mitigation requires an understanding of the influences on individual environmental decision-making. Households impact water quality by applying fertilizers and pesticides, as well as by designing the features of their landscapes.

Dr. Fraser will discuss his current work with the Baltimore Ecosystem Study, as well as a proposed project in Nashville's own Richland Creek Watershed. Dr. Fraser has also led a nationwide study for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on household decision-making as it relates to accepting and rejecting offers of mitigation, as well as a FEMA study on factors affecting land acquisition programs in the 100-year floodplains.

Bring your questions and come learn more about our individual responsibilities with regard to our household choices. We will provide a list of NSP do's and don'ts.

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, August 13, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.

Al Gore—the godfather of global warming—describes what is happening to the earth because of human indulgence in CO2 as a "moral and spiritual crisis." The questions for each one of us become, "How can people of faith or people of good conscience respond to a coming world with diminishing resources, increasing population, and more competition for the basic necessities of life? What gives my life meaning beyond our materialistic self-indulgent culture? How can Tennessee-Sierrans who care about our streams and mountains and wildlife assure that the wild places we love will be sustained for future generations? And, is the change we need adjustment or transformation?"

Jim Deming, a minister in the United Church of Christ, will lead our August program on "Faith and Environmental Stewardship." Jim is the former executive director of TN Interfaith Power and Light, a Climate Project presenter, and a pastor at First United Church in Nashville.

He believes that global warming will be the most

important issue facing all people of faith in the next 25 years—whether they belong to a faith community or not—because it will affect every aspect of their lives. Jim will talk about the spiritual connection between sustainability and spirituality and he encourages you to bring your ideas, questions, and doubts for an intense and deep discussion.

Jim is a long-time member of the Sierra Club who believes that the trees are God's cathedral and the natural world is God's true home. He has been the field office director for Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in Ohio, worked in Tennessee with legal aid and the state water environment association, and attempted to educate recalcitrant public policymakers at state and federal levels on the financial and spiritual benefits of keeping Tennessee green and clean.

STRATEGY MEETING: Third Mondays, July 20 and August 17, 6:30 p.m. in our new offices located in the United Steelworkers Union building at 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211.

Follow the signs to the conference area. Conservation issues are first on the agenda, and all members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group.

We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Rachel Floyd at rlfloyd557@bellsouth.net or call 406-9204. If you have problems finding or accessing the building, call Rachel's cell at 406-9204.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY/PROGRAM MONTHLY MEETING: 6:00 p.m. at the "The Acoustic Coffee House-Next Door" at 450 West Walnut in Ole Town, Johnson City. Contact Tom Mozen at mozenetc@yahoo.com or 423-232-0827 for the date and more information.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

MONTHLY MEETING: Every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Putnam County Library.

The program meeting alternates with the planning meeting every other month. For more information, contact Mary Mastin at marymastin@twlakes.net or (931) 268-2938.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

July Strategy Meeting: July 14, 5:45 p.m., GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main St., Chattanooga.

Come participate in the business of the group. The Executive Committee meeting is open to all interested people. It is here that our decisions as a group are made! The meeting is the second Tuesday each month.

July Conservation Discussion: July 14, 6:00 p.m., GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street.

Conservation, legislation and political topics facing the group will be up for discussion at 6 p.m. before our Program Meeting each month. Come with questions or concerns as ideas are formulated for club action.

July Program Meeting: July 14, 7:00 p.m., at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga.

Kyle Wagoner from the Chattanooga Nature Center will present a program called "Frog Watch." He will introduce how to recognize frogs by their voice/song and recruit members to help do frog censuses in their own neighborhoods.

August Strategy Meeting: Aug. 11, 5:45 p.m., GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga.

Our Executive Committee meeting is our business meeting. Come help with the nuts and bolts of the Sierra Club in Southeast Tennessee! All interested people welcome. The meeting is the second Tuesday of each month.

August Conservation Discussion: August 31, 6:00 p.m., GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga.

Conservation, legislation and political topics facing the group will be up for discussion at 6 p.m. before our Program Meeting each month. Come with questions or concerns as ideas are formulated for club action, which is voted on at our Executive Committee meetings. The meeting is the last Monday each month.

August Program Meeting: August 31, 7:00 p.m. at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga.

Tricia King from the Land Trust for Tennessee will be our speaker. Come for an interesting discussion on current areas needing protection and what we can do to help. This meeting is the last Monday each month.

Directions to our meeting place: We meet at GreenSpaces, at 63 E. Main Street, about a block off Market Street—it's on the left after you turn from Market. If you get to the fire hall, you just passed it on the left. Parking on the street is fine—this is located in the developing south side arts district. If you're lost, call Barbara Kelly at 423-718-5009 for directions. We want you to attend!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: July 2 & August 6, 5:30-7:00 pm -- Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, TN.

Join us for Chickasaw Group's "First Thursday" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Anyone interested in learning about the Sierra Club is invited. For more information, contact Keith Hoover at hooverkw@yahoo.com or (901) 363-8299.

Sierra Club Chickasaw Group 4th of July Picnic: 12:00-5:00 pm at Meeman Shelby Forest State Park, Shelter #4

Join us for an afternoon of great fun and friendship. Bring a side dish to share. There is a pre-picnic hike at 10:00 am (see in "Outings"). For more information, contact Nancy Ream, (901) 759-9416.

Chickasaw Group Strategy Meeting: July 13 & August 10, 6:30 pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell.

This meeting of the Executive Committee is also open to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Nancy Ream by July 10 (July meeting) or August 7 (August meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 759-9416 or njream@aol.com.

Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Program Meeting: "Current Issues in Environmental Justice," Thursday, July 23, 7:00-9:30 pm., Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue.

Sierra Club organizer and regional representative Rita Harris has been fighting for environmental justice in Memphis since the early 1990s. Leading frequent toxic tours and working with the community to campaign against major polluters, Rita works alongside residents to protect their land, air, water, and health.

Some of the tools she has used include an air pollution monitoring program, a GIS mapping project to chart the close proximity of pollution sources and dialog with neighboring industrial facilities.

You will hear about the ongoing campaigns to fight against toxic polluters and dangerous landfills, the community's fight for stronger emergency management, and improved environmental quality for local communities. Rita also will discuss a couple of special projects, such as the recent Blacks Living Green event and the Riverview Environmental Enhancement and Empowerment Project (REEEP).

For more information, contact Rita Harris at rita.harris@sierraclub.org. The program starts at 7:00 pm. Come at 6:30 pm for social time!

Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Program Meeting: "Hydrogen Conversion for Automobiles," Wednesday, August 26, 7:00 pm., Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue.

How can water be used to help fuel my truck? My parents told me that electricity and water don't mix! Come and hear Fred Winn of R.C.W. Designs discuss the history, chemistry and physics of the hydrogen fuel cell, and learn how a little-known scientific experiment from over a 100 years ago is providing the next advancement in the internal combustion engine.

For more information about Fred's talk, contact him at rcwinn@yahoo.com. For more information about Chickasaw Group program meetings, contact Tom Lawrence at bus@thecave.com. Program starts at 7:00 pm. Come at 6:30 for social time!

WATAUGA GROUP (North Eastern TN)

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

Outings

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiverPDF>, or call 415-977-5630 for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride-sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

July 12 (Sun). A welcome to new members (and anyone else) at the ice cream social after lunch, and visit the Knoxville Museum of Art during the afternoon.

Admission is free again this year, and air conditioning is preferred for this summer's day. Pre-register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhb@yahoo.com or 865-335-3559.

July 18 (Sat), Canoe Float, Clinch River. Put in about 2 miles below Norris Dam, take out at Highway 61, near Clinton. Distance 11 miles.

This is a relaxing float, with good current but no whitewater. With luck we'll observe some waterfowl. Bring a sack lunch and even a cooler if you want. Only very basic canoe skills are necessary for this trip. Sorry, but I cannot provide canoes. Check with local outfitters for rentals. Diving time from downtown Knoxville, about 40 minutes. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

July 25-26 (Sat-Sun), Backpack, Lower Snowbird Creek (North Carolina).

Lower Snowbird Creek has three great waterfalls and Sassafras Creek has another, all with great pools below the falls. The creek is in a valley that rivals the Joyce Kilmer Wilderness. (Snowbird Creek also was to have been designated a wilderness area, but local opposition delayed any action on Snowbird Creek, which is temporarily protected as a wilderness study area).

The trails are located on old railroad grades and are generally easy walking. We'll hike in from the Junction outside Robbinsville, NC, via Sassafras Falls and Upper Falls and probably camp near Big Falls, with time for exploring and maybe swimming at each of the falls.

Hiking distance is about 11 miles total (with optional added miles hiking up to Upper Falls), and it is rated Easy. Drive: 90 mi each way. Pre-register with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

July 26 (Sun), Day hike, Elkmont Section, GSMNP.

We'll hike the Little River trail, Cucumber Gap trail, and a bit of Jake's Creek trail—a nice 5-mile relatively easy loop in the Elkmont area. It is COOLER in the valley and we'll also get a chance to cool off in the creek (feet only). Rated easy. Drive: 50 mi each way. Pre-register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhb@yahoo.com or 865-335-3559.

August 8-9 (Sat-Sun), Backpack, Shining Rocks Wilderness (North Carolina).

The Shining Rocks Wilderness in North Carolina (off the Blue Ridge Parkway and near Waynesville) is one of the three original wilderness areas in the Eastern US, designated by the Wilderness Act when it was first passed in 1964. It is certainly one of our best, and the HBG has periodically backpacked in the area in early August since the mid-1970's. The wild blueberries are usually plentiful and ripe then.

We'll return again this year to the location of our early campsites in the 1970's: a perfect high elevation campsite just below the 6,030 foot summit of Cold Mountain. The approach will be from the Daniel Boone Boy Scouts of America Camp and Deep Gap. The campsite has water and, although the bald is growing over, there are still lots of grass and flowers. Hiking distance will be about 10.5 miles total with substantial elevation gain. Rated Difficult. Drive: 110 mi each way. Pre-register with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 72-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

August 8 (Sat), Day hike, Thomas Divide Trail, near Newfound Gap, GSMNP.

The Thomas Divide Trailhead is about 3.5 miles past (south of) Newfound Gap. This ridge trail, with a starting elevation of 4,650 feet, is a great one to get away from the summer heat and enjoy some views. We will go 2.8 mi. to Nettle Creek Bald (not much of a bald any longer), the highest point on the trail at a little over 5,000 feet. We'll return by the same route, so the total hiking distance will be about 5.6 miles. Rated easy. Drive: 60 mi each way. Pre-register with Priscilla Watts: 966-4142; email sigmtngirl@earthlink.net.

August 15 (Sat), Shakespeare Play in Market Square, downtown Knoxville.

Free to the public, although a donation is requested. Bring your own chair. Maybe we will have dinner somewhere prior to the show. All ages welcome. "A Mid Summer Night's Dream" is the play. Pre-register with Linda Smithyman at smithymanhb@yahoo.com or 865-335-3559.

August 23 (Sun), Day hike, Ijams Nature Center, Knoxville.

A very early walk at Ijams Nature Center, approximately 5 miles including the boardwalk. Pre-register with Linda

Smithyman at lsmithymanhb@yahoo.com or 865-335-3559.

August 29-30 (Sat-Sun), Backpack, Shining Rock Wilderness Area, North Carolina.

We will do a easy five-mile hike to Flower Gap and try to eat as many blueberries as possible. This area has more blueberries than any area that I have ever seen. Rated easy. Drive 150 mi each way. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: email sharvey86@aol.com; phone 865-271-7227.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

Contact Tom Mozen, SOF Group chair, at (423) 232-0827 or mozenetc@yahoo.com about any outings.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

July 16, Wine & Cheese Membership Party

Join other Middle Tennessee Group Sierra Club members for an evening of conversation and refreshments from 6-8 p.m. at the Sierra Club office within the United Steelworkers Building at 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, TN 37211. Please RSVP to Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 by July 14.

July 25, Shelby Bottoms Day Hike

Join Dave Bordenkircher for a hike at Shelby Bottoms. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Nature Center. Call David for more information at 615-333-3377 or email him at dabor-denkircher@mindspring.com.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Please contact our outings co-chairs if you are willing to lead an outing, or if you have suggestions for where we should plan to go! We are building our outings program, and will be working on getting people certified as outings leaders. Do you have your Red Cross First Aid? Give either Denis Kiel (423.881.3620) or Jeremy Gaza (423.619.6548) a call. Meanwhile, join us on an outing and invite your friends. Non-members are welcome at all Sierra Club outings and activities!!

For information and to register for these outings, please call Jeremy Gazaway, either by e-mail (gazaway_77@yahoo.com) or by phone at 423-619-6548.

July 11th, Audobon Acres @ 3:30 p.m.

Audubon Acres is a wildlife sanctuary located in East Brainerd, Tenn., and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This 130-acre preserve contains over four miles of walking trails and an abundance of plants and animals.

There will be a presentation on Native American history and we will walk through the Cherokee Arboretum, which has a trail approximately one mile featuring trees and plants labeled with their scientific, common and Cherokee names.

This should be a great opportunity to bring children along and have a wonderful learning experience for the whole family. I suggest that you bring water in some sort of re-useable container, bug spray and wear suitable clothing for hiking and exploring. You may also want to bring along a camera. We will also be having lunch so please bring food with you.

The price is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children (5-12). Fees will be due before the event so please contact me if you are interested. If we have enough participants we may qualify for a group rate, in which case it would be cheaper.

July 25th, Rainbow Falls Hike @ 3:30 pm.

We will be meeting at Signal Point on Signal Mountain. Directions: I-24 to Hwy. 27N/ to Hwy. 127N/, up Signal Mountain 2 miles. At the top, turn left, go 1.6 miles. Follow the signs.

This is a beautiful hike with medium difficulty. We will hike down to the falls where we will have a picnic next to the water, so bring food along with you. We will be educating and enforcing the leave-no-trace policy. There is a great swimming hole, so feel free to bring or wear a bathing suit under your clothing. You may also want to bring a towel, sunscreen, bug spray, **water**, and a camera because there are some breathtaking views you may like to capture.

The hike down should take around 30 to 45 minutes, including the stops for viewing points and examination of local plant life. We will spend around an hour or two at the falls and swimming hole and hike out to be to our cars by the park's closing time of 7:30 p.m. I hope to see you there.

August 1st & 2nd, Chapter Meeting, Monteagle, Tenn.

It is imperative that all Sierra Club members in the Tennessee Chapter attend this meeting, which will be on Monteagle mountain. Hosted by the Upper Cumberland Group; Chair—Mary Mastin. It will be a great time with hikes and camping involved. Please don't miss out on this opportunity. There will be many guest speakers and conservation workshops.

August 15th, Bat Watch @ Nickajack Cave, 7:15 p.m.

Don't miss this exciting experience to watch the bats awake from their slumber and fly out of the cave in huge waves. The Chattanooga Nature Center is kind enough to come out and educate us about the lifestyles and habits of these bats. They will also provide us with a book to take home that is full of information on the bats we will be observing along with other bats.

We will be meeting at the Nature Center at 7:15 PM where we will undergo a 45-minute presentation. Then we will take the 30-minute ride to Nickajack Cave as a group. After a 10- to 15-minute hike down to the viewing platform,

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!

we will have 5 to 10 minutes to prepare for the first wave of bats around 9:00 PM.

You want to be sure to bring water and a flashlight for the trip back to the parking lot; it will be dark. Also, bug spray will come in handy. Admission for this event will be \$9 dollars for adults who are not Nature Center members and \$4.25 for children (4-11). For Nature Center members the price for adults is \$6 and \$3 for children (4-11); so please bring the family!

August 30th, Rock Creek Loop @ 3:30 pm.

This hike is moderate so some hiking experience is necessary. The loop trail is 4.5 to 5 miles in total and should take around 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 hours including stops for lunch, water and scenery. You will need a day bag for food, water and bug spray. The trail is shaded for the majority of the hike and there is a creek that flows alongside the trail, so please wear shoes fitting to the environment, preferably close-toed, hiking shoes if you own a pair. This recently built portion of the Cumberland Trail is located about 25 miles north of Chattanooga, TN just off Hwy 27; turn left onto Laggett Rd. and follow the signs.

September 12th, Overnight at Foster Falls.

The Cherokee Group will be having its first overnighter, and it is expected to be a blast. Foster Falls Small Wild Area centers on a 60-foot waterfall, visible from sandstone overlooks and surrounded by 178 acres of lush flora, including mountain laurel, azalea and hemlock. A new handicap-accessible trail to an overlook has been added.

There are free camping sites along the Fiey Gizzard Trail. We will be staying at the Father Adamz campsite, which is somewhat near the falls. During the day we will hike out to the falls and perhaps do some swimming.

Everyone is asked to bring camping equipment, such as tents and sleeping bags, extra clothes, plenty of water, bug spray, food for breakfast, lunch the first day and second day, and dinner for the first day. We will also be going over the leave-no-trace guidelines and heavily enforce them. Everyone will be leaving out Sunday around 4 or 5 p.m.

September 26th, Reflection Riding @ 3:00 p.m.

The cost of admission to Reflection Riding is \$6 per car, so carpooling is advised. For details regarding the trails and scenery, please visit reflectionriding.org. Bring plenty of water. Reflection Riding is located just 10 minutes from downtown Chattanooga. Take I-24 west to ward Nashville/Birmingham. Exit at Brown's Ferry Road (Exit 175) and make a left at the traffic light (to ward Look out Mountain). At the next traffic light (Cummings Highway) turn left. Proceed a little less than a mile and take the first right following the signs for Reflection Riding.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

4th of July Hike in Shelby Forest, Saturday, July 4.

There will be a hike before the Chickasaw Group's 4th of July picnic at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. At 10:00 am we will hike the new trail, built primarily for horseback riding, and learn about preserving a fragile area.

The park is located in a wetland and an exceptionally beautiful hardwood forest on the banks of the Mississippi River. We will not see the river, but we will learn about a new trail-building technique as we enjoy the shade on a hot summer day.

Bring water for the hike. We will meet at the picnic shelter number four (#4) and carpool to the trailhead and back to the picnic. Contact Nancy Brannon, (901) 829-4360, or Judith Hammond, (901) 276-2819.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee, - Mondays at 1:30 am, 8:30 am, 3:00 pm, Tuesdays at 3:30 am and 10:00 pm, Wednesdays at 8:00 pm, Thursdays at 5:30 am and noon, Fridays at 3:00 am and 11:30 pm, and Sundays at 2:00 am and 11:00 pm.

"The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program on cable channel 18. For complete schedule listings on cable channel 18, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/schedule. For more information about "The Nature of Conservation" or if any groups or individuals in the community have a special concern and would like to see a program on it, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or jcrutschman@gmail.com.

Chickasaw Group News

Chickasaw Group Reaches Out to Community

Contributed by various members

Sustainable Zoning Reform Approved

Tennessee's first sustainability-based zoning reform was passed on May 28 by Memphis-Shelby County's Land Use Control Board. Also referred to as the "Unified Development Code," these rules and principles become ordinances for everything from safer street widths to street tree protection and wetlands preservation. This public-private process was initiated in 2005, resulting in the first "unified" zoning revisions in 25 years.

From the beginning, the Sierra Club has been in the forefront of civic engagement and support for these measures: holding public forums, discussion groups, and having members testifying at public meetings. Although the document still requires approval by city and county elected officials, the unanimous approval by the Control Board clears a major hurdle of support for realization of smart growth, now called sustainable development, at the local government level in Tennessee.

Don Richardson, lead volunteer for area natural resource organizations' input, remarked, "After four years of research, debate, and negotiations, one hour of PowerPoints and questions and answers secured the victory. In this case that's the equation for change."

For details, visit:

www.Memphis.Code-Studio.com

Chickasaw Group April Presentation

T. J. McMichael, a "natural" storyteller from the Memphis area, gave his first-person Aldo Leopold presentation at the April Chickasaw Group meeting at the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library. Mr. McMichael brought a few Aldo Leopold props and many copies of Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac" (originally called "Great Possessions"). Mr. McMichael put on the "magic glasses" and became Leopold for long enough to tell of the great

naturalist's childhood hunting trips, as well as his help founding The Wilderness Society. The old wilderness never sounded so good!

Chickasaw Group Tables at Earth Days

The Chickasaw Group set up information tables at the Earth Day celebrations in April at Shelby Farms ("Down to Earth") and Lichterman Nature Center (the Memphis Museum system's "EarthFest"). There were many visitors to the events, and new contacts were made among nature-lovers from around the region.

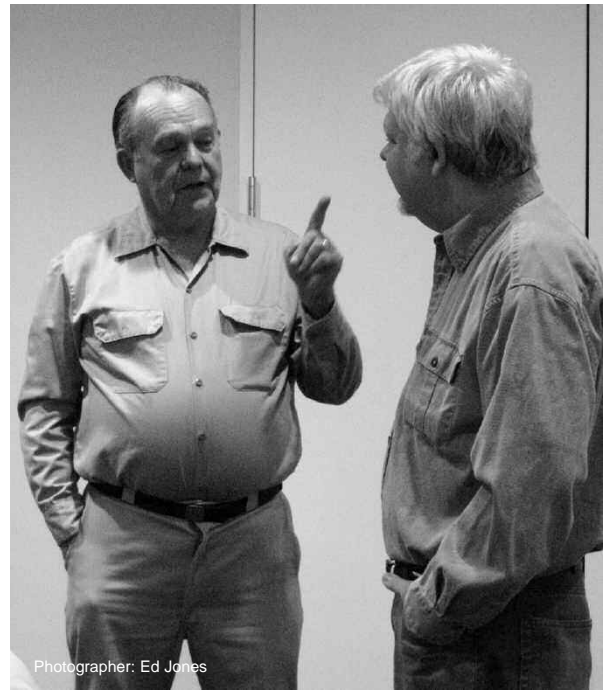
Chickasaw Group Needs Volunteers

The Chickasaw Group is looking for a program coordinator in the Jackson, Tenn., area. If you are interested in helping to get exciting and informative programs in Jackson, contact Chickasaw Group Program Chair Tom Lawrence at bus@thecave.com.

Chickasaw Group members: At this time the Chickasaw Group needs four volunteers for specific purposes. We need a conservation chair to help us organize all of the different conservation efforts we are doing. Secondly, we need a database administrator to help us with Constant Contact.com, our new email and newsletter effort. Thirdly, we need a publicity person to help us get out our message. We also need someone to manage our website and keep it up to date. Please call (901) 759-9416 or email njream@aol.com. Nancy Ream, Chair, Chickasaw Group, Sierra Club.

A Yahoo Group for the Sierra Club

Sierra Club-Chickasaw Group and Friends is a Yahoo group for members and friends of the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club (Memphis/West TN). It is an announcement-only email list to send notices of upcoming events and other "green" information of local interest. All announcements are accessible to the public, so you can look up the latest posts



Photographer: Ed Jones

T. J. McMichael makes a point to Sierra Club member Don Richardson.



Photographer: Steve Sordthelm

Volunteer Deborah Mays talks to kids at Shelby Farms' "Down to Earth".

anytime! To view and/or join the Yahoo group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierraclub-chickasaw/>

Take Advantage of Incentives to Use Solar Energy

By Grace Safer

Tennesseans have seen three big improvements to the available financial incentives for solar energy generation since the start of 2009. The first two improvements occurred on the federal level, while the third will come from our regional power distributor, TVA, through their Generation Partners program. These incentive increases make solar systems more financially attractive to homeowners and businesses, as they cover a portion of the installation cost by means of a tax credit, a grant, or by generating revenue from solar production.

The first improvement on the federal level removed the \$2,000 cap on the 30% Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit. Now, residential solar electric systems and other renewable energy systems installed between 2009 and 2016 are eligible for a full 30% tax credit based on total installation cost, reducing the net cost of the system by 30%. The tax credit can be applied against a taxpayer's income tax liability or carried forward each year until the credit is fully used or until 2016 when the residential tax credit expires. This uncapped tax credit makes it easier for homeowners to install bigger systems that generate more electricity for a third of the installed cost.

The second improvement applies to commercial renewable energy systems and allows for immediate payback. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the 30% Investment Tax Credit (ITC) can now be taken as a U.S. Treasury grant. Thus, businesses can recoup 30% of the installed cost in 60 days versus waiting until tax time to receive a credit. Businesses also are eligible for the state's Clean Energy Technology (TN-CET) grant,

which covers 40% up to \$75,000. Taking the ITC as a grant, and combining it with the TN-CET grant, means that a total of 70% of the installed cost can be reimbursed (assuming a business installs a 24 kW system or smaller to max out the \$75,000). Additional tax incentives and federal grants are available, depending on a business's situation. Consult a tax advisor to verify your eligibility for any and all solar incentives.

Thirdly, and unique to our region, TVA's Generation Partners program has increased their production payback and their one-time rebate amount. Starting July 1, 2009, TVA, through local utility companies, will pay solar generation customers the local base rate plus 12 cents per kWh of solar production. For example, if your local utility rate is 10 cents, and your 4 kW solar system generates about 400 kWh per month, you would receive about \$88 off your monthly electric bill ($[\$.10 + \$.12] \times 400 \text{ kWh} = \88 per month). This is an increase of almost 70% from the previous flat payback rate of 15 cents per kWh, and it accounts for the expected rise in electric rates. Thus, as electric rates rise, so does your production credit. In addition, TVA will pay customers a one-time rebate of \$1,000 for the installation of a solar system, double the previous rebate amount.

TVA's rebate and production payback, however, are not automatic. They require a partnership between TVA and local utilities. Customer demand, then, is the key to launching this partnership with local utilities not yet in the program. Anyone who might be interested in installing a solar system within the next 24 months should contact their local utility and ask about participation in the Generation Partners program. A list of



This 3.15 kW solar PV installation in Rockvale, Tenn., near Murfreesboro was one of the first homes to take advantage of the 30% tax credit without the \$2,000 cap. Photo courtesy of LightWave Solar Electric.

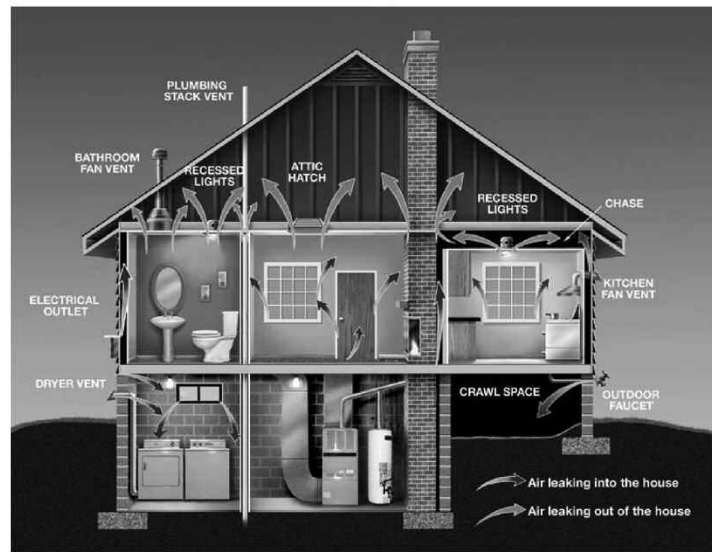
participating utilities can be found at www.tva.gov/greenpowerswitch/partners/distributors. If your local utility does not participate, and you might want to install in the next 1-2 years, ask to speak with a customer service rep familiar with the program and encourage the utility's participation. The more calls a utility receives in support of the Generation Partners program, the more likely its participation.

These improvements have increased the interest and demand for solar energy generation in our region, and the incentives help strengthen the solar industry and other renewable energy industries in Tennessee. For more information on these incentives and others, please visit www.LightWaveSolarElectric.com and click on "Resources and Links."

(Grace Safer is the residential salesperson and office administrator at LightWave Solar Electric. She is also a member of the Sierra Club.)

So! Are you passionate about saving energy but don't know how to get started?

If so, be a part of the NEXT Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) Home Energy Field Assessment event. This may be just what you need to kick start your own home greenovations! July 25th's the date . .



Here's how the Home Energy Field Assessment works: Participants converge at the host's house prepared to get grungy. We'll be assessing the house from the crawlspace to the attic, so you're liable to get dirty. If you're claustrophobic, fear not, you won't be forced to belly crawl up under the houses. You may also want to bring a pad for taking notes, and definitely bring a flashlight. We'll go from bottom to top, assessing the structural and thermal systems as we go. You'll be accompanied by a certified Home Energy Rater, Steven Tyree, who will be talking a mile a minute about energy efficiency as we go along, but questions will be encourage and welcome. Once we've finished our assessment, we'll do a blower door test. Basically this test is a big fan that can suck gobs of air out of the house, and in the process reveals leaks that steal heating and cooling energy.

Now for the fun part: After identifying many of the air leaks, we'll take the opportunity to fix them with spray foam and caulk. Both these materials are messy, so working with them will be strictly voluntary. Believe it or not, simply plugging up the myriad holes in a house is one of the most cost effective ways to improve energy efficiency and air quality.

After our labors, it will be time to sit back, socialize, and talk about the opportunities we have in our own homes, including more sophisticated systems like solar hot water and space heating. Congratulations, you've just helped save the world, one house at a time!

The next Energy Field Assessment time & place?

Saturday, July 25th at 1:30 to 4:00 pm

At the residence of Eric and Beth Lewis - 7978 Highway 100 - Nashville, TN 37221. Attendance is limited, so be sure to RSVP

Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net or 615-406-9204.

If you would like to host the August 15th Energy Assessment, please message Rachel . . . while there is time to reserve the time your home's free assessment!

First Home Energy Assessment a Success

By Steven Tyree

So what were the results from our first assessment?

Success! The Middle Tennessee Group's pilot Energy Efficiency Field Assessment Report went off without a hitch and the result was energy savings for homeowners, Don and Terri Scharf. Our assessment was held Saturday, May 16 with attendees traveling from as far as Chattanooga and The Farm in Summertown to our hosts' home in Murfreesboro. Don & Terri Scharf graciously allowed us to poke our noses into the nooks and crannies of their home looking for places to save energy.

When you cook up an event like this, you don't really know how it will go until you try it. The format was straightforward enough: utilize a member's house as an example of energy efficiency challenges and solutions, then convey that information to attendees in a hands-on format. But many questions remained. Would anyone show up? Would they take our efforts seriously? Would they be willing to apply the lessons they learned to their own houses?

I needn't have worried. From the moment the conversation began, participants Jim, David, Becky, John, and Sue were fully engaged. We talked for hours, our words loosely following the topography of the Scharf home. Our survey rambled from the exterior to the crawlspace to the interior to the attic. As the event leader, I said a great deal, but everyone had knowledge, ideas, and experiences to contribute, particular-

ly with regard to their own homes.

That's really where it's at. The field assessment's primary goal is to provide knowledge its participants can use to make real changes to their own homes, changes which aim to improve the energy efficiency, health, comfort, and durability of the houses they live in.

The results of this first effort are promising. Don, our host, is formulating a punch list of projects based on what we found. John invited me over the following week to assess his home, and we discovered several opportunities to improve it that were simple, cheap and very effective. Sue, who traveled all the way from Chattanooga, is eager to renovate her home from an energy standpoint, as is Becky. Jim and David have both contacted me with questions and contacts that will help spread the word on energy efficiency.

When you get down to it, it's folks like Sue and John who will end up changing the world. It's folks like David, Becky and Jim, and volunteers like Don and Terri, who become the movers and shakers that overhaul the communities we live in. Without the fanfare of giant government programs, they will rebuild the infrastructure that we count on to provide us with shelter that is efficient, durable, and healthful.

Sign up for the next energy assessment, and learn what you can do to convert yesterday's houses into the homes we need today and tomorrow.

Help us save the world, one house at a time! Come join us!

A testimonial from MTG's first energy assessment Submitted by John Pennington

Ever since my wife and I bought our house six years ago, I have wanted to make it as energy efficient as reasonably possible, but wasn't sure how best to accomplish this. Luckily for me, a friend introduced me to Steve Tyree of Odyssey Energy Solutions. As part of his multi-step home energy audit service, Steve thoroughly inspected, evaluated, and explained to me the things about my house that affect its level of energy efficiency. Then, using a powerful fan venting system, he allowed me to feel how "leaky" various features of my home were (e.g., door weather stripping, window seals, the fireplace flue). To my surprise, the audit allayed some energy usage concerns I had, while uncovering hidden trouble spots that I would never have found on my own. Had it not been for Steve's knowledge, insight, and technical skills, I would have spent considerable time and money on relatively unhelpful measures while ignoring more serious energy efficiency problems. Armed with the useful information gleaned from Steve's audit, I have begun taking easy, effective steps to reduce my home energy consumption and utility costs.

Tennessee Sierra Club Members Lobby Congress on Clean Energy Legislation

By Steve Sondheim

Recently a number of us visited some US representatives to lobby for a strong Clean Energy Bill. (ACES) American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454) will be discussed throughout the summer. Please talk to, call, or email your senators and congressional representatives during the July 4th recess and the August recess. They need to hear from as many of us as possible on how and why we want a clean energy bill. Contact Steven Sondheim stevensondheim@yahoo.com,

Brian Paddock bpaddock@twlakes.net or Gloria Griffin Gla4797@embarqmail.com for assistance and to join the SierraClub Energy Activist Network

Tennessee, as the most inefficient energy state in the union, has a lot of relatively inexpensively attained potential savings of money and energy from efficiency. A groundswell in renewable energy and green business is beginning, which our representatives and senators may not be aware of. We asked our representatives to find their own way to support the following principles in the Clean Energy Bill, using their legislative ingenuity to find solutions:

1. Incentives for clean and green energy jobs

This should include green business, clean technology, and a mainstream business ramp up to become sustainable. This is good for the local/regional economy and energy independence. We asked that Congress provide incentives, disincentives, and remove barriers.

2. Strong Standards of Efficiency and Renewable Energy

We expressed that intentional goals to meet tar-

gets need to be set so that power providers, utility providers, government, and business would aggressively seek to use less energy through efficiency/conservation and bring significant amounts of renewable energy online to replace oil, coal, and nuclear.

3. Strong emissions targets to avoid the worst effects of global warming. There should not be a limit on EPA's ability to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Disincentivize polluters and encourage/help them to clean up. This includes coal plants, large industry polluters, carbon emitters, and reductions in transportation's contribution.

Misinformed assumptions

Increasing Energy Needs—Be sure to challenge assumptions of increasing energy needs in this country and say that economically we won't survive without energy from all sources, especially oil, coal, and nuclear. Point out that this country could likely fulfill its energy needs with less energy, due to huge potential gains in efficiency. With time and proper placement of investments, we'll need much less dirty energy and likely become independent with renewable fuel and efficiency. The important thing is not to waste large sums of money on nuclear and dirty technologies, but to jumpstart the renewable energy mechanisms which are now competitive or over time will become competitive.

Foreign business takes jobs and businesses if we require CO2 reduction—

Legislation can take this into account, allowing extra time, special assistance and compensation for critical industries to allow them to remain competi-

tive until they can get up to speed on greenhouse gas reductions in an economically viable way.

Free enterprise will take care of it—One staffer kept referring to the green business examples we showed him, saying that it is taking care of itself. We pointed out that this was in spite of a less than level playing field and that progressive legislation is needed to jumpstart a Manhattan Project on efficiency and renewables.

Global warming and CO2 not a problem—A staffer argued that it was risky to base so much of our economy on an unproven notion. We argued that it was risky not to build an economy on green jobs/industry and the technologies to provide energy/production in a clean way. The risks and costs of waiting would likely hurt the economy.

Plenty of domestic oil and we should use it—A staffer thought we should provide as much domestic oil as possible. We argued to use this opportunity to transition off of oil to cleaner sources and efficiency.

Environment OR the Economy—We tried to position the issue as the environment AND the economy, that the Clean Energy Bill could be good for all.

Nuclear—Mention the prohibitively high cost of nuclear to the consumer, the fact that it is not free of Co2, and that besides its danger, the radioactive waste problem is still unsolved. Investment dollars could go to renewable/efficiency which would soon be cost effective and in the long run will provide for independent American sustainability.

Thanks to Peggy and Eston, Brian and Mary, Don Scharf, Gene Teselle, Steven Sondheim, Nancy Ream, Louise Gorenflo and others who made these visits.

Cherokee Group Participates in Green Giveaway at Riverbend Music Festival

The Cherokee Group raised environmental awareness and educated the public about some new "green" products on the market at the Riverbend Music festival held June 5-13, and was able to reach over 100,000 people a night.

Along with educational slides, a new recycling program, and green information, visitors had the chance to win one of the many eco-prizes that were given away during the festival.

Many green prizes including an electric eco-scooter, a solar attic fan, seven touch-screen programmable thermostats, and two rain barrels were given away nightly at the festival.

Jami Brown, Cherokee Group's vice chair, created 14 eco-slides that were shown nightly on the big screen, providing educational green eco-facts.



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