

Tennessee-Sierran

The Bi-Monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 51, Number 1 - January/February 2018

U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Passes Tennessee Wilderness Act

by Laura Hodge

The Tennessee Wild Coalition today applauded the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry for passing the Tennessee Wilderness Act (S. 973). The legislation, originally introduced by Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Bob Corker (R-TN), and was incorporated into Senator Pat Roberts's (R-KS) Federal Land Management Act of 2017 (S. 2099). A similar version was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Phil Roe (R-TN).

The Tennessee Wilderness Act is supported by a diverse coalition of hunters, anglers, business owners, faith leaders, outdoor recreationists, and conservationists. For decades, Tennesseans have been working with Senators Alexander and Corker to preserve a small portion of the Cherokee National Forest. The bill now awaits a vote on the Senate floor.

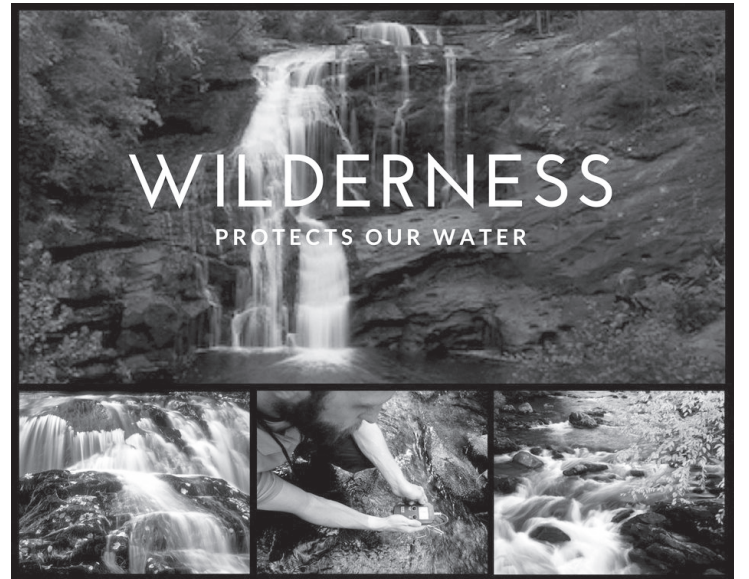
The legislation would safeguard nearly 20,000 acres of public land in the 650,000-acre Cherokee National Forest. It would expand the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock, Big Frog, Little Frog Mountain, Big

Laurel Branch, and Sampson Mountain wilderness areas, and create the new 9,000-acre Upper Bald River Wilderness Area.

The proposed areas are home to brook trout, white tailed deer, black bear, bobcat, turkey, and hundreds of additional species of animals and native plants.

Wilbert Griffith, a lifetime sportsman and trout fisherman said, "Hunting and fishing is part of who we are here in the Volunteer State, and it is important to preserve that heritage. Passing the Tennessee Wilderness Act would conserve critical wildlife habitat and migration areas. I want to thank Senators Alexander, Corker and Roberts for protecting our way of life. Now it is time for Congress to act."

The proposal would protect an outdoor recreation haven boasting 4.5 miles of the Appalachian Trail, nearly 15 miles of the Benton MacKaye Trail,



cold-water streams, and incredible wildlife. With the passage of the Tennessee Wilderness Act, access to the lands would not change, and land would remain open to hunting, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, camping, paddling, and other forms of recreation already allowed in the proposal areas.

Outdoor recreation is a critical part of Tennessee's economy. The passage of the bill would only enhance the outdoor recreation economy, as it would show businesses that preservation is a sound investment. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, the outdoor recreation industry generates \$21.6 billion in consumer spending in Tennessee annually and creates 188,000 direct jobs in the state.

Looking Ahead: Winter Tennessee Chapter Meeting January 26-28 Cedars of Lebanon State Park

Join the TN Chapter as we meet for our Winter Retreat. Come and enjoy the company and interaction with environmental leaders from across the state. Be a part of the fellowship, hikes, fireplace chats, meetings, and star gazing. Be sure not to miss the Saturday evening program (see below) and the informal social gathering that always follows. Meet others that share your love and respect for Mother Nature.

Harvey Broome Group hosting - Contact HBG treasurer Bob Perlack to register: email perlack@aol.com, phone (865) 229-5027 or mail Bob Perlack, 234 Northshore Drive, Greenback TN 37742. You can also pre-register before January 14 online at <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3914124/January-26-28-2018-Sierra-Club-Retreat> (when you are ready to use this web address, make sure there are no spaces between letters - sometimes it happens in the publication process).

The Park is centrally located near Lebanon, TN.

Register by Saturday, January 13th to receive early bird pricing. The rates are:

- Late registration (after January 13) - \$60
- Early Bird Discount (lodging, 2 breakfasts, Saturday dinner) - \$50
- First Chapter retreat and receiving the half price special (lodging, 2 breakfasts, Saturday dinner) - \$25
- Student (lodging, 2 breakfasts, Saturday dinner) - \$15
- Only on Saturday (registration, dinner) - \$30
- Only the Sunday Executive Committee meeting (registration, breakfast, no lodging) - \$10
- Only the Sunday Executive Committee meeting (registration only, no lodging, no breakfast) - \$5
- Child under 16 - No Charge

Bunk style lodging, Saturday breakfast, Saturday supper, Sunday breakfast, coffee and snacks are provided for the weekend. Tent or truck camping available for the same fee. Bring linens and cold and/or hot beverage containers. Participants are responsible for their own lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

Venue information and directions are available at Cedars of Lebanon State Park website here: <http://tennessee.gov/environment/parks/Cedars/index.shtml>

About the Park

The Park is named for Eastern Red Cedar trees found throughout the area. The trees reminded early American settlers of the famed Biblical cedar forests that thrived across Mount Lebanon in what is now the Mediterranean area. Cedars of Lebanon became a state park in 1955.

In the 1940s, botanists noticed unique natural ecosystems found in and around Cedars of Lebanon

State Park and Forest. These areas are natural rock gardens called cedar glades. The presence of glades is due to limestone rock coming so close to the surface of the ground that it causes the soil to be thin or absent. Water and surface temperatures vary so much throughout the year that a harsh, desert-like, inhospitable habitat is created with its own unique plant community. Nineteen rare and endangered species of plants grow profusely here and nowhere else in the world. Winter activities include hiking, birding and disk golf.

The Saturday evening program speaker: Dr. Kim Sadler, Professor of Biology Education MTSU, and Co-Director for the Center for Cedar Glade Studies will talk about the ecology of the Cedar Glades. She will also speak about the work of Dr. Elsie Quarterman in not only understanding the ecology of these unique ecosystems, but also her role in getting them preserved in the State of Tennessee.

Once again, we're delighted to have our Tennessee State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath, to lead us on some hike at Cedars. Here's what Randy has lined up:

Saturday at 9 AM Hidden Springs Loop Meet Randy at the parking area where you turn to the horse barn. This is a 5 mile walk thru the cedar glades and has some dramatic geologic features of the karst topography. Be sure to prepare for muddy trail conditions that we will certainly have unless it is frozen.

Sunday at 9 AM Cedar Forest Trail meet at the first parking lot located where you turn into the recreation area. This is a 2 mile walk thru an upland forest with some beautiful rock formations and interesting sinkholes.

Please plan ahead and prepare for the winter weather we are likely to have in late January. Winter hikes can be great experiences if you are properly attired! It's a good idea to have a backpack for carrying water, snacks, and extra clothing.

Nearby attractions include Stones River National Historic Battlefield. So if our hikes are not what you're looking for, a 20-minute drive over to the Battlefield provides another possible excursion (<https://www.nps.gov/stri/index.htm>). They have a museum, where you may view a short film about the famous battle.

We'll also offer a short excursion to the Elsie Quarterman memorial in Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Here is a link to a recent article about her work as an ecologist, especially at these Cedar Glades:

<https://news.vanderbilt.edu/vanderbiltmagazine/elsie-quarterman-was-more-than-a-biology-professor-and-ecologist/>

Tennessee Chapter Spring Retreat N.B. Forrest State Park April 27th thru 29th

Come to Western Tennessee to meet and interact with Sierra Club leaders from all parts of the state. Enjoy hikes, campfires, environmental programs and camaraderie on the shore of the Tennessee River. Most attendees stay in the bunkhouse style Group Lodge although some stay at the campground. Early bird registration of \$50.00 includes lodging, two breakfasts and Saturday dinner.

Registrants may specify vegetarian or omnivore. First time attendees are half price. Youth 15 and under are free. Scholarships are available upon advance arrangement. Attendees should bring a sleeping bag or bedding, a towel, toiletries, walking shoes, appropriate clothing, snacks, beverages and Saturday lunch. Middle Tennessee Group is hosting the retreat. Watch for more information regarding outings and live music in the next issue of the Tennes-Sierran. To register on line, go to <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4019609/April-27-29-2018-Sierra-Club-Retreat> or contact Charlie High for information and reservations at caigh1722@aol.com or by text at 615.500.5499.

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 on page 8 and mail

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: c.demetreon@mchsi.com

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is January 31st for the March/April 2018 issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to c.demetreon@mchsi.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: Tennessee Chapter Ombudsman, Joel Gearhardt at jgearhardt@yahoo.com. 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.

Cutoff Date for the March/April Issue is January 31, 2018.

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

Send material to Chris Demetreon at c.demetreon@mchsi.com



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All Creatures Great and Small



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- John Muir

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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 32141-6417 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

MEETING SCHEDULE



Chapter Meeting	Location	Dates
Winter	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	January 26 - 28
Spring	NB Forrest State Park	April 27-29
Summer	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	Aug 3 - 5
Fall	Picket State Park	October 19 - 21

The Chapter retreat will begin at 4 PM on Friday and end at 2 PM on Sunday. All TN Chapter Retreat participants will be required to sign the standard Sierra Club outings liability waiver when checking in at the retreat location. To review this waiver, please visit http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/forms/local-outings-sign-in_waiver.pdf

Any attendee under the age of 18 not accompanied by parent or legal guardian will need to have a signed liability waiver and medical authorization form with them when they arrive. To review these waivers, please visit

http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual_waiver.pdf and <http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/forms/local-outings-minor-release.pdf>

Watauga Lake Cleanup Results

Watauga Lake Cleanup yielded (4 tons) 8060 pounds of garbage gathered into dumpsters at Fish Springs Marina in Carter county and Sink Mountain Boat Ramp in Johnson County by 52 volunteers within 8 hours. The cleanup represented a seamless interplay of state agencies, like TVA and county governments and local NGOs, like the Watauga Group of the TN Sierra Club, Watauga Sailing Club and the Watauga Watershed Alliance.

Thank You Shout Outs:

Martha Podren, TVA

Benny Lyons, Solid Waste Director of Carter County

Sandy Hammons, Johnson County Litter Control Officer

Lake Shore Marina for their donations of boats and fuel

Fish Springs Marina for the boat and accommodations

Johnson County Chamber of Commerce

Watauga Lake Sailing Club

All 52 volunteers who boated into coves or stomped through drift wood and poison oak to clean up after others I thank you! YOU ROCK!



Linda Carlough and Susan Kapacka work at the booth.

Watauga Lake Conservation Tour

Mere minutes before we embarked on our pontoons, the fog covering Watauga Lake held visibility down to zero. As our boats silently moved across the waters, the early morning mist lifted revealing a deep blue sky above and autumn colors all around. The eighth annual Watauga Lake Conservation Tour was underway! Nestled between Big Laurel and Pond Mountain wilderness areas within the Cherokee National Forest, the clean waters and beautiful Appalachian vistas of Watauga Lake play host for fishermen, swimmers and those seeking the peace wilderness offers. On this cool Appalachian morning, we were the only boats on the lake. Watauga Lake is a hidden gem of our High Country thought by many to be one of the cleanest bodies of water in the United States. With a maximum depth of 305 feet – and 265 feet at the dam (picture the height of a 24 story building underwater) Watauga Lake boasts 105 miles of shoreline with numerous coves to explore redtail hawks and eagles perched on limbs above.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail #1 follows the west and north sides of Watauga Lake. AT hikers trek overtop the 69 year old earthen dam to cross the reservoir. Watauga Dam was completed in 1949 by TVA, creating a lake at 2000' elevation. At the time of its construction, it was the highest



Photo credit: Dennis Shekinah

elevation earthen dam in the world, and today is the highest in the eastern United States.

TVA impounded Elk River, Roan Creek and Watauga River to create this 6,430 acre lake located in both Johnson and Carter County, TN. Submerged road beds, foundations, sidewalks and train tracks

remain that once serviced the drowned town of Butler, then a regional trade center and a thriving agricultural community in excess of 600 residents. Today, the lake benefits from several environmentally minded groups, the Watauga Group perhaps the most visible.



Energy and Climate Change- CKG Programs

by Dennis Lynch

The Tennessee Chapter's Chickasaw Group (CKG) has spent quite a bit of "energy" on energy and climate change related information over the last few months. It's one of the biggest environmental issues in front of us in the immediate future.

At the July Chapter Retreat, Joe Ozegovich presented about Electric Vehicles and solar power, and organized demo rides in his Tesla Model S, and in a BMW i3 which had been loaned to us by Roadshow BMW of Memphis/ Germantown and which Dennis Lynch had driven to the Retreat. This event was previously promoted in the July-August Tennes-Sierran.

In August at CKG's Program meeting, Joe repeated the same presentation and demos at the Memphis Main Library. FedEx even made one of their electric courier delivery vans available for viewing. (Note Joe will repeat this presentation again for the Middle Tennessee Group on Jan 11, 2018.)

In September, CKG continued its focus on

energy. Thanks to Clint Bray (a candidate for the CKG Excom), we coordinated with Drive Electric Week and had numerous EV's on display at Shelby Farms Park, right at their solar-powered charging station.

Also in September, our Program Meeting focussed on Energy and Climate Change, presenting trends in energy costs and the breadth of solutions which should be pursued by individuals and by our cities. Renewable energy costs have dropped by huge amounts in the last seven years, and are now on a par with energy from carbon-based fuels- utility scale solar is down by 85%, wind energy is down by 66%, and battery storage is down by 70%. See the charts on pg 10 of <https://www.lazard.com/media/438038/levelized-cost-of-energy-v100.pdf>

The Chickasaw Group paid further attention to solar power in its October Program- Attendees toured the Agricenter's Solar Farm in East Memphis. Tim Roberts, the Solar Farm's manager described the 1 MegaWatt system, which

includes 4,160 solar panels on 4 acres of land. The panels rotate through the day to track the sun, thereby increasing their efficiency. By contract, all of the electricity produced at the Agricenter is sold to TVA and then to MLGW for use by local consumers. Trying not to step into controversy here- TVA's contracts with the various local utility companies give TVA substantial control over each utility's sources of energy.

Future programs will highlight what the city of Memphis is doing to cut its energy usage, and also to highlight weatherization and other programs to reduce energy costs for lower income families.

CKG is looking for volunteers to work with us on numerous energy related issues- For example, Memphis Light Gas and Water has over 100,000 streetlights, virtually all of them "High Pressure Sodium" rather than more efficient LED's (which would have a 5-7 year financial payback). We want to increase the pressure on Memphis to change to LED's.

VW Diesel Mitigation- \$45.8 million for Tennessee

by Dennis Lynch

You may have heard about Volkswagen's cheating on the EPA's vehicle emissions testing (it's TDI diesel cars functioned in a less polluting way while in testing). When the cheat was discovered, VW agreed to a \$14.7 Billion settlement. The Sierra Club nationally and in every state has been engaged in ensuring that the mitigation proceeds effectively and with the best results. About 2/3rds of the settlement is being spent to buy back VW diesel cars (certain models and certain years).

In addition, \$2.7 Billion is allocated to a "Diesel Mitigation Fund" which each state can designate within a list of acceptable expenses.

Tennessee's share of this fund is \$45.8 million, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) is guiding the state's efforts. The Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club has been engaged throughout the process, including attendance at recent public meetings in Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, and Chattanooga. Additionally, Sierra Club members were encouraged to fill out TDEC's input form, and write personal letters and emails if possible. We want the state to invest it's \$45.8 million in various electric vehicle (EV) resources, as listed in the next paragraph.

YOU CAN STILL HELP- By the time you see this, TDEC will still be seeking input. And we

are still competing against trucking and freight interests who want to spend the money on carbon-based fuels and facilities. Tell TDEC in your own words (by email to Alexa.Voytek@tn.gov) - that you "want the Mitigation Trust Funds used only for expenditures which support moving people- including EV charging stations, electric transit buses, electric school buses, and electric shuttle buses, and NOT for trucking and freight purposes, especially those which use diesel, CNG, LNG, or propane."

Keep your eyes open for additional input opportunities this Spring!

Group Business Meetings			
Group	Date	Location	Time
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Sun 1/7	Annual "Welcome the New Year Potluck" at Audubon Acres	4:00 P.M.
	Mon 2/6, 3/6, 4/2	Pilgrim Congregational Church, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chattanooga	6:00 P.M.
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Wed 1/10, 2/7, 3/7, 4/4	Cheffie's Cafe, 483 High Point Terrace, Memphis	6:00 P.M.
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Sat 1/13 - Planning meeting	4064 Kingston Park Drive, Knoxville.	---
	Tue 1/23, 2/27, 3/27, 4/24	The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd., Knoxville	7:00 P.M.
Middle TN (Nashville)	Tue 1/16, 2/20, 3/20, 4/17	House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville	6:30 P.M.
Watauga (Mountain City)	Tue 1/9	Excom Officers elected, Chairs appointed 5902 Highway 421 So, Mountain City	5:00 P.M. 6:00 P.M.
	Tue 2/13, 3/13, 4/10	5902 Highway 421 South, Mountain City	6:00 P.M.
Group Program Meetings			
Group	Date	Location	Time
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Sun 1/7	Annual "Welcome the New Year Pot Luck" at Audobon Acres	4:00 P.M.
	Mon 1/22, 2/26, 3/26, 4/23	Unitarian Universalist Church, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga	7:00 P.M.
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Thu 1/18, 2/15, 3/15, 4/19	Benjamin Hooks Public Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., Memphis	5:55 P.M.
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 1/9, 2/13, 3/13, 4/10	Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalists Church, 2931 Kingston Pike	7:00 P.M.
Middle TN (Nashville)	Thu 1/11, 2/8, 3/8, 4/12	Radnor Lake Nature Center, 1160 Otter Creek Rd., Nashville, TN	7:00 P.M.
Watauga (Mountain City)	Tue 1/9, 2/13, 3/13, 4/10	5908 Highway 421 South, Mountain City	6:00 P.M.

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

January 7, 2018 - 4:00 P.M. - Cherokee Group Annual Welcome 2018 Pot-luck/Mixer: Audubon Acres, Sunday, Jan. 7th starting at 4 pm. YOU are invited! Bring friends and a covered dish. We'll supply drinks, utensils, plates, etc. Come start the new year off by joining people sharing the same interests, energy and dreams for our environment as you. All welcome, don't worry if you haven't got a dish there's always plenty of food and wine as well. Before dark we'll take a short walk to the bridge over South Chickamauga Creek before dinner. Also, the Visitors Center, where we'll be dining, is a mini-museum with interesting archeological artifacts to explore; Audubon Acres is a registered site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Location: Audubon Acres Visitor Center, 900 Sanctuary Rd., Chatta., 37424 – in East Brainerd, off Gunbarrel Road, just follow the signs. The Visitors Center is on the right, just inside the gate.

January 22, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - January Program: at Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chatta. 37411; off I-24, just east of the Missionary Ridge cut. Take the Germantown Road Exit, turn north onto Germantown Road, take the 2nd left onto Navajo, go about 1/2 mile, UUCC will be on your left, up the hill! James Dillard will present a talk about the national security implication of American dependency on oil, especially for transportation. Dr. Dillard is a professional Chemist and Member of the American Chemical Society. His presentation will discuss the traditional methods of recovering petroleum and the more recent unconventional techniques of recovering oil including the controversial use of "fracking." A critical evaluation will be made as to the real indication that U.S. supply may not be as

Outings

The Tennessee Chapter's Outings and activities are always open to the public and members of the Club from across the state! Sponsored by our local Groups, pre-registration with the trip leader is a must for all outings.

January 21, 2018 - Afternoon Walk on the Brainerd Levee/South Chickamauga Creek Greenway. Enjoy watching for wildlife – we may spot beaver or red-tailed hawks; great blue herons are common and sometimes great egrets are seen in the half-dozen or so marshes, ponds and assorted wetlands that parallel the western side. Winter finds abundant waterfowl making their home here too along South Chickamauga Creek. Bring friends! Pre-registration required, with John Doyal, 2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com or 423-315-0965. (Cherokee Group)

Nashville Outings! - We have an active outings schedule! To check out our outings, please go to <http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures>

plentiful as promoted and that the resulting dependency on foreign oil may place our economy and national security in jeopardy if actions are not accelerated to move away from a petroleum based transportation system towards more renewables for our future.

Letter-writing materials on current issues with talking points will be available for those interested. Hand written letters do count! Phone calls and e-mails too.

Bring a friend. The public is very welcome! FREE as always.

February 26, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - February Program: Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chatta. 37411; off I-24, just east of the Missionary Ridge cut. Take the Germantown Road Exit, turn north onto Germantown Road, take the 2nd left onto Navajo, go about 1/2 mile, UUCC will be on your left, up the hill!

Program to be announced - check our Facebook pages (Cherokee Sierra) and our Meet-up Group Green Events.

Letter-writing materials on current issues with talking points will be available for those interested. Hand written letters do count! Phone calls and e-mails too.

Bring a friend. The public is very welcome! FREE as always; look for our banner!

February 5, 2018 - 6:00 P.M. - Strategy/Business Meeting: Come add your ideas, share your concerns as we resist, insist, persist and enlist! We've got committees on outings, programs, clean energy and climate, water quality, forestry issues, and parks/land protection with room to support YOUR concern. Where: Pilgrim Congregational Church, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chatta. 37404 (at the corner of Glenwood Dr. and E. 3rd Street. Come in the front door! We'll be in the second room on the right. All are welcome!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Our monthly programs are normally held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:55pm at the Memphis Main Library, 3030 Poplar Ave, Memphis.

Our business meetings are normally held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6pm, at Cheffie's Cafe, 483 High Point Ter, Memphis.

Program and business meetings are free and

open to the public. For additional information see: <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group>.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Our monthly programs are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 P.M., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. For additional information see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs>

Our business meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd. Knoxville, TN 37909 at 7pm. Everyone is invited. These meetings are free and open to the public. See our web page (sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs) for details.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

January 11, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Program: Electric Vehicles – Joe Ozegovich will present this program on electric vehicles. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Russ at 615 506-4070. The program is free and open to the public.

January 16, 2018 - 6:30 P.M. - LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Come at 6:00 if you'd like to eat. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville. Please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com with any questions. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

Program and business meetings begin at 6:00 PM on the second Tuesday near Doe Mountain Recreation Area from spring through fall at R&D Campground Pavilion at 900 Mining Town Rd., Mountain City, TN. During the wintertime meet up at The Loft 5902 Hwy 421 south Mountain City, TN. Got questions, contact bmw@icloud.com 423- 534-4804 or GLa4797@embarqmail.com 423-727-4797.

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Lessons from the Trail, The Wisdom of Skittering Lizards

by Joan Tomlinson, trail name Blue Jay

I've spent some time out hiking over the last few years. Long hikes. Long enough to call my hikes journeys. I think of my time out hiking as times of discovery. I've learned lessons out there, in the natural world. And I've brought the knowledge and wisdom of those lessons back home with me. Many of the things I've learned were taught to me by the very simple things that I took the time to study, to contemplate. I want to talk here about what I learned from skittering lizards while I was hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail this year.

Let me back up a bit. I am an over sixty, female, often solo hiker. I completed a through hike (a hike from end to end in one fell swoop) of the Appalachian Trail in 2014. My "through hike" of the Pacific Crest Trail has turned into a 3-year hike: 1400 miles in 2016, 750 miles in 2017, and 500 miles left to be completed in 2018. Long distance hiking is not for the faint of heart, and my hikes have often been very hard for me. They ALWAYS have been rewarding, often beyond measure.

The Pacific Crest Trail runs from the California-Mexico border to the Washington-Canada border, covering 2650 miles along the crest of the mountains in the states of California, Oregon, and Washington. The first 500 miles on the southern end are in the desert. For my hike this year, I planned to cover a large portion that I skipped last year due to a heavy snow pack in the highest mountains; that snow pack (many feet of snow) was way out of my level of snow experience. I started my hike this year in middle July in northern CA near Lassen Volcanic National Park and headed south. Even though the timing of this year's hike was planned around high elevations and snow pack (yes, even in the late summer months!), my first couple of weeks on the trail were at lower elevations, and it was terribly hot. There were triple digit temps in the towns around where I was hiking. The water sources were drying up and often a bit off the trail. I learned how to hike in those conditions last year when I completed the desert portion of the PCT, but still, it was hot and dry! On the sunny side of mountains where the trees are scarce, the temps on the trail were brutal. I would hike from shade tree to shade tree and stop under each to escape the sun for a few minutes. Water is heavy to carry, about 2 pounds per liter, so knowing the location of confirmed water sources was very important.

On one noteworthy day, the trail crossed a mountain that had a fairly steep slope, was mostly treeless, and had a small seasonal stream. I found some shade, drank some water, and studied where I was. I love to study the small things around where I sit. There had been lizards skittering around me for days. Small, fast creatures. I don't know, nor do I need to know, what kind of lizards they were. I loved seeing them! On this day, while I sat in the shade, I studied a lively lizard that was darting under rocks, creeping through



vegetation, leaping onto my backpack, and doing those pushups that they do. I was feeling like the wax blob of a melted candle; I was parched even after drinking water from the stream. I was a newcomer to this area, ill-equipped to deal with these harsh conditions. Yet here was this little critter, adapted over many years of its long lineage, thriving in this area of extremes. It found food and shelter during these hot, dry days, and it knew just how deep to go underground to survive the long harsh, snowy winters. This was an instinctual creature whose life was completely integrated into its environment. It was nurtured in this place. I had a sense that its life, combined with the whole system of living things in the area, had reached a tranquil equilibrium. Perhaps that is part of the peace I feel in the natural world: the individual parts giving and taking equally from and for the whole. This felt to me like a lesson from the natural world that was worthy of remembering.

I remember weeping for the sheer joy of being in the presence of this little critter and the lesson about a nurturing environment it so innocently gave me. Weeping for joy on the trail is not unusual for me. I can be moved to tears by the majesty of where I am, by the simplicity of leaves moving in the wind against a clear blue sky, by energetic critters going about their daily lives, and by exceptionally old and large trees. I'm glad for these tears of joy. After all, how often in my daily life am I so moved by exceptional joy that there is no stopping how that joy moves through me?

At the end of each of my trail experiences, I return to Knoxville and reflect upon the deep connections to the natural world that I have

stumbled upon during my hike. The lessons I've learned on the trail stay with me. This year, I looked around my house, my community, and my piece of the world. I thought about that small lizard and the lesson I learned from it. I came to understand that I am best served when my world, my space, and the environment in which I live nurture me. With the understanding that all wild things and all things in the natural world – when unencumbered by the hand of humankind – have an equilibrium with their environments, it stands to reason that I should seek to have an equilibrium with mine. So that little skittering lizard has motivated me to become aware of who's putting what in the river near my house, the chemicals and additives in the food I eat, the clutter in my house, the particulate matter in the air I breathe, and where that single use straw is going to end up. I am becoming aware of what in my environment is nurturing me. And what is not. Awareness. Unlike my lizard friend, I have some control over and the ability to help enact changes to my environment when I am being negatively impacted. This can be cleaning out a messy closet, taking an active stand against air or water pollution, reducing single use plastics, or finding a community of like-minded environmentalists. It's empowering to feel like I am nurturing my environment, both for my environment's sake and for my own. Awareness. Action. Equilibrium. The lizard knows there are times when it's good to hide under a rock. I know there are times when it's not.

Blue Jay may be contacted at BlueJayAT@gmail.com

Water & The Environment- Policy Roundtable

by Ward Archer & Dennis Lynch

On Tuesday, October 24 at Rhodes College, the Sierra Club participated in the "Water & The Environment- Policy Roundtable", which was hosted by the Tennessee Senate Democratic Caucus.

The Sierra Club was a major contributor to a panel of experts on water and environmental policy issues affecting Memphis and Tennessee. The panelists and the focus of their presentations were: Anne

Passino for Southern Environmental Law Center (Clean Water Act lawsuit victory from East TN violations), Scott Banbury for the Sierra Club (radioactive waste dumping), Ward Archer for Protect Our Aquifer (aquifer advocacy), Kurt Stafford for Tennessee American Water (Critical Infrastructure Investment), Brian Waldron for CAESER (Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research- TVA Allen Fossil Plant testing methodology and update),

Kimberly Pettigrew for Tennessee Clean Water Network (bottle refill stations in Tennessee schools), State Senator Jeff Yarbro (extreme weather advisory task force and climate change), and State Senator Lee Harris (lead in drinking water). The panel was moderated by State Senator Sara Kyle.

A great crowd attended and asked insightful questions following the presentations.

Conservation Education Day - February 20-21, 2018

By Bill Moll

Conservation Education Day is a special day at the State Capitol “to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.” This year the Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter has the lead in organizing the Conservation Education Day (CED) which has been a joint effort of the Tennessee Environmental Council, the Sierra Club and the Tennessee Conservation Voters for many years.

To meet the greater role of state and local governments in protecting the environment, CED has been expanded from recent years’ activities. CED will begin on Tuesday evening, February 20, with lobbying and issue training in the Harambee Auditorium at Scarritt Bennett Center, Nashville. Jen Hensley (Sierra Club Director of State Lobbying & Advocacy), Scott Banbury (TN Chapter Conservation Program Coordinator and Lobbyist) and others will lead training and discussion of the next day’s activities.

Wednesday morning, we will reconvene at a location adjacent to the Capitol to distribute materials and head off for the day’s meetings with our Representatives and Senators promoting our “asks.” The “asks” are being developed with the emphasis on getting bills passed. The Chapter is working with a broad coalition of conservation groups to develop a common agenda of key legislative items and “asks” for 2018.

Since many Chapter members haven’t participated before in a lobbying day at the Capitol, here’s a brief description. Being a Tennessee legislator is a part-time job. The Legislators are in Nashville only part of the week, with most being there on Wednesdays. The Chapter will be one of numerous organizations set up in the hallways on Wednesday, the 21st, to coordinate their meetings with legislators. We will meet at scheduled times with our legislators in their rather small offices. Each group will consist of two to four people, one of whom must be a constituent. We will have a maximum of five minutes to greet, educate, supplicate and thank our legislators, who will then usher in another interest group.

Last year, we each had four constitu-

ent meetings, a group meeting with the House Speaker and with the Lt. Governor, a group rally and lunch, which filled the 9 am to 4 pm day. The organizing committee will arrange the meeting times with the legislators because of the scheduling coordination required. Since we won’t have two constituents for most districts, we will fill out the meeting team with members from adjacent or nearby districts. Also, the legislators’ offices are spread out over a



maze of hallways, so scheduling is rather complex.

It seems a bit daunting, but my experience last year was that the legislators were receptive to our message. We are fortunate in Tennessee that an appreciation for the beauty and value of our natural resources crosses political and doctrinal lines. We need members to come to Nashville so that we can meet with as many of our legislators as possible. We will be aggressively recruiting Sierra Club constituents for meetings with members of some key Committees. There are some points to keep in mind.

When the Union of Concerned Scientists came to Chattanooga this past spring and met with local activists, I was amazed that they were working with my Congressional House member. They studied what was important to him and found some common interests which they could develop.

They were thinking with their heads, not their hearts. In my contacts with Chuck Fleischmann, I had tried to make him into the Representative that I wanted, rather than working with who he is. Jen Hensley, Clifton Stewart and others have given many other examples of successfully working with people across the political spectrum. To quote Clifton, “there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies.”

While you are representing the Sierra Club, you need to stick to supporting the Sierra Club Mission. Many of us have a wide range of concerns about the current legislative situation, both local, state and federal. It can be difficult to suppress those concerns, but working on behalf of the Sierra Club, we have a Mission. Chapter members inhabit all of the legislative districts because concern for the environment does cross geographical and political lines. Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Tea Party Patriots, Democratic Socialists of America, etc. all are represented in the Sierra Club because of our common concern for the environment.

If you aren’t able to afford the time and expense of coming to Nashville for CED 2018, you can still participate. The real impact of lobbying isn’t the first visit. It is the ongoing connection with the legislator that is effective - establishing a relationship with them and understanding what is important to them. Most of the year, that contact is done back in the district, not at the Capitol. The Chapter will be developing resources (that means you!) in each of the 99 House districts and 33 Senate districts to establish these ongoing contacts. Using a recent (though incomplete) list of members, the Chapter has at least 16 members in every legislative district.

If you are interested in participating, please contact me at whmoll@aol.com or 423-702-5779, ask at your January Group meeting, read your Group newsletter, or contact your Group Chair – their contact info is listed on T-S Page 2. At T-S press time (November 30), details are still being developed and more information will be available by January.

A banner week for Ready for 100

by Stephanie Steinbrecher

Last week, two cities and two counties signed community-wide commitments to transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy. These commitments bring the total number of Ready for 100 municipalities to 52, with now six counties committed nationwide as well.

Last week’s commitments stretch from coast to coast: from Buncombe County, North Carolina and Goleta, California on Tuesday to Downingtown, Pennsylvania and Whatcom County, Washington on Wednesday, local communities far and wide are going all in on 100% clean energy.

“Buncombe County residents who are overburdened with high energy costs will save money on their bill for more important

things, like taking care of family,” Olufemi Lewis, organizer with the Sierra Club’s Ready for 100 Campaign in Asheville, said about the Buncombe County Commission’s vote to commit to transition to 100% clean and renewable energy. “This is just the start on the path to energy equity for Buncombe County, but it shows an important commitment to fair and affordable energy prices for all.”

Last week’s four commitments follow Truckee, California’s commitment to 100 percent clean, renewable energy last week – the 50th Ready for 100 commitment milestone.

Four mayors also signaled their support for a just, equitable energy transition last week by signing onto Mayors For 100%

Clean Energy.

With the addition of Mayors Michael Ignasiak of Edgewater, Florida, William Hall of South Daytona, Florida, John Heilman of West Hollywood, California, and Donald Terry of Rancho Cordova, California, 185 mayors nationwide have now pledged to transition their communities to be powered by 100% renewable energy by 2035.

Additionally, on Tuesday Mayor Brian Bagley of Longmont, Colorado issued a proclamation in support of moving Longmont towards 100% clean and renewable energy by 2030.

This was a big week for Ready for 100 campaigns and communities – and the year isn’t over yet.

Chickasaw Group Holiday Party

by Dennis Lynch

Around this time of year, many organizations are having holiday parties. The Chickasaw Group in Memphis is no exception. Traditionally, it's a party we enjoy, relax and chat casually with Sierra Club friends and allies.

There have traditionally been three main events at our party- a great pot-luck buffet, our large group photo, and our Annual Awards.

Last year, we began a "new tradition"- collecting donations for some of our key allies. Guests are invited to place their donation in one of eight donation jars, for their allies of choice. It's not a huge

effort by us, nor a huge "deal", but it gives us a chance to talk about the "movement" and about our important allies. It also gives us an additional opportunity to connect with our friends that are part of our allies' organizations.

This year, we'll be adding two more new traditions- brief candidate speeches by our Excom candidates, PLUS mini-issue presentations to invite volunteers to work on these issues/campaigns. Hopefully, these extra activities don't take too much time away from our usual friendly conversations.

Happy Holidays everyone!!

"Yes we still work on the Environment"- Funny EPA Story

by Dennis Lynch

In early September, I was in Washington DC for the Sierra Club CCL (Council of Club Leaders) meeting. I arrived early to do a little touring. While there I walked past the EPA building. At the corner of Constitution Ave and 12th St NW I turned to the north, and then saw a woman on a bicycle emerge from a side exit. She stopped not far in front of me to wait for traffic. I said "Hello. I guess you work for the EPA." She said "Yes." She seemed pleasant, so I asked "Do you still work on environmental issues?" She looked at me

a little funny, with a bit of a smirky smile, and said "Yes, we still do." I said, "That's great! I'm in town for a national Sierra Club meeting." She smiled and said, "Keep it up! Your work is so important! We need you." Bolstered by her positive response, I asked her what she worked on, and believe it or not she said "Climate Change." Surprised, I asked "Are you even allowed to use that term?" She smiled again and said "Yes." Unfortunately, she departed before I could get any info about her department or any contact info.

Defenders need your help!

The Defenders are Sierrans who contribute to our legislative efforts, enabling our lobbyist, Conservation Coordinator, and volunteers to make a positive impact on our state legislators. Because of their hard work, legislators listen as we advocate for our environment.

We send the Defender request annually only to those who have contributed in the past. However, because of natural attrition, it is imperative that we increase our donor list. We ask you to become a Defender by supporting this invaluable program. Any amount is helpful!

Some of the most important issues we worked on during the past legislative session included:

- We worked with other groups to stop more gas pipeline compressor stations in Davidson County without proper zoning compliance;
- We fought attempts to limit state regulations on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs);
- We worked again to pass the Property Assessed Clean Energy bill;
- We fought privatization of our state parks; which would impact users and local citizens who depend on income the parks;
- We fought once again against returning permitting authority over mountaintop removal mining to the state, which would cost the state millions of dollars while furthering destructive surface practices.

These are only some of the good fights we engaged in last legislative session. We win some battles, we need YOU to help us win the war to preserve our beautiful Tennessee. Please support the Sierra Club Defenders. Send the following form with a check made out to the Sierra Club with "Defenders" on the memo line to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215.

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Check here to receive e-mail alerts when the Sierra Club needs contacts to state legislators on critical votes. Include your e-mail address above. Don't check this box if you already receive these alerts.

Check here to receive weekly e-mail updates from TCV (include your e-mail address above) during the legislative session. Don't check this box if you already receive these updates.

Yes No May we publish your name in the the TennesSierran?

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

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

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