

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 40, Number 6 - November/December, 2009

U.S. Senate introduces transportation, clean energy and climate legislation

The Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act supports our transition to a 21st century clean energy economy and creates millions of clean energy jobs. Please support this legislation now being debated in the Senate and soon moving to the House. We can fundamentally transform how we generate and use energy in this country to satisfy our needs and keep us environmentally healthy and safe.

Aggressive greenhouse gas pollution reductions of 20% by 2020 and 83% by 2050 are consistent with the reductions recommended by scientists to avert the worst impacts of climate change. Worker training for green jobs will jumpstart a new clean energy economy. National security and cost-effective efficiency are enhanced by reducing foreign oil consumption, reducing greenhouse gas and air quality toxins, reducing VMT (vehicle miles traveled), enhancing public transit, upgrading cars and truck efficiency and setting pollution standards. The Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate harmful greenhouse gas pollution and protect the public's health and welfare is retained which will encourage sustainability.

Clean Tea

The Clean Low-Emissions Affordable New Transportation Equity Act sets aside revenue for green transportation projects that reduce Greenhouse Gases. Under CLEAN TEA, up to ten percent of the climate change revenue would be used to create a more efficient transportation system and lower greenhouse gas emissions through strategies including funding transit, passenger rail; freight rail supplements to trucking, development around transit stops; safer neighbor-

hoods for bikes and pedestrians, reconnecting communities and better land use allowing needs to be met with less travel.

Transportation contributes nearly one-third of the total annual CO2 emissions in the U.S. . CLEAN TEA directs state DOTs and metro areas (MPOs and RPOs) to make plans to reduce transportation emissions and set targets over the coming decades to provide Americans the clean, affordable travel options they need, now and in the future.

Preferences will be given to sustainable transportation options. More funding will be dedicated to high-quality public transportation and other convenient and affordable alternatives to driving.

Moving Cooler (<http://movingcooler.info/>) is a recent analysis that explores the cost effectiveness and consumer savings of a wide range of transportation strategies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. A comprehensive approach to smart growth improvements – complete with improved transit service, coordinated land use, improved sidewalks, and expanded walk/bike opportunities would result in consumer savings and convenience. www.T4America.org Communities benefit from the improvements in access and mobility – crucial in the face of population growth, and affordable in the face and rising energy prices.

Nuclear Power and Climate Change

It is a misguided notion that nuclear power can help the climate: we need the fastest, cleanest, safest and cheapest means of reducing carbon emissions. Nuclear power will do none of those. Neither will "clean" coal or offshore oil drilling.

New reactors--at \$9 billion and up each (e.g. Turkey Point, \$9.4 billion; Calvert Cliffs and Bell

Bend, \$13-15 billion each) would make the concept of mere rate shock seem quaint. Meanwhile, so-called "inherently safe" reactors still don't exist and lethal radioactive waste continues to threaten communities across the nation, with no long-term storage solution in sight.

The nuclear industry is spending millions of dollars lobbying Congress to turn the Senate climate bill into a gigantic giveaway of more taxpayer loan guarantees, more subsidies for new reactors and dangerous radioactive waste schemes like reprocessing. In addition there are pressures for more dirty energy technologies like "clean" coal, and offshore oil drilling.

Energy efficiency and renewables such as solar, wind, geothermal and wave can provide our energy needs without the huge expense and gamble of nuclear energy which besides being dangerous and dirty, is prohibitively expensive. Better to use our resources to buy time with efficiency and ramp up renewables for a truly independent and reasonable cost future. Many believe that by the time nuclear energy would be significantly increased, we could have the same or more energy with renewables and efficiency. Additionally, many believe that it is a myth that we need ever increasing amounts of energy. Already we are using less. With efficiency and conservation, our energy needs won't grow as currently projected and we would have plenty of energy for a viable economy.

Using nuclear power would be counterproductive at reducing carbon emissions. As Amory Lovins of Rocky Mountain Institute points out, "every dollar invested in nuclear expansion will worsen climate change by buying less solution per dollar..."

Available renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies are faster, cheaper, safer and cleaner strategies for reducing greenhouse emissions than nuclear power.

Introduce Teens to Great Outdoors

By Joy Mayfield

On Wednesday, August 5, Betsy Garber, Suzanne Petrey (Inner City Outings helper) and I took three young men and their cottage leader from Monroe Harding on a day hike at Beaman Park.

We had a captive audience, as usual, in these teens who had never been on a hike in the woods before. In fact, their cottage parent had never been on a hike either and I believe she's now hooked!

We had an inquisitive group. It's amazing how long it can take to hike two miles when there's a question at every bend in the trail. Even though the beginning of the trail was a bit difficult—there was a gradual ascent of a few hundred feet—and even though everyone was sweating and hot, interest

remained keen on the environment and no one complained much.

Beaman Park is rich in local lore. Stories of moonshiners and revenuers traveling the creekbed by wagon and hidden stills tucked away in the "holler" filled the imagination of these city residents and left them with a lot to talk about on the van ride back to the city.

Wouldn't you like to participate in this outreach program with us? Contact Betsy Garber at garberb@hotmail.com for more information.



Photo: Betsy Garber

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Tennes-Sierran

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SEND ARTICLES TO:

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 handwritten or typewritten 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.

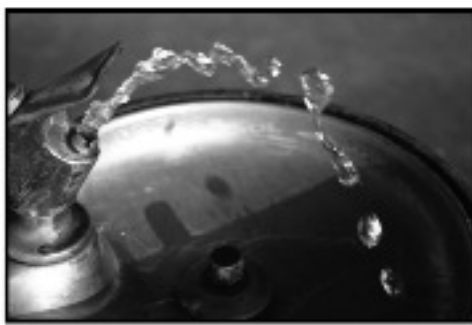
The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

Back-Up Needed for Tennes-Sierran

The Tennes-Sierran is seeking a back-up graphic designer and back-up editor for the newsletter. The back-up graphic designer would lay out the publication using a desktop publishing program and get it ready for the printer when our regular designer is not available to do the job. When the regular editor is not able to get the copy ready for the designer, the back-up editor would edit the material. Contact Lynne Baker at lbaker@usw.org if you are interested in these positions.



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

New Design

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Environmental Justice Rally in Dickson Puts Spotlight on County Dump Pollution

By Lisa Maners, intern with the Sierra Club Environmental Justice office in Memphis, TN

An environmental justice rally took place at the War Memorial building in Dickson, Tenn., and at the Holt family home on Eno Road on Saturday, September 5, 2009.

Attending the event were members of the Justice and Witness Ministries of the national United Church of Christ, the Tennessee Missionary Baptist Convention, the Environmental Justice Resource Center of Clark Atlanta University, and the Tennessee and Kentucky chapters of the NAACP. In addition to the speakers from each of these organizations, a member of the Black Women's Roundtable (Atlanta, Georgia), Sheila Holt-Orsted, the Holt family leader, and Rita Harris, environmental justice organizer for the Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program of Memphis, addressed the crowd. Nationally-known author, Robert Bullard, was the main speaker of the day and a key organizer of the rally.

Harris and I traveled from Memphis to Dickson early Saturday morning on Labor Day weekend to attend the rally, provide support for the Holt family by passing out postcards to be mailed to the EPA, and document the event in photographs for the Holts' future use. When we arrived at the War Memorial building, there were people sitting under the shade trees to the right of the podium anxiously awaiting the beginning of the event. The press was prominent among the attendees with their video and still photography cameras documenting the event.

All the speakers spoke of the injustice that has occurred and is still occurring on Eno Road in Dickson County, Tenn. The Holt family home sits on approximately 150 acres next to the Dickson County Dump on Eno Road. The contaminated well is in their side yard and provided the family's water for drinking, cooking, and bathing for many years.

After everyone spoke, we were escorted by the Dickson City police out to the Holt family property. We parked on the lawn and walked over to the contaminated well. It did not look like the stereotypical well. Instead, a mass of pipes and machinery with two spigots sticking out of the ground outfitted with faucets greeted us with a foreboding presence.

The well is contaminated with TCE (trichloroethylene), a known toxin. In 1968, Dickson County

allowed companies to dump drums of toxic wastes into the landfill. They leaked. By 1988, the harmful effects of these actions began to be measured and documented by Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) authorities. After testing areas all around the county landfill, TDEC assured the Holt family that their well was safe.

Two years ago, Mr. Harry Holt, Shelia Holt-Orsted's father, died of cancer. Shelia herself has cancer and other family members are sick with various illnesses. The well is the source of their illness; the family was allowed to bathe, drink and cook with the well water for years after it was known to be contaminated with TCE. The well has been closed and the Holt's are on the city's water supply.

At the well, Shelia spoke of the injustices to her family and the inconsistencies in testing the water all around her family home. The inconsistencies point to an injustice known as "environmental racism." This family is one of the victims of this injustice where companies prey on minorities and poor people.

After Shelia spoke, she opened the floor for questions. One young man asked whether there were any lawsuits pending. She replied by saying that the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund and the NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) each have lawsuits pending. Unfortunately, no amount of money can replace one second of a human life.



Activist Sheila Holt-Orsted tells the story of how her family was left to drink trichloroethylene (TCE) contaminated water for many years before a crowd of over 85 people gathered in Dickson.

Corner

The Chair's

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

The last quarter has been a busy time for me representing our Chapter at conferences and retreats. I visited the Virginia Chapter in September and it was a good opportunity for speaking with members in Virginia who share our concerns regarding mountaintop removal.

Toward the end of September, I represented our Chapter at the Council of Club Leaders (CCL) yearly meeting in San Francisco. Information that was given to the CCL from Carl Pope and the board of directors regarding Club finances was startling! There was mention from Carl Pope that a decision may have to be made to eliminate groups if financial cutbacks in other areas cannot be accomplished. The overall message at CCL focused on cutting back in all areas with emphasis on converting newsletters to electronic media.

Funding from the National Sierra Club to our Chapter will be cut again in 2010. There is risk that we will have to cut programs in our Chapter, including funding our lobbyist. The Tennessee Chapter needs your help more than ever with contributions toward Defenders, Political Action (PAC), and general donations. Please consider making an end of year contribution to our Chapter.

The first of October I attended a water summit in New Orleans including the Sierra Club Water Sentinels, Hunters and Anglers, and Mississippi River Issue Team (MissRIT). Keven and Susan Routon from Chickasaw Group also attended the conference. I came away from that conference as a newly inducted water sentinel representing Middle Tennessee. If you are interested in becoming involved with the water sentinel program, please contact me.

Our Fall Chapter Meeting was held at Pickett State Park. Many thanks to Watauga Group for hosting a fun filled weekend. Kudos especially go to Webb Griffith and his culinary team for providing tasty meals.

Don't forget to take a moment and vote for your group elections as well as Chapter at-large delegates!

During December I hope to see you at your group holiday gatherings.

**Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season,
Katherine Pendleton, Chair
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club**

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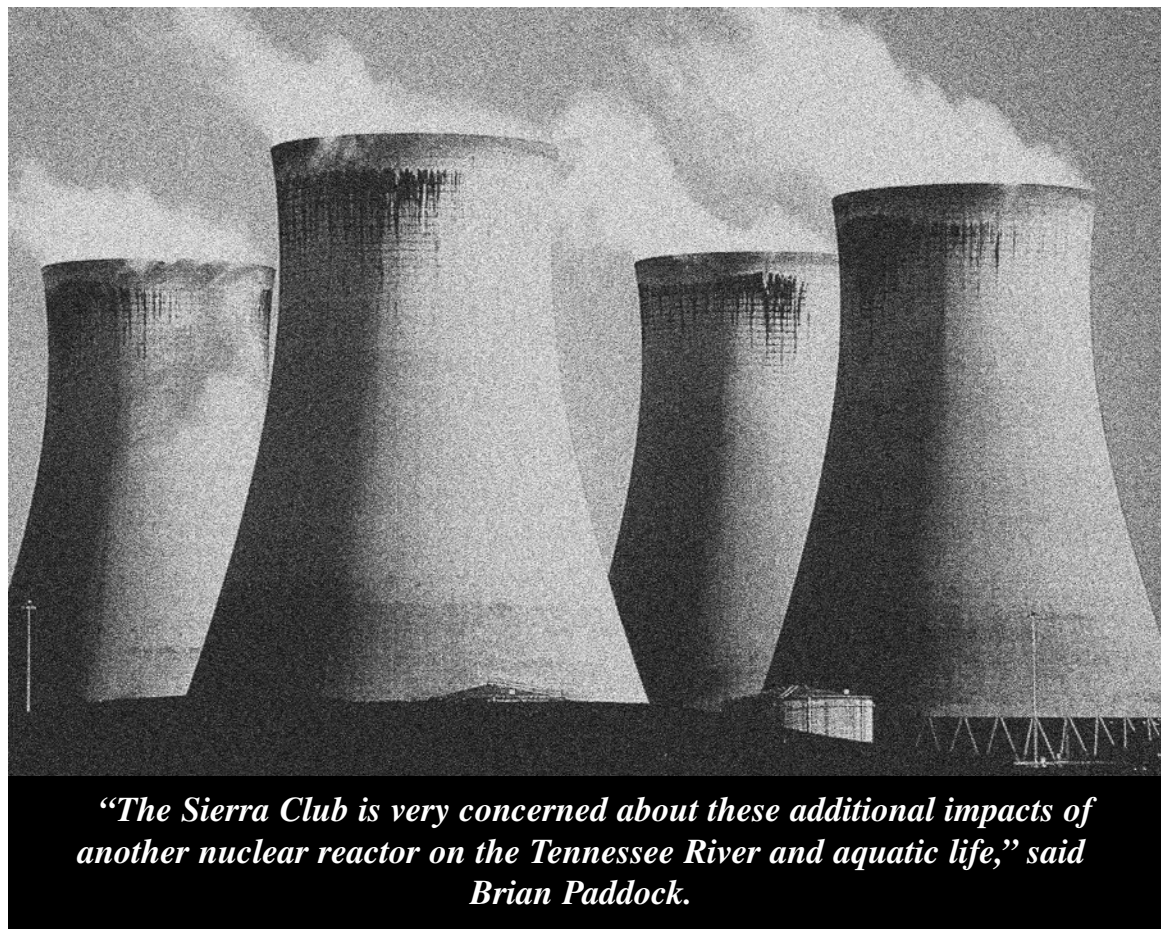
Citizens Raise Alarm on Building New Reactor at TVA's Watts Bar

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) heard from concerned citizens and organizations on October 6 about the risks associated with building a second nuclear reactor at TVA's Watts Bar nuclear plant along the Tennessee River in Rhea County, about halfway between Knoxville and Chattanooga. The NRC held two public meetings in Sweetwater, Tenn., to discuss the agency's review of TVA's licensing application. "TVA's claims to have learned the lessons of the Kingston coal ash disaster are brought into question by their ongoing push to finish the flawed ice condenser design of the Watts Bar 2 nuclear reactor," said Don Safer, chairman of the board of the Tennessee Environmental Council. "The same misguided priorities are at work: compromising public safety and increasing environmental risk with narrow, business-as-usual thinking dominated by protecting the short-term bottom line."

People commented on the safety concerns regarding the reactor design at Watts Bar, commonly referred to as having "eggshell-like" containment.

"I think TVA is a little off its rocker, proposing a 30-year-old nuclear power plant design with known safety problems. This doesn't instill much confidence that the utility knows what it's doing," said Dr. Ross McCluney, a research physicist, Chattanooga resident, and member of Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. "Energy efficiency plus renewable power are the best ways to meet projected electric needs affordably and safely and without producing more radioactive waste."

Concerns were expressed about the negative impact to the Tennessee River. Citizens asked that the NRC fully study the overall cumulative impact two operating reactors at Watts Bar could have on the river basin and fishery



"The Sierra Club is very concerned about these additional impacts of another nuclear reactor on the Tennessee River and aquatic life," said Brian Paddock.

resources. Others highlighted how imperiled the river is from years of exposure to environmental stressors such as construction and operation of 47 water impoundments, 10 fossil fuel-burning plants, and six current nuclear reactors with more reactors in the licensing stage.

"The Sierra Club is very concerned about these additional impacts of another nuclear reactor on the Tennessee River and aquatic life," said Brian Paddock. "We will continue to gather information to present in the future to educate citizens," he added.

The poor economics of new nuclear reactors was also mentioned, especially in terms of the slump in the economy and the difficulty people

are having with escalating electric bills. TVA already spent \$1.7 billion on the second reactor before stopping construction in 1985 after realizing it had overestimated demand for power. TVA estimates another \$2.49 billion will be required to complete the Watts Bar project.

"It seems TVA is just repeating its many costly mistakes from the past that we'll once again end up paying for just like we will be paying for the fly ash spill," said Bill Reynolds, Sierra Club member and Tennessee Chapter nuclear committee chair. "But this time they have no excuse to go down the nuclear road when there are so many more energy options available today than decades ago,"

Concerns about completing the new reactor at Watts Bar were raised earlier this summer when several organizations in Tennessee filed a petition on behalf of their members for intervention with the NRC to stop the building of the second nuclear reactor. Those groups included the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL), Sierra Club, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE), Tennessee Environmental Council, and We the People, Inc.

Many representatives of those groups attended the NRC meetings. The organizations believe future energy demand in Tennessee and across the region should instead be met by aggressive energy efficiency and conservation measures and renewable energy. They argue that these measures pose less risk to communities, and offer substantial and sustainable economic growth, all while playing an important role in reducing global warming pollution.

For more information on the NRC's licensing process, visit

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/watts-bar.html>.

For more information on TVA's plan to complete and operate a second nuclear reactor at Watts Bar, visit

<http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/wattsbar2/index.htm>.

For more information on the challenge to prevent building a second reactor at Watts Bar, view "Associated Testimonies" at

http://www.cleanenergy.org/index.php?/Take-Action.html?form_id=51&item_id=93.

Sierra Club Gains Seat on TVA Stakeholder Group

By Louise Gorenflo, TVA Committee Chair
TVA has set out to develop an Integrated Resource Plan to determine the energy resource options it will use to meet energy demand over the next 20 years. It closed its scoping comments period in July. To read the comments submitted by public interest groups, you can visit the Solar Valley Coalition website at www.solarvalleycoalition.net. Other Sierra Club members wrote individual comments.

I attended the TVA Board meeting on August 20 in Knoxville to share with the board my thoughts that the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) stakeholder group did not represent the concerns of many people in the valley and that, because it operated in secrecy, its final results would be deeply flawed. Tennessee Sierra Club members received an action alert developed by a network of activists, asking citizens to let TVA know that its IRP process lacked transparency and inclusiveness.

In September, TVA contacted the Tennessee Sierra Club to request it designate a member to serve as a delegate on TVA's IRP stakeholder group. The Chapter's TVA Committee chair now sits on the stakeholder group.

Our first meeting was on Sept. 24 in

Chattanooga, and there was a workshop on TVA's energy efficiency and demand response programs. TVA admitted it had not set an energy conservation target or plans to set one. On the bright side, distributors will start being charged for Time of Use (TOU) electricity prices in 2012 that will certainly reduce TVA's peak load and reduce its costs. Also, we learned that future regular meetings of the IRP stakeholder group would be open to the public.

Sierra Club members participated in the monthly Solar Valley Coalition conference call. The Solar Valley is a network of energy activists across the TVA service area with a focus on TVA and state energy policy. If you want to join the call, send an email to lgorenflo@gmail.com.

TVA's Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA) comment period ended in August. PURPA requires TVA to consider various utility standards. This comment period focused on Integrated Resource Planning, energy efficiency, demand response, and ratemaking. While the Tennessee Sierra Club did not submit comments, I did submit comments wearing a different hat (Solar Valley Coalition). If you want to read these comments, visit the Solar Valley Coalition website.

ELECTION *Time!*

Election Ballot for Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee At-Large Delegates 2010-2011 Term

Please vote for four (4) of the following candidates.

Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate
_____	_____	Clark Buchner
_____	_____	Tom Mozen
_____	_____	Catherine Murray
_____	_____	Axel Ringe

Only current members can vote. Please put your membership number (found on the mailing label of the Tennes-Sierran) on the outside of the envelope. Place that envelope inside another envelope and mail by close of business, December 31, 2009 to:

Robert M. Hill
11504 Mountain View Road
Knoxville, TN 37934

Candidate statements will be posted on the Chapter website.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (MTG) ELECTION BALLOT

FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT, you must enclose your marked ballot in an envelope marked "Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope for mailing. Write your membership number, which can be found on the address label of your newsletter, on the outer envelope with your return address. **ENVELOPES WITHOUT A MEMBERSHIP NUMBER CANNOT BE COUNTED.**

PLEASE VOTE! We need and invite your participation.

Middle Tennessee Group Election Ballot. Please vote for three (3) of the following candidates.

Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate
_____	_____	Katherine Pendleton
_____	_____	Dave Bordenkircher
_____	_____	Keith Romig

Mail your ballot to: Lynne Baker
P.O. Box 1504
Antioch, TN 37011-1504

The deadline for submitting your ballot is December 15.

Candidate Statements: (Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

Katherine Pendleton

My name is Katherine Pendleton. Please vote for me as a continuing executive committee member of Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) Sierra Club. Over the past several years, I have served MTG wherever needed. I have been a reliable and enthusiastic team player. Serving as outings chair for the group, I have conducted outings leader training, certifying outings leaders for MTG and the Nashville Inner City Outings Group (ICO). Whenever MTG needed food services at meetings during 2009, I provided the catering. I want to continue to serve MTG on the executive board as one who will provide guidance related to Club policies and strive to move our Club's conservation initiatives forward. Thank you for your vote!

Dave Bordenkircher

Dave joined the Sierra Club in 1982 to be a part of the Club's effort to amend the US Clean Air Act. He was active in the Chattanooga area Cherokee Group before moving to Nashville. He presently lives in Nashville. In 1988 he served as a delegate to the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee. Soon he got involved with the effort in Nashville to increase recycling of solid waste, and he helped several groups in Nashville that were advocating recycling. Sierra Club helped to bring the recycling that Nashville has today. He has served on the board of directors of Recycle! Nashville, an organization that was formed to promote recycling. In 2003 he was appointed to be volunteer coordinator for the Recycle drop off site in Nashville that Sierra Club sponsors. He was active in the lobbying effort of the Sierra Club, along with the National Audubon Society and the Wilderness Society, to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from proposed oil exploration that would harm the wildlife that lives there. He was elected to the Middle Tennessee Group's Executive Committee and served on the committee in 2005 and 2006. From July 2005 to the end of 2006 he served as chairman of the Middle Tennessee Group. He has been on the Executive Committee for the 2008-2009 term. In 2007, 2008 and 2009 he has been a delegate to the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee and has served as secretary to the Middle Tennessee Group since 2007. For the past four years when the Tennessee General Assembly was in session, he has gone to the weekly meetings of the Tennessee Conservation Voters where he has helped Bill Terry and Penny Brooks decide which legislation to focus on. He is a member of the Smart Growth/Land Use Planning Committee that is a part of the Energy Super Committee of the Tennessee Chapter. He works in the Local Planning Assistance office, a division of state government that advises planning commissions of small towns. He is a licensed attorney.

Keith Romig

I earned a doctorate in chemical engineering at the University of Colorado and, not wishing to be beholden to the corporate world, took a career detour into the labor movement. After stints in Denver, Washington, and New Jersey, I came to Tennessee 16 years ago to work for the Paperworkers union. Through a series of mergers, I have served as information officer, communications director, and international affairs director and now work for the United Steelworkers as a strategic issues representative. Since 2006 I have been fundraising chair of our Chapter, and have raised well over \$40,000 to support our Club's activities. Environmental issues such as global warming, energy conservation, the continuing spread of toxic substances, and the degradation of our natural heritage, both in the United States and worldwide, grow increasingly urgent. It will require all our efforts to change things for the better. That's why I have been moved to step up and increase my own activities. When we work together we will make a difference!

Chickasaw Group Election Ballot

All ballots must be postmarked before Sunday, December 6, 2009. Please vote! You may vote for up to seven (7) candidates for the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee.

Membership		Candidate
Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Demetrius Gentry
_____	_____	Sharon Gordon
_____	_____	Andy King
_____	_____	Brennan Lowery
_____	_____	Nancy Ream
_____	_____	Keven Routon
_____	_____	Sandra Upchurch

Enclose your marked ballot in a plain envelope and place it inside a second envelope for mailing. Write your membership number (found on the label of your Tennes-Sierran) on the outer envelope with your return address. Envelopes without a membership number cannot be counted so please follow these instructions carefully! Mail your ballot to: Chickasaw Group, Attn: Election Committee, PO Box 111094, Memphis, TN 38111.

Candidate Statements: (Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

Sharon Gordon

Sharon Gordon has a degree in environmental waters technology. She has been employed by the City of Memphis for over 10 years and currently is the coordinator for public relations for the storm water program. Sharon has been presenting programs in the Memphis City Schools, parochial schools, and private schools. She has conducted two watershed studies with students -- one on John's Creek and one on Fletcher Creek. She is a member of the Tennessee Environmental Educators Association and Tennessee Educators of Aquatic and Marine Science Association. She has been a member of Memphis Organization of Science Teachers. Sharon feels that education is the key to future environmental attitudes of young people.

Brennan Lowery

As a third-year college student at Rhodes, Brennan is heavily involved in university sustainability initiatives and the student group, Sierra Student Coalition Green Rhodes. He helped start the group and bring an organic community garden to the campus. He also works in the Memphis neighborhoods with Grow Memphis and the organic gardens that are helping rejuvenate impoverished neighborhoods and improve people's health and well-being. Lowery is a proponent of sustainable community development, having interned on an agro-forestry farm in Belize, Central America and worked with solar cookers and women's groups in Bolivia. Brennan's vision is to search for ways for disadvantaged people, in Memphis and beyond, to improve their quality of life in ways that are more environmentally neutral than otherwise possible.

Nancy Ream

Nancy is currently serving as the chair of the Chickasaw group. She wishes to remain on the Excom and serve in a different way to help the goals of the Sierra club go forward. She is particularly interested in greenways and parks. She believes it takes a group of concerned citizens to help sustain the environment in the most positive way. She has an undergraduate degree in sociology and a masters degree in recreation. Nancy wants to help the Chickasaw group keep up the good works we are doing in the community!

Keven Routon

Keven received a BS in liberal studies, then continued studies with Webster University, receiving a MA in HRMG and a MBA. He will complete a MS in environmental management next year. Keven retired from the Navy in 2006 and now contracts as an analyst. Keven has been actively involved with the Sierra Club for a short but intense period. He is a current ExCom member (appointed to fill a vacancy for remainder of 2009), an Active Network Beta Team member, and was appointed as the Tennessee Chapter alternate representative to the Mississippi River Issue Team working to reduce the "Dead Zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. Keven recognizes that global and local issues are connected and that too often corporate interests take precedence over public and environmental concerns.

Sandra Upchurch

Sandra is a Memphis native who managed a unique environmental high school laboratory for 15 years. The industrial chemistry program (closed last fall) was the only high school program of its kind in the world and was part of a state-certified Tennessee green school. It was the only high school that collaborated with the Corps Reform Network. Her new position is at Douglass High School teaching physical sciences. She has taken the initiative and challenge to help make the entire school a "national green model." Sandra recently hosted the Green the Block National Day of Service. Sandra will continue to make environmental education of youth a top priority as an advocate for Green Sustainability Practices. She serves on the board of Tennessee Clean Water Network, and has been appointed by the city mayor to serve as a Memphis City Beautiful commissioner and by the county mayor to serve on the Cypress Creek Health Exposure Committee.

CHEROKEE GROUP ELECTION BALLOT

Elections for four (4) members of our Group Executive Committee, each having a two-year term of office beginning in January 2010, who will join the other five members of our Executive Committee in guiding our Group's activities.

Your ballot must be postmarked no later than Wednesday, December 23, 2009 for the ballots to be postmarked.

Please vote for four (4) candidates.

Membership		Candidate
Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Michelle Hineman
_____	_____	Jeff Hunter
_____	_____	Barbara Hurst
_____	_____	Davis Mounger

Submit your ballot: Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write the work "ballot" on it. Place that envelope inside another envelope, seal, and write your membership number -- found on the label of the Tennes-Sierran -- and return address in the upper left hand corner. Mail your combined envelope to: Barbara Kelly, 3524 Pinellas Lane, Chattanooga, TN 37412.

Must be postmarked no later than December 11, 2009

Candidate Statements: (Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

Michelle Hineman

Michelle is a native Chattanooga, living in Soddy Daisy with her husband. She graduated from UTC with a masters in criminal justice. Involved with the Sierra Club for a year, she has been interested in conservation since high school and is especially passionate about our country's carbon footprint. She is currently serving as our Group's Political/Legislative Chair.

Jeff Hunter

Jeff and his wife Suzanne are the caretakers of Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanical Garden. He is also the Tennessee Field Organizer for the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, working to expand wilderness in the Cherokee Forest, and has great knowledge of southern hiking trails.

Barbara Hurst

A native of England, Barbara is a speech therapist. She has traveled widely throughout 50 countries, lived in five, and been settled here in Chattanooga for many years. An ardent hiker, she is currently serving as our Group's treasurer. She and her husband Bill are hosting our New Year party at their home on Signal Mountain for the second year!

Davis Mounger

A Hamilton County high school teacher with one teenage boy, Davis comes to us from the Mississippi Delta. He has worked on monitoring the national forests in Mississippi and Tennessee for several years, particularly timber sales. He also is on the Executive Committee of Heartwood, a regional network that protects forests and supports community activism in the eastern and southern forests (Heartland + Hardwood = Heartwood).

Upper Cumberland Group Ballot

FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT, you must enclose your marked ballot in an envelope marked "Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope for mailing. Write your membership number, which can be found on the address label of your newsletter, on the outer envelope with your return address. **ENVELOPES WITHOUT A MEMBERSHIP NUMBER CANNOT BE COUNTED.**

Please vote for three (3) for the Upper Cumberland Group Executive Committee:

Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate
_____	_____	Peggy Evans
_____	_____	Josie McQuail
_____	_____	Margaret Olson

Return the ballots to Mary Mastin, 360 Roberts Hollow Lane, Cookeville, TN 38501.

The deadline to receive the ballots is December 31, 2009

Candidate Statements: (Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

Peggy Evans

Peggy Evans served for many years as chair of the Upper Cumberland Group. She can always be counted on to help with Sierra Club events. She has just completed two terms as chair of Cookeville's Tree Board.

Josie McQuail

Josie McQuail has been active in the Upper Cumberland Group Sierra Club for many years, having served as group vice chair. She is also the newly selected environmental liaison for St. Michael's Episcopal church in Cookeville.

Margaret Olson

Margaret Olson is a long-time Sierra Club member. She was formerly group treasurer for the Harvey Broome Group and served for about six years as Tennessee Chapter secretary. Margaret lives in Pleasant Hill in Cumberland County and has been attending the Chapter quarterly meetings for the past few years as an alternate delegate for the Upper Cumberland Group.

Watauga Group Election Ballot

Please vote for four (4) of the following candidates for the Executive Committee:

Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate
_____	_____	Ann Austin
_____	_____	Rita Cowan
_____	_____	Sandi Cranford
_____	_____	Barbara Donovan
_____	_____	Rick Foster
_____	_____	Mary Gale
_____	_____	Catherine Murray
_____	_____	Ron Rairigh
_____	_____	Janeene Ross
_____	_____	Mike Ross
_____	_____	Louise Shoen

Place your ballot in an envelope and mark the word "ballot" on it. Place this envelope with the ballot in another envelope and write your membership number in the upper left hand corner with your address. Your ballot must be postmarked no later than DEC 31, 2009.

Mail election ballot to: Dean Whitworth
698 Carlie Bunton Ln
Butler, TN 37640

Harvey Broome Group Election Ballot

Election Ballot for HARVEY BROOME GROUP Executive Committee Candidates for the 2010-2011 term.

Please vote for six (6) candidates:

Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate
_____	_____	Allan (Al) Miller
_____	_____	Ray Payne
_____	_____	Mac Post
_____	_____	Axel Ringe
_____	_____	Heather Shipley
_____	_____	Ron Shrieves

Candidate statements will be posted on the Harvey Broome Group page of the Chapter web site.

Only current members may vote. Please put your membership number (found on the mailing label of the Tennes-Sierran) on the outside of an envelope containing your ballot. Place the envelope inside another envelope and mail by close of business on December 31, 2009.

Mail to: Robert M. Hill
11504 Mountain View Road
Knoxville, TN 37934

Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

NOVEMBER PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. **RANKIN BOTTOMS.** Michael Sledjeski discusses one of the premier birding sites in East Tennessee. Part of the French Broad System (upper end of Douglas Lake, near Newport), Rankin Bottoms is uniquely suited to quiet, contemplative canoeing and wildlife photography. Everyone is welcome. For further information contact John Finger at 865-573-5908.

DECEMBER PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

HBG'S HAPPY HOLIDAYS PROGRAM!! Bring some of your favorite edibles to share and join us for lots of fun! We're asking HBG members and friends to show favorite recent photos of travel, outings, the environment, or other things of interest to our group. Please, no more than ten minutes per person, including your commentary. Ron Shrieves, our Outings Chair, will coordinate the presentations, so contact him regarding technical details, etc., at 865-922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net. You should get your photos to Ron one week in advance of the program, either by copying them to a CD or a flash drive (AKA, jump drive). No Photos? No Problem! Come anyway and share the goodies and socializing. Everyone is welcome. For further information contact Ron Shrieves (see above).

JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

RUSSIA: UP FRONT AND FRIENDLY. Knoxville Attorney Ron Leadbetter, a frequent visitor to Russia, talks about renewing old acquaintances and seeing new things on his most recent trip to the Penza region and the Caucasus Mountains. Everyone is welcome. For further information contact John Finger at 865-573-5908.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

ICELAND: NATION OF MANY FACES. HBG members Will Skelton, Kim Robinette, John Dunlap and Beverly Smith visited Iceland in July 2009 and concluded that, for scenic beauty, this country (the size of Kentucky but whose population is less than Knox County, TN) can match any place in the world. They drove most of the paved Ring Road around the island, took a dirt road across the central Highlands between two ice caps, and also saw most of Reykjavik, the capital. The sights included waterfalls, volcanoes, glaciers and ice caps, sea cliffs, geysers, coastal villages and farms, lava fields, and more. Come see their photographs and learn about a fascinating and scenic nation.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, November 12, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.

Tennessee photographer John Guider stepped into his 16-foot canoe on Spencer Creek in Williamson County six years ago and began an incredible journey. He paddled down the Harpeth, Cumberland, Tennessee, Ohio and Mississippi rivers, camping along the river's edge and depending on the kindness of strangers while encountering a cast of colorful characters and a series of near-deadly mishaps along the way. A celebrated commercial photographer but by no means an avid outdoorsman, Mr. Guider had never camped or canoed before navigating the mighty Mississippi to his final destination of New Orleans. Mr. Guider will share the story of his life-changing and life-affirming passage, including the process of communicating his personal experiences through photography featured in his book and subsequent documentary film and art exhibition, "The River Inside." This title was drawn from the importance of rivers as prime conduits of vital commodities and overlooked by-ways that function as life-sustaining water sources. A book-signing will follow the program. The program is free, and the public is invited.

NO PROGRAM MEETING IN DECEMBER

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION, WHICH TAKES THE PLACE OF OUR REGULAR PROGRAM MEET-

ING

WHERE: United Steel Workers Union Building at 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee. 37211. From the intersection of I-24 and Harding Place, go a short distance east on Harding Place (if you come to Antioch Pike you have gone too far). Turn right on S. Perimeter Park Drive. Go .1 mile and turn left on Perimeter Hill Drive. Proceed .2 miles to the United Steel Workers Union Building.

WHEN: Saturday, December 12 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

WHAT: Fellowship, potluck dinner, BYOB, presentation of MTG annual awards.

WHY: We would love to meet you for the first time or enjoy your company again as we celebrate the end of a successful year and the start of a new one.

DRESS: Party casual or as you please.

STRATEGY MEETING: Third Mondays, November 16 and December 21, 6:30p.m. at the United Steel Workers 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 rfloyd557@bellsouth.net or call 406-9204. If you have problems finding or accessing the building, call Rachel's cell at 406-9204.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

MONTHLY MEETING: Every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Putnam County Library. Alternating program meeting with planning meetings every other month. For more information, contact Mary Mastin at marymastin@twlakes.net or (931) 268-2938.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

CONSERVATION DISCUSSIONS: 1st Wednesday each month, Nov. 4, 6:00 pm. Join our Group Conservation Committee to discuss conservation issues of the day. GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga.

STRATEGY MEETING: 2nd Wednesday each month, Nov. 11, 6:00 p.m. Come to the MOVIES: Sneak Preview of "Coal Country," the brand new documentary -- We'll be watching the movie, snacking on popcorn, bring all your friends and family!!! This movie looks at both sides of the issues—miners/company officials and activists. But there is no doubt that MTR (Mountain Top Removal), already having leveled over 500 Appalachian mountains, is tearing the land apart. GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. (Our usual business meeting has been preempted -- Mountain top removal is one of our Group's main concerns!!) For more information call Elizabeth Tallman, 423.619.0379, or e-mail elizabethjamestallman@hotmail.com.

PROGRAM MEETING: Monday, Nov. 30, 7:00 pm at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Come to the MOVIES: "King Corn" -- a humorous and touching documentary about two friends who move to Iowa and grow an acre of corn, meanwhile learning about the massive problems facing our whole biologic/agriculture/economy/food system from the hold that corn now has. Free and open to the public; great refreshments served during the movie -- but not popcorn today! (GreenSpaces is in the first "art district" block after you turn off Market on to Main, last building in the first block on the left. Parking in on the street -- well lit and safe -- caddy corner from fire hall.) Bring your friends and family!!

CONSERVATION DISCUSSIONS: 1st Wednesday each month, Dec. 2, 6:00 pm. Join our Group Conservation Committee to discuss conservation issues facing us. GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. **STRATEGY MEETING: 2nd Wednesday each month, Dec. 9, 6:00 pm.** Here is where the business of

our Group is decided. Join us around the very interesting recycled block table at GreenSpaces as we plan our campaigns, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. To add an item to the agenda, call Elizabeth Tallman, 423.619.0379, or e-mail elizabethjamestallman@hotmail.com.

PROGRAM MEETING -- NEW YEAR CELEBRATION SUPPER: Jan. 3rd, 5:00 pm. A change from our usual last Monday of the month! Come together for fun and fellowship at Barbara and Bill Hurst's home on Signal Mountain for a covered dish supper. We'll be celebrating a full year of the Cherokee Group's re-formation and looking forward to the next! (Also a "white elephant" gift exchange - if you'd like to participate, bring something old/interesting/fun to reuse/recycle, oops, I mean exchange!) Bring a dish to share, 5:00 p.m.; call Barbara at 423.886.9503 for directions or e-mail her at barbara-duckhurst@hotmail.com. (This event takes the place of our Program Meeting for December.)

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: November 5 & December 3, 5:30-7:00pm -- 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 2009 Environmental Justice Annual Conference Topic: "Energy Bars, Energy Audits, and Environmental Health" Saturday, November 7, 9:00am to 3:00pm -- Church of the River, 292 Virginia Avenue West. People will gather to learn, share, and be motivated to ACT on behalf of the environment, and ultimately for themselves. There will be a wide range of workshops to choose from throughout the day, plus a delicious lunch! As always, the Sierra Club provides this conference as a community service and to help enlist the public's effective involvement in environmental protection and activism. Keynote speaker Vernice Miller-Travis is vice chair of the Maryland State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, and a co-founder of West Harlem Environmental Action, a 20-year-old community-based environmental justice organization in New York City. She is also a founding member of the National Black Environmental Justice Network.

The conference is underwritten by the Sierra Club. It's free and open to the public. Please register in advance. Contact rita.harris@sierra-club.org

Chickasaw Group Strategy Meeting, November 9 & December 14, 6:30pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell. - This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Nancy Ream by November 6 (November meeting) or December 11 (December meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 759-9416 or njream@aol.com.

Friday, December 11, 7:00pm, HOLIDAY PARTY IN PLACE OF DECEMBER PROGRAM MEETING; Burch, Porter, Johnson: 130 N. Court Avenue, Memphis, TN -- Bring an appetizer or dessert. Please come and join the festivities at our holiday party! We look forward to seeing you! Any questions, contact Nancy Ream at (901) 759-9416.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee, - Mondays at 1:30am, 8:30am, 3:00pm, Tuesdays at 3:30am, 11:00am, and 10:00pm, Wednesdays at 8:00pm, Thursdays at 5:30am and noon, Fridays at 3:00am and 11:30pm, Saturdays at 12:30pm and 7:30pm. "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.

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/SignInWaiver.pdf>, 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)

November 7-8 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Deep Creek Section, GSMNP. We'll park at Galbraith Creek Road, then hike parts of the Thomas Divide Trail, Indian Creek Motor Trail, and Deepflow Gap Trail to the intersection of Deepflow Gap Trail with Indian Creek Trail. We'll then backtrack past the intersection of Deepflow Gap with Indian Creek Motor Trail to overnight at new campsite #51 (5.9 miles). (This route allows folks working on their Smokies map to complete the Deepflow Gap trail.) The next day, we'll follow Deepflow Gap Trail eastward to the Thomas Divide Trail, then head south on the Thomas Divide Trail back to the cars at Galbraith Road (7.3 miles). Total miles: 13.2. Rated moderate. Drive: 100 mi one way. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: email sharvey86@aol.com; phone 865-271-7227.

November 8 (Sun). (Rescheduled from Nov 22) Mystery afternoon Day hike. Where would you like to go within a 60-mile radius? All suggestions are welcome. Hiking distance will likely be less than 6 miles. Learn more about Knoxville's greenway system by experiencing it! Rated easy to moderate. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or 865-335-3559.

November 14 (Sat). Day hike, Piney River Segment of the Cumberland Trail. This segment of the Cumberland Trail is near Spring City and follows the Piney River past several interesting cascades and gorgeous Cumberland gorge views. We'll learn about the fascinating geology of the Cumberlands and about Tennessee's progress in building a linear state park. The trip will require a car shuttle. Hiking distance, about 10 miles, rated moderate. Drive: 75 mi each way. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

December 5 (Sat). Day hike, Elkmont Section, GSMNP. This hike, a joint venture between the Harvey Broome Group and the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, will take us to Blanket Mountain and, along the way, we'll visit and learn about the history of the Avent Cabin. The cabin, located just off the Jakes Creek Trail, was owned by an artist at the time the park was formed. This cabin has been maintained as an historical structure, and provides a glimpse of life in the Smokies before the park, though probably of a lifestyle that was not typical of that experienced by the vast majority of mountain folk. The hike will continue past the cabin and up to the peak of Blanket Mountain, home to an old (now demolished) fire tower. Hiking distance, about seven miles, rated moderate due to elevation gain. Drive: 50 mi each way. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

No outings have been scheduled for November-December. Check out the holiday party described on the meetings page.

CHEROKEE GROUP

To register for Cherokee Group outings, or for further details, contact Outings Chair Jeremy Gazaway at 423.619.6548 or via e-mail at gazaway_77@yahoo.com. We are interested in helping YOU become an outings leader for the club! Contact Jeremy for details as well as with your suggestions for outings you would like us to schedule. Where are you hankering to go??? Let us know.

November 22, Sunday, Day Hike on the Benton MacKaye Trail, 10:00 am, Cohutta Wilderness near Cleveland. Moderate hiking. Pack a sack lunch, water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, dress in layers. Departure time: 10:00 am.

December 5, Saturday, Afternoon Walk and Bonfire, 3:30 pm. Come along on this easy walk on part of the Guild-Hardy Trail in St. Elmo - up to

Ruby Falls and back. This trail is a walking/biking trail built on the historic route of the C & LM Broad Gauge Railroad and follows its path up the mountain. We'll have great views of Chattanooga and the Tennessee River. We'll end with hot cocoa and a bonfire at Elizabeth & Jeremy Gazaway's back yard at dusk. Dress warmly, in layers, and bring your friends on this fun get-together. For meeting place contact Jeremy.

January 17, Sunday, Lula Lake Day hike, 10:00 am. For this moderate day hike in the Lula Lake Land Trust on Lookout Mountain, dress warmly in layers, wear comfortable hiking shoes, carry sack lunch and water. We'll be exploring part of the trail on Lookout Mountain. Contact Jeremy for details.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

No outings are listed for Nov./Dec. Check out the holiday party listed on the meetings page.

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

Chickasaw Group News Contributed by various members

Chickasaw Group August Presentation Fred Winn, a Memphis area inventor and consultant, gave a presentation on his new fuel cell at the Sierra Club's August 26 program meeting at the Benjamin Hooks Central Library in Memphis.

At the meeting, he passed around an example of his electrolysis component for members to inspect. Mr. Winn has modified three cars so far, and provided local government with plans for their evaluation. The electrolysis provides hydrogen from water for a vehicle's engine to burn in addition to the gasoline.

He reported that his device achieves a 30% increase in fuel mileage. He calls his invention "the next step in the evolution of the internal combustion engine."

For more information, Mr. Winn can be contacted at R. C. W. Designs, 178 S. Barksdale St., Memphis, TN 38104.

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!

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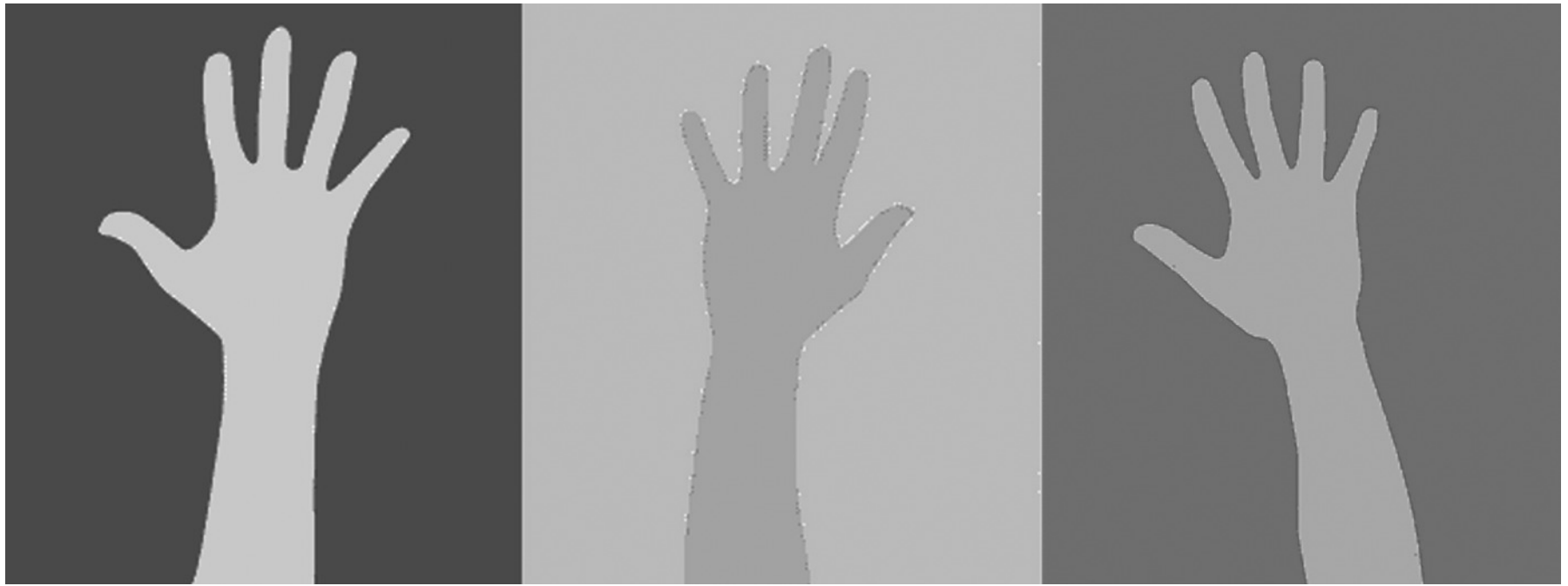
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Sierra Club members at the Tennessee Chapter's autumn retreat Oct. 23-25 at Pickett CCC Memorial State Park. Photo credit: David Bordenkircher



Tennessee Chapter Seeks Administrators Volunteer Positions Grow New Talents!

By Rachel Floyd

Whenever I look back on my adventures with Sierra Club I am always humbled by my education and experiences in the wisdom of the natural world, and thankful for the new professional talents acquired over the years.

I began my volunteer life with a gut full of determination to make a difference toward conservation of our earth's environment for my children's sake, but in the beginning I had no idea how, or where, I could best contribute. I was an unemployed temporary with no professional designation or college degree, so I thought what could a person like me possibly contribute?

Typically, when we think of activism most have images of dramatic rallies, speaking influentially at public hearings, authoring op-eds for newsprint, writing letters to this public official or that business executive, and researching an incident with the clarity of a scientist; a/k/a the fun stuff. Events and tasks all of which, at first, I could find things to really be terrified about.

So, I crouched in corners during club meetings and eavesdropped on conversations of the all knowing just hoping to somehow learn something useful, but then a real revelation hit me head on when I realized that I actually did have something the Sierra Club desperately needed. And what was that? Administrative fortitude!

Little did I know back then just how much my administrative skills were needed by the club because, let's face it, the fun stuff was being pursued by all the lawyer and PhD types. And, those folks usually have no use for the details. Ah! I could do the details!

So, I began with taking notes during meetings, then writing up minutes. Later I wrote checks for the treasurer then became the treasurer and ultimately learned to lay out a newsletter and publish web pages. Never more than what I could do, but always really excited that along the way I could easily expand my administrative skills by way of the many people and Sierra Club resources available to me as a member volunteer.

And now? Well quite honestly, it has been the honor of my life to be a part of such an esteemed organization. The work has, and is, very rewarding from the viewpoint that our club has done volumes to protect our earth's natural wonders. But aside from this, my administrative experience grew to the point where my previous worry about a formal college education became a thing of the past.

Today I feel that through my work and experience with the Sierra Club I now can claim to be far better educated than many college graduates, and the professional referral I've obtained is a huge benefit on my resume. Ah yes, there

are now many happy moments appreciating of the wealth in education of the natural world I've reaped through association and friendship with the lawyer and PhD types. If I were called upon to speak at a town hall meeting tomorrow, it would truly be no problem. The diversity in administrative capabilities makes me very valuable to my employer. What a difference from yesterdays!

So why am I sharing this with you? Well, it's because our Tennessee Chapter and many of its local groups are now faced with some new administrative concerns. We are moving into an era of electronic media, more complex treasury, and funding issues due to the changing economy. While we have some extraordinary talent in our Chapter, administrative aptitude is a valuable commodity in a minority. Quite simply, our administration has become severely challenged with growth and we need to expand our positions to welcome new people and their support!

Sierra Club's unique organization has much to offer those interested in supporting absolutely the very best cause—our earth's environment! New volunteers can start with small tasks, like I did, and build their experience, or bring existing skill/s to the table to gain recognition. Increasing the support and sustainability of our earth's natural environment can provide personal fulfillment and increase professional marketability!

You may be in-between employment now and bored, or otherwise you have some extra hours you'd like to offer the Sierra Club, yet you've either not known how or not known what you could contribute. So I invite you to examine the list of positions below and compare them to your personal situation. We need your help! Our club's administration is faced with many challenges in the future, and we will not be successful without additional—your—administrative fortitude!

Review and contact the position mentor directly if interested in a rewarding experience with the Sierra Club! And, if you don't see anything you like, we welcome you to start regularly coming to our meetings and begin actively listening for your opportunity to contribute.

Chapter Co-Treasurer

New Activist Mentor – Rachel Floyd, Chapter Treasurer, rfloyd557@bellsouth.net

Required Skills – High level of commitment to fiduciary responsibilities for period of 1+ year/s. Prior accounts payable/receivable experience utilizing PC based accounting software, basic level MS Excel, Internet, Email accessibility, good communication and organizational ability.

Will receive all requests for reimbursement,

invoices, etc. and write checks for each disbursement, entering/coding same into on-line QuickBooks software and then periodically forwarding all original paperwork to Chapter Treasurer for archiving.

Will directly receive, process, & record chapter funding allocation deposits from national and any other deposits as received.

Will immediately process and apply for foundation reimbursements, track applications in a foundation receivables Excel spreadsheet, and supply senior co-treasurer with same via email or mail.

Assistance with ad hoc reporting as requested by various Executive Committee members.

Chapter Secretary

New Activist Mentor – Katherine Pendleton, Chapter Chair, katibug1959@aol.com

Required Skills – Good listening, organizational and note-taking skills. Internet and email access needed. Good communication skills. Use MS Word or WordPerfect. Transcription experience a plus but not required.

Attends all quarterly chapter meetings. Requires participation in an afternoon meeting on Saturday and a morning meeting on Sunday. Overnight stay usually necessary but there is access to extremely affordable group lodge facilities and meals. Meeting venue is usually in beautiful state parks or scenic camp style facilities.

Take general notes either via laptop computer or handwriting and/or optionally monitor tape recordings of meetings..

The Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee requires those who introduce motions and resolutions to submit the final written verbiage to the secretary during meetings. As chapter secretary, you will be responsible for collecting these motions and incorporating them into the final minute's document. These documents are usually in MS Word, WordPerfect and/or PDF format.

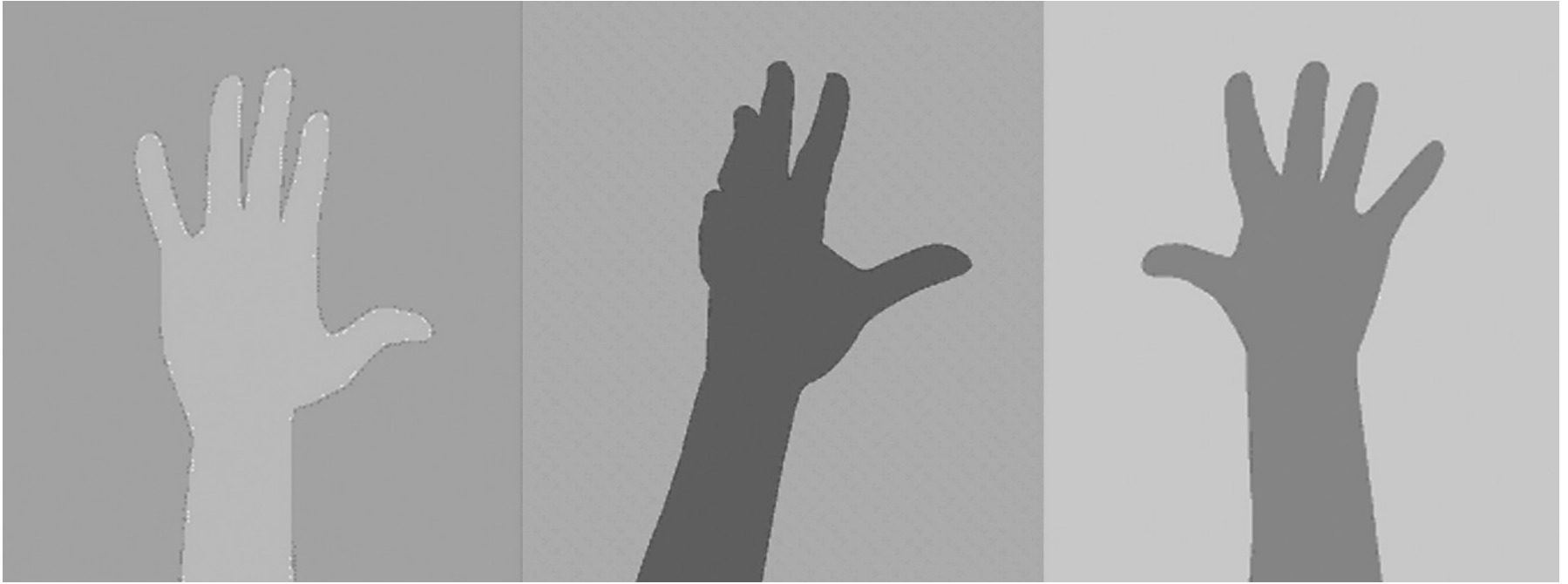
Transcribe all notes (using taped backup for reference) and documents into club minutes via MS Word, or equivalent, and present to the Executive Committee for approval. Responsible for cataloging of meeting minutes for historical review by Executive Committee members.

Chapter Media Reporters

New Activist Mentor/s – Various & Rachel Floyd - rfloyd557@bellsouth.net

Required Skills: Good grammar and creative writing skills; internet, email, organizational and communication skills; computer savvy very helpful.

Attend committee meetings and conference calls: listening, suggesting and then writing hot topic announcements and articles for publica-



tion in electronic email alerts and newsletters. Coordinates interesting graphics to accompany all written pieces.

Provide editing help for other activist volunteers who wish to contribute written materials, issue articles and press releases.

Chapter Photographers

New Activist Mentor/s – Various & Rachel Floyd - rfloyd557@bellsouth.net

Required Skills: A digital camera, internet savvy and bunches of creativity. Attend club meetings, outings, and events for the purpose of taking pictures of nature, hot topic subject matter, and club events. Post edited and prepared digital photos to a member web page along with detailed captions for use by all Chapter or Group newsletter graphic designers.

Chapter Electronic Newsletter Graphic Designers

New Activist Mentor - Rachel Floyd - rfloyd557@bellsouth.net

Required Skills: Computer and internet savvy,

and some web and database management experience. Must possess very good organizational and communications skills. Experience with digital photo editing and graphic design software desirable, but not required.

Coordinates and designs graphically pleasing newsletters to send periodically via our current electronic online newsletter service, Constant Contact (<http://www.constantcontact.com>).

Ensures that all electronic publications reflect club, chapter and/or group conservation policy and priorities in a manner that creates a sense of community.

Posts in newsletters information about outings, meetings, volunteer want ads, and information on local conservation events.

Designs conservation issue hot topic announcements to send via email to a list of interested individuals in coordination with conservation committee chairs.

Sends monthly welcome emails to new members using a template on our current electronic online newsletter service (Constant Contact).

Chapter Assistant Newsletter Graphics Designer

New Activist Mentor – Kenny Carlisle, kcarlisle@usw.org

Required Skills: Computer and internet savvy. Experience with digital photo editing and desktop publishing using Photoshop CS and Quark Xpress 6.0 or higher. Must have very good organizational and communications skills.

Designs the Tennes-Sierran newsletter when the regular designer, Kenny Carlisle, is not available and prepares the publication for printing and posting to the Tennessee Sierra Club website.

Chapter Assistant Editor

New Activist Mentor – Lynne Baker, lbaker@usw.org

Required Skills: Be able to edit copy for grammar and spelling errors and length. Have computer skills and be internet savvy. Must have very good organizational and communications skills and be willing to work with contributors.

Edit the Tennes-Sierran newsletter when the regular editor, Lynne Baker, is not available or needs extra help.

Tennessee Sierra Club Members go on “The Last Great Adventure”

“Now that is a germ of an idea that just needs a little tweaking,” said Webb Griffith, outings chair of the Watauga Group Sierra Club, after reading in the Richmond, Va., Times Dispatch newspaper about kayakers spending a few hours paddling on the James River. “Why not canoe and wilderness camp along the entire middle section of the historic James River?”

Canoeists of the Watauga Group, located in Northeast Tennessee, took this “germ of an idea” as a challenge and left Saturday August 22 to paddle the 120 river miles from Lynchburg to Richmond, Va., on the James River. One added “tweak” is the group partially navigated the river using a solar powered electric trolling motor.

Webb Griffith and Ron Rairgh are both Sierra Club certified outings leaders and Sierra Sportsmen. Webb also has his wilderness first aid certification. Dean Whitworth is a lifetime Sierra Club member and the conservation chair of the Watauga Group. The fourth member of the paddling team was Carl Osborn, an avid angler.

As another “tweak,” the sojourners buried a hidden treasure during the six-day trip. Somewhere on the James River, only accessible by boat, the travelers hid an aquacache. Sierra Club Water Sentinels program partnered with TRAK Kayak, Inc to make this treasure hunting contest possible.

Aquacaching is similar to Geocaching but only in waterways. This is a challenge to other canoeists and kayakers to locate this treasure using global positioning system (GPS) coordinates. Find the hidden prize, record the serial number and report the “find” to TRAK Kayak, Inc to be registered in a drawing to win a TRAK T-1600 Kayak worth \$4,000.00.

Ron Rairgh and Webb Griffith have placed another “treasure” cache on the South Fork of the New River near the NC/VA/TN state lines for adventure seekers looking for a chance to win the aquacache contest. “Getting more folks out into

nature enjoying rivers and creeks in or near national forests just makes protecting our natural resources that much easier,” said Wilbert Griffith.

Aquacaching is an adventure game for GPS users to find caches, accessible by kayak, canoe or other paddle craft. To get more familiar with treasure hunting with a GPS on the water go to www.geocaching.com. Next, check out the TRAK site at www.aquacaching.org. Then you can sign up at the aquacaching Facebook page to keep connected to the aquacaching community. For more information and to obtain the GPS coordinates for all “buried treasures” please go to <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=75457701237&ref=ts>

Seeing few other boaters during their six days on the water, the paddlers sighted a wide diversity of wildlife including osprey, golden eagle, bald eagle (followed the canoes for several days), red tail

hawk, northern goshawk, blue heron, sand piper, american bittern, grebe, river otter, muskrat, small-mouth bass, longnose gar, catfish, shad and turtles. “Sportsmen and paddlers are natural conservationists because they wish to pass wilderness experiences on to their children and grandchildren,” said Dean Whitworth.

What adventures they had! Webb wrote in his trip journal: “The red canoe hit a large submerged boulder that broke a large section off the keel, producing a small geyser in the low area. We unloaded the canoe, bailed the water out and repaired the damage with duct tape. We set off again into more class II rapids and the patching held!”

These James River explorers laughingly call this trip “The Last Great Adventure.” Laughing because their combined ages equal 250+ years and chuckling at the word “last” because they are already brainstorming their next river adventure.



Dean Whitworth and Ron Rairgh paddle toward some rapids on the James River. Photo: Webb Griffith

Dumping of Radioactive Waste into Landfills Poses Risk to Public

By Bill Reynolds

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's division of radiological health (DRH) permits nuclear waste processors to dump radioactive waste into five open garbage landfills in our state. When Tennessee environmentalists got wind of these practices, it took a long time to get to see relevant state documents.

Still there are facts we do not know. What are the radioactivity levels of what has been dumped? What are the cumulative amounts of radioactivity in the landfills? What are the levels of added radiation exposure to people who live around, downwind or downriver from these landfill sites?

Only as the result of a lot of effort by a few concerned Tennesseans do we now know something about the dumping of "declassified" radioactive waste in our landfills. According to a Nuclear Information and Resource Service report, the following Tennessee landfills have been receiving "processed" radioactive waste for over 10 years: North and South Shelby in Millington and Memphis, respectively; Middle Point in Murfreesboro; Carter's Valley in Church Hill near Knoxville; and Chestnut Hill landfill in Heiskell near Oak Ridge and Knoxville. www.nirs.org

Tennessee has the distinction of getting far greater amounts of landfill radioactive waste dumping than any other state in the U.S. This arises from the fact that we have so many low level radioactive waste

processing companies. These companies and the state collect a lot of money for selling the service. Plans are afoot to significantly increase the amount of radioactive waste being shipped into Tennessee from out of state and from around the world to be processed and dumped here.

In American nuclear-industry-speak there are two official main categories of radioactive waste: "High Level Radioactive Waste" (HLRW, aka HLW) and "Low Level Radioactive Waste" (LLRW, aka LLW). HLW refers to the spent fuel rods that come out of nuclear power plants. All the rest is called LLW. It seems the regulators consider LLW hardly very dangerous at all. Those who are well informed on the medical science point of view regarding the impact of radioactivity on the health of humans and other living creatures do not share this "don't worry about it" view.

"Processing" operations are used to de-classify and de-regulate the radioactive materials so they can be documented as non-hazardous and then released for public landfill dumping. The material that gets dumped is manipulated, mixed and cooked to reduce the levels of radioactivity per unit of volume so that it is thought to be below regulation control levels. (They do not actually scan the processed materials to measure the levels so we don't really know.)

This processing does not reduce the actual total amount of radioactivity. There is good reason to think that some of it spreads out into the air, land and

water around, downwind and downstream from both the processing facilities and the landfills, resulting in people being exposed to higher levels of radiation, thereby increasing their risks for cancer, leukemia and reproductive genetic mutations.

To work on this campaign contact www.solarvalleycoalition.net/Contact/whoweare.html

Further information is available at: www.solarvalleycoalition.net/NuclearWaste/LowLevel.html www.nirs.org/radwaste/llw/llwhome.htm, www.nirs.org/factsheets/fctsh.htm/wastesitesfctst43009.pdf



energy corner

Energy Matters Join Us in Activism

By Steven Sondheim

A number of teams are working to shape our energy future. Here's what we are doing and how you can help.

State Energy Team—Collaborate at the state and local level. Help your group work their issues. Join our conference calls usually the 1st Wednesdays at 7:30 pm CST. We will familiarize and train you. Contact Gloria Griffith, 423-727-4797 gl4797@embarqmail.com

National Energy Campaign—Strengthen progressive clean energy transportation and climate policies. <http://action.sierraclub.org/aces> Contact Steven Sondheim, 901/761-1793 stevensonsondheim@yahoo.com

Sign up as Climate Leaders—Sign up as Climate Leaders—Phone bank and write op-eds. www.sierraclub.org/climateleaders Sign petitions regarding EPA rules on coal mining, emissions, etc. www.sierraclub.org/bigpicture

National Energy Activists—Learn about national and international Climate Change efforts. Conference calls on alternate Tuesdays. Contact christina.yagjian@sierraclub.org

Nuclear Energy and Radioactive discussion Nov 14 at Sustainable Tennessee Summit, www.sustainabletn.org/media.php Tennessee is again the number one radioactive waste state in the

country. <http://bredl.org/stopincineration/index.htm>

TVA and Solar Valley Coalition—There are bimonthly calls regarding TVA issues, state energy plans, energy efficiency, renewables, pollution, coal ash, nuclear power and radioactive waste. Contact Louise Gorenflo, 931/484-2633, lgorenflo@gmail.com. A wonderful site for information is www.solarvalleycoalition.net

Transportation—Brian Paddock 931/268-2938 bpaddock@twlakes.net or Steven Sondheim at 901/761-1793 stevensonsondheim@yahoo.com

There was a meeting with Ed Cole of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). He spoke about TDOT's reaction to polices in the U.S. Department of Transportation's reauthorization; the Clean Low-Emissions Affordable New Transportation Equity Act (CLEAN TEA) and Senate climate change legislation; Housing and Urban Development (HUD) appropriations and how the stimulus transportation funds have been applied; shovel-ready projects; the status and next steps regarding public transportation policy and funding; the efforts/results on getting government entities to integrate transportation/land use policies rules; a preview of budget, revenue and transportation issues for 2010; enforcement of the 55 mph limit; how to get out of non-attainment air quality; and the handling of pedestrian traffic accidents by government entities.

The Clean Low-Emissions Affordable New Transportation Equity Act (CLEAN TEA) is a bill added on to the energy bill that holds the Department of Transportation responsible for its contribution to energy use, greenhouse gas, and climate change. The focus concerns funding for lower vehicle miles traveled, better land use and transit. Join the ongoing work by the Sierra Club and its partners: www.t4America.org and www.smartgrowthamerica.org See www.t4america.org/transitcuts and www.movingcooler.info

Breaking News and Actions—Corridor K and I-3: Waysouth opposes the intrusive and destructive Corridor K. Public comments accepted until Nov 30 <http://corridor.k.org/about/USACOE.php> The Southern Environmental Law Center's site is very informative http://www.southernenvironment.org/cases/corridor_k For more information contact Axel Ringe at onyxfarm@bellsouth.net

Dangerous by Design—Solving the Epidemic of Preventable Pedestrian Deaths Report by Location <http://t4america.org/resources/dangerousbydesign>

Global Warming, Energy: Help your locale be energy efficient and join a climate action plan. For more information go to the Cool Cities website, <http://coolcities.us>. Contact Mary Mastin, 931-268-2938, marymastin@twlakes.net

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds a block grant program to fund energy efficiency and conservation projects at the state and local levels. To help at your local level contact Don Scharf at 615-896-8338, d.scharf@comcast.net

For up-to-date information on the Energy Corner go to <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/>



Moving?



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

Current Address: _____

Member ID# _____

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Mail to:

Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968 Boulder, CO 80322-2968

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group
Tennes-Sierran
3340 Perimeter Hill Drive
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

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