

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 44, Number 1 - January/February, 2013

TVA: Wasting Billions on Dirty Coal. Tell TVA you want 21st Century Clean Energy Solutions for a Healthy Future.

By Chris Ann Lunghino

Gallatin Coal-Fired Power Plant – The Facts

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is poised to invest over a billion dollars in the outdated, dirty Gallatin coal plant to keep it running at a time when other majority electricity providers are choosing 21st century options that are cheaper, cleaner, and more efficient. Instead of wasting our money on a fossil plant that will continue to pollute our air, water, land, and climate, TVA needs to replace the Gallatin coal plant with energy efficiency and clean energy.

TVA has fought public oversight of its plans for Gallatin. TVA officials initially offered only thirty days for members of the public and ratepayers to comment on their plan. A public outcry from Sierra Club members and other citizens' organizations across the state resulted in a 14-day extension of the comment period, but TVA continues to refuse to provide the information the public needs to be fully informed, and has announced that it does not see any reason to hold a public hearing to allow concerned residents to speak out.

This is a critical decision that has significant long-term implications: a \$1.2 billion investment to keep the Gallatin coal plant running guarantees at least a decade more of burning fossil fuels and a decade more of associated environmental, economic, and health impacts, including climate change. This is the wrong course. Addressing climate change is the global mandate for the 21st century.

What We're Doing About It

The Tennessee Chapter, with the support of Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign National staff, has undertaken a major effort to pressure TVA to make the right decision for Gallatin and to operate with transparency. We are currently engaged in the following activities and we need your help:

- **Post-Card campaign** – distributing message post cards asking for clean energy not coal, pre-addressed to TVA board, governor, and Gallatin elected officials. E-mail me at chris.lunghino@sierraclub.org to volunteer.

- **Petition signing campaign** – collecting thousands of signatures to pressure TVA board to retire Gallatin. Join the petition campaign team – e-mail chris.lunghino@sierraclub.org.

- **Sign-on letter** – circulating joint letter to universities, environmental advocacy organizations, and other interested organizations asking TVA to invest in energy efficiency.

- **People's public hearing** – because TVA has refused to help a public hearing, holding a people's public hearing with expert testimony to help TVA customers understand the issues on Thursday, February 7 at 6:30 pm in Nashville. Venue TBA. Please watch your inbox for details. E-mail to volunteer:

chris.lunghino@sierraclub.org

- **Phone banks** – educating people about the issue and asking people to write to TVA, to spread the word, to volunteer, and to attend our people's public hearing. Host a phone bank or

volunteer to make calls yourself – let me know: chris.lunghino@sierraclub.org

- **Door-to-door canvassing** – educating people about the issue and asking people to write to TVA, to spread the word, to volunteer, and to attend our people's public hearing. Help with canvassing: chris.lunghino@sierraclub.org

- **On-line action alert** – ongoing – asking people to send an e-mail to TVA board telling them to invest in energy efficiency and clean energy instead of coal.

- **Letters from public officials and energy efficiency companies** – reaching out to public officials and energy efficiency companies to motivate them to write letters to the TVA board.

- **Letter to editor campaign** – team making regular submissions to Tennessean, Gallatin papers. Join the team! E-mail me: chris.lunghino@sierraclub.org

How You Can Help

- Contact the TVA Board of Directors and ask them to ensure that TVA doesn't take more than one billion customer dollars to keep an out-of-date coal plant running. Tell the TVA Board to move forward with clean energy: board@tva.gov

- Volunteer to help our organizer, Chris Ann Lunghino, with any of the "What We're Doing About" actions listed above: contact her at: chris.lunghino@sierraclub.org, or contact her with any other ideas you have for pressuring TVA

- Spread the word to your neighbors, friends and family

- Attend our people's public hearing.

Why Help?

- Moving forward with 21st century clean energy solutions is critical for your health, your pocketbook, and your children and grandchildren

- Your involvement will increase Sierra Club membership

- Research shows that volunteering boosts happiness – people who work to further causes they value tend to be happier and healthier, experience fewer aches and pains, and even live longer

- Volunteering just once a month gives people the same happiness boost as earning an additional \$100,000 per year (assuming basic needs are met)

What We Accomplished In the Early Weeks

As of December 3, the day this article was

written, the Sierra Club Gallatin team had taken the following actions:

- Formed a coalition of organizations and individuals to work together

- Posted and publicized an online action alert to pressure TVA to extend the public comment period for their plans

- Hired a full-time organizer

- Developed a slogan and fact sheet

- Posted and publicized an online action alert asking people to write a letter to the editor of their local paper

- Posted and publicized an online action alert to pressure TVA to fully consider energy efficiency and clean energy options instead of coal

- Organized and facilitated 3 phone banks asking people to take action to pressure TVA

- Filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit asking TVA to provide the information the public needs to be fully informed

- Launched an online ad campaign on three local newspaper websites calling on TVA to prioritize twenty-first century clean energy solutions

- Issued a press release announcing the Freedom of Information Act lawsuit and the online ad campaign, which resulted in coverage in the Tennessean*

- Together with 4 other organizations, submitted detailed legal comments in response to TVA's Draft Environmental Assessment on the proposed plans for Gallatin, saying TVA has failed to appropriately consider other options and to disclose information about the proposed upgrades to the public

- Issued a press release announcing the submission of legal comments, highlighting concerns about the projects.

Thanks for making a difference!

Additional Resources:

Read more about TVA's plans for Gallatin: <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B0gT2SXtE2OqeGE1SVN1c014OG8/edit?pli=1>

*Read what the Tennessean reported on Gallatin:

http://www.tennessean.com/article/20121202/NEWS11/312010104/Sierra-Club-files-lawsuit-against-TVA-over-records?odyssey=navlhead&nlick_check=1

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Tennes-Sierran
via email



Subscribe simply by going to

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

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

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

- *Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
- *Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail
- *Address changes are processed much faster if you include your Sierra Club membership number. To find your membership number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: gvanhorn26@gmail.com
USPS: Gene Van Horn, Editor
895 Red Cloud Trail
Spring City, TN 37381
423-365-0692

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Submission Target Date is January 25 for the March—April issue.
1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to gvanhorn26@gmail.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files. Attached files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in Pages.
 2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or a .tif file format then either attached to e-mail or mailed via U.S. Postal Service on a 3 1/2" diskette or CD RM. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.
 3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted: however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.
 4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.
 5. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Barbara Kelly, Communications Committee, bk1rivers@comcast.net.
- The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

Add your voice to protect the planet.
Join Sierra Club

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

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible 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 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org F94Q W4300 1

Sierra Club Officers

TENNESSEE CHAPTER:

Chair: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
kdpendleton1@aol.com
Vice Chair: Keven Routon (901) 485-3960
kwrates@me.com
Secretary: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009
bk1rivers@comcast.net
Treasurer: Michael Varnell (615) 217-0985
rmvarnell@bellsouth.net
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185
gb1nature@aol.com
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gl4797@embarqmail.com
CCL Delegate: Brian Paddock (931) 276-1387
bpaddock@twlakes.net

TN LOCAL GROUPS:

Cherokee Group

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
Chair: Davis Mounger (423) 877-4616
wdmounger@yahoo.com
Vice Chair: John Doyal (423) 304-7467
baldie052@yahoo.com
Secretary: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009
bk1rivers@comcast.net
Treasurer: Barbara Hurst (423) 866-9503
barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com
Conservation: Davis Mounger (423) 877-4616
wdmounger@yahoo.com
Outings: Emily Marr Davis (423) 413-3038
emily.marr.davis@gmail.com

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
Chair: Sue A. Williams (901) 274-0524
z4cmv@juno.com
Vice Chair: Keith Hoover (901) 363-8299
hooverkw@yahoo.com
Secretary: Emily Schwimmer (901) 753-5474
eschwimm@gmail.com
Treasurer: Susan Routon (901) 413-3888
susan.routon@gmail.com
Conservation: Scott Banbury (901) 619-8567
smbanbury@gmail.com
Outings: **Open - Would You Like To Organize the Outings?**
Membership: Keith Hoover (901) 363-8299
hooverkw@yahoo.com

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
Chair: Robin Hill (865) 966-9435
robin.hill8@gmail.com
Vice-Chair: David Reister (865) 670-8991
dreister@bellsouth.net
Secretary: Kris Christen
kristen@knology.net
Treasurer: Bob Perlack (865) 675-7668
perlack@aol.com
Conservation: Axel Ringe (865) 397-1840
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518
ronaldshrieves@comcast.net

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg
Chair: Betsy Garber (615) 668-1977
garberb@hotmail.com
Vice Chair: Carol Dulaney (615) 553-4480
caroldulaney@comcast.net
Secretary: Betsy Garber (615) 668-1977
garberb@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Michael Varnell (615) 217-0985
rmvarnell@bellsouth.net
Conservation: Scott Heflinger (615) 859-3553
sheflinger@aol.com
Outings: John Pigg (615) 851-1192
j.t.pigg@comcast.net
Education: Joy Mayfield
Membership: Carol Dulaney (615) 553-4480
caroldulaney@comcast.net

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

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga
Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797
gl4797@embarqmail.com
Vice Chair: Sandi Cranford (423) 727-5044
sunshine@highcountryonline.net
Secretary: Dennis Shekinah (423) 727-6497
dshekinah@centurylink.net
Treasurer: Cindy Johnson (423) 768-3882
doemtn@hotmail.com
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gl4797@embarqmail.com

National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:

Rita Harris, Field Organizer
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org

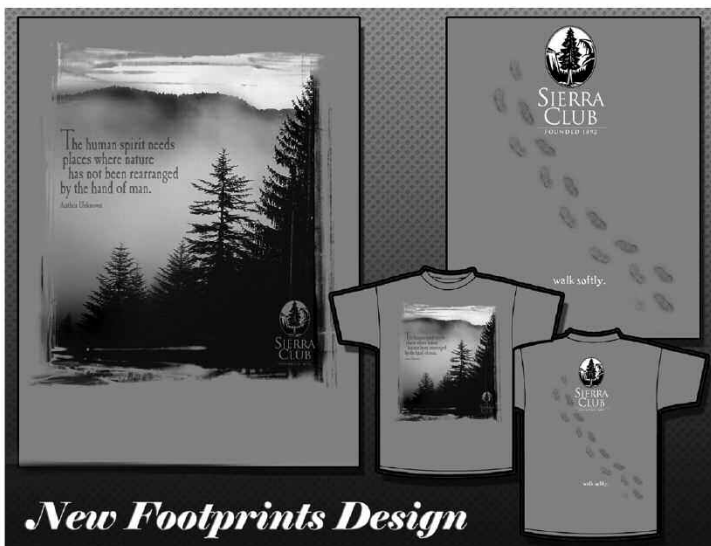
Please notify the Editor when changes
are needed

Target Date for
March—April Issue is
January 25, 2013.

All meetings and outings
notices,
articles, and photo-graphs
should be in by then.
Send material to
Gene Van Horn at
gvanhorn26@gmail.com

New Design Footprints T-Shirts

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



New Footprints Design

Size	Qty	Unit Price	Total
Small	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
Medium	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
Large	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
1X-Large	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
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		Sub-Total	_____
Shipping - Enter			
Total # of T-Shirts	_____ X	\$5.00	= _____
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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)

Your Support is Needed to Defend Tennessee's Environment

By Adelle Wood

Start 2013 right and renew your commitment to the Sierra Club's Defenders, which supports our important legislative and lobbying program. If you haven't already become a Defender, now is the perfect time!

Our Sierra lobbyist, Mike Murphy, works diligently for us while encouraging members to be part of the process. As we have become more involved, our legislators have learned that it is we, their constituents, who care about the environment. Beginning this session, the Sierra Club will send alerts targeted to specific districts when an important bill is coming up for a vote.

The Sierra Club has an impressive record. We have worked with legislators and other organizations to move the regulation of mountaintop removal forward; to keep our waters free of pollution; to protect home and landowners from unfair and devaluing policies; to create and protect parks and wilderness areas; to keep Tennessee from becoming a final resting place for nuclear waste; to promote green industries and jobs; and to encourage sound land use strategies.

During this session we anticipate focusing on gas hydrofracking regulations, protection of the Real Estate Transfer Tax, prohibition of mountaintop removal coal mining, defense of incentives for solar energy, and protection of funding for state parks. Our successes have been because of three factors: **strong champions** in the legislature; **our Sierra Club lobbyist** who works tirelessly for our goals; and you members who contact your legislators to tell them your views.

How can you help?

- **Renew your support for the Defenders or join now!**
- **Contact your legislators about bills and initiatives that we let you know are important;**
- If you are not receiving legislative updates and/or want targeted information about contacts to be made on critical votes, **send me your e-mail address on the form below.**

You can give a little if you can't give a lot. **You are the lifeblood of this crucial program, and your support makes it possible.** Send the form below with a check **made out to Sierra Club** to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215.

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

Thank you!

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

E-mail address: _____ **We will not divulge**

your information or use it for other purposes.

Check if you want to receive weekly e-mail updates during the legislative session. Include your e-mail address above. **(Don't check this box if you already receive these updates); and/or**

Check if you want to receive e-mail alerts when there is a critical vote.

Yes No May we publish your name in the *Tennes-Sierran* as a donor?

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

Editor's Notes

Gene Van Horn

We have all seen various groups gradually become non-functional and then disband because the members age and there is no replacement from the next generation. Another problem of some groups is reaching out across cultural chasms. The problems of some groups (e.g., clean air and water) are not the same as the problems of other groups (e.g., food, paying bills).

We have volunteers in the Sierra Club who are trying to bring in young people and also reach across cultures. One of the major efforts in this direction includes the Inner City Outings (ICO). An article was set to go in the last issue of the *Tennes-Sierran* along with some great photographs of youngsters enjoying themselves in the outdoors that lost much of its impact because of problems with space relating to the ballots. Two of the photos were not printed and the other photo was not on the same page as the matching article.

The last part of that article is repeated below. Any help (physical or monetary) is appreciated.

Mandatory Red Cross certification for outings leaders. Cost? \$70/person biennially.

Mandatory Basic Water Safety certification (in order to conduct water outings):

Cost? \$40 (note almost all ICO leaders who got certified this year paid this out-of-pocket).

**CLOSE YOUR EYES AND ENVISION
FUTURE PROPOSED OUTINGS
MONTGOMERY BELL OVERNIGHT
CAMPING**

Estimated cost* for 15 kids/chaperones: \$750

MAMMOTH CAVE

(Remember, our closest national park)

Estimated cost* for 15 kids/chaperones: \$350.

CUMBERLAND CAVERNS

Estimated cost* for 15 kids/chaperones: \$530.

*Includes price of admission, meals, transportation expense

Here's where you can help. YOU can be a part of this and share in the joys this program offers by becoming a certified ICO leader yourself OR you can help us with a financial contribution.

For a tax deductible donation make check payable to Sierra Club Foundation with Inner City Outings on the "For" line.

For donations not requiring tax deductible status, make check payable to Inner City Outings.

Mail to:

**Michael Varnell
Treasurer ICO
7001 Stroop Lane
Murfreesboro, TN 37129**

If you are interested in ICO certification contact: Joy Mayfield (615-851-1192) or joy.mayfield@comcast.net.

We thank Defender contributors through November 25.

Jim Blackstock
Gary Bowers
Sharon Boyce
Bob and Anne Brandt
Clark Buchner
Charles and Marion Burger
Craig Canan
Daniel Case
Richard and Frieda Coleman
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Helen Stewart
Gene and Ruth Van Horn
Sue Williams
Wally and Patty Wood
Anonymous Contributors

Meetings

The public is very welcome at ALL Sierra Club Meetings and Activities! All members traveling across the state should feel free to drop in and attend another Group's meetings. You will find yourself among friends and learning something interesting.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

New Year Party, Covered Dish Get-Together: January 6, 5 P.M. at the home of Bill and Barbara Hurst, on Signal Mountain. No program is held in December - we gather for our annual covered-dish party at Barbara and Bill's just after the new year begins. Bring a covered dish to share, and a friend or two that you'd like to introduce to environmental concerns. We'll have fun, socialize and talk about our goals for the new year. Call Barbara for directions - 423-886-9503; best to get directions from her, the GPS services are incorrect and will steer you far away to a non-existent road and you'll miss dinner and the fun!

Strategy Meetings: Jan. 14 and February 11 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6 P.M. NEW LOCATION -- WE'VE MOVED! Our Strategy Meeting is now held downtown, at Second Presbyterian Church in their excellent meeting room! Second Presbyterian is located at the corner of E. 7th Street and Pine, 700 Pine Street - parking is free at their Pine Street lot, across the street from the church, next to the old Blue Cross (orange) building. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome -- this is where and when we plan our actions! Come add your ideas and share your concerns. To place on item on the agenda, contact Chair Davis Mounger at 423-877-4616 or wdmounger@yahoo.com, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

January Program: Last Monday, January 28, 7 P.M. at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: Fracking in Hamilton County! Dr. Joe Wilferth and Dr. Henry Spratt, professors from U.T.C. will give us a primer on the major threats fracking can pose to our groundwater aquifers, particularly with the geographic strata in our area, and brief us on a recent lease purchase, by Atlas Energy, of 750 acres (of private land) here in Hamilton County for fracking, as well as the other companies holding leases in surrounding counties and nearby states. While natural gas is seen by many as a "cleaner" alternative to coal/oil, fracking has its own set of problems, and the current TN regulatory situation provides no protection! As we may soon be facing this here, come join us as we learn more and begin to figure out what our response will be.

The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Plenty of parking -- take the first left at the corner (just past GreenSpaces) and there's plenty of parking at a public lot.

Note: Ruth Thompson sends her apologies for missing the November Program due to illness; she will speak on Outdoors Chattanooga at our March 25 Program.

February Program: Last Monday, January 28, 7 P.M. at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: Why Plug-In Vehicles?! Dave Graham, electric vehicle (EV) owner/advocate will answer the question "What is a plug-in car and why should you have one?" and sort out the differences between various types of hybrids and total EVs. Electric cars are very reliable: no oil changes, no tune-ups. EVs have 10 times fewer moving parts than a gasoline powered car. There's no engine, transmission, spark plugs, valves, fuel tank, tailpipe, distributor, started, clutch, muffler or catalytic converter. What's left?! — A vehicle that uses clean, affordable, domestic electricity for its energy. Come learn how grid-rechargeable cars can attain the end goal of zero-emissions and ensure fuel price stability.

The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Plenty of parking -- take the first left at the corner (just past GreenSpaces) and there's plenty of parking at a public lot.

Note: Our Program Meetings continue to be held at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, which is a non-descript storefront building with little-to-no signage -- it is the last on the left in the first block off Market Street. It is kiddy-corner from the Fire Department across the street. Look for the Sierra Club banner!

Chattanooga Climate Action Team Meetings: Held 6:30 P.M. on the 2nd Wednesday each month, get these dates on your calendars: **Jan. 9 and Feb. 13.** We meet at Grace Episcopal Church, 20 Belvoir Avenue, in Brainerd. The church serves a nice meal at 6 pm for \$6; come early for supper, all are welcome. We'll be planning our actions to promote a 1% Energy Efficiency (EE) Target for TVA and increase EE opportunities for people in Hamilton County, and setting up meetings with other community organizations to seek endorsements. Come be a part! For more information, contact Megan Spooner, 646-764-6974

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

THURSDAY, January 3, 5:30 P.M. Monthly First Thursday Gathering Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN

Sierra Club members, activists, and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests.

First Thursday contact: Mark Plumlee at mark.chickasaw@gmail.com or 901-679-4622.

TUESDAY, January 8, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Strategy Meeting Contact Sue A Williams for location information.

The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. This is a business meeting where members are welcome to attend. Come and see exactly what we are planning. If you have an issue which you would like to see discussed, agenda items must be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to the Executive Committee Chair Sue A Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524.

THURSDAY, January 31, 5:30 P.M. Meet & Greet, 6:15 P.M. Program: "Complete Streets" Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN

Dennis Lynch will be sharing what he has learned as a member of "The Green Transportation Team", which is focused on creating a 21st century transportation system in the United States. Learn how we can take action on national and local transportation issues like ending our dependence on oil, expanding public transit, and promoting the development of walkable and bikeable communities where convenient transportation options are a reality for everyone. Join in the discussion concerning transportation choices like more livable, bike-friendly communities, expanded public transit and cleaner, more efficient cars and trucks.

Programs contact: Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or (901) 413-3888.

THURSDAY, February 7, 5:30 P.M. Monthly First Thursday Gathering Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN

Sierra Club members, activists, and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. First Thursday contact: Mark Plumlee at mark.chickasaw@gmail.com or 901-679-4622.

TUESDAY, February 12, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Strategy Meeting Contact Sue A Williams for location information

The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. This is a business meeting where members are welcome to attend. Come and see exactly what we are planning. If you have an issue which you would like to see discussed, agenda items must be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to the Executive Committee Chair Sue A Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524.

TUESDAY, February 19, 6:00 P.M. Movie with snacks. Movie Night (Title TBA) Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN

Join us for a relaxing evening with refreshments, friends, and a really interesting environmental documentary to stir your senses. We have a special movie in mind of which the viewing rights are about to become available. Check our webpage, Facebook page, or your local newspaper green section and calendar section for further information.

Programs contact: Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or (901) 413-3888.

NOTE: For more details, additional events, and updates, see our website and Facebook page.

Sierra Club Chickasaw Group is now on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

This is a forum for public discussion, so please feel free to post comments, raise issues, and express environmental concerns. Updates and details about upcoming events are posted here.

"Nature of Conservation" Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Cable TV Show on WYPL-TV 18 (Comcast/Xfinity) and Online at Vimeo:

Days and times vary -- see <http://www.memphis-library.org/tlc18/schedule/> (or the Comcast/Xfinity 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 judithrutschman@gmail.com or (901) 767-5916. Previous programs are now available online at: <http://vimeo.com/user10896810>

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

January 7, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville. From Sea to Icy Sea: Biking Across America's Last Frontier for Record and 101 More Amazing Things to do on a Bike

Gerry Eddlemon GerFalcon Racing, Knoxville, TN
Gerry Eddlemon, an aquatic ecologist now retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, will demonstrate what even a crotchety old guy can do with one of the world's "greenest" and most efficient means for transportation ever invented -- the bicycle:

- Cross America's last frontier -- Alaska -- from the Pacific to the Arctic Oceans in record time
- Set or break 76 ultramarathon cycling records
- See how ineffably beautiful this old world is, even now, from the backroads at 12 mph (or 5 to 50 mph if you prefer)
- Make lots of new friends (and a few disgruntled drivers)
- Fight angst and depression -- become grunted -- take a ride on your bike
- But wait! There's more . . .

For more information contact Mac Post mpost3116@aol.com

February 12, 2103, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville. Footpath My Eye!!!

Barbara Allen, Trail Name Mamaw-B (<http://www.trailjournals.com/entry.cfm?trail-name=13132>)

Come and be entertained with comments and photos by the oldest woman to thru hike the Appalachian Trail. Walking the entire AT with 30 lbs. on your back is not a hike but a challenging task, not recreation but an education and a job, but also a most rewarding and enjoyable experience. I would rather die doing something I love than let fear rob me of the experience I seek. For more information contact Mac Post mpost3116@aol.com

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM: January 10, 7:00 P.M., at Radford Lake Visitor Center It is not too early to think about putting up nest boxes for songbirds, because many, including our beloved Eastern Bluebirds, will already start to nest by mid-February. Kent Hiday will present a program on "Preparing Your Yard for Spring Nesting" for all local birds but will focus on the Bluebird in particular.
(continued on page 5)

Outings

Welcome to the Tennessee Chapter's master list of our outings. Members, and the public, are always very welcome at any of these events. Listed by the sponsoring Group, you are welcome to attend as many across the state as you wish! We believe that what you come to love, you will stand up to protect.

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/SignWaiverPDF>, 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.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Emily Marr Davis is our Outings Chair, and point-person for outings information for our Group. Our activities are always open to the public and to members of the Club from across our state! Outings are planned to take in the interests and skill levels of the participants. For more information, contact Emily at 423-413-3038 or emily.marr.davis@gmail.com.

January 12 (Sat) Sandhill Crane/Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge Paddling Trip: Details: Put-In at Blythe Ferry at 11:00 A.M. (though the group may arrange a time/place to meet and caravan as desired.) Must have paddling experience and gear, including boat and appropriate clothing, a set of dry clothes, water, and snacks/lunch. Limited number of spots available, reserve a spot early via e-mail: emily.marr.davis@gmail.com, 423-413-3038 for more information.

February 9 (Sat) Hike and Orienteering Workshop at Cloudland Canyon. Take advantage of the Winter views of the Canyon and hopefully the water will be flowing! Details: Workshop begins at the park at 10 A.M. (the group may arrange a meeting spot and caravan as desired.) The hike is approximately 5 miles of moderate terrain. Bring a compass if you have one, water, and snacks/lunch. Limited to 10 participants, e-mail to reserve your spot: emily.marr.davis@gmail.com, 423-413-3038 for more information.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

No outings were scheduled for January or

February.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

12 Jan (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Spruce Flats Falls-Lumber Ridge (Great Smoky Mountains National Park). This loop hike will start at the Tremont Institute. From the Institute we'll take the "Falls Trail" to Spruce Flats Falls. This section to the falls (about a mile) is relatively steep with some difficult parts, but well worth the effort. Here there are a series of cascades that drop 100 feet. Spruce Flats Falls is perhaps one of the nicest "unknown" falls in the park. We will then go above the falls and find an unmaintained trail (i.e., old railroad bed), which we will take to Lumber Ridge. Parts of this unmaintained section of the loop are overgrown with rhododendrons, littered with some fallen trees, and will require crossing Spruce Flats a few times. Some remnants of Little River Lumber Company can be seen along this stretch. About half-way through the hike we'll find the Lumber Ridge Trail and take it back to the Institute. The Lumber Ridge Trail will mostly be downhill with an elevation loss of more than 1000 feet. The driving distance is about 50 miles from Knoxville or about 25 miles from our meeting location in Maryville. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 675-7668.

26-27 Jan (Sat-Sun). Winter Backpack, Grassy Ridge, Cherokee National Forest. This is a short hike trip to a 6,000' elevation bald near Roane Mountain. This is a great high-elevation site where we can test our winter backpacking skills. The campsite is a short hike (2.6 miles) to a fantastic view, best when there's snow. We'll drive to Carver's Gap on the AT. Driving time about 3 hours. (If weather conditions make access to Carvers Gap difficult, we'll wimp out and opt for a lower elevation destination.) Preregister with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or <mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net> (e-mail is preferred).

9 Feb (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Laurel-Snow State Natural Area, near Dayton, TN. With the water flowing, Laurel Falls is a sight to behold. We'll hike up the historic trail that follows Richland Creek through an old mining area before turning to ascend the bluffs to Snakehead Point and Bryan Overlook, where we'll have great views of the watershed. The

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!

lack of leaves on the trees in winter enhances views of the surrounding area, as well as giving great views of the spectacular mountain creek and several waterfalls. Round-trip hike distance, 9 miles, including a side trip to the old Dayton reservoir. Rated moderate, but it does have a short steep stretch ascending the bluff and one creek crossing. One-way driving distance is 80 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (e-mail preferred).

23-24 Feb (Sat-Sun). Backpack (Spring breakout). Little Bottoms, Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We will start out from the Abrams Creek Ranger Station in Happy Valley. The hike to Little Bottoms is about 3 miles via the Cooper Road Trail (1.3 miles) and the Little Bottoms Trail (1.6 miles). We'll setup camp then hike to Abrams Falls by continuing on the Little Bottoms Trail to the junction of the Hatcher Mountain Trail. We'll take Hatcher Mountain a short distance to the junction of Hannah Mountain and Abram Creek trails. The falls are about 1.7 miles up the Abrams Creek Trail. The backpack is rated moderate. Since this is a late winter hike, appropriate cold weather gear is mandatory. The driving distance is about 25 miles from Maryville. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 675-7668.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Middle Tennessee Group Sierra Club members are encouraged to apply. Be an Outings Leader for MTG. Please contact John Pigg at j.t.pigg@comcast.net or (615)851-1192.

Meetings (continued)

ular, which is a specialty of his. Bring all your questions. Kent Hiday had been interested in birds as a hobby since he was 8 years old and presents programs to local garden clubs and other groups, including at the Lawn and Garden Show and on TV. He is retired from operating a Wild Birds Unlimited store that he opened in Kentucky in 1988, and his wife and mother-in-law own 3 Wild Birds Unlimited stores in the Nashville area. He has a degree in City Planning from the University of Kentucky.

We invite the public to this special program. A snack will be served.

PROGRAM: February 14, 7:00 P.M., at Radnor Lake Visitor Center Bring your Valentine to hear State Naturalist and former Radnor Lake ranger Randy Hedgepath. He will talk about wildlife and good spots to view and photograph it, focusing on Tennessee in the winter months. He will bring slides of animals and places with stories about sightings he has experienced. This will give you some great ideas for outings to our parks and wildlife areas, as well as insights about what to expect. He will also talk about the very important Tennessee Watchable Wildlife program and website.

Free and open to the public, and a snack will be served.

Preview of March 14 program: What are genetically modified foods (GMOs and sometimes known unaffectionately as Frankenfoods), and are they dangerous to your health? Come hear Misti Schroeter talk about this important topic.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: January 8 and February 12 at 6:30 P.M.

These meetings will take place at Panera Bread, 2534 Powell Ave, in front of 100 Oaks. 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 our conservation initiatives and community activities. Just look for a table with 10-20 people who look like they are working and having fun at the same time.

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

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

RECYCLING VOLUNTEERS: EVERY SATURDAY - 9:00 - 12:00 - Volunteer at the recycling Site. We are looking for volunteers to man the recycling center from 9 to 12 on Saturdays. This is a major source of income for the club and we need volunteers to spread the workload out so that so few do not have to keep doing it every month. If you could volunteer just a few times a year that would help — that's only once every few months! Volunteers just need to be willing to ask people if they need help in unloading their recyclables and tell them "thank you" for recycling. The funds we receive from this effort help the group operations and activities, which includes lobbying efforts

The bins are in front of the Kroger at 3955 Nolensville Road, Nashville, TN. The Kroger lot is located about a half-mile towards town from the Walmart at Harding and Nolensville. It's a great place to get involved with our Group! Contact Tom at 615-373-9237(h) or 892-0128(c) for more information.

Is Memphis Ready for Reform?

One key element of the Sierra Club's Conservation Policies is Environmental Justice. The EJ policies support "the right to a clean and healthful environment for all people." They include the following rights- "The Right to Democracy", "The Right to Participate", "The Right to Equal Protection", and "The Right to Know", among others. The case of planning for the Foote Homes and the Vance Avenue neighborhood in Memphis is evolving into a conflict between a community-based Plan and the Memphis/Shelby Community Redevelopment Agency's (CRA) Plan. These conflicting plans have been created through very different citizen involvement approaches- the CRA's plan and process does not seem to be consistent with the Sierra Club's EJ philosophy.

In the winter of 2010, the Executive Director of the Memphis Housing Authority, Robert Lipscomb, invited leaders of the Vance Avenue Collaborative and the University of Memphis faculty to work with his staff in preparing an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Developments newly-launched Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant Program. This program provides up to \$250,000 in matching funds for cities committed to developing community transformation plans that address conditions in economically-challenged neighborhoods that include a public housing complex. Local residents and institutional leaders were delighted when U.S. Representative Steve Cohen announced in March of 2011 that Memphis had been selected as one of just seventeen cities from a pool of one hundred and nineteen to receive these funds.

In the July of 2011 a "kick-off" meeting attended by more than 150 local stakeholders, including representatives of the Sierra Club and numerous HUD officials, Mayor A.C. Wharton and Robert Lipscomb pledged to work with local residents, business owners, religious leaders, human service providers, and elected officials to prepare a plan that reflected the hopes and aspirations of local stakeholders for their neighborhood. Between July 2011 and August 2012, more than 1,000 local stakeholders shared their perceptions of existing community conditions and future development preferences as part of the Vance Avenue Choice Neighborhood planning process.

When University of Memphis planning faculty shared residents' strong desire to see the 426-unit public housing complex, known as Foote Homes, improved rather than demolished, the city fired the University planners, cancelled regularly scheduled meetings of the project's Management Team, and took down the Vance Avenue Choice Neighborhood website that was one of the primary ways local stakeholders kept informed of project-related developments. Local stakeholders who had invested significant amounts of time and energy contributing to this highly participatory "bottom-up" planning process responded by asking their University planners to assist them in transforming several thousands of pages of project-generated data into a comprehensive community revitalization plan designed to promote a more vibrant, sustainable, just, and democratic Vance Avenue community.

Local stakeholders and their University planners built upon the many assets of this historical African-American neighborhood, well-documented by past plans, oral histories, focus groups, physical surveys, and resident and leader interviews. Bringing all the information together, they spent this past August and September preparing the "Vance Avenue Community Transformation Plan" – a 129-page comprehensive revitalization strategy. The Plan seeks to establish the Vance Avenue community as the nation's leading example of what Dr. King described as the "Beloved Community": a place where residents and their allies mobilize their community's many physical, economic, financial, and spiritual assets to help

current and future residents overcome the South's painful legacy of racial inequality to assist individuals and families in reaching their full potential.

Those participating in this resident-led planning and design process formulated thirty-three specific immediate, short, and long-term economic and community development policies and projects. Each project aims at helping the Vance Avenue neighborhood make significant progress towards achieving its highly ambitious development goal of becoming a "Beloved Community". At the heart of this resident-led community renewal process are five "signature" projects to improve neighborhood conditions by attracting significant amounts of new public and private investment. Among these is an innovative approach to upgrading the interior living spaces of the Foote Homes units without the long-term displacement that has characterized the City's past HOPE VI housing renewal efforts. This objective would be achieved by moving fifty families at a time to nearby units for a period of three to four months, while their individual unit is renovated and restored. This approach to rehabilitating these units is strongly supported by two-thirds of the current residents!

In addition to the preservation and enhancement of the affordable housing units located at Foote Homes, the Vance Avenue Community Transformation Plan features the restoration of one of the essential features of the neighborhood's urban environment. The plan proposes the "day-lighting" of a channelized urban stream, the Little Betty Bayou, re-naturalizing and improving the storm water cycle of the area. Complimenting this re-naturalization will be a variety of green infrastructure improvements designed to reduce storm water runoff while providing area school children with an enhanced understanding of environmental stewardship. The restored waterway and its related improvements will, under the Vance Avenue Transformation Plan, constitute an exciting new greenway connecting the South Memphis, Vance Avenue, and Downtown neighborhoods to the rapidly expanding regional greenways system.

The plan also includes the establishment of a community policing program focused on expanding educational, employment, recreational, and cultural opportunities for area youth, creating an effective crime watch program, and encouraging non-violent forms of conflict resolution. In addition, the plan seeks to re-activate the neighborhood's once-thriving Vance Avenue retail corridor through the establishment of a producer/consumer owned food cooperative (currently, only 7 of the City's 77 high poverty Census Tracts are served by a full service super market). Finally, the plan recommends the establishment of a 1.5 mile historic walking trail, called Weaver's Walk Freedom Trail, that will connect and provide interpretation of 24 historic sites within the neighborhood that have played a central role in the City's Civil Rights history.

On September 13th, one hundred and twenty-five Vance Avenue stakeholders attended a public hearing held to elicit local feedback on this resident-generated plan. At the end of this highly interactive meeting, residents voted overwhelmingly to take their plan to the City Council for review and adoption. As residents were finalizing their document, the Memphis Housing Authority quietly presented their own "Heritage Trails Community Development Plan and Tax Incremental Financing Proposal" to the Memphis/Shelby Community Redevelopment Agency. This plan which had never been presented to community residents, area business persons, local institutions' leaders or City Council Members seeks to transform the historic Vance Avenue neighborhood into a "destination tourism district" similar to New Orleans' French Quarter, Kansas City's 18th and Vine neighborhood, and

Harlem's 125th Street. This "stealth" plan features the demolition of Foote Homes.

The City plan also seeks to re-establish a grid-like street system throughout the current public housing campus adding additional impervious surfaces to a flood prone area without addressing the issue of out-of-date storm water facilities. The City's economic development proposals focus on providing significant public subsidies to a luxury hotel and condo project which few local residents will enjoy. Neither of these real estate subsidies are conditioned on enforceable local hiring commitments by the City. The costs of the Heritage Trail Plan would be covered, in large part, by the establishment of a new Tax Incremental Financing District covering the City's Downtown, Medical District, Vance neighborhood, and South Main Area. Future property tax increments generated by these areas during the coming thirty years would be used to finance the City's ambitious redevelopment plan.

On October 16th, with the support of more than two dozen local citizen, labor, religious, and environmental organizations, the Planning and Zoning Committee of the Memphis City Council voted 4 to 0 in favor of a resolution that would establish the resident-generated plan as the overall policy framework guiding the future development of the Vance Avenue neighborhood. Several days after this vote, the Memphis/Shelby Community Redevelopment Agency tabled discussion of the City's plan directing the Memphis Housing Authority to sit down with representatives of the Vance Avenue Collaborative to formulate a compromise that all segments of the community can accept. Mr. Robert Lipscomb, the Executive Director of the Memphis Housing Authority, has indicated his unwillingness to do so at this time.

In mid-September, the Memphis/Shelby County Chapter of the Sierra Club reviewed copies of the Vance Avenue Community Transformation and the Heritage Trails Community Development Plan making a strong statement in support of the resident-generated plan. Among the factors influencing the Sierra Club's endorsement was the residents' commitment to preserve and improve Foote Homes existing units, which both HUD and the University of Memphis have determined to be in good condition. The residents' proposals for re-naturalizing the Little Betty Bayou and using various green infrastructure techniques for taming it's seasonal flood waters further reinforced the Club's support for the plan. The residents' embraced various tenets of traditional neighborhood design including compact development, mixed-use zones, and walkable streets further heightened chapter interest in the plan. Finally, the Sierra Club's strong commitment to citizen participation in planning and design solidified the local group's support for this resident-generated plan.

Later in December, the Memphis City Council, Land Use Control Board, and Community Redevelopment Agency will have had the opportunity to endorse the Vance Avenue Community Transformation Plan. Approval of the plan by these governmental bodies will serve to encourage residents from many other neighborhoods to join Memphis's growing community planning and development movement. A grassroots movement to improve the urban environment reflected in such projects as the Greenline, Harahan Bridge, Shelby Farms Master Plan, South Memphis Revitalization Action Plan, Memphis Music Magnet, and Regional Greenprint Projects. Failure to support this effort will regrettably signal that Memphis like Chicago of old, is, in the immortal words of Paddy Bauler, "Ain't Ready for Reform Yet!"

Ken Reardon is a Professor in City and Regional Planning at the University of Memphis. He has been an active member of the Vance Avenue Collaborative since 2009.

Chickasaw Sierra Club Supports 1-Cent-a-Gallon-Gas-Tax for Improved Public Transit

Memphis, TN The local Sierra Club Chickasaw Group joined Councilman Edmund Ford Jr. and other organizations to support the 1-Cent-Per-Gallon-Gas-Tax. This would send \$3 million to the Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) to pay for increased frequency on eight major bus routes around the area and on the downtown trolley, resulting in a 48 percent improvement in total weekly coverage on these routes. The funding will also be used to improve bus shelters and add additional drivers for MATAplus.

William Hudson, President and General Manager of MATA (matatransit.com), said "Many people in Memphis depend on public transportation for their daily activities and increased funding will allow MATA to better serve the needs.

"We're excited that this broad group of organizations has come together in support of the gas tax referendum," said Dennis Lynch, the local Sierra Club Transportation Chair. "We think MATA has a good plan for use of the funds, and the benefits to the city should far outweigh the small additional costs of the gas tax."

Emily Trenholm, Community Development Council/Livable Memphis, said, "The funding that MATA currently receives from fares and the city budget simply isn't enough to provide the transit system that our community needs and deserves. That's why we need everyone's support

for a dedicated funding stream for transit."

"This will be a major win for the people of Memphis," says Scott Banbury, Conservation Chair for the local Sierra Club group. "More buses mean better service, fewer cars on the road, and more mobility to get to jobs. Of course, nobody wants more taxes, but one cent per gallon means you'd have to drive 100 miles before it would cost you a nickel. If you drive 10,000 miles in a year, it's only \$5.00 for the entire year."

"We're excited that MATA will be focusing the funds from the gas tax on significant, needed service improvements," says Bennett Foster of the Memphis Bus Riders Union. "We're going to keep working hard to try to get the gas

tax referendum passed."

Organizations joining the Sierra Club in support of the Gas-Tax Referendum, include ADAPT of Tennessee, Latino Memphis, the League of Women Voters, Livable Memphis, the Memphis Bus Rider's Union (MBRU), the Memphis Center for Independent Living (MCIL), the Mid-South Peace & Justice Center, and the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee.

Postscript...We did not win, but we put up a good fight! The vote was 38% for the measure. We have created a great informal coalition of groups fighting for local transit, and we will work together again!

Steven Sondheim



An Easy Way to Help Protect Tennessee's Green Legacy

Please volunteer to call, write, or e-mail our state legislators this spring. How to do this is at the end of this article.

The election is over and the legacy of the 108th General Assembly is yet to be determined. As you know, the new Republican "super majority" can do anything it wishes without worrying about Democratic Party interference. Our job as Sierra Club members is to get all lawmakers to see the energy and environmental world from the Sierra Club's perspective. Your Legislative Committee is the group that tries organizes this effort. We need your help.

The 2013 State Legislative session begins in January. There will be many untested new faces and some holdovers who do not have a record of being friendly to the environment. We also lost several champions of the environment. For example, missing from the State Senate will be Andy Berke, Mike Faulk, Joe Haynes, Beverly Marrero, Kerry Roberts and Eric Stewart; from the house we will miss Jeanne Richardson, Mike Kernell, Mike McDonald, Gary Moore, and Janice Sontany. (If they are from your district, please thank them.)

Partly because of their leadership, the Sierra Club has an impressive record of accomplishments in past state legislative sessions. We have worked with these legislators and many other organizations to move the regulation of mountain top removal forward, to keep our streams and rivers free of pollution, to protect home owners and landowners from unfair and devaluing policies, to create and protect parks and wilderness areas, to keep the state from becoming a final resting place for nuclear waste, to promote green industries and jobs, and to encourage sound land use strategies for communities. One of the best accomplishments of all the environmental groups has been the continued, mostly successful, fight to keep the "Forever Green Tennessee" fund, a fund designated for the purchase of new land to be owned by the state and preserved for future generations. Our legislative successes have happened

because of four factors: strong leadership in the legislature, a lobbyist who works tirelessly for our goals, collaborative relations with other good organizations and you members who contact your legislators to tell them your views on how they should vote on upcoming bills in the State House and State Senate. Nothing happens without both our lobbyist and your support for our legislative program. Imagine the difference between these two scenarios

(1) our lobbyist's walking into a legislator's office alone to ask that legislator to vote for a bill to prohibit, say, clearcutting of forests and

(2) our lobbyist's walking into the same office accompanied by several informed Sierra Club members to argue the same proposal and the legislator's secretary ALSO says he/she has been inundated with calls in support of that bill. The second scenario is by far the most impressive one, and the one most likely to sway the legislator's opinion and vote.

The bottom line is that we need you to volunteer to contact legislators when a bill is coming

up for a vote. By one phone call or e mail, you can make a difference. Here is what is involved:

- 1) You send us your e mail, your address, your phone number and
- 2) We will notify you when your state senator or representative will be asked to vote on an environmental bill
- 3) We will provide details on the bill, tell you the general background of the bill and general rules about how to address your legislator, how to refer to bills, etc.

Please go to your computer or phone and let us know that you are willing to help with the Sierra Club state legislative program in the Spring of 2013. Send your name, address, and phone and legislative district (check your new voter registration card).

Thank you so much. The future of Tennessee's environment depends on your helping out.

Your Tennessee Chapter Legislative Chairs

Mary Mastin

marymastin@twlakes.net 931-268-2938

Penny Brooks

penny.h.brooks@vanderbilt.edu 615-792-5306

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

NEWS from the NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL SCENE

International Climate Conference

International Climate Conference-COP18 (27/11/12) – Jim Dougherty, Director of Sierra Club, talks about the group's work in the U.S. defeating coal-fired power stations. He explains that the group has moved from an environmental group aimed at protecting wild spaces to one focused on pollution and now climate change and fossil fuels.

He says the group's greatest success has been in stopping 147 of the 150 new coal-fired power stations that then President Bush said were needed in 2001.

Dougherty says that the Sierra Club want to see a focus placed on the conservation of energy and energy efficiency and then on renewable energy sources like wind and solar. However, in the real world, fracking has taken over in the US, he adds.

He explains how the Sierra Club once saw natural gas as a good stop gap fuel to use in the short term as the U.S. moves from coal to renewables. But with fracking, and the environmental concerns that come along with this, they are now focusing on getting the process of extracting shale gas reformed to limit these impacts.

View Jim's interview and other posts from the International Climate Conference http://sc.org/Doha_Climate

Smart Choices, Less Traffic

The 50 Best and Worst Transportation Projects In the U.S.

Each year, America invests more than \$200 billion in federal, state, and local tax dollars on transportation infrastructure—bridges and highways, aviation and waterways, public transit and sidewalks. But too often transportation projects undermine the higher national goals of reducing oil consumption, increasing safety, improving public health, and saving local, state or federal government—and citizens— money.

Americans are struggling with the health, climate, and economic costs of our oil-centered transportation system. While new standards that double fuel efficiency of new vehicles to 54.5 mpg by 2025 and cut carbon emissions in half are essential to reducing our dependence on oil and its many consequences, our transportation investments should provide an opportunity to further reduce our dependence on oil, reverse climate disruption, and save money. Because transportation infrastructure lasts for decades, the impacts of transportation investments are felt for many years to come, with huge consequences for America's ability to move beyond oil.

View the Full Report

www.sierraclub.org/transportation/downloads/2012-11-Best-Worst-Transportation-Projects.pdf

Sierra's Nuclear Free Campaign

Please Join the Sierra Nuclear Free Campaign @ http://sc.org/no_nukes

Frequent Conference Calls To Join a Working Team, send an email to the contact:

- Retire Old Nukes-Leslie March
LeslieMarch@hotmail.com
- High & Low Level Radioactive Waste
Susan Corbett jscorbett@mindspring.com or Diane D'Arrigo dianed@nirs.org.
- NRC issues-Linda Modica lcm@riseup.net
- Stop New Nukes
StevenSondheim@yahoo.com
- Front End (uranium mining, milling, enrichment)-
Pat Marida marida@wideopenwest.com.

Sierra's Nuclear Free Campaign Statement

An energy efficient world, powered by clean, renewable technologies, free from dirty, dangerous, costly nuclear power and its legacy of toxic waste. Stop proposed new nuclear plants and license extensions of old plants. Support efficiency, solar, wind, and geothermal power as sustainable sources of electricity. Address the mounting problems of radioactive waste and the effect of the entire nuclear fuel cycle on people and the planet. Stop making radioactive waste. Nuclear energy is risky, dirty, dangerous, slow, and expensive. It is unnecessary too — Renewables and efficiency are faster, cheaper, cleaner, and safer!

Sierra Asks TVA To Shift From Coal & Nuclear to Efficiency & Renewables?

Letter of Sierra's Beyond Coal Director to New TVA CEO, Bill Johnson

November 15, 2012

On behalf of the Sierra Club's 1.4 million members and supporters, including thousands in the region served by the Tennessee Valley Authority, welcome to your new role. As the Nation's largest public power system TVA has a long history serving the needs of the region's residents. Its

unique legal mandate, from the TVA Act of 1933, is to be a national leader in technological innovation, low-cost power, economic development, and environmental stewardship. We request a meeting with you to discuss the interests of the Sierra Club and our members in helping TVA build a clean energy future.

The biggest opportunity facing you is to lead a shift from TVA's proposed spending on dirty, dangerous, and costly energy options such as coal and nuclear to new investments in affordable and reliable energy efficiency and clean energy. Progress Energy was one of the first companies to decide that pouring more money into aging coal plants was the wrong choice. Over the next few months TVA must decide whether to spend billions to extend the lives of its polluting coal plants like the Gallatin facility near Nashville. We hope you use your experience at Progress Energy to choose energy efficiency and clean energy options that will create more jobs and lower costs for businesses and families, rather than coal.

At Progress Energy you also saw firsthand the mistake of trying to extend dependence on risky nuclear plants. The problems and cost overruns at the Crystal River and proposed Levy nuclear plants in Florida make it clear that continuing to pursue further spending on nuclear plants such as Bellefonte is not the prudent course for TVA. We urge you to immediately review the ongoing cost concerns and safety problems with respect to TVA's nuclear reactors. TVA's money would be better spent increasing energy efficiency, wind, and solar power, and building the electric system needed to support them.

As you take the helm of TVA, we look forward to meeting with you to begin our work together on shaping the Valley's energy future and protecting its air, water, land and all who depend upon them for life.

Sincerely,
Bruce Nilles
Senior Director, Beyond Coal Campaign
Katherine Pendleton
Chair, Tennessee Chapter

Moving?



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

Current Address: _____

Member ID# _____

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Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

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Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041.

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