

Tennes-Sierran

The bimonthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 41, Number 2 - March/April, 2010

Tennessee Chapter Mines for Email Addresses!

Printed newsletters are becoming increasingly a more expensive product to produce and mail. At the same time, our Tennessee Chapter's financial resources are being stretched to their limit! As a result the newsletter now is published only every other month, and we may unfortunately be forced to publish even less often in the future. Because we are publishing less often, print media is quickly becoming less and less feasible for communicating timely action alerts, announcing events, meetings and outing schedules, so the Chapter has begun to mine for email addresses using electronic communication facilities!

One way to help us battles the raising costs of print and postage, but keep our folks plugged into more timely alerts is to subscribe to one of our Chapter electronic communication services. Currently, we have two types of electronic communications services:

- **TENNESSEE-ALERTS** listserv
- **GO PAPERLESS** Tennes-Sierran

The **first type** of electronic communication is to join our **TENNESSEE-ALERTS** listserv. If you, as a Sierra Club member, are a concerned citizen, and want to receive an occasional alerts in order to prompt yourself to take action on behalf of your environment, join this **TENNESSEE-ALERTS** listserv. To subscribe, simply provide us with your email address by –

Sending an email to:

LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG
and put in the message area:
SUBSCRIBE TENNESSEE-ALERTS
YourFirstName YourLastName
(Substitute your actual first and last name
in the places indicated.)

The **second type** of electronic communication is to subscribe to our **GO PAPERLESS** Tennes-Sierran. With this service you will stop receiving a printed Tennes-Sierran, but you will receive a bi-monthly email notification corresponding with release of new Tennes-Sierran

issues with a link for download of your electronic Tennes-Sierran PDF (FREE Adobe Acrobat Reader software installation required) from our website. You must be a member to subscribe to the **PAPERLESS** Tennes-Sierran, so have your membership number handy (look into the address box of this issue for your number) and go to this link to subscribe:

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

Remember, email is de facto standard of communication in the world today. **We won't abuse your trust, and you would only receive a maximum of two alerts per month.**

If you want to receive electronic action alerts, save your Sierra Club chapter valuable financial resources and keep yourself informed in a timelier manner, subscribe to one – OR BOTH – of our electronic communication services today!

It's that simple. Do it now for yourself, your family, your community, your Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club!

8th Annual Wilderness First Aid Training Scheduled for April 17-18, 2010

There are still some spots left for the eighth annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training (WFA) the weekend of April 17-18, 2010 at Fall Creek Falls State Park near Sparta, Tenn. Landmark Learning, LLC, our training provider for the previous seven years, will perform the training again this year, teaching the National Outdoors Leadership School (NOLS) WFA curriculum. This educational weekend features top notch training in an outdoor setting by field experienced instructors.

Course: WFA - 16 hours / 2-yr certification. Fast paced and hands-on, this two-day course covers a wide range of wilderness medicine topics for people who travel in the outdoors or who spend time in the backcountry as either a passion or profession. In this course you will learn to prepare for the unexpected. You will acquire knowledge and skills that will help you make sound decisions in emergency situations. This course is ideal for trip leaders, camp staff, outdoor enthusiasts, and individuals in remote locations. This NOLS course is pre-approved by such organizations as the American Camping Association and the U.S. Forest Service. Visit the NOLS website <http://www.nols.edu/wmi/courses/outlines/wildfirstaidoutline.shtml> for course details.

When: April 17-18, 2010

Where: Fall Creek Falls State Park near Sparta, Tenn. Training will be held Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Picnic Pavilion #1. Please make arrangements to arrive on Friday night, April 16.

What is included: Training by highly qualified instructors.

Not included: Meals, lodging, Sierra membership, CPR certification

Lodging: We plan to camp in the Fall Creek Falls State Park Campground. There are walk-in campsites available at reduced charge. Participants are responsible for securing their own lodging.

Cost: \$175, non-refundable – Sierra commits to Landmark, you commit to Sierra

Payment due: April 1, 2010

Other Info: 1 – Membership in Sierra is required. You can join online at <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/> or Katherine Pendleton can send you a membership form. Introductory memberships are \$25. 2 – Participant must have health insurance coverage and complete a health form. 3 – Participant must sign Sierra liability waiver. 4 – Participant must sign NOLS/Landmark Learning liability waiver.

Enrollment: Complete participant form and send with check to Katherine Pendleton, P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229.

Questions: Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email kdpendleton1@aol.com.

Note: This course is not for Wilderness

First Responder recertification.

Value: Wilderness first aid classes of this caliber often cost up to twice this amount. Sierra's goal in providing this training is to help insure the safe enjoyment of the great outdoors, and we price this course accordingly for our members.

Membership: We require membership in return for the value pricing offered. By becoming a member, you will receive both the Chapter (state of Tennessee) newsletter and the national Sierra Club publication, Sierra magazine. Each of these publications will help keep you aware of challenges to the great outdoors and suggest actions that you can take to preserve the things about nature that we value.

**8th Annual First Aid Wilderness Training
Enrollment Form**

Name _____ Phone # _____
Street _____ City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____
Previous 1st Aid Training _____

A non-refundable payment of \$175 is due by April 1, 2010

- to participate in this training you must be a Sierra Club member
- introductory Sierra Club memberships are \$25
 - I will go to <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/> to join on line _____
 - please send me a membership form _____

NOTE – Meals/ lodging/camping, and Sierra membership are not included in the course fee of \$175

I am seeking recertification of a previous WFA certification

- YES ___ NO ___ If yes, previous certification is NOLS ___ SOLO ___ Other ___
- Note-this is not a recertification class for Wilderness First Responders

Please send check along with this form to: Katherine Pendleton
Make check to TN Chapter Sierra Club P.O. Box 290306
Nashville, TN 37229

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: lbaker@usw.org
Snail Mail: Lynne Baker, Tennes-Sierran Editor
PO Box 1504, Antioch, TN 37011
(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.

Get Environmental News

Subscribe to the Tennessee News Listserve and receive national and Tennessee environmental information from other Sierra Club members.

Send an email to
LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG
and put in the message area:

SUBSCRIBE TENNESSEE-NEWS
YourFirstName YourLastName
(Substitute your actual first and last name in the places indicated.)



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.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

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

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



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

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

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

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80522-2968
or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org F940 W 4300 1

Sierra Club Officers

TENNESSEE CHAPTER:

Chair: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
Vice Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797@embarqmail.com
Secretary: Bob Hill (865) 966-9435
Treasurer: Scott Kramer

Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185
GB1Nature@aol.com
Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
judithhammond@bellsouth.net
CCL Delegate: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
donrich@juno.com
CCL Alternate: Brian Paddock (931) 268-2938
bpaddock@twlakes.net

TN LOCAL GROUPS:

Cherokee Group

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
Chair: Elizabeth Tallman (423) 619-0379
elizabethjamestallman@hotmail.com
Vice Chair: Jamie Brown (423) 255-3014
jdbrown5188@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Barbara Hurst (423) 866-9503
barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com
Conser. Chair: Dr. Henry Spratt (423) 425-4383
henry-spratt@utc.edu
Secretary: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009
rpyle@chattanooga.net
Outings Co-Chairs: Jeremy Gazaway (423) 619-6548
gazaway_77@yahoo.com
Denis Kiely (423) 881-3620
dkiely@bledsoe.net

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
Chair: Nancy Brannon (901) 829-4360
brannon.n@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Keith Hoover (901) 363-8299
hooverkw@yahoo.com
Secretary: Emily Schwimmer (901) 240-5476
eschwimm@gmail.com
Treasurer: Susan Routon (901) 413-3888
suestreasure@msn.com
Conservation: Keven Routon (901) 485-3960
kwrates@mac.com
Tabling: Keith Hoover (901) 363-8299
hooverkw@yahoo.com
Outings: Matt Farr (901) 409-3067
matt.tennessierran@gmail.com
Membership: Keith Hoover (901) 363-8299
hooverkw@yahoo.com
TV Program: Judith Rutschman (901) 767-5916
jrutchman@gmail.com

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
Chair: Bob Hill (865) 966-9435
robin.hill8@google.com
Vice-Chair: John Finger (865) 573-5908
jfinger@utk.edu
Conservation: Axel Ringe (865) 387-1840
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518
ronaldshrieves@comcast.net

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg
Chair: David Bordenkircher
dabordenkircher@mindspring.com
Vice Chair: Don Scharf, 615-896-8338
d.scharf@comcast.net
Conservation: VACANT
Membership: Betsy Garber, 615-668-1977
garberb@hotmail.com
Outings: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com

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

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga
Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797@embarqmail.com
Vice Chair: Sandi Cranford 423-727-5044
sunshine@highcountryonline.net
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797@earthlink.net

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg
Chair: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
zeblady@twlakes.net
Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6207
Jmcquail@intech.edu
Treasurer: Ralph Bowden
Secretary: Peggy Evans
Conservation: Easton Evans
Outings: Vacant

National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:

Rita Harris, Community Organizer
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org
Bill McCabe, Central Appalachian EJ Organizer
office - 423-944-3220 fax - 423-944-3221 (call first)

Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

New Design Footprints T-Shirts

Black print quotation:
"The human spirit needs places where
nature has not been rearranged by the
hand of man." - Unknown Author
on gray background.



Size	Qty	Unit Price	Total
Small	X	\$16.00	=
Medium	X	\$16.00	=
Large	X	\$16.00	=
XX-Large	X	\$16.00	=
Sub-Total			
Shipping - Enter			
Total # of T-Shirts	X	\$5.00	=
Grand Total			=

Please make checks payable to:
TN Chapter Sierra Club

Mail To:
T-Shirt Order Fulfillment
P.O. Box 290306 - Nashville, TN 37229

OR

Visit us on-line at:
<http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/footprints.htm>

To pay by e-check or credit card
(sorry, credit cards only accepts via on-line orders)

National Club Election Coming This Spring

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet for those who chose the electronic delivery option) a national Sierra Club ballot.

This board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the executive director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Learn more about the candidates and their views on various issues facing the Club and the environment by visiting the Club's election website:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2010election/default.aspx>

The candidates are listed below in the order they will appear on the ballot:

Katherine Pendleton (TN) P
 Phil Wheeler (CA) N
 Jared Duval (CT) N
 Jim Dougherty (DC) N
 Allison Chin (VA) N
 Donna Buell (IA) N
 Robbie Cox (NC) N
 Jonathan Ela (WI) N

N = Nominating Committee candidate; P = Petition candidate

SIERRA DEFENDERS UPDATE

The Sierra Club Defenders campaign, which funds our critical legislative and lobbying work, is in a difficult but very important year. **We need new Defenders and we need your support!** We know you have many demands on your resources, but please give as generously as you can. The Defender campaign is a grassroots volunteer effort and **100% of the proceeds** are dedicated to program purposes and **stay in Tennessee.**

Your contribution is not tax-deductible but is critical in enabling us to have an advocate on "the hill". **Please** send your contribution, made out to Sierra Club Defenders, to Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. **Thank you.**

Penny Brooks and Bill Terry, Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

Amount of donation: \$75 \$150 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

May we publish your name in the TennesSierran as a donor? Yes _____ No _____

(OPTIONAL) Your e-mail address (for acknowledgement of your contribution). **We will not divulge the address nor use it for other purposes.**

I do not need any acknowledgement. Save Defender funds for program purposes.

Many thanks to our Defender contributors December 10 – February 10, 2010.

Charles Knox
 Dr. William Schaffner and Ms. Lois Knight
 Robert and Elizabeth Peelle
 Charles High and Deb Dixon
 John and Chris McCarthy
 Bill and Dorothy DeVan
 Sharon Boyce
 Martha Simmons
 Caty and Laurence Butcher
 Glen and Martha Wilson
 Nancy K. Anderson
 Mary Mastin and Brian Paddock
 Dorothy Harness
 Diana Page
 John Harwood
 Anonymous

Emerson and Margaret Meggs
 Robert Stanley
 Tom Cullen and Wray Estes
 Clark Buchner
 Bill Terry and Adelle Wood
 Gary Bowers
 Corinne Giagnorio and Van Bunch
 Cathy Conley
 Wally and Patty Wood
 Jack Lyle and Mary Buckner
 Bonnie Seay
 Margaret Olson
 Chris and John Norris
 Deborah Narrigan
 Julia Ann Walker



100% of proceeds are dedicated to program purposes and stay in Tennessee!

Corner

The Chair's

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

March is significant to the Sierra Club in two important ways. First, during March, chapters send out fundraising appeals to members and second, the board of directors ballots are distributed.

This month when you receive the March Window letter from me, please consider giving a little more this year. Due to the economy this past year, contributions to the Tennessee Chapter have plummeted. We will not be able to continue paying for our lobbyist if we are not able to raise more funds in 2010. Since many Tennessee Chapter members are not actively involved at the local or state level, having a lobbyist is vital to insuring that we have a voice in the Tennessee legislature.

We really must have every Sierra Club member in Tennessee send in a contribution to the Tennessee Chapter this year in order to continue our environmental campaigns and programs.

The Sierra Club elects five directors each year to serve on a 15-member board of directors. The board of directors governs the Sierra Club. A large percentage of Sierra Club members do not vote! When you receive your ballot, please take a moment to vote. The Tennessee Chapter endorsed the 2010 candidates as follows: Donna Buell (IA); Allison Chin (VA); Phil Wheeler (CA); and **Katherine Pendleton (TN).**

In April, the Tennessee Chapter will be hosting its 8th Wilderness First Aid training at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Look for additional information and a registration form in this issue of the newsletter.

Several new people have assumed leadership roles in January at the Chapter level. Scott Kramer (Cherokee Group) is our newly elected Chapter treasurer. Brian Paddock (UCG) is our Council of Club Leaders (CCL) alternate delegate. Keven Routon (Chickasaw Group) is the lead volunteer for the NaP (Nitrogen and Phosphorus) Team. (The Tennessee NaP Team was organized during the winter Chapter meeting.) Thank you for your willingness to support our Chapter in these roles.

Rachel Floyd, our out-going Chapter treasurer, served in that role for the past three years. Rachel has recently become involved at the national level with the Sierra Club on the Finance Committee. Thank you, Rachel, for your service to the Tennessee Chapter.

The Chickasaw Group hosted our Winter Chapter meeting at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Our thanks go to the Chickasaw kitchen crew headed up by Susan Routon for great meals served during that weekend.

Our next Chapter meeting will be hosted by the Harvey Broome Group, May 14-16, 2010 at Wesley Woods in Townsend, Tenn.

The Tennessee Chapter needs your email address in order to keep you up to date with environmental news, notices, and events. Please forward your email address to me at kdpendleton1@aol.com.

Wishing you a glorious springtime and memorable Earth Day events!

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

Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

MARCH PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville.

Our Annual Outings Program! Outings Chair Ron Shrieves coordinates discussion and illustration of the varied programs offered through February 2011, including day hikes, backpacks, canoe trips, car camping, etc. In most cases you will have an opportunity to hear the leaders themselves discussing their outings as well as see slides, maps and other visual aids. Complete brochures of the outing schedule will be available free of charge.

MARCH STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. The Harvey Broome Group Executive Committee meets to discuss Group operations and initiatives. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate.

APRIL PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, April 13, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Hugh Irwin from the Southern Appalachian Regional Organization will discuss initiatives his group is pursuing in 2010 and beyond.

APRIL STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Join the Harvey Broome Group Executive Committee as it discusses Group operations and initiatives. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, March 11, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville

Did you know that the Sierra Club nationally has a strong environmental justice (EJ) program? Our own Middle Tennessee Group is initiating an EJ program to address such concerns as polluting industries being located in poor neighborhoods and lack of access by residents of poorer neighborhoods to mainstream grocery stores, creating "food deserts" where fresh produce and other healthful foods are unavailable to them.

In this vein, our speakers this month are Miriam Leibowitz, Re/Storing Nashville coordinator, and Shavaun Evans, MANNA-Food Security Partners (FSP), an organization dedicated to ending hunger and creating a healthy, just, and sustainable food system. Through innovative campaigns like Re/Storing Nashville, MANNA-FSP works to ensure that all Middle Tennesseans have access to affordable and healthy foods. Re/Storing Nashville aims to increase access to healthy food for low-income community members by establishing economic development incentives for grocery stores locating in Nashville's "food desert" neighborhoods. The initiative works closely with residents from Nashville's three identified food desert areas: North Nashville, East Nashville, and Edgehill.

The Re/Storing Nashville campaign will be highlighted along with other food security issues in Nashville, including food access, healthy school food and more.

Please bring your questions and your ideas. Free and open to the public

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, April 8, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville

2010 is the 25th anniversary of Tennessee's Rare Plant Protection and Conservation Act of 1985. Andrea Shea Bishop, a botanist with the Natural Heritage Program in the Bureau of State Parks, Tennessee Department of Conservation (TDEC), works with the 22 federal endangered plant species throughout the state. With annual funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, she establishes monitoring projects, conducts research and surveys the state for new populations of these species. Through field investigations and research and management activities this program seeks to prevent imperiled species of plants and animals from becoming further imperiled, to affect the recovery of federally listed species so that they may be de-listed and to prevent the extirpation of critically imperiled species. Andrea's PowerPoint presentation will discuss the current status of the rare plant program and the significance of the Act. Be prepared to learn while enjoying some beautiful slides. Visitors are very welcome.

STRATEGY MEETING: Third Mondays, March 15 and April 19, 6:30 p.m. at the United Steelworkers

Union Building, 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211. Follow the signs to the conference area. If you arrive late, please ring the bell at the side door on the left, and someone will come down to let you in. 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. If you have problems finding or accessing the building, call Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877.

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)

Directions to Our Meeting Place: GreenSpaces is located at 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Going south on Market Street from downtown, take a left onto Main. Go slow and look to your left—63 E. Main is at the end of that first block—it is a brick building with a glass storefront—and being environmentally conscious they don't have a big billboard announcing themselves!! If you get to the fire hall on the right—you've gone too far! GreenSpaces is kiddy-corner across the street from the fire hall. (If you get down to Central Blvd., you've gone way too far.) Turn around and find a place to park nearby on the street. If you get lost or can't find it, call Barbara Kelly (423.718.5009)—we don't want anybody to miss out on the meetings! Don't let fear of the neighborhood keep you away! It is SAFE; many people are out and about in the block visiting the new art galleries, eateries, etc. in this new "art district!"

MARCH STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, March 10, 6:00 p.m., at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Come on in and take a seat at the big table made of recycled wood blocks, just to the right as you come in the door! All interested members welcome to participate in the administrative and conservation business of the Group. We will be finalizing our plans for April Earth Day tabling, celebrations and outings. Come be involved! For directions, see above.

MARCH PROGRAM MEETING: Monday, March 29, 7:00 p.m., at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Our speaker, Jeff Hunter, coordinates the Tennessee Wild project for the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition. Tennessee Wild is dedicated to protecting wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. Hunter, a naturalist, avid fisherman and backpacker, will focus on Tennessee Wild's effort to protect more than 20,000 acres of the Cherokee National Forest as wilderness. This includes expansions of the Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Wilderness and the establishment of the brand new nearly 10,000-acre Upper Bald River Wilderness. In addition, Hunter will discuss recreational opportunities in the forest. The public is always welcome, and excellent refreshments will be available after the program! For directions, see above.

APRIL STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, April 14, 6:00 p.m., at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Pull up a chair to the big table just inside the door to the right as you come in! All interested members are invited to be a part of planning our conservation and community activities—this is where the business of the Club gets done! For directions, see above.

APRIL PROGRAM MEETING: Monday, April 26, 7:00 p.m., at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Just after Earth Day and John Muir's birthday, we are reprising the popular movie King Corn and highlighting our hope of the future—our next generation of environmental leaders! Miguel de la Cruz, senior at East Ridge High School, Chattanooga, will report on school projects at East Ridge related to organic agriculture, water/stream quality analysis, and solar design and other green activities. Bring your questions! Bring your questions! We'll take a break and set up the projector. Back by popular demand is King Corn!! The movie starts with two friends and one acre of corn, and goes from there to explore how corn's overproduction has had troubling effects on the environment, public health and

animal welfare, leaving us with plenty of food for thought. The public is very welcome, bring your friends. Great refreshments will be served after the program (but not popcorn this time!). For directions, see above. We have trees for sale too: \$5 will get you a potted native tree, sprouted in time for spring planting! Pick up a black oak, catalpa, walnut or native persimmon. This is part of our Group's focus on saving the trees!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

(Sign up for our monthly email events list on the calendar page <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/>)

Monthly First Thursday Gathering, Thursday, March 4, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Otherlands, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis. Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Keith Hoover at hooverkw@yahoo.com or (901) 363-8299.

Strategy Meeting, Monday, March 8, 6:30 pm, Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis. The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. Agenda items must be submitted at least three days (preferably five) before the ExCom meeting. For more information or to place items on the agenda, contact Nancy Brannon at brannon.n@gmail.com or (901) 581-5013.

Presentation: TBA, Wednesday, March 24, 6:30 pm, Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis. Topic and speaker to be announced at a later date. Check our website for the latest details. For more information or to suggest a presentation, contact Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or (901) 413-3888.

Monthly First Thursday Gathering, Thursday, April 1, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Otherlands, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis. Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Keith Hoover at hooverkw@yahoo.com or (901) 363-8299.

Strategy Meeting, Monday, April 12, 6:30 pm, Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis. The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. For more information or to place items on the agenda, contact Nancy Brannon at brannon.n@gmail.com or (901) 581-5013.

Presentation: TBA, Thursday, April 22, 6:30 pm, Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis. Topic and speaker to be announced at a later date. Check our website for the latest details. For more information or to suggest a presentation, contact Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or (901) 413-3888.

"Down To Earth Celebration," Sunday, April 25, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Shelby Farms Park, Memphis. The Mid-south's largest Earth Day celebration, this event features environmental education and activities, entertainment and fun for all ages. The festival will offer a variety of environmentally friendly exhibits, arts and crafts, live music and entertainment, an assortment of food and beverages, park tours, hiking and other outdoor demonstrations and activities. Free admission. The Chickasaw group will have a booth at this event. To volunteer to help at the booth, contact Keith Hoover at hooverkw@yahoo.com or (901) 363-8299.

"Nature of Conservation" Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Cable TV Show on WYPL-TV 18 (Comcast): Days and times vary -- see <http://www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/schedule/> (or the Comcast on-screen guide) for the latest schedule. Topic changes every month. For more information, or if anyone has an idea for a future program, contact Judith Rutschman at jcrutschman@gmail.com or (901) 767-5916.

Yahoo Group "Sierra Club-Chickasaw Group & Friends": This is a free 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/>

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith at gl4797@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)

March 6 (Sat). Day Hike, Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness. This small wilderness area contains a 110-foot waterfall, although you have to work a bit to get to it. The area is known for underground water seeps; indeed, the water that goes over Virgin Falls disappears into the earth. We'll learn a bit about the "karst" formations that characterize the area. The trail winds along and down into a gorge for about 4 miles before reaching the waterfall, with a loss of 800 feet in elevation along the way. This trail has steep sections, and is rated difficult. Good hiking boots are required. Drive: 108 mi each way. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

March 14 (Sun). Day Hike, Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge. An area just 15 miles east of Knoxville. This natural area is home to many native plants, wildlife and trees and is a demonstration area for land and habitat management techniques. Rated easy, about 4 miles along the French Broad River. Drive 15 miles one way. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or call at 335-3559.

March 20-21 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Cumberland Trail (LaFollete to Cove Lake State Park). The Cumberland Trail Association extends from Kentucky to Georgia, and one of the best sections is a short drive from Knoxville. This section is perhaps the most geologically varied trail in east Tennessee, which we'll learn about as the trail follows the edge of the Cumberland Plateau. After a steep climb near LaFollette there's a wonderland of rock along the edge of the Cumberland Plateau escarpment from LaFollette to I-75 and Cove Lake State Park, ranging from a "Great Wall of China" to a stone arch and lookouts, with vistas of the Powell River valley and the Cumberland Mountains; at the south end is the Devil's Racetrack visible from I-75. Hiking distance is about 11 miles total and it is rated moderate. Drive: 32 miles each way. Pre-register with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; emailwhshome@bellsouth.net.

April 3 (Sat). Wildflower Day Hike, Porters Creek Trail in GSMNP. Learn about the 20-30 natural wildflowers in a variety of natural areas along 1.9 miles to the waterfall and back. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or call at 335-3559. Rated easy. Drive 60 miles one way. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or call at 335-3559.

April 10 (Sat.) Day Event, River Rescue. We'll provide assistance to Ijams Nature Center in Knoxville. Come on out with your boots and gloves and help clean out a portion of a river or creek in the local area. This is an actual hands-on environmental conservation event where each one of us can learn how we can make a difference in nature. Some refreshments provided. Drive 15 miles each way. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or call at 335-3559.

April 17 (Sat), Earth Day Tabling Event, Knoxville. Volunteers are needed to help (3-hour shifts) with handing out info on our club at the Knoxville Earth Day event at Pellissippi State on Hardin Valley Road between 9 am to 5 pm. FREE. Lots of goodies being handed out, and learn how you can save energy and be conservative in your own home/car including recycling and composting. Learn what a zero waste event actually is. Snacks and water will be provided for all volunteers. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or call at 335-3559.

April 17-18 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, New River Segment, Cumberland Trail. The New River Segment of the Cumberland Trail will extend approximately 38 miles between Frozen Head State Park and Cove Lake State Park through some of the wildest and least-visited terrain in Tennessee. As of January 2010 around 11 miles remain to be built. The Cumberland Trail Conference and its volunteers plan to complete this undone portion this spring and fall, so our group will be

among the first to use this trail. We will see nearly all of the segment in two weekend trips. This trip, on completed trail, will start at Cove Lake SP, ascend Cross Mountain, then descend to a camp on Green's Branch. From there we'll ascend McCory Ridge and Anderson Mountain (spectacular views and possible elk sightings) then descend to Norma Rd. near the New River where we hope to arrange a shuttle back to Cove Lake SP. So come along and explore this gem of a trail, and learn about continuing efforts to complete its construction. Total distance: 17.2 miles. Rated moderate. Drive: 32 miles each way. Pre-register with Warren Devine, 483-7894 or wdevine@bellsouth.net.

April 24 (Sat), Earth Day Tabling Event, Oak Ridge. Volunteers needed to help (3-hour shifts) with handing out info on our club at the Oak Ridge Earth Day event at Bissell Park from 11 am to 3 pm. FREE. Lots of goodies are being handed out including info on ways to save energy. Learn how you can be conservative in your own home/car, and learn about the history of Oak Ridge and the nuclear industry. Snacks and water will be provided for all volunteers. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or call 335-3559.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

March 20 (Sat.), Day Hike, Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Nashville. There are a number of trails that we can take. Meet at the visitors center at 9:00 am and we will choose a trail then. Please register with Dave Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com or call 615-333-3377.

April 9-11, MTG Retreat-Cumberland Mountain State Park at the Millhouse. Middle Tennessee Group will host a family friendly retreat at the Millhouse Group Lodge at Cumberland Mountain State Park. Plan on spending a relaxed weekend with fellow Sierrans. Activities will include hiking, eating good meals, and fellowship. Last year, we played cards till midnight! Saturday/Sunday meals and lodging provided by MTG. There is a state park lodge restaurant available for Friday night supper. They have a seafood buffet on Friday nights. Pre-register please with Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or Kdpendleton1@aol.com.

April 10, Middle Tennessee Water Sentinel Training. The Sierra Club Water Sentinel Program is establishing a water sentinel group in Middle Tennessee. We will have a training session on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at the Millhouse Lodge in Cumberland Mountain State Park from 3-5 p.m. This training will be held simultaneously with the Middle Tennessee Group retreat. The training will focus on water sampling and is free. For additional information please contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Kdpendleton1@aol.com.

April 17-18, Wilderness First Aid Training. Tennessee Chapter-sponsored 8th WFA training at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Cost is \$165/person. Participants responsible for own lodging and meals. For registration information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Kdpendleton1@aol.com.

May 1 (Sat.), Day Hike, Shelby Bottoms in Nashville. We can stop at the nature center to find plant and animal information on the hiking trails. Meet at 9:00 am at the Nature Center and we can go from there. Easy trails. We might do some bird watching. Please register with Dave Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com or call 615.333.3377.

CHEROKEE GROUP

March 14, Lula Lake Land Trust Day Hike @ 10 a.m. Open to the public. Come enjoy a hike to Lula Lake and Lula Falls and enjoy the scenery and natural beauty that is part of the 4,000 acres in the Rock Creek watershed the Land Trust (www.lulalake.org) now protects on Lookout Mountain. The Trust, established by the will of Robert Davenport in 1994, works to preserve this unique area for future generations, while advancing education and research into the native plant and animal life in the watershed. Please contact Cherokee Group Outings Chair Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway [gazawaypainting@gmail.com / phone: 423.619.6548] for meeting place or more information. Bring water and trail lunch; wear comfortable hiking shoes and attire.

March 27, Signal Point Day Hike @ 11 a.m. Open

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!

to the public. Come enjoy a hike on part of the Cumberland Trail, which begins at Signal Point Park on Signal Mountain. We'll have beautiful views of the Tennessee River Gorge, known as the "Grand Canyon of the Tennessee." Bring water and trail lunch; wear comfortable hiking shoes and attire. Meet at 11:00 am at Signal Point Park. Please contact Cherokee Group Outings Chair Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway [gazawaypainting@gmail.com / phone: 423.619.6548] for more information.

April 9-10, Chattanooga Green Festival celebrating Earth Day 2010. This Friday and Saturday event at Chattanooga's Renaissance and Coolidge parks will include a Sierra Club table! Put it on your calendar. There'll be outstanding displays; how-to demonstrations of gardening; presentations on solar, green building, and recycling; "green" vehicles; a fantastic collection of things going on—all promoting sustainability and the environment. Our Group needs volunteers to man our table, sell our potted native trees (black oak, catalpa, walnut and native persimmon) and help with a few "demonstrations" we'll be doing. How does kite making out of newspapers with kids sound?! For more information, and to volunteer, call/contact Tami Freedman [423.591.3354 or tamifreedman@aol.com].

April 24-25, Virgin Falls Backpack! Celebrate John Muir's birthday, founder of the Sierra Club, and join us on a wonderful camping trip to explore the beauty of the Cumberland Plateau at Virgin Falls. Everyone is invited. In Chattanooga we will be meeting at 9:00 am Saturday at Coolidge Park's parking lot (off Frazier Avenue in North Chattanooga). It is a 2-hour drive to our destination, so carpooling is suggested. Bring usual backpacking gear: food for 2 days, extra clothes, rain gear, plenty of water, comfortable hiking shoes, insect repellent, tent, sleeping bag, matches, knife, flashlight, etc. We will be hiking both days, so be prepared, and bring a camera! This is a stunningly beautiful place which you will never forget (check out these images www.ncwaterfalls.com/vfpw1.htm). Please contact Cherokee Group Outings Chair Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway [gazawaypainting@gmail.com / phone: 423.619.6548] for more information. The hike is of moderate difficulty. Please invite your friends. As always, our outings are open to the public, and this is a part of Tennessee not to be missed!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Join the Green Building Tour during the week of March 15. This free tour is a partnership between the Sierra Club and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) aimed at helping cities nationwide make green building a key component of their economic and environmental sustainability efforts. This tour highlights local economic and environmental benefits of energy-efficient, sustainable buildings. See firsthand the realities and potential of high-performing, green building strategies. For specifics check the calendar at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/>

Do you enjoy outdoor events in Tom Lee Park and care about our environment? Do you recycle? This year during Memphis in May, we're ramping up our greening effortsand we need your help to make it happen.* **Volunteer for the Memphis in May Green Team!*** In fun four-hour shifts you can make a difference by leading our recycling efforts.* To volunteer, go to www.memphisinmay.org.* For more information about the Memphis In May*Green Team, call Tom Lawrence at 901-237-4819 901-237-4819.

Cherokee National Forest Wilderness Needs Your Help

By Will Skelton

In the mid-1980's, the U.S. Congress designated over 66,000 acres of wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest. Wilderness is the highest form of protection for our federally owned public lands and protects forests "in perpetuity" from logging, mining and road building while allowing for traditional activities like hiking, hunting, horseback riding, fishing and camping.

That wonderful success happened only after a decade-long fight led by the Tennessee Chapter and the Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club. The fruits of that success have been enjoyed by many Tennessee Chapter members over the subsequent years as we hiked and backpacked in those wilderness areas. Now we have an opportunity to again help make wilderness in the Cherokee a reality.

The U.S. Forest Service in its current management plan recommended several additional areas for wilderness protection, totaling 20,537 acres. These areas include a brand new stand-alone wilderness, the scenic Upper Bald River area, together with additions to several existing wilderness areas, as follows:

Northern Cherokee:

Big Laurel Branch addition (near Hampton, TN)	5,589 acres
Sampson Mountain additions (near Greenville, TN)	3,069 acres

Southern Cherokee:

Upper Bald River Wilderness (near Tellico Plains, TN)	9,197 acres
Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock additions (near Calderwood Lake)	1,973 acres
Little Frog additions (near Ocoee River and Ducktown)	977 acres
Big Frog additions (near Ocoee River and Ducktown)	365 acres

These are the very best of the remaining unprotected acres in the Cherokee National Forest, from the lofty peaks of Sampson Mountain, Big



Roger Jenkins (L) and others backpacking along the State Line Trail in the proposed Upper Bald River Wilderness. Photo: Will Skelton

Laurel Branch, and Big Frog Mountain to the roaring waterfalls and huge protected upper basin of the Upper Bald River and to the quieter streams of Little Frog Mountain. However, they are at risk and will remain subject to road building and logging at the Forest Service's discretion in future management plans unless we act now.

Most Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club members should have recently received an action alert from Tennessee Wild—the coalition of environmental groups and businesses that is urging Congress to protect these areas—containing a letter, brochure, bumper sticker, and action alert.

Please respond to that mailing and write or email both our Senators and your House representative as soon as possible, urging them "to support the Forest Service's recommendations for

wilderness designation of 20,537 acres in the Cherokee National Forest." The addresses are in the mailing you received; if you don't have the mail or email addresses, you can look up (using your zip code) the exact mail and email addresses at this site:

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtm>

1. Or you can simply write Senator Lamar Alexander and Senator Bob Corker at United States Senate, Washington DC 20510, and your local U.S. Representative at United States House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515.

If you care about the unprotected wild areas in our Cherokee National Forest, NOW is the time to help out! Please write your Representative and Senators soon.

Urge TVA to Pursue Aggressive Energy Efficiency

By Louise Gorenflo

Beyond the energy efficiency savings derived from the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) 1200 megawatt peak reduction programs, the agency does not have an energy efficiency target. Indeed TVA's entire analysis of energy efficiency in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Bellefonte nuclear plant consists of three sentences:

Reducing peak demand and energy needs lowers the need for additional capacity in the future. Energy Vision 2020 examined the potential merits of a large number of different energy efficiency and Demand Side Management (DSM) measures and TVA is updating these analyses in its ongoing Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process. These resource options could reduce demand, particularly peak demand, substantially in the future, but will take time to implement and their results are uncertain.

TVA provides no discussion of energy efficiency's potential in the valley, the ability of TVA to implement programs to achieve efficiency goals, or the benefits and costs associated with pursuing this resource.

The South has been one of the last regions in the country to embrace energy efficiency programs and to develop an energy-efficiency

culture of consumer behavior.

- The South (a 16-state region) has 37% of the population but consumes 44% of US energy. 77% of its energy comes from fossil fuels.

- The South has the lowest rates of market penetration of *Energy Star* appliances.

- The South's per capita spending on electric utility energy efficiency programs is just one-fifth the national average.

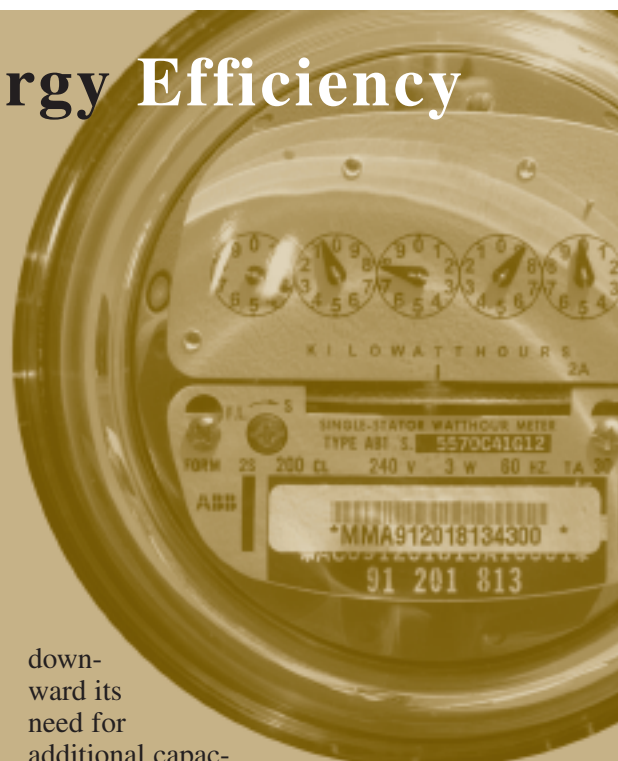
Tennessee would need to reduce its electricity intensity by 66% to match the current intensity in California and New York, the national energy efficiency leaders. The state ranks 40th in population and 24th in per capita energy efficiency expenditures.

At least 10 states and the Northwest have targeted energy use reductions of 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent over the coming years. Others states are in a resource planning process or have open public service commission dockets. The result is a long-term trend of shrinking, rather than growing, electricity demand.

In December 2009, the Dept. of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA) released an updated projection of electricity growth. It shows that electricity use will continue to slow. From 2008-2035, the EIA projects an annual electricity growth of 1%. TVA's base projection forecasts a 2% growth in the same time period. TVA needs to revise

downward its need for additional capacity. TVA would have absolutely no difficulty exceeding a 1% annual energy savings.

The Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter urges the TVA board to pursue aggressive energy efficiency and peak load reduction programs to avoid construction of new power supply. Energy efficiency and renewable energy resources offer a lower cost, cleaner and less risky course, without sacrificing the Valley's quality of life.





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TRAILS beta

Share your favorite places to hike, bike, paddle...

Learn, Share, Comment Online at Sierra Club Trails Website

By Gloria Griffith

Sierra Club Trails at <http://trails.sierraclub.org/about/> is a searchable library of trails described by people just like you. The site is also a community of people who love to get outside.

A visitor to this site might search for details about a particular trail before heading out the door, or they might settle in and create a profile, add trails, post events, lead a discussion, share photos, comment on the On Track blog, and create a group around a particular place or interest.

All are welcome to use this free resource, whether or not you're a member of the Sierra Club (SC). If you are a SC member, chances are a profile has already been auto generated for you.

Group Chairs and Outings leaders will find the SC Trails site useful for announcing a trip or event, inviting a larger community of participants, sharing trip memories, and allowing others to post feedback,

updates, photos and comments.

Any SC Trails member can easily form an interactive "Group" website to reach out to a larger audience by establishing a "Trails Group" that employs many social networking functions. Multiple site administrators may share in keeping the site refreshed and current.

Here is an example of Trails Group use at http://connect.sierraclub.org/TrailGroups/Watauga_Group_Sierra_Club

As an example, below is a May outing posted on SC Trails that Watauga Outing Leaders are hosting on Memorial Day weekend. All the information including cost, camp details, location map and photos may be accessed on the SC Trails site by going to:

http://connect.sierraclub.org/Trails/South_Fork_of_the_New_River

South Fork of the New River outing brief

The "Canoe the New" Memorial weekend

trip offers two days paddling and camping on the oldest North American river. Paddle 30 river miles, split into two days, in the North Carolina Highlands. Designated as a National Scenic River, this 30-mile stretch of the New River has it ALL: Bird watching, endangered plants, wildlife, moderate class 1 & 2 rapids and gentle water. Holders of a North Carolina fishing license are welcomed to fish. Folks may also wish to hike along the New River or bike the low traffic country lane that accesses the camp along the river...

Now find out the "rest of the story" by going to http://connect.sierraclub.org/Trails/South_Fork_of_the_New_River

Folks without Internet access may get the rest of the "Canoe the New" outing details by contacting Webb Griffith at 1-423-727-4797.

Frequently Asked Questions about SC Trails are located at:

<http://trails.sierraclub.org/about/>

DVD on Generation Partners Program Available to Groups

By Mary Mastin

The Tennessee Chapter's Rebuild & Repower America Committee has made available to each of the six Tennessee Sierra Club Groups a short informative DVD, newly produced by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), on the Generation Partners Program, which pays homeowners and business a premium for every kilowatt hour produced.

How Generation Partners works:

* A renewable generation system is installed by a residential, commercial, or industrial power customer served by a participating power company that uses TVA power. Eligible resources include solar, wind, low impact hydro, and biomass.

* TVA will purchase all of the green energy output at a rate of 12 cents per kilowatt-hour for solar and 3 cents per kilowatt-hour for other renewable generation as a premium payment above the retail rate and any fuel cost adjustments. For example, if you pay your power company 10 cents per kWh for the electricity you use to your power your home each month, then TVA will pay you 22 cents (10 cents plus a 12-cent guaranteed premium) per kWh for 100% of the green energy generated from your solar photovoltaic system.

* All new Generation Partners participants will receive a \$1,000 incentive to help offset start-up costs.

* The customer is guaranteed payments for 10 years from the start of the agreement with the local power company.

* Customers should contact their local power company to apply for participation in the program prior to purchasing a renewable generation system.

Make Your Reservation Now for the Tennessee Chapter Spring Meeting May 14 – 16, 2010 Camp Wesley Woods

329 Wesley Woods Rd, Townsend, TN
www.campwesleywoods.com

Directions: From Knoxville, take Interstate 40 to US 129, exit I-40 at US 129 (Alcoa/Airport exit) to US 321 (Lamar Alexander Pkwy), through Maryville toward Townsend. At Walland, turn left across the bridge, then stay right. Wesley Woods is approximately 4.5 miles on the left. (From the west, you can take I-140 E (Pellissippi Pkwy) to Alcoa, then 129 and 321 as above.)

We will be in Nickle Lodge (see map at http://www.campwesleywoods.com/New_Map_08.jpg) which has 50 bunk beds. Bring your own bedding and towel.

Check-in after 3:00 pm on Friday.

Activities will include early morning hikes on Saturday and possibly Sunday. On Saturday evening, we will have a short program and a **Silent Auction**. Bring your treasures that need a new home.

The costs are: Entire weekend (meetings, group lodging or car camping, all meals): \$40 (\$20 if it's your first meeting), Saturday meeting with meals: \$20, Sunday meeting with breakfast: \$10, meetings only: \$5. Children 5-12 years old are half-price.

Meals provided: breakfast and supper on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Friday supper on your own (maybe a group will go to a local restaurant). Don't forget your sack lunch for Saturday.

RSVP to Bob Hill at robin.hill8@gmail.com or 865-966-9435. Indicate whether you are a vegetarian or omnivore.

Join Sierra Club's Green Building Tour Week of March 15

By Steven Sondheim

Join the Green Building Tour being organized by your local Sierra Club group during the week of March 15, highlighting local economic and environmental benefits of energy-efficient, sustainable buildings. See firsthand the realities and potential of high-performing, green building strategies. Check with your local group for specifics in **Memphis, Cookeville, Johnson City, Crossville, Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Murfreesboro.**

The national "Green Buildings for Cool Cities" partnership between the Sierra Club and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is aimed at helping cities nationwide make green building a key component of their economic and environmental sustainability efforts. The partnership leverages Sierra Club's hundreds of local groups and USGBC's national network of 78 chapters to encourage new and retrofitted energy-efficient buildings, a key solution to global warming and to

achieving the transition to a clean energy economy.

In cities of all sizes and regions, we are working together to implement recommended green building policies ranging from basic to more advanced plans of action to address energy-efficiency and environmental sustainability through the built environment. These policies include leadership standards for government buildings that serve as models for the community; financial and no-cost incentives to build green for the commercial and residential sectors; and improved minimum efficiency standards through energy code adoption and enforcement. The Green Buildings for Cool Cities policy guide is available online at www.coolcities.us and www.usgbc.org

Green Building Benefits

Green buildings efficiently use energy, water, and other natural resources, protect the health of occupants, improve employee productivity, and reduce pollution. Compared to new structures built

to standard construction methods, green buildings reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Investments in green buildings pay dividends, on average resulting in 6.6% improvement on return on investment, 8% reduction in operating costs, and a 7.5% increase in building value. Improving the energy performance in existing buildings can reduce energy use by as much as 30% to 40%, with the ability to earn back those investments through lower utility bills over time. Green building will support 7.9 million U.S. jobs and pump \$554 billion into the American economy—including \$396 billion in wages—over the next four years (2009-2013), according to a 2009 study by Booz Allen Hamilton for USGBC.

Statewide Green Jobs Task Force: to join or create a local task force in your area, check the Tennessee Alliance for Progress <http://taptn.org/> Nell Levin 888 903-9576

Support the Tennessee Green Jobs Act http://taptn.org/TN_Green_Jobs_Act.htm

Kids Discover Nature on Inner City Outings

By Joy Mayfield

Jody Patterson and Mike Robinson met 12 people (six Big Brothers, Big Sisters matches) at the Murfreesboro Discovery Center for an Inner City Outing (ICO) last May. Threatening weather stalled and the group ended up taking a walk on a beautiful morning. They were able to enjoy the boardwalk meandering throughout the wetlands and learned about the history, as well as natural history, around Murfree Spring. They were fortunate to see a good deal of wildlife including wood ducks and mallards along with babies. Turtles were soaking up the sun, and they even saw some snakes mating.

Following the hike, everyone had the opportunity to spend time in the Discovery Center as it was a "free day." What a gem! It's small but very interactive.

Everyone commented what a great time they had and that they appreciated our efforts.

Jody is not only an Inner City Outing leader but also works for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee. What a perfect marriage of agencies this has turned out to be. Thanks, Jody, for all your hard work scheduling and organizing these outings.

Beaman Park

Betsy Garber and I took three teens as well as their cottage supervisor from Monroe Harding in

Nashville on an ICO to Beaman Park last July. We hiked the two-mile Creekside Trail.

Monroe Harding is a residential campus that partners with at-risk youth and families to provide a bridge toward independence. One of their goals is to introduce teens to healthy choices in recreation and relaxation—a perfect match for Sierra Club's ICO.

Only one of these teens had been on a hike before. All three were excited to be in the woods and were eager to learn anything we could tell them about nature.

After we completed the loop trail, we waded in Little Marrowbone Creek to cool off our feet. Then it was time for a picnic lunch and head back to civilization.

If you think you'd like to become an ICO leader or even just a helper on hikes, please contact garberb@hotmail.com for information. We need more hike leaders. There are so many young people in and around Davidson County who could benefit from this outreach program of the Sierra Club, but we cannot possibly accommodate them all unless we have more volunteers. I assure you, it is rewarding far beyond your greatest expectation.

Murfreesboro Discovery Center inter city outing. Photo by Betsy Garber



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

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Nashville, Tennessee 37211

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Middle Tennessee Group Seeks Conservation Chair

The Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) is seeking a volunteer to chair the very important conservation committee. The duties are to:

- Serve as a point of contact for the public and for Club leaders on conservation issues;
- Assist the MTG executive committee (ExCom) in conservation planning, budget decisions, training, and implementation of the conservation program;
- Act under the direction of the ExCom;
- Initiate and coordinate conservation activities that are in accordance with the positions of the Club and the ExCom.

The Conservation Chair would be expected to be a regular participant in the ExCom strategy (conservation and business) meetings held on the third Monday evening of each month. Mentoring will be provided.

If you have an interest in this opportunity, please send an e-mail, outlining your related background and interests, to Dave Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com or Gary Bowers at GB1NATURE@aol.com. Include a resume, if applicable. We welcome your participation and contributions to the work of the Sierra Club.