

Tennessee-Sierra Club

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

Volume 51, Number 4 - July/August 2018

Looking Ahead: Tennessee Chapter Summer Retreat August 3rd thru 5th Cedars of Lebanon State Park

Explore a part of middle Tennessee's wild side and State Park Civilian Conservation Corp history for a great weekend this August while you meet others from across the state that share your same concerns. Nature lovers and environmentalists will be there. Plan to attend.

Hike with State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath on Saturday and/or Sunday morning in the Red Cedar Forest and Glades in Cedars of Lebanon State Park at the Tennessee Chapter Summer Retreat. Eight miles of hiking trails meander through the cedar forests and glades. There are four trails in the park from which visitors frequently enjoy glimpses of fox, deer, squirrel, rabbits, and turkey. Cedar Forest Trail is an easy 2-mile hike. Dixon-Merritt Trail is an easy half mile trail. Limestone Sinks is a half mile hike that brings visitors to the cedar glades. Hidden Springs Trail is five miles long.

Take a dip in the Olympic size swimming pool Saturday 11:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. & Sunday 11:00 AM to 6:30 PM when a life guard is present. A nominal Cedars of Lebanon State Park fee and hand stamp allows you to come and go swimming all day during the TN Chapter Summer Retreat weekend. The pool ranges from 4 feet to 12 feet deep with a diving board and a smaller two foot wading pool for children.

Arrival Details & Reservations

Watauga Group is hosting and reservations may be confirmed by contacting Gloria Griffith at Gla4797@embarqmail.com or call 423-727-4797 or register on-line here <http://www.surveymoz.com/s3/4124392/August-3-5-2018-Sierra-Club-Retreat>. Tell how many adults/children in your party, when you plan to arrive, and whether people are vegetarian or omnivore for meal planning. Check in begins Friday after 4 PM at the Group Lodge. Early Bird Price available until July 27th is \$50/adult. Regular Registration Fee is \$60/adult.

SPECIAL: ½ off regular fee for first-time attendees! Children 15 and under attend free.

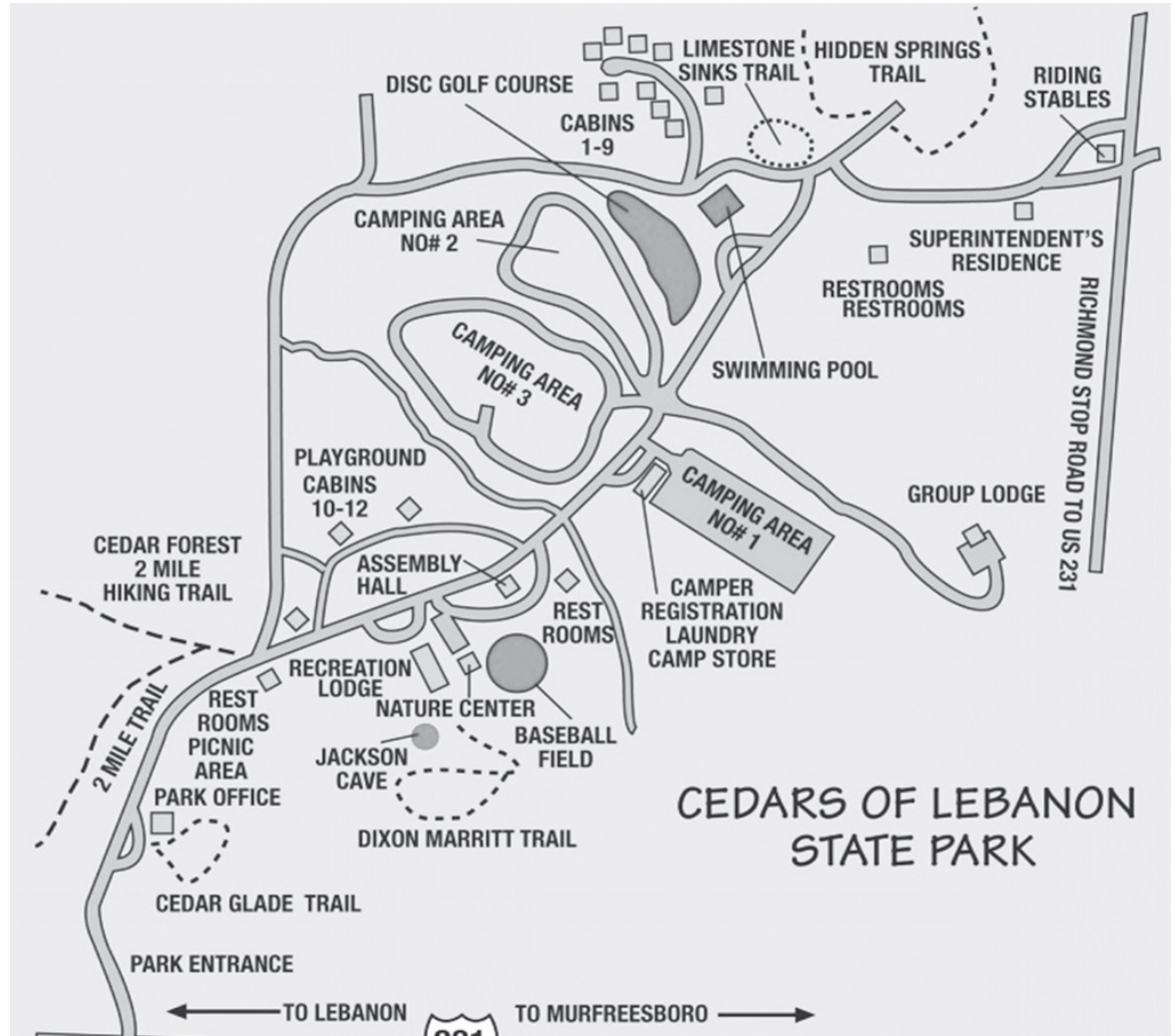
Students: \$15 for the whole weekend. Single day only price with meals Saturday \$30. Single day only Sunday price with breakfast \$10. Day only, no meals \$5. Scholarships are available by request.

Chapter Retreats are considered by National as an activity that requires people to sign the waiver we use for people going on Sierra Club outings. So, when you first arrive at the Retreat, we will have these handy and make sure that it is a part of registering each of you. If youths are coming separately, there is a Minor Waiver, which needs to be signed by the parent/guardian and brought to the Retreat. See Chapter Retreat Schedule on page 2 for details.

When you arrive at the summer Chapter Retreat Friday evening, get acquainted with other participants and plan to enjoy the night sky. The Group Lodge includes two air conditioned bunkhouse wings each with 19 twin



Take a hike with State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath on Saturday and/or Sunday morning in the Red Cedar Forest and Glades in Cedars of Lebanon State Park at the Tennessee Chapter Summer Retreat. Eight miles of hiking trails meander through the cedar forests and glades. Photo credit Barbara Allen.



size bunk beds, restroom and shower accommodations at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Various TN Chapter Sierra Club committees will also meet on Saturday and Sunday - feel free to sit in on any or all meetings or workshop/trainings of interest to you.

What to Bring

Attendees should bring bunk bed linens or sleeping bag, towels, toiletries, comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots, weather appropriate clothing, flashlight, your favorite beverages, reusable water bottle and tea/coffee mug. Everyone pitches in to help with clean-up before 11am Sunday bunkhouse checkout. Camping among the surrounding trees is another popular option (cost for the weekend is the same for camping around the lodge as for staying in the bunkhouse)

Breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, and Saturday night dinner are provided. If you wish additional snacks or beverages, you'll need to bring your own. You are on your own for Friday night dinner and trail lunches.

Cedars of Lebanon State Forest

During the TN Chapter Summer Retreat join us to explore the Red Cedar Forest and Glades, approximately 15 miles east of Nashville, located in the southern part of Wilson County. This forest originated from the Resettlement Administration Program in 1935. TN Dept. of Agriculture, Forestry Division assumed responsibility for the Forest in 1955. Before purchase by the Resettlement Administration, numerous landowners with small acreage held the land. Land use was for row crops, pasture and forests. The Forest is of Natural Heritage significance because it is part of the largest contiguous cedar glade-barren complex in public ownership in middle Tennessee. Part of the Forest is designated a Tennessee Natural Resource Area and contains nineteen rare and endangered species (1,034 acres), Cedars of Lebanon State Park (831 acres) and several in-holdings (304 acres), cemeteries and caves. Eastern red cedar is the predominant species and is found in pure stands on poor soils. On deeper soils it is found mixed in with hardwoods.



When you arrive at the TN Chapter Summer Retreat get acquainted with other participants and plan to enjoy the night sky. The Group Lodge includes two air conditioned bunkhouse wings each with 19 twin size bunk beds, restroom and shower accommodations.

Explore, Enjoy and Protect

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 July 31st for the September/October 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 kgearhardt@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 September/October Issue is July 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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"

- John Muir

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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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MEETING SCHEDULE

Chapter Meeting	Location	Dates
Summer	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	Aug 3 - 5
Fall	Pickett State Park	October 19 - 21
Winter	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	January 25 - 27
Spring	Fall Creek Falls State Park	May 3 - 5

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>

Lessons from the Trail, Yucky Things

by Joan Tomlinson, trail name Blue Jay

I've written a few articles for the Tennes-Sierran over the last few months that I've called Lessons from the Trail. I described myself in those articles to give some context to what I'm writing. Perhaps you've read one of these articles. I hope so. I won't belabor who I am in this article, except to say that at a fairly late point in my life I had the great fortune to step outside my cultural norms, step way outside my comfort zone, leave most modern conveniences behind, and spend months hiking long distances on long trails in the US. Long distance hikers have vastly different experiences out there. My experiences have centered around an immersion into the natural world. I am still today finding new meaning in my trail experiences. I like to think that I am wiser for these experiences but perhaps I'm delusional, as this article may suggest. I want to talk here about yucky things out there in the natural world.

There is a tendency, among many of us, to talk about the great beauty in the natural world: great adventures, waterfalls, amazing views, beautiful sunsets, and incredible night skies. Those things are, indeed, out there. Equally out there, if you spend enough time out, are some yucky things. High on my list of yucky things, in no particular order, are fleas, poison ivy, things that can kill me, and ticks. Let me be clear. I do not like, even a little bit, fleas and ticks. I detest poison ivy. I'm not real fond of things that can kill me. Those things exist in the natural world. I must accept them or stay home. I'm not gonna stay home....

When I thru hiked the AT in 2014, I kept a somewhat on-going journal in the common hiker web site Trail Journals. On May 24, 2014, I wrote an article about ticks. The article seemed funny at the time. If you want to look up the article, I'll let you decide for yourself if it is funny. (<http://www.trailjournals.com/journal/entry/457473>) My point here is that I find wisdom and lessons in the smallest of things in the natural world, even those things that I do not like. So here is my somewhat meandering tick story. And what I've learned.

At about the midway point in my AT hike, I discovered an embedded tick on my waist around the waistline of my hiking pants. I didn't know how long it had been there. I was hugely fatigued and listless, which are symptoms of Lyme disease. At the time, I was hiking down the trail, near Port Clinton, PA, and I saw several trail maintainers, doing the very good deed of keeping the trail ready for us hikers. One, who happened to be wearing a kilt for his work clothes, gave me his card and told me if I needed any-

thing he would be glad to be a trail angel. I continued into Port Clinton and thought perhaps I should be tested for Lyme. I called the (kilted) trail angel and asked if he would take me to the doctor for a Lyme test. This kilted trail angel drove me 30 miles to a doctor's office, waited a couple of hours with me, and drove me to the pharmacy to get my antibiotic prescription. I suggested we go to the near-by Cracker Barrel for dinner, my treat. Sometime during our meal and pleasant critter story exchange, Mr. Kilt pushed away from the table and totally pulled up his kilt to show me.... Well, here we were in the middle of the Cracker Barrel and my trail angel was showing me that he had another kilt underneath his top kilt. This under-kilt had some tick preventive purpose, perhaps it was treated with permethrin, but the message of that purpose was totally lost on me because of the delivery of the message. I remember that I was too busy wondering about whether Lyft or Uber was active in that small town.

After a few days of rest and waiting for additional Lyme test results (I fortunately did not have Lyme), I returned to the trail. Needless to say, ticks were on my radar and I was hyper aware of co-existing with them. I sat one day for lunch, put down a sit-pad, and started to eat. Within just a few minutes, I had a tick crawling up my leg. I did not freak, I did not flick it off, and I did not consider calling my kilt trail angel for advice. (I wondered, though, if I should have paid more attention to the under-kilt story.) I watched this little creature to see what it did. This little creature, this hated thing with maybe no brain, proceeded to march its way up my leg and nestled into a very warm and blood-rich area behind my knee. I didn't let it stay there; I wasn't that curious about it. What I learned on that day was that the incredible instincts of natural creatures, even those that are yucky, point the creatures toward what it is that they need. I've spent years, at least those of my adult years, letting my head and intellect drive me. I'm not saying that has put me in a place where I shouldn't be. At this ripe old age, though, I think perhaps I should learn from the least of the creatures and critters around me and let some deeper natural element within me take over. At least a bit. And then maybe a bit more over time. Wouldn't I be better served if that mysterious energy of the earth and universe were my driver? Wouldn't I be better served if I let the pull of that energy draw me to what it is that I need?

Another thing that has resonated with me about my tick event is that if I can tolerate dreaded and yucky things in the

natural world, then surely I can be even more tolerant of my own species, of people around me. Even those who, by considered or unconsidered opinion, are not aware that we live on an amazing planet and that our planet needs our protection. Even those who think money trumps the protection of Earth or – goodness – those who use single-use plastic straws. Here is an example of how I've tested my new level of tolerance.

I've named those ticks I had to deal with on the trail "Tinker Tick" or "Tinker" for short. I have on several occasions taken the opportunity to engage in conversations with people, often strangers, whose thoughtless habits I find distressful. Like throwing their recyclable plastics in the trash when the recycle bin sits next to the trash bin. Or with people who, without a thought, use single-use plastic straws. What I want to do is scream at them. What I have done instead is to say to myself that those people remind me of Tinker. In other words, their habits are yucky to me. I can then laugh a private laugh and give them my message about how my AT thru hike gave me a deep appreciation for our Earth and how I want to change my behavior to lessen my impact on Earth, even in small ways. I've had people thank me for our conversations, and some have indicated they, too, want to be better Earthlings. I'm not changing the world with these random conversations; I'm just attempting to plant seeds of Earth awareness. It's our Earth, our magnificent planet, inhabited by people, ticks, beautiful things, and yucky things alike. I don't want to overstate what I learned from my Tinker experience. I just want to say I can apply seemingly small events on the trail to events in my post-trail life. That is how the trail continues to be active in me.

The state of Earth seems so perilous to me. It seems so easy to dislike or even hate those who oppose my own views of Earth protection. I only know that to find something I can talk about with one whose views are different from mine may be the first step to understanding each other – and to making them aware of my point of view. I can't hate the state of our Earth right now. It's too exhausting. There seems to be no hope in hate. And I need hope for Earth. I'll try harder not to hate even ticks. I must say, though, that I think ticks would be much more interesting if occasionally they showed up wearing hiking kilts.

Blue Jay may be contacted at BlueJayAT@gmail.com

Meetings/Outings

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 (Chatanooga)

July 23, 2018 - 7 P.M. - July 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, UUCU will be on your left, up the hill! We meet downstairs, in the Forum Room.

Dr. Richard Clements will present "The Carbon Conundrum." Carbon has become an amazing polarizing and political topic in recent years. In this presentation, we take a step back from the hype and rhetoric to understand one of the most important elements in our lives. What is this life-critical yet dangerous substance; how does it ebb and flow in the environment; how have human activities altered its natural rhythms; and what can YOU do to help restore the balance?

August 27, 2018 - 7 P.M. - August 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, UUCU will be on your left, up the hill! We meet downstairs, in the Forum Room.

Join us for Movie Night, with soft drinks and popcorn. We will diverge from regular conservation topics focused in/around Chattanooga/Southeast Tennessee to explore the question "Can conservation save our oceans?" Following each video clip will be a short time for group discussion.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

No Submissions

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

August 14, 2018 - 6:00 - 8:30 P.M. Harvey Broome Group Annual Potluck Picnic - location to be determined so check our HBG programs webpage. Friends and families invited.

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)

July 16, 2018 - at 6:30 P.M. LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Come at 6:00 PM if you want to eat. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville, TN. Please contact Grace Stranch at (615) 498-4148 or k.g.stranch@gmail.com to let her know that you plan to attend. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

August 20, 2018 - at 6:30 p.m. LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Come at 6:00 PM if you want to eat. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville, TN. Please contact Grace Stranch at (615) 498-4148 or k.g.stranch@gmail.com to let her know that you plan to attend. 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.

Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WataugaGroup

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.

July 12, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Nashville PROGRAM: "Citizens' Climate Lobby"

Citizens' Climate Lobby is a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change.

CCL's consistently respectful, nonpartisan approach to climate education is designed to create a broad, sustainable foundation for climate action across all geographic regions and political inclinations. By building upon shared values rather than partisan divides, and empowering our supporters to work in keeping with the concerns of their local communities, CCL work towards the adoption of fair, effective, and sustainable climate change solutions.

In order to generate the political will necessary for passage of their Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal, CCL trains and supports volunteers to build relationships with elected officials, the media and their local community.

Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. For more info

contact Russ at 615 506-4070 or russ.m.crawford@gmail.com. The program is free and open to the public. ([Middle Tennessee Group](#))

August 9, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Nashville PROGRAM: "The Universe beyond Earth"

Dr. William (Billy) Teets is the outreach astronomer at Vanderbilt University's Dyer Observatory. Billy was born and raised in Clarksville, Tennessee, and received his B.S. in Physics in 2004 from Austin Peay State University. He was accepted to the Vanderbilt University graduate program in 2005 and received his Ph.D. in (astro)physics in 2012. He has worked at Dyer Observatory since 2006, starting as a part-time student helper and then getting hired on as the staff astronomer in late 2012. As Dyer's outreach astronomer, you can find Billy giving tours around the observatory, operating telescopes at public events, working with school groups that visit Dyer during field trips, the list goes on.

Just about everything we know about the universe beyond Earth we have learned from the information contained in the light we receive in telescopes. How do astronomers know the temperature of a star without sticking in a thermometer? How do they know what objects light-years away are composed of when they can't travel to them to retrieve a sample? This talk will answer these questions and also provide an overview of just some of the other information Mother Nature encodes in the light we see.

Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. For more info contact Russ at 615 506-4070 or russ.m.crawford@gmail.com. The program is free and open to the public. ([Middle Tennessee Group](#))

Harvey Broome Group For the 2018 outings year, which starts on March 1, 2018 and ends on Feb 28, 2019, the final schedule will be available online by February 7. You may view the calendar on the Outings tab of the HBG website: <https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome>

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>

All outings require participants to sign a waiver. To review this waiver, please visit <https://goo.gl/1BvnK2>

Any attendee under the age of 18 not accompanied by parent or guardian will need to have a signed liability waiver and medical authorization form with them when they arrive. To review and print these waivers, please visit <https://goo.gl/y9Y976> AND <https://goo.gl/jNieor>

Group Business Meetings

Group	Date	Location	Time
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Mon 7/2, 8/6 Tues 9/4	Pilgrim Congregational Church, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chattanooga Home of Bill Moll, 4918 Marlow Dr., Red Bank TN 37415-1915	6:00 P.M. 5:00 P.M.
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Wed 7/11, 8/1, 9/5	Cheffie's Cafe, 483 High Point Terrace, Memphis	6:00 P.M.
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 7/24, 8/28, 9/25	The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd., Knoxville	7:00 P.M.
Middle TN (Nashville)	Mon 7/16, 8/20, 9/17	House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville	6:30 P.M.
Watauga (Mountain City)	Tue 7/10, 8/14, 9/11	R&D Campground 900 Mining Town Rd. Mt. City, TN 37683	5:00 P.M.

Group Program Meetings

Group	Date	Location	Time
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Mon 7/23, 8/27, 9/24	Unitarian Universalist Church, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga	7:00 P.M.
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Thu 7/26, 8/23, 9/27	Benjamin Hooks Public Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., Memphis	5:55 P.M.
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 7/10, 9/11 8/14	Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalists Church, 2931 Kingston Pike Group picnic - time/place to be announced.	7:00 P.M. TBA
Middle TN (Nashville)	Thu 7/12, 8/9, 9/13	Radnor Lake Nature Center, 1160 Otter Creek Rd., Nashville, TN	7:00 P.M.
Watauga (Mountain City)	Tue 7/10, 8/14, 9/11	R&D Campground 900 Mining Town Rd. Mt. City, TN 37683	6:00 P.M.

Renewable Energy Costs Continue To Fall, Now What?

by Dennis Lynch

One of the Sierra Club's major strategies is the "Ready for 100" campaign. Pushing for renewables- wind, solar, and greater energy efficiency are the core of the campaign. In the Tennessee Chapter there have been many activities promoting "Ready for 100"- these should continue to grow. The Chickasaw Group has had numerous related public information programs over the past year- 1) EVs (Electric Vehicles), 2) encouraging Memphis and Shelby County governments to adopt and support many energy-related strategies, plus 3) 3 consecutive programs on solar, energy efficiency, and energy conservation. We will keep pushing these themes with the public and with our elected officials.

As it turns out, the trend of costs of renewable energy technologies perfectly supports the campaign. Being "Great for the environment", remains true and important, but falling costs also make renewables a great economic decision. The cost of utility-scale solar has dropped in cost by 86% in the last 8 years, while wind has dropped 66% in the same time period. Household scale "rooftop solar" has also had decreasing costs, but not as much. In contrast, "traditional" carbon-based energy sources have had flat or increasing costs.

These numbers come from the annual industry report- the Lazard Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis, The latest version, v11.0, can be seen at (<https://bit.ly/2AxsqYT>). The LCOE statistic includes the "complete" life-cycle direct costs (construction, operation, and maintenance, including labor, fuel, investment and other costs) of nu-

merous major energy technologies, It's a great report, even though it doesn't include external costs like pollution impacts- factors which are obviously very important to the Sierra Club.

One chart (<https://bit.ly/2LeU1Dy>) shows the cost of wind energy to be as low as \$0.03/kWh (\$30/MWh on the chart) and utility-scale solar as low as \$0.042/kWh. A second chart (<https://bit.ly/2Jkjal>) shows the continuing "unmistakable" trends in cost and capacity from 2009 to 2016.

One truly significant fact pointed out by Lazard is that, "As LCOE values for alternative energy technologies continue to decline, in some scenarios the full-lifecycle costs of building and operating renewables-based projects have dropped below the operating costs alone of conventional generation technologies such as coal or nuclear. This is expected to lead to ongoing and significant deployment of alternative energy capacity." Promoters of coal can no longer say, "We are so much cheaper than renewables."

Note that utility representatives support the development of the Lazard report. But they can't deny the trends- toward more lower cost wind and solar. All they can do is say that "traditional energy sources will still be needed for some period of time". Actually, the report says, "Although alternative energy is increasingly cost-competitive and storage technology holds great promise, alternative energy systems alone will not be capable of meeting the base-load generation needs of a developed economy for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the optimal solution for many regions of the world is

to use complementary conventional and alternative energy resources in a diversified generation fleet."

With all this good news about wind and solar, what will it take to substantially increase installations at all levels across the state?

We, members of the Sierra Club, need to increase our advocacy to move things in the right direction! Will you be an advocate for solar and for wind? Can you help educate your neighbors and friends that solar and wind costs have come down by huge amounts? Can you ask them to join with you on our campaign for "Ready for 100%", for 100% Clean Energy? How do we get these facts known by the broader public?

What will it take to go the next level and "speak truth to power"? I point out that Memphis Light Gas and Water (MLGW) is owned by the city of Memphis. Can we get our Mayor, City Council and local utility (MLGW) to work together to support an "explosion" in solar in Memphis? Can other communities in Tennessee take a similar approach with their local government and utility?

We want the benefits of reduced costs and greater grid flexibility that will come from major increases in solar and wind.

It's time to help our elected officials to understand and for us all to demand that our utilities move rapidly into renewables.

Because of major cost declines, solar and wind will continue to grow. But we can help make them grow faster, AND we deserve to see our utility bills to go down!

BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

By Betsy Garber

What in the world can I do? Working on environmental issues is overwhelming, and I'm not a terribly resilient person. Nobody seems to really care. And we seem to be rushing toward the destruction of all that is good and beautiful.

But recently, what I've realized while working with our local Sierra Club Group, is that it doesn't take many people who really care to get something done. It takes at least 1 to make a difference, and at least 2 to make a big difference.

Here's what I mean. Our Sierra Club ICO groups take kids into the woods - kids that would otherwise never hike a trail, or canoe down a stream. In Nashville, it is now a thriving program with a solid group of volunteer leaders. But it all started with just one person, Celeste. It continued for a couple of years with just 3 active leaders, and did fine. Then one more person came along and became very active with the Group. His name is Craig, and the program took off. Where we had averaged 10 to 15 hikes a year, we jumped to over 20 outings a year, were able to recruit more volunteer leaders, and added water outings. Whether getting started, or successfully expanding, the progress was possible because of one committed person with vision willing

to roll up her/his sleeves and actually do the work. The continuance of the success is possible because of other individuals who catch the vision, and jump on board to help.

Another example can be found in our Middle Tennessee Group (MTG). MTG hosts a monthly environmental program; supports environmental marches, issues, and events; weighs in on environmental legislation; shows up at public hearings on environmental permits and issues; participates in tabling events; and leads outings. Each activity requires at least one committed person with vision who is willing to do the actual work. For the activity to be fully successful, it generally needs that second committed person. Along the way, other individuals join in.

For instance, for several years we have participated in Conservation Education Day at the state legislature. This year, one person, Bill, had a vision and a willingness to put in the work. He began organizing people and consulted with our conservation staff person, Scott, to draft talking points on key legislative bills. This groundwork resulted in others having the confidence to participate in the event. Where we had met with 5 or 6 legislators in past years, this year we spoke with well over 20 - and

next year we'll do even better. Additionally, we had fun, met nice Sierra members from across the state, and felt like we had really done something. None of it would have happened without that one person with vision plus a willingness to do the actual work required.

So why am I writing this? Because we need you. Even if you are not that one person with the vision, energy, and time to organize and work on a needed project, you might be the backbone of our success by jumping on board and being one of the crew. So what can you do? You can attend our monthly programs to hear what's going on. Better yet, you can become familiar with the issues by attending a Group's local executive meeting where local issues and projects are more fully discussed. Our Middle Tennessee Group meets at the House of Kabob restaurant in Nashville on the third Monday of each month. Look at our website to find out where and when your local group meets, and feel free to contact us directly by email (put "Sierra Club" in the subject line). If you've been participating with Sierra Club for a while, then consider running for our Group executive committee; we will be accepting nominations soon. For more information, go to <https://www.sierra-club.org/tennessee/middle-tennessee>.

Letter to the editor

Please go to a bridge overlooking an interstate highway in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville, or Memphis and count the motor vehicles going in one direction on the interstate under the bridge. You will very soon reach a hundred, two hundred, a thousand vehicles. How many vehicles will you count in a 24-hour day, a hundred thousand? Two hundred thousand? How many? How many million cars are on the road? How many vehicles are in the TVA area? These are almost all petroleum-fueled vehicles.

By 2020, one will be able to go into most major vehicle dealerships and buy an electric-powered vehicle for the same price as a corresponding gas-powered vehicle. By 2030, about half of the vehicles on the road will be powered by electric engines. The number of electric-powered vehicles will increase in later years.

Where is TVA going to get the needed electricity for these vehicles? Will TVA be ready for the increase in demand for electricity?

TVA needs to stop fighting renewable energy

sources. Instead, TVA needs to join the renewable revolution. Otherwise, TVA will be left in the dust. TVA will become an obscure entity. The needed electricity will come from other providers.

TVA could begin by covering the roof of one coal plant with solar panels. It could put up one or more windmills in space behind the coal plant where it would not block the sun. Then it could convert the inside to generating electricity with natural gas.

This plant would not need more coal. It would not produce more coal ash for TVA to store forever. Sunshine and wind are free fuel. Operating costs could be reduced. Air and water pollution might even be eliminated.

TVA could do the same at its other coal plants and at its nuclear plants. That would mean no more nuclear waste to be stored forever and no more radiation to be released to the environment.

TVA could then add solar panels and/or windmills to its other facilities and other sites. There are many other places available where

TVA solar panels and windmills can be placed. The production of electricity can be increased as needed.

Yes, the sun does not shine at night and sunshine is limited on cloudy days. The wind does not always blow. There are problems to be solved.

Perhaps water could be stored in TVA lakes and used to generate electricity at night and cloudy days as needed. Natural gas can be used as needed.

Saudi Arabia is going solar. They have solar farm plans underway. They expect to be primarily solar by 2030. Norway plans to be all electrical by 2025. France plans to end the sale of all gasoline and diesel vehicles by 2040. All sold will be electric. By 2030, very vehicle sold India will be electric. Forty percent of all cars sold are sold in China. By 2025, seventy percent will be electric.

The world is going solar and renewables. TVA must change or it will not survive as an electricity provider.

~By Gerald Dooley

Trump's Defection From the Paris Agreement, One Year On

By Steve Herz

One year ago today, President Trump announced his intent to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement. While the Obama administration and other world leaders recognized the agreement as a pragmatic framework for averting the most catastrophic impacts of the climate crisis, Trump saw it through the lens of his bizarre sense of victimhood. He viewed it as a cunning attack on American sovereignty cooked up by "foreign lobbyists" to "disadvantage the United States to the exclusive benefit of other countries" and to "keep our magnificent country tied up and bound down." This bears no relation to reality.

Even with all that has happened in this tumultuous year, this unhinged decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement stands out as one the worst foreign policy mistakes of Trump's presidency. It embodied all of his worst policymaking impulses: the failure to grasp the basic issues at play; the casual disregard of the concerns our allies; the eagerness to shelve previous commitments and shatter existing norms; and of course, the willingness to lie to support extremist positions.

And for what? Even for an opponent of the agreement, his announcement was little more than a publicity stunt. It merely expressed his desire to leave the deal, which, by its terms, cannot happen until late in 2020, after the next president has been elected.

But the costs to American interests were substantial and immediate. Because the agreement is held in such high regard around the world – every other country has signed it – Trump's move was universally condemned by the international community. Diplomatically, Trump managed in one fell swoop to antagonize our closest allies, damage our reputation as a country that keeps its commitments, cede leadership and squander goodwill, and undermine our ability to gain the cooperation of others on our diplomatic priorities. He also positioned the U.S. to be left behind as other countries reap the benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy.

Apart from the consequences for U.S. diplomacy, the broader concern was whether this decision would do lasting damage to the Paris regime. Fortunately, the most dire predictions that Trump's move would induce cascading defections that would unravel the agreement have not been borne out. But it has posed some challenges that the international community must overcome if the Paris Agreement is

to realize its ambitious objective of limiting the climate crisis to relatively manageable levels.

Despite Trump's rather absurd campaign promise to "cancel" the Paris Agreement, it remains firmly in place. All of the world's 195 countries have signed the Agreement, and 177 have already formally joined. Just since Trump was elected, 72 countries have formally joined the Paris Agreement. Meanwhile, no country has said it would follow the U.S. out of the agreement or repudiated its carbon pollution reduction commitments.

If anything, Trump's defection has stiffened the resolve of other countries to advance the Paris framework. All of the major emitters have pointedly reconfirmed their commitments to the agreement, and many foreign leaders have publicly rebuked the president for his betrayal. This was most evident at last year's G-7 and G-20 summits, where the leaders of our closest allies and the world's largest economies refused Trump's entreaties to paper over differences, and insisted on issuing a strong statement supporting the agreement, leaving Trump isolated in lonely dissent. A similar dispute is brewing at next week's G-7 Summit in Canada.

Over the past year, it has become clear that countries are committed to moving forward regardless of what the U.S. does, not only because they see the threat of failing to act but also because they see the unprecedented opportunities in decarbonizing their economies. They have recognized what Trump does not: That deploying new technologies to reduce emissions will make their cities healthier and more livable, their economies more productive, and their people more prosperous. Far from keeping them "tied up and bound down" by foreign meddlers, proactive climate policies allow nations to improve the lives of their people.

While the rest of the world will continue to move on without the U.S., the lack of U.S. leadership and constructive engagement could pose three challenges that are worth noting.

Loss of U.S. leadership: For generations, American leadership has been essential to the creation and development of enduring international institutions. President Obama paved the way for the Paris Agreement by reaching a rapprochement with China on issues of long-standing difference and persuading other leaders to sign on.

No other single country can effectively play this convening role. With the U.S. on the sidelines, a range of front-running countries will need to drive different aspects of the global

challenge. This is beginning to happen. For example, China has joined Canada and the EU in co-leading the Ministerial Meeting on Climate Action, a dialogue of the major economies that is a successor to an effort that had been facilitated by the U.S. The most immediate test of this distributed leadership approach will be whether it can resolve the most difficult challenges of Paris implementation on the agenda this year: Finding agreement on a set of guidelines to apply the Paris framework and creating momentum for countries to strengthen their pledges.

Loss of U.S. emissions reductions and support: Experts agree that the current emissions reduction pledges would lead to far more than the "well below 2° C" or 1.5° C degrees of warming that the Paris Agreement aims to achieve. These pledges must be significantly enhanced to put us back on track. Even if more aggressive sub-national and private sector actions keep the U.S. on track to meet its 2025 pledge, the lack of federal action will make it harder to close this gap. And Trump's refusal to provide support for developing countries to reduce their emissions will impede their efforts to increase actions.

Testing the resilience of the ambition mechanism: The agreement encourages sustained progress through an "ambition mechanism" that includes a fixed schedule for future pledges, a commitment to strengthening pledges over time and rigorous peer review. By design, however, there is no legal apparatus to back this up. Pledges are not legally binding, and compliance can be enforced only through political pressure.

To ensure the vitality of the ambition mechanism, deterrence is essential: This means sending a clear message that abandoning Paris climate commitments is not acceptable and comes at a significant cost in terms of reputation, influence, and ability to achieve other core diplomatic objectives.

Trump's announcement last year was a gut punch to the Paris Agreement. But the countries that came together to craft the agreement intended it to be flexible and resilient, in the expectation that it would endure as the basis of cooperation for the foreseeable future. While no one could have predicted that the agreement would be forced to deal with the kinds of challenges Trump has posed so soon after it came into force, it's proving to be as resilient to political shocks as its designers had hoped.

Want to Achieve Better Electric Car Policies in Your City or State?

By Mary Lunetta

People often ask what the best policies are to further incentivize making the switch to driving electric vehicles (EVs), so we teamed up with our friends at Plug In America to launch AchiEve: Model State & Local Policies to Accelerate Electric Vehicle Adoption. It catalogues some of the most effective initiatives driving the growth of clean transportation today, with links to specific templates and real-world examples so they can be adopted in communities anywhere.

Thanks to many of the smart and supportive policies helping to accelerate the widespread adoption of EVs here in the U.S., EV sales were up 26 percent in the U.S. in 2017 compared with the previous year, and 2018 sales are on track to exceed that. Today, EVs account for less than 2 percent of all new light-duty vehicles in the United States. EVs are no doubt on the rise, but far more electric cars and buses are needed, and quickly, if we want to transition off oil and meet our climate goals.

Expanding Charging Access

Owners of gas-guzzling vehicles have no trouble finding a place to fuel up, but for people who drive EVs, fueling happens differently – whether it's at home, at work, or on the go. That's why, as the growth of electric mobility continues to gain momentum, the need for more accessible and large-scale charging networks becomes even more pressing.

According to some studies, installing EV-friendly wiring at the time of construction can be 64 to 75 percent less expensive than post-construction installations. Some cities, such as Atlanta, are making commitments, adopting building codes and passing ordinances requiring new homes, buildings and parking structures be “EV ready,” which means having the conduit and wiring in place to accommodate EV charging.

Disadvantaged communities face some of the biggest barriers to charging access, as they less frequently are homeowners and often live in multi-unit buildings without dedicated charging spaces. San Diego Gas & Electric's Power Your Drive Program is deploying 3,500 charging stations at 350 site installations at workplaces and multi-unit dwellings. Installations within disadvantaged areas are exempt from the one-time participation payment.

States, cities, and utilities should adopt programs that increase access to electric

transportation and charging for all communities, because everyone deserves to breathe clean air and access clean transportation choices, regardless of income or location.

Electric Transit and Government Fleets

Electrifying our government fleets and public transportation systems saves taxpayers money and is good for public health. It's also an effective way to put the importance of prioritizing clean transportation into the public spotlight.

The City of Seattle determined it would save \$2 million over 10 years if it purchased 300 electric vehicles instead of hybrids for its city passenger vehicles, and save more than \$3 million compared with gas vehicles. Seattle's King County Metro Transit also committed to acquiring 120 all-electric transit buses by 2020, with plans to fully electrify its bus fleet.

Along with deploying 95 electric buses into its fleet, Los Angeles County Metro has committed to replace all 2,200 of its CNG-powered buses with a fully 100 percent electric bus fleet by 2030. California transit agencies in Antelope Valley and San Bernardino County have also committed to all electric buses by at least 2030.

Electric buses cost far less over time due to reduced maintenance and fuel costs and studies show electric buses are up to 8 times more efficient than CNG buses.

EV-Utility Investments

The role of electric utilities and their regulators cannot be underestimated in the planning for an electric future. In the EV context, the public interest should implement programs that will integrate new electricity load to the benefit of all utility customers usefully and equitably.

Utilities and regulators are stepping up their efforts to put forward or approve policies to install thousands of charging stations and to ensure that time of use, load balancing, and smart-metering programs simultaneously allow us to shift to renewable sources of power and a more efficient grid. To name a few exciting recent developments: a \$25M agreement between Duke Energy and NGOs in North Carolina for EV infrastructure; a \$10M approved settlement agreement for AEP utility to install EV charging stations in Ohio; and a California regulator-approved \$738M (yes, \$738M!) EV infrastructure program among the state's three largest utilities. There are significant carve-outs for EV infrastructure

in low-income areas, at workplaces, and along highway routes; electric bus and truck investments; and even carve-outs for affiliated battery-storage programs.

State policymakers also have an important role to play by introducing legislation that guides the role of utilities in transportation electrification. Massachusetts authorizes electric utilities to propose EV-related investments and establishes the test that the state's utility commission, the Department of Public Utilities, must use to review any proposed investments. New Hampshire now clarifies that non-utility owners or operators of charging stations are not considered public utilities, nor subject to regulation by the state's utility commission, solely by virtue of operating a charging station.

Consumer Education and Protection

One of the easiest ways for our public leaders to show support for clean transportation is through a proclamation or resolution that emphasizes the benefits of EVs. These proclamations or resolutions can be adopted at the local, city, or state level and are a strong force to continue building momentum to transition to EVs.

In 2017, National Drive Electric Week – which is presented nationally by the Sierra Club, Plug In America, and the Electric Auto Association – proclamations were issued by governors Inslee of Washington, Sununu of New Hampshire, and Ige of Hawaii for their states. Many mayors, from North Dakota, Maryland, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, California, and elsewhere, also issued EV proclamations for their cities. At the 2018 National Drive Electric Week events coming up September 8-16, we'll look forward to events where people not only get a chance to check out EVs but also to hear their public officials announce new EV policies.

Electric car adoption is a win/win for all – people, governments, and the environment. Many stakeholders with diverse interests stand to benefit from state and local policies that advance electric transportation and charging infrastructure – from disadvantaged communities located along freeways and major transportation hubs to state and local governments that benefit from savings on fuel and maintenance costs.

We encourage policymakers and EV advocates to tailor model policies to best fit the precise needs of your particular state or community and to work with allies to put them into effect where you live.

Call for Nominations

for our Chapter At Large Executive Committee

This year three of the seven members of the Chapter's At Large Executive Committee (ExCom) reach the end of their term. Some decide not to run again, others do. The Sierra Club uses democracy to hold itself accountable to its membership, so we need good candidates to best represent our members' interests. The Chapter's Nomination Committee is seeking candidates to run, so we're looking to you to self-nominate or suggest nominees!

The ExCom sets the Chapter budget and strategic direction, reaches consensus on

conservation positions, raises money, appoints officers and committee chairs, and approves litigation and electoral endorsements.

To accomplish all of this, the Chapter ExCom meets quarterly, and there is e-mail correspondence between meetings. The ExCom also plans additional important events throughout the year.

After receiving your nominations by August 15, the Chapter Nomination Committee will consider and recommend candidates for the ballot, which is published

in the November/December edition of the Tennessee-Sierran bi-monthly newspaper. Candidates may also get on the ballot by petition. Candidates get space on the ballot to advocate for their election. Candidates receiving the top votes will start their two-year terms in January 2019.

Any Sierra Club member wishing to be considered as a Nomination Committee candidate should indicate their intent to do so by emailing Russell Gillenwater at comissar67@gmail.com by August 15th.

Tennessee Chapter Fall Retreat

October 19th thru 21st

Pickett CCC Memorial State Park

Mark your calendar! Come join the fellowship, and explore a little known part of Tennessee's wilderness and history. It will be a great weekend this October. You will meet others from across the state that share your same interests and concerns! You can enjoy the beautiful fall colors while hiking on the great trails and exploring the geologic features of the scenic Cumberland Plateau.

The Park is at 4605 Pickett Park Highway in Jamestown, Tennessee. We stay at the park's Group Camp- the GPS coordinates are 36.5669, -84.7935). General information about the park is at

<https://bit.ly/2LMPY2r>. But do not make reservations with the park! See "Procedural Details" below for how to make reservations with the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group.

The Weekend

Those who Arrive on Friday enjoy the "informal" conversations which sometimes go late into the night. Some play games or cards and compare notes about their plans and hopes for the future (perhaps discussing the upcoming election day- Will the Democrats take over control of the House?)

On Saturday you can go hiking and you can participate in some committee discussions about strategies and programs.

Randy Hedgepath, State Naturalist, will lead hikes on Saturday and Sunday in the Park. Randy has led many hikes for the Sierra Club and he always makes them interesting, pointing out unique flora, fauna and topography along the way. The details of the hikes aren't defined yet (as this article is written), but we know Randy will make them interesting and insightful. Read more about Randy at <https://bit.ly/2spMeM6> and read his blog and see some of his photos at <https://bit.ly/2J2sloN>. Note two of his blog postings are about previous fall hikes to enjoy the fall colors, which are guaranteed to be amazing.

Some of the "sights" that might be seen are the home and mill of WWI hero Alvin C. York; large rock houses and natural stone bridges that are a special feature of Pickett; an English settlement in nearby Rugby; or the John Muir Trail along the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. There will be something for all skill levels!

Saturday will also include an update

on the Tennessee Chapter's state lobbying efforts, and plans for the upcoming state legislative season. The Sierra Club's state lobbyist Scott Banbury will discuss the most effective how-to's on impacting legislation the Club is working on and the important bills the Club has positions on before the TN General Assembly. Additionally, and our state Political Chair, Bill Moll will lead a strategy and planning session for the upcoming 2018 season, including further growth of our revamped Conservation Lobby Day. We'll be planning the constituent mobilization effort needed to reach many of our legislators on that day. We hope to recruit leaders for many districts across the state. We need you—our environment needs you! (There will be appropriate training and guidance later this winter for all who get involved.)

Various Sierra Club committees will also meet - feel free to sit in on any or all of interest to you. There's also our annual Silent Auction, benefitting our chapter's lobbying and legislative program – and a Saturday evening bonfire with S'mores, of course!

Sunday morning you will need to choose between another hike, observing the Tennessee Chapter's Executive Committee's (Excom) business meeting, or just relaxing until time to depart, which will be 1pm.

Procedural Details

Chickasaw Group is hosting and reservations may be made online at <https://bit.ly/2H9P10v>. If you have any questions, you can contact us at chickasawsierra@gmail.com or call Dennis Lynch at 901-361-8029 (Please make sure your name is in your caller-ID). Please specify vegetarian or omnivore as your food choice when you register.

- Early Bird Reservation Price until October 12: \$50/adult
- Regular Registration Fee: \$60/adult
- Students: \$15 for the whole weekend
- Single day only price with meals: Sat - \$30; Sun - \$10
- Day only, no meals: \$5
- Children 15 and under attend free
- Special: ½ off regular fee for 1st-time attendees!
- Several scholarships are available with advance approval

- Bring your own bedding, towels and personal items
- Bring lunch for Saturday and Sunday
- The Group Camp includes male and female bunkhouses
- Everybody helps with clean-up before Sunday departure

All attendees at our Chapter Retreats must sign our standard liability waiver. These must be signed upon arrival at the Retreat. You can review the waiver at <https://bit.ly/2kGfev0>.

Any youth under 18 attending without their parent/guardian, must bring 2 forms signed by a parent/guardian- our waiver form (<https://bit.ly/2kGfev0>) and "Medical Treatment Authorization & Consent Form" (<https://bit.ly/2svzyCx>). Youth attending with a parent/guardian must have the liability waiver signed by the parent/guardian when they arrive.

About the Park

Pickett State Park is Tennessee's first park that was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Between 1934 and 1942, they constructed hiking trails, five rustic cabins, a recreation lodge, a ranger station and a 12-acre lake.

The park is located on the Kentucky border northeast of Jamestown, which is northeast of Nashville, and lies within the 19,200-acre Pickett State Forest, not far from the massive 125,000-acre Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

In 2015, Pickett CCC Memorial State Park and Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area earned Silver-tier International Dark Sky Park designation. It became the first state park in the Southeast to gain this prestigious recognition. Visitors can enjoy sweeping, rich views of the night sky similar to those found in many of the Western states. So bring your binoculars!

More than 58 miles of hiking trails meander through the wilderness of Pickett State Park and the surrounding forest. They vary in length and difficulty, from short day-use trails suitable for families, to longer multi-day backpacking trails. A backcountry camping permit is required through the park office. The trails afford views of sandstone bluffs, natural bridges, waterfalls and diverse plant life.

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