

Tennesse-Sierran

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

Volume 52, Number 2 - March / April 2019

Tennessee Chapter Spring Retreat 2019 May 3rd through May 5th Fall Creek Falls State Park

You are invited to the Tennessee Chapter's Spring Retreat at beautiful Fall Creek Falls State Park. Enjoy the company of other environmentalists. Be a part of the fellowship, hikes, fireplace chats, and meetings. Don't miss the Saturday evening program and the informal social gathering that follows. Meet others who share your love and respect for the environment.

SATURDAY EVENING PROGRAM

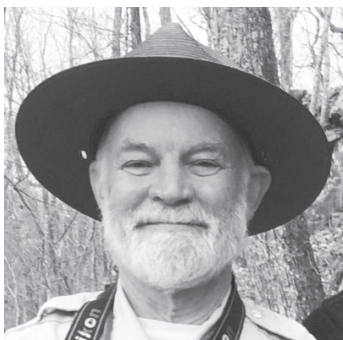
Dr. Melanie Mayes, Senior Research Scientist, Climate Change Science Institute, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), will summarize key findings from two recent reports sponsored by the US Global Change Research Program. These reports involve 13 Federal agencies and hundreds of authors at universities, research institutions, and non-profit organizations. The State of the Carbon Cycle Report assesses scientific literature on the carbon cycle in North America since 2005. The National Climate Assessment, produced every 4 years, summarizes climate change impacts on North America. Dr. Mayes is one of the lead editors of the State of the Carbon Cycle Report.



Dr. Melanie Mayes, Senior Research Scientist, Climate Change Science Institute, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), will summarize key findings from two recent reports sponsored by the US Global Change Research Program. These

OUTINGS

Once again, we're delighted to have our Tennessee State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath to lead us on outings both Saturday and Sunday:



Randy Hedgepath

• The loop trail from Nature Center to Fall

Creek Falls includes the trail to base of the falls. A "premium" trail but it might be crowded.

• 2.6 miles on Paw Paw Trail or a 2-mile walk on Wheeler Farm Trail. The Paw Paw Trail starts at the Nature Center and would feature Pink Ladies Slipper Orchids. Wheeler Farm is outside the main park on Highway 30 and features wildflowers and a natural arch.

Times and meeting places for hikes will be available at check-in. Daypack with water, lunch, and raingear recommended.



LOCATION

Fall Creek Falls State Park

* Group Lodge #1*

Centrally located 35 miles southwest of Crossville, Tenn., or 44 miles southeast of Cookeville TN. Venue information and directions are available at

<https://tnstateparks.com/parks/fall-creek-falls>.

ABOUT THE PARK

Fall Creek Falls State Park (FCF) has spectacular water features. In 1937, when the federal government started purchasing the land for the park, much of it was badly eroded. The Works Project Administration (WPA) and Civilian Conservation Core (CCC) began conservation programs to restore the ecosystem. The land was transferred to the State in 1944.

The park encompasses 26,000 acres with many waterfalls and cascades, gorges, and extensive forests, with some stands of virgin timber. Fall Creek Falls has a 256-foot vertical drop. Other notable falls are Piney Falls, Cane Creek Falls, and Cane Creek Cascades. A detailed topographic map of the park may be downloaded from:

<https://bit.ly/2lt0508>.

Average early May weather at the park-- highs in the mid 70s, lows in the low 50s. Average rainfall for May-- 4.8 inches.

REGISTRATION

Register by Saturday, April 26, to receive early bird discount.

Register online:

http://bit.ly/Register_Spring_2019

OR

Contact Bob Perlack, HBG Treasurer

perlack@aol.com

234 Northshore Dr, Greenback, TN 37742

RATES

Adult registration fee (16 years and older) covers lodging (women's dorms, men's dorms, tent camping and truck camping), 2 breakfasts, and Saturday dinner. Pay when you check in.

- Early Bird Discount (by April 26)- \$50
- Late registration (after April 26) - \$60
- First Chapter retreat attendees - \$25
- Students -- \$15
- Sat Only (registration, dinner) -- \$30
- Sun Only--Ex Comm meeting (registration, breakfast, no lodging) -- \$10
- Sunday Only--Ex Com meeting (registration only, no lodging or breakfast) -- \$5
- Children under 16 – No Charge

WHAT TO BRING

Linens or sleeping bag, pillow, towel

Stuff for hiking: trail lunches, water bottle, daypack, rain gear

Beverages

Flashlight

The retreat begins 4 PM Friday and ends at 2 PM on Sunday. All Retreat participants will be required to sign the standard Sierra Club outings liability waiver when checking in at the retreat location. See waiver details at bottom of page 2.

For questions, contact Ron Shrieves, HBG Chair--ronshrieves@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead: Summer Chapter Meeting July 26th through July 28th Cedars of Lebanon State Park

It's time to plan ahead. Schedule yourself for the Tennessee Chapter's Summer retreat at Cedars of Lebanon located 31 miles east of Nashville in Wilson County, six miles south of I-40 on U.S. Highway 231 (State Route 10).

You can look forward to all the outdoor fun that summer has to offer--hiking with Randy Hedgepath, State Naturalist, playing a round or two of frisbee golf, go for a swim in the Olympic

size pool, and hanging out with Nature.

Want to learn more about the business workings of the Chapter? Attend a committee meeting on Saturday or Chapter Executive Committee meeting on Sunday

Retreat pricing, meals provided, and what to bring are the same as those shown above in the information for our Spring retreat at Fall Creek Falls State Park.

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?" form beside the mailing label on page 8 and mail it.

*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: TNSierran.editor@gmail.com
 ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

1. Submission Deadline is March 31st for the May / June 2019 issue.
2. E-mail attached files are preferred. Send to TNSierran.editor@gmail.com. Files should be sent as a Word or Notepad document. Apple users may send articles in Pages.
3. Articles should be single spaced. Don't space between paragraphs. Include a two-space indent at the beginning of each paragraph.
4. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or tif format and attached to email.
5. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.
6. Any materials submitted via USPS mail will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.
7. 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.

**Submission Deadline
for the May/June Issue is
March 31, 2019.**

**Send submissions to
Emily Ellis
TNSierran.editor@gmail.com**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



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

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all
creatures, great and small.

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

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



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

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$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

F940 W4300 1

Sierra Club Officers

TENNESSEE CHAPTER:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee>

Chair: Mac Post 865-806-0980
mpost3116@gmail.com
 Vice Chair: JoAnn McIntosh 931-338-2530
mcijoann@gmail.com
 Secretary: Joanne Logan 865-310-1171
loganj1023@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Alice Demetreon 660-247-2288
TNChapterTreasury@gmail.com
 Conservation: Bill Moll 404-401-7899
whmoll@aol.com
 Outings: Ron Shrieves 865-924-8973
ronshrieves@gmail.com
 CCL Delegate: Mac Post 865-806-0980
mpost3116@gmail.com

TENNESSEE LOCAL GROUPS:

Cherokee Group

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/cherokee>

Chair: Barbara Kelly 423-718-5009
bk1rivers@gmail.com
 Vice Chair & Secretary: Kate Anthony 513-365-7989
rainbowgardener2@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Barbara Hurst 423-886-9503
barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com
 Conservation: Bill Moll 404-401-7899
whmoll@aol.com
 Outings: John Doyal 423-315-0965
2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com
 Marie Brown 423-499-9691
marietommybrown@gmail.com

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/chickasaw>

Chair: Dennis Lynch 901-361-8029
dmlynch1@gmail.com
 Vice Chair & Secretary: Ramie Bell 901-383-3680
ramie.bell@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Sue Moresi
suemoresi@hotmail.com
 Conservation: Marquita Bradshaw 901-647-8884
quitabrad@yahoo.com
 Outings: Mia Madison 901-288-0108
mia.madison@live.com
 Sue Williams 731-885-8823
suewilliams.saw@gmail.com

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome>

Chair: Ron Shrieves 865-924-8973
ronshrieves@gmail.com
 Vice Chair: Joanne Logan 865-310-1171
loganj1023@gmail.com
 Secretary: Kris Christen
christen@knology.net
 Treasurer: Bob Perlack
perlack@aol.com
 Conservation: Axel Ring 865-397-1840
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
 Outings: Ron Shrieves 865-924-8973
ronshrieves@gmail.com

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/middle-tennessee>

Chair: Grace Stranch 615-498-4148
k.g.stranch@gmail.com
 Vice Chair: Antoinette Olesen 615-498-2778
time4nashville@gmail.com
 Secretary: Mary High 615-243-4493
mary.w.high@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Charles High 615-500-5499
cahigh1722@aol.com
 Conservation: Scott Heflinger 615-859-3553
sheflinger@aol.com
 Outings: Craig Jervis 615-254-5301
cmjervis@comcast.net

Watauga Group - Northeast Tennessee

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/watauga>

Chair: Gloria Griffith 423-727-4797
gl4797@embarqmail.com
 Vice Chair: Dottie Grimes 423-737-4480
grimes2nc@yahoo.com
 Secretary: Dennis Shekinah 423-534-4804
bmwbruno@icloud.com
 Treasurer: Cindy Johnson 423-895-1687
cinnj@hotmail.com
 Conservation: Ed Farnworth 843-696-8324
egfarnworth@aol.com
 Outings: Webb Griffith 423-727-4797
gl4797@embarqmail.com

Chapter Staff:

Scott Banbury
 Conservation Program Coordinator
 901-619-8567

Editor: Emily Ellis
TNSierran.editor@gmail.com

MEETING SCHEDULE

Chapter Retreat	Location	Dates
Spring	Fall Creek Falls State Park	May 3 - 5
Summer	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	July 26-28
Fall	Pickett State Park	October 25-27
Winter	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	January 24 - 26

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 must have a signed liability waiver and medical authorization form upon arrival. 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>

A Wilderness Christmas Present in 2018

By Will Skelton (Harvey Broome Group)

The waning days of the 115th Congress in late 2018 produced a wonderful Christmas present for all those citizens of Tennessee and the United States who care about preserving our remaining natural areas, from hikers and backpackers to anglers, equestrians, hunters, bird-watchers, and botanists. On December 20, 2018, the President signed into law the Farm Bill which contained The Tennessee Wilderness Act designating as Wilderness 19,556 acres of the Cherokee National Forest (increasing the existing 66,389 acres protected by two Congressional Acts in the 1980's).

85,945 acres of the Cherokee National Forest are now protected as Wilderness (about 13% of the Cherokee's total acreage of 655,598). This action means that these areas cannot be logged and no roads or structures can be built, but they can be used for hiking, hunting, fishing and other non-mechanized activities that do not diminish the natural beauty and wildness of the areas.

Landmark Victories 1970s & 1980s

Protection for these additional areas is the accumulation of a long-time effort by scores of people, with lots of history. One of the earliest efforts was in the mid-1970s when Ray Payne and this writer met with the Supervisor of the Cherokee, Bob Lusk. After hearing us out, Lusk said he would oppose such because "there is no Wilderness east of the Mississippi." Of course, he was shortly proven wrong. The first Cherokee Wilderness Area was



Will Skelton admiring the falls on Upper Bald River.

Photo by Bill Hodge

designated by the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act signed in 1975, which included only the small 2,493 acres Gee Creek Wilderness. Thereafter, the Cherokee National Forest Wilderness Coalition was formed, representing individuals and businesses plus dozens of environment and wilderness groups. Their efforts resulted in the passage of two Acts in 1984 and 1986 that designated 63,896 acres of the Cherokee

as Wilderness. Unfortunately, because of political opposition several important areas in the current Act could not be included in those prior Acts, and it has been a goal of preservation-minded folks since to see them designated as Wilderness. This especially applied to the gem of them all, the Upper Bald River Wilderness. It is significant because almost all the watershed of a large mountain stream, Bald River, is included in the Wilderness, which is unique for southern Appalachian Wilderness.

Cherokee Forest Voices

Work on getting additional areas protected began after the 1980s Acts. Hugh Irwin, Arthur Smith, and Catherine Murray organized Cherokee Forest Voices to provide input into USFS actions and help with getting added Wilderness in the Cherokee. Most

(continued on next page)

Thanks to the 2018 Tennessee Wilderness Act, these areas in the Cherokee National Forest are now protected:

- Upper Bald River Wilderness,
- Big Frog Wilderness Addition,
- Little Frog Mountain Wilderness Addition
- Little Frog Mountain Wilderness Addition
- Sampson Mountain Wilderness Addition
- Big Laurel Branch Wilderness Addition
- Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness Addition

Opposition to Proposed Oak Ridge Hazardous Landfill Finally Builds

by Todd Waterman (Harvey Broome Group)

"Pulling contaminated buildings down and burying the material without adequate waste characterization and separation and without proper assessment of future risks is how you make a Superfund site, not how you clean one up."

-- retired TDEC groundwater contamination expert Sid Jones

Like TVA's plan to close Bull Run, DOE's innocuously-named Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) proposal to bury "forever" radioactive and mercury-contaminated Y-12 demolition debris flew in under the radar when we concerned citizens were rightfully preoccupied with national elections (DOE shrewdly picked the day after the election for its only public EMDF hearing). I called DOE's P.R. campaign to sell its cheap, quick-and-dirty solution "a green-painted jalopy with a dangerous monoxide leak." Jacobs Engineering, described as "you can eat a pound a day," helped plan the campaign.

The environmental scientists and public servants best qualified to understand it weren't buying it as is. They believed much or all of the waste should be shipped to existing DOE landfills in arid western deserts where it could be safely buried far from the long-term leakage threats Oak Ridge faces long before "forever": heavy rainfall,

karst, earthquakes, a high water table, and a large population, which together would have blocked approval for even a normal municipal landfill without the environmental exemptions DOE claimed EMDF's questionable Superfund umbrella provided. And DOE refused to specify prior to approval exactly what would go into the landfill.

But DOE needed "state acceptance" and "public acceptance."

TDEC demanded seven issues be resolved before it would issue a permit. A slideshow by retired TDEC experts Sid Jones and Dale Rector exposed DOE failures at its existing landfill that had taught them not to trust DOE, which Sid listed in a letter to the *Oak Ridger*. Chapter Environmental Chair Axel Ringe, a retired DOE scientist and long-time EMDF opponent, organized a public information event. Many submitted learned comments: Sid, Dale, Axel, Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) Chair Robert Kennedy, Sierra Club/SOCM Attorney Brian Paddock, and retired ORNL scientists Ellen Smith, Virginia Dale, and Jan Berry. Many of us plain-old concerned citizens commented, too. Sierra Clubbers Virginia, Jan, and I and others wrote letters to local papers, whose frequent coverage also built public awareness. The City of Oak Ridge passed a resolution detailing its concerns. The Anderson County Commission got a last-minute extension of DOE's comment period when they realized they

didn't know enough to vote on County Mayor Terry Frank's version of the DOE-contractor-friendly resolution passed by the ill-informed Roane County Commission.

At January 14th's Anderson County Operations Committee meeting, Mayor Frank said new Roane County Commissioners were considering rescinding Roane's resolution. After discussion, Frank withdrew her own. Robert Kennedy flashed me a smile. Outside I asked him and Dale what we could do better. Kennedy said next time he won't trust DOE and will get up to speed earlier. I'll know experts can't build public support unless they speak out early in the media and social media, a lesson I'll remember also in supporting Bull Run's closure. And for many more next times.



At DOE's November 7 Hearing, Virginia Dale complains of losing a home sale to West Oak Ridge's reputation for contamination.

A Wilderness Christmas Present, continued . . .

important was work on an appeal of the just approved Cherokee Forest Management Plan to ensure it provided temporary protection for priority conservation areas. A formal appeal was made and followed by months of negotiations among various parties and the US Forest Service. And on August 4, 1988, a press conference in Knoxville announced a settlement that provided some level of protection for many of the areas in the current Act. Parties to the settlement included the US Forest Service, Sierra Club, Tennessee Conservation League, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and others. The local Sierra Club Group thereafter produced a couple of editions of a hiking guide to the Cherokee, called *Hiking Guide to the Cherokee National Forest* and published by UT Press in 1992 and 2005 (Tennessee Governor and later Senator Lamar Alexander wrote the foreword to both editions).

The Southern Appalachian Assessment

The Southern Appalachian Assessment, a multi-agency assessment of the conditions and needs of Southern Appalachian forests that came out in 1995, kicked off a round of Forest Plan revisions in most of the Southern Appalachian national forests, including the Cherokee. Even before the release of the assessment, the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition (SAFC) was formed to lead and coordinate the plan revision effort throughout all of the national forests undergoing revision. The coalition consisted of national groups including The Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club; regional groups including Southern Environmental Law Center; and grassroots groups active in all the national forests, including Cherokee Forest Voices. A major focus of SAFC and all of the groups in the coalition was to get good wilderness recommendations coming out of these forest plans. This was a long arduous process and the first new forest plans didn't emerge until 2004.

Part of the reason the process took so long was the development of the so-called Roadless Rule. The plan revision process was largely on hold during the late 1990s and early 2000s while the Forest Service inventoried and developed the Roadless Rule to identify and protect large "roadless" areas. SAFC and its member groups

were very active in the development of the Rule, not only advocating for provisions that eventually became part of the rule but also making sure the right areas were covered in the rule. The Roadless Rule that came out at the end of the Clinton Administration in 2001 formalized protection of Upper Bald River and other conservation lands, including all of the areas eventually included in the Tennessee Wilderness Act. The status of the Roadless Rule remained in flux throughout the Bush Administration, but the last legal challenge was settled in 2013. By assuring that areas had some level of protection, the Roadless Rule also helped to pave the way for eventual designation of the Cherokee areas. The Rule's roadless areas became the list from which Cherokee National Forest and other national forests selected areas to recommend for wilderness. When the revised Cherokee National Forest Plan came out in 2004, it recommended wilderness designation (Wilderness Study Areas or WSAs) for the areas that were eventually included in the Tennessee Wilderness Act. With that administrative protection it was then only a matter, and as it turned out a very difficult matter, of getting Congress to approve the Wilderness designation of those WSAs.

The Tennessee Wilderness Campaign

Following the release of the Cherokee Forest Plan there were discussions by SAFC, Cherokee Forest Voices and others about legislative efforts to implement the wilderness recommendations contained in the Plan. SAFC also held two workshops and numerous discussions in Tennessee between 2004 and 2008 to explore which areas to pursue for wilderness designation, what this effort would take, and the level of support for the idea of a wilderness campaign. Subsequently, in 2008, Mark Shelley, on behalf of SAFC, hired Jeff Hunter to direct a Tennessee Wilderness campaign. Jeff did a great job getting things started up again, including organization of a new coalition called Tennessee Wild; setting up monthly telephone conference calls; contacting the numerous politicians who had an interest in the Cherokee; including local mayors, talking to civic and

other groups; setting up outings in the WSAs (including some especially popular fresh water snorkeling trips), and such. Jeff was able to arrange personal hikes with political aides in some of the WSAs, including Curtis Swager and Jane Chedester from Senator Alexander's office and Jane Jolley from Senator Corker's office. And SouthWings, a non-profit that flies people over endangered natural areas, did overflights of many of the WSAs, including taking Congressman Roe over some of the northern areas and David Leaverton from Senator Corker's office together with several journalists over some of the southern areas.

Jeff also set up a series of annual meetings, bringing together people who were working on Tennessee wilderness to discuss strategy. Those meetings were held in either Knoxville or Chattanooga and the first was on August 20, 2008, at the National Parks and Conservation Association's offices in Knoxville. A second meeting was held on June 27, 2009, and the meetings continued most years thereafter until the Act's passage. Unlike the 1980s Wilderness campaign, which was almost exclusively volunteer led and implemented, the campaign in the 2000s was dominated by professional employees of various environmental organizations, who brought a high degree of competence to the efforts, including The Wilderness Society, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Southern Environment Law Center, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards, South Wings, Cherokee Forest Voices, and Wild South. They were joined by volunteer representatives of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club.

Senators Alexander and Corker

One of the more important catalysts that led to the current Act was probably a meeting in Washington DC on December 9, 2009, between Senator Lamar Alexander and Bill Meadows, the president of The Wilderness Society, Jeff Hunter, the field organizer for Tennessee Wild, and this writer. Alexander of course had a history with Wilderness in the Cherokee since the

(continued on the next page)

Group Business Meetings		
Group	Date	Location
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Mon 3/4, 4/1, 5/6 --6:00 PM	Pilgrim Congregational Church,,400 Glenwood Dr., Chattanooga
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Wed 3/6, 4/3, 5/1 -- 6:00 PM	Cheffie's Cafe, 483 High Point Terrace, Memphis
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 3/26, 4/23, 5/28 -- 7:00 PM	The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd., Knoxville
Middle TN (Nashville)	Mon 3/18, 4/15, 5/20 -- 6:30 PM	House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville
Watauga (Mountain City)	Tue 3/12, 4/9 -- 5:00 PM	5908 Highway 421 South, Mountain City
	Tue 5/14 -- 5:00 PM	R&D Campground, 900 Minningtown Rd, Mountain City

Group Program Meetings		
Group	Date	Location
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Mon 3/25, 4/22 -- 7:00 PM	Unitarian Universalist Church,3224 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga
	Mon 5/27	No meeting due to Memorial Day - Take a walk in the woods
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Thu 3/21, 4/18, 5/16 -- 5:55 PM	Benjamin Hooks Public Library, 3030 Poplar Ave, Memphis
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 3/12, 4/9, 5/14 -- 7:00 PM	TN Valley Unitarian Universalist Church 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville
Middle TN (Nashville)	Thu 3/14, 4/11, 5/9 -- 7:00 PM	Radnor Lake Nature Center, 1160 Otter Creek RD, Nashville

A Wilderness Christmas Present, continued . . .

1980s when as Tennessee Governor he supported the two Tennessee wilderness bills. And this time he was again supportive and promised to introduce a bill to protect as wilderness the WSAs recommended in the Forest Plan by the US Forest Service. Prior to that meeting Jeff Hunter along with Brent Martin (The Wilderness Society), and Mark McKnight (Rock Creek Outfitters in Chattanooga) led a hike in the Big Frog Additions WSA and included one of Senator Alexander's aides Brent Wiles.

On June 2, 2011, Senator Alexander and Senator Bob Corker, who by background was a supporter of outdoor recreation and quickly went along with our proposal, introduced The Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2011, which was described in a press release by Senator Alexander as "designating as wilderness nearly 20,000 acres in six areas of the Cherokee National Forest . . . I grew up hiking the mountains of East Tennessee, and I know that if we conserve these wildlife areas and preserve these landscapes, we'll give the next generations the same opportunity. This bill takes an important step toward protecting the natural heritage that is so important to Tennesseans and the millions of tourists who visit each year looking to experience pristine nature for themselves." Unfortunately, it would take reintroductions of the same bill in 2013, 2015, and 2017 before it would become law. But Senator Alexander persevered and made it happen.

During the near-decade of work, things changed politically with Congressman Duncan of Knoxville losing from his district the counties that had WSAs, leaving Congressman Phil Roe in the First Congressional District with two WSAs and Congressman Chuck Fleischmann in the Third Congressional District with five WSAs. And after doing great work for several years, in January 2014 Jeff Hunter left Tennessee Wild and was replaced for a short time by Pat Byington, who was then replaced by Laura Hodge in May 2014. Laura definitely carried the ball over the goal line, persisting with the campaign through funding and other issues and doing an outstanding job in seeing the Act finally passed. Funding of the Tennessee Wild campaign varied over the years, with vital funds coming from the Benwood Foundation, Lyndhurst Foundation, The Conservation Alliance, Pew Charitable Trusts, and Patagonia, Inc.

Meeting Challenges

Several major issues arose regarding the Wilderness Bill and the campaign to get it passed. First, the Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club, a usual ally, announced its opposition since it maintained the Appalachian Trail through the Big Laurel Branch area and, absent special approval, could not use chain saws for such maintenance if it were designated Wilderness. At that point Bill Hodge, Laura's husband, stepped in with a brilliant proposal that he subsequently carried out: to organize a new nonprofit group to maintain the trails in Wilderness Areas with hand tools and no chain saws. The idea resulted from a joint presentation on wilderness by Bill and conservation legend Doug Scott at East Tennessee State University in July of 2010; after the presentation the two developed the idea for what was Bill's proposal. Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards ("SAWS") was shortly organized and began maintaining the Big Laurel Branch portion of the AT in addition to trails in 64 other Wilderness areas (including Big Laurel Branch after the massive storm in 2016 that resulted in over 200 blow-downs). Having addressed the trail maintenance concerns through the work of SAWS, the campaign gained the support of Congressman Phil Roe of Johnson City, who is personally a hiker and mountain climber, and he agreed to introduce a version of the wilderness bill for his district in the next Congress. However, in Chattanooga, Congressman Fleishman unfortunately proved to be intractable and adamantly opposed to any Wilderness bill in his district (Oak Ridge to Chattanooga). Innumerable letters and personal contacts by even lots of his financial supporters failed to change his mind. Ultimately, the work-around was to get a House of Representatives bill through the various committees just for Congressman Roe's district, and a bill covering both Roe and Fleishman's districts through the Senate Committees. Then the Senate version would be tucked into another must-pass bill (the Farm Bill) and the final version,

Some Effects of Global Warming in Lackawanna County

by Jay Parini

The maples sweat now, out of season.
Buds pop eyes in wintry bushes
as the birds arrive, not having checked
the calendars or clocks. They scramble
in the frost for seeds, while underground
a sobbing starts in roots and tubers.
Ice cracks easily along the bank.
It slides in gullies where a bear, still groggy,
steps through coiled wire of the weeds. Kids
in T-shirts run to school, unaware
that summer is a long way off.
Their teachers flirt with off-the-wall assignments,
drum their fingers on the sweaty desktops.
As for me, my heart leaps high—
a deer escaping from the crosshairs,
skipping over barely frozen water
as the surface bends and splinters underfoot.

Reprinted with permission of the author

Join the Middle Tennessee Group Beer, Music, Friends and You Sierra Social 3rd Thursday of every month

March 21, 5:00-7:00 PM
Tailgate Brewery in Bellevue, 7300 Charlotte Pike
We will be in the front room of the facility.

Stay tuned. Check out Campfire and
Facebook for April location.

after a House-Senate Conference Committee approval, would include both districts. Senator Alexander gets all the credit in the world for making this happen, and indeed for the passage of the Tennessee Wilderness Bill. Without Senator Alexander, with help from Senator Corker and Congressman Roe, we would still be a long way from getting the bill passed.

Success and Many Thanks!

The ultimate result is 85,945 acres of the Cherokee National Forest protected as Wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act (about 13% of the total acreage). This success story has been the result of work by many people over many years and it is impossible to recognize and thank everyone. However, a brief list should at least include the people who were invited to the very first annual meeting of Tennessee Wild in 2008, and who were involved for a substantial time thereafter: Betty Petty, Catherine Murray, David Carr, Doug Scott, Jeff Hunter, Jimmy Groton, Mark Miller, Mark Shelley, Ray Payne, Sandra Goss, Hugh Irwin, and this writer. Many others were also subsequently involved, some long term and others more briefly. A partial list of additional people who worked on getting the Bill passed would include Larry Romans, Brent Martin, Bill Meadows, Anders Reynolds, Laura and Bill Hodge, Emily Diamond-Falk, and Jill Gottesman. And many others contributed along the way. Thanks to all those people who worked tirelessly over the years for a common goal, we now have a significant amount of protected Wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations of wilderness loving people.

Blazing Trails at the Winter Retreat

by Todd Waterman (Harvey Broome Group)

"Explore, Enjoy, Protect." At the Winter Retreat, there were both trails to explore with Randy Hedgepath in Cedars of Lebanon, and for the Tennessee Chapter, trails to be blazed into our state's future. Another Conservation Education Day (CED) of lobbying in Nashville was in the works, and we had legislation to discuss. It was necessary to raise money to fund a salaried position: Conservation Coordinator/Lobbyist Scott Banbury. TennCan's Marge Davis would tell us about the Bottle Bill. Our Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) would elect new officers, appoint committee chairs, and save the planet. Revitalization Project would sunset, though its commitments would not. And revered Axel Ringe would step down from what he has called "the job I always wanted." Tennessee Conservation Chair -- but not without passing along the torch to his chosen successor.

Political Chair Bill Moll kicked off Saturday morning's meetings with Conservation Education Day's legislator asks, the lobby training the night before, and a discussion of respectful, productive lobbying: "There are no permanent friends or permanent enemies." Since many legislators, the Governor, and much else are new, the legislative session has been delayed, so Bill has rescheduled CED for March 5-6.

State Forester David Arnold of Lebanon followed with a discussion of his role and the challenges of protecting native plants from harmful insects, and of keeping invasive plants from out-competing with them. For additional information see

https://bit.ly/Protect_TN_Forests.

Treasurer Alice Demetreon and Fundraising Chair Barbara Kelly led the more-vital-than-ever discussion on funding our Chapter Conservation Coordinator, currently Scott Banbury, beyond the two years current funds would cover, and still funding the Chapter's other ongoing needs.

After lunch Chapter Chair Mac Post presented a PowerPoint on the Harvey Broome Group's Inspiring Connections Outdoors

(ICO) (https://bit.ly/Harvey-Broome_ICO), a Sierra Club program designed to help inner-city kids experience the natural world, to which he brings contagious enthusiasm and passion. Mac began with reminding us all how skewed our nation's environmental

priorities have become, and then described all the ways ICO teaches kids to understand and appreciate nature, and one day perhaps to show their appreciation by helping to protect nature.

That night we feasted well, thanks to Alice Demetreon and the Cherokee Group's mostly-vegetarian fare including a succulent African sweet potato stew!

Saturday evening's program was Marge Davis's 40-year history of TennCan and the Bottle Bill, which will establish five-cent deposit on glass, aluminum, and plastic beverage containers, 3.5 billion every year, saving \$10 million a year, and launching

hundreds of new recycling businesses - and keep all that ugly trash from our roadways and waterways in our tourist-courting state.

Chapter Chair Mac started out Sunday morning's ExCom meeting with a quick discussion of norms, then we had elections.

Elected and Re-elected Officers

Mac Post--Chapter Chair
Gary Bowers---Communications Coordinator
Barbara Kelly---Fundraising Chair
Joanne Logan---Secretary
Alice Demetreon--Treasurer
Axel Ringe---Litigation Chair
David Bordenkircher---Legislative Chair
Marquita Bradshaw---Environmental Justice Chair
Paula Lennon--Membership Chair
Ron Shrieves--Outings Chair
Bill Moll--Political Chair
Mac Post--Personnel Chair
Alice Demetreon---Bylaws & Standing Rules Chair
Ramie Bell--Nominations Chair
TBA--Election Chair and Compliance Office

Outgoing Committee Chairs made their reports. Alice's budget was approved, and Fundraising champ Barbara urged us all to join new monthly Chapter donors, who

have since August kicked in an additional \$236 a month. Communications Chair Gary Bowers urged us to familiarize ourselves with Campfire, which will link our events on all other platforms. He bragged on this Tennes-Sierran issue's new Editor, Emily Ellis from Knoxville, and announced that Allie Stafford from Chattanooga would be getting a Chapter e-newsletter established.

Axel, saying "This is my swan song," offered his advice as outgoing Conservation Chair on the challenges we face in the coming months and years: TDEC's policy of not going beyond Federal regulations, landfill issues, reintroducing biodiversity legislation, Beyond Coal. He thanked the group for letting him serve.

Bill Moll said Axel would be supporting him: "I wouldn't have agreed otherwise." He also conveyed a message from Scott: full-time doesn't mean twenty-four hours a day. "I want to take exception with Axel, that you can't run conservation on Twitter. You can run the entire U.S. government on Twitter."

The Clarksville Conservation Committee's JoAnn McIntosh reported the lead-acid battery plant they'd opposed had turned out to be "a done deal" before they'd found out about it. This motivated the Committee to be proactive and search out the required legal announcements for public input. CareNet's Nancy Bell reported on landfills, the Jackson Law, and the Holston Ammunition Plant explosion in Kingsport.

Gloria Griffith's motion to reclassify the current Watauga Group leadership team in Mountain City as a Conservation Committee and work toward developing new leadership for the Wautaga Group centered in Johnson City carried. So did JoAnn's motion to give new ExCom members printable rather than printed *Leader Handbooks*.

The can was kicked on a motion for a TennCan resolution. Look for an e-vote by the Chapter ExCom on this shortly. Bill Moll's proposal for more accessible Skype ExCom meetings would be discussed further. We broke camp, leaving no trace.

Heritage Days Festival: Electric Vehicles at Rogersville

by Joanne Irvin (Member of Care NET Community Conservation Committee (CCC) of the Tennessee Chapter of Sierra Club)

The Heritage Days Festival is held in Rogersville in October with music, vendors, a cruise-in of antique cars, and a children's parade. Local businesses showcase their work. Everyone turns out; the streets are open only to pedestrians. It's a crowded, joyous time.

This year Care NET CCC hosted an Electric Vehicle (EV) event. Sheldon Livesay (Shepherd's Center and its ministry) gave us permission to use five spaces in his parking lot. "Give them the five parking places closest to Main Street. The climate needs this change in transportation." On Friday evening after everyone was headed home we staked out the parking places with saw horses and prayer flags, and set up our table and canopy.

Saturday morning two Teslas, a Model-3 and a Model-S sedan, arrived with their enthusiastic owners. Ashley Breed and James Little, big promoters of Tesla, tirelessly answered questions all day long, demonstrating the wonders of the Tesla design.

Local dealerships loaned us a Nissan Leaf, a Mitsubishi Plug-in Hybrid, and a Honda Clarity. People asked questions, sat in cars, and picked up information. Ten-to-fifteen year-old boys and girls who had obviously done their research gathered around the Tesla owners asking in-depth questions about how the cars worked and how the AI (Artificial Intelligence) makes decisions in traffic.

Currently the state of Tennessee has no incentives for switching to electric vehicles. But, owners get an economic benefit since fueling with electricity is like fueling with gas at \$1.00 per gallon. And with only

about 20 moving parts, the maintenance of an EV is much cheaper.

Charging an EV can be done through a 120-volt wall outlet, although it's slow. An hour of charge from a 120-volt plug-in gives a five-mile range for driving, requiring an overnight plug to get a full charge. Level 2 charging is faster since it uses a 240 volt wall outlet. Each hour of charge provides about 20 miles of driving range. And then there's the DCFC (Direct Current Fast Charge) which gives you 80% of a full charge in 40 minutes, providing 40 miles of driving for each 10 minutes of charge. Money saved driving an EV will go back into the local economy.

Best of all, driving EVs improves air quality, decreases health care costs, and adds less carbon to Earth's atmosphere.

Great Future in Plastics? Tell Corporate America, "NO!"

From the iconic film *The Graduate* (1967):

Mr. McGuire: I want to say one word to you. Just one word.

Benjamin: Yes, sir.

Mr. McGuire: Are you listening?

Benjamin: Yes, I am.

Mr. McGuire: Plastics.

Benjamin: Exactly how do you mean?

Mr. McGuire: There's a great future in plastics. Think about it. Will you think about it?

Every minute the equivalent of an entire garbage truck of plastic gets dumped into our oceans. In the United States, stores distribute 100 billion single-use plastic bags per year, many of which end up in our waterways.

Rather than address this problem, the Plastic Industry Association is working diligently to keep us reliant on disposable plastic products.

Let's tell these businesses their support of the plastic industry's work to subvert our local democratic efforts has not gone unnoticed. Becton Dickinson, a medical technology firm, recently left the plastic industry after learning of their lobbying efforts on local plastic ordinances. Chlorox committed to not renewing their membership. Speak up to get these other companies to do the same!

These seven companies are still supporting the Plastic Industry Association's efforts:

**Coca-Cola
PepsiCo
General Motors
Ford Motor Company
Milliken
Newell Rubbermaid
SC Johnson**

Follow this link to learn more and take action:

<https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/end-support-for-plastic-polluting-our-oceans>

Chickasaw Program: Climate Change, It's Serious

by Dennis Lynch (Chickasaw Group)

When you talk about Climate Change to a Sierra Club member, it's like preaching to the choir. We get it! We know it's serious. We know in our hearts and minds that we need to take action to change the obvious trends. But, how do we get the nay-sayers to change their minds?

At Chickasaw Group's January Program on climate change, Earth Sciences Professor Dorian Burnette, local meteorologist Austen Onek, and Chickasaw group energy chair Joe Ozegovich reviewed some of the facts and refuted some of the nay-sayers.

Professor Burnette demonstrated with statistics that the globe is warming. He analyzed possible causes of warming guided by the research of Casper Ammann from the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Is global warming caused by El Niño/La Niña or by "Pacific Decadal Oscillation"? Temperatures in the upper atmosphere and lower atmosphere and on the surface demonstrate that these are nat-

ural oscillations. Then Burnette looked at the impact of volcanic eruptions. Analysis shows that human activity's contribution to CO2 in the atmosphere is 150 times that of volcanoes. The contribution of CO2 is significant right after an eruption, but over time is small.

Meteorologist Austen Onek had some fun at the expense of the nay-sayers and showed cartoons and humorous images, like former Senator Imhofe bringing a snowball to the floor of the Senate as proof there is no global warming and a cartoon named "Climate Summit" originally published in *USA Today* with the caption, "What if it's a hoax and we create a better world for nothing."

Many factors affect short-term temperatures and variations in climate over time. The trends and the relative impacts of various "forcing agents" are clear. We need to make significant changes in our burning of fossil fuels. We should no longer debate whether there is need for action.

HOLD THE DATE! HEADS UP--FUN!

JUNE 1 2:00--8:00 PM CENTRAL TIME

Sierra Club Middle TN Chapter invites the entire state to come together for its annual picnic at the beautiful Edwin Warner Park in Nashville. Music, games, youth activities, door prizes and great food on the grill.

Come join in the fun and help us welcome our new members Heck. . .invite some of your own new members!

Stay tuned--Check Campfire and Facebook or email:
paulalennon615@gmail.com

Chickasaw Group's Strategic Planning Session for 2019

by Dennis Lynch (Chickasaw Group)

In 2018, the Chickasaw Group (CKG) defined four strategic areas for extra attention during the year. In 2019, the CKG adjusted slightly and now has six strategic areas of focus (listed below). More importantly, CKG has used the phrase "Action-Oriented Working Groups" to describe the groups of individuals who come together to work on the details of each Working Group (WG). On every occasion, the groups will emphasize the importance of being action-oriented. One other key aspect of the strategic planning session is that the groups' memberships include a few community members to discuss and share ideas in our focus areas.

The emphasis is on action for multiple reasons: 1) because everyone comes together in order to have a positive impact on our environment; 2) many individuals who participate want to volunteer to work and not just to "be on a committee;" and 3) everyone wants to be able to point to accomplishments at the end of the day or week or

month. CKG wants to facilitate, and these actions will help make it happen.

The six strategic areas CKG will focus on are: 1) Reduce/Reuse/Recycle & Solid Waste; 2) Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency; 3) Clean Water and the Aquifer; 4) Parks and Open Spaces; 5) Transportation; and 6) Environmental Justice (EJ). Note that EJ is woven throughout all of the other strategic areas but also has its own WG to maintain a position of high importance. Marquita Bradshaw, who has been elected to both the Chapter's Ex-Com and also the Chickasaw Group's Ex-Com, is excited and challenged to help implement EJ principles throughout our WG, as well as throughout the Group and Chapter.

The planning session included almost two hours of brainstorming and discussion about the strategic areas and created a set of effective details within each of the strategic areas. These details amount to a bit of a "kick-start" when each WG begins its work, but will be supplemented and modified by the individuals who activate each

WG. The input to the Energy WG included community solar, energy burden, rooftop solar, LED streetlights, electric buses, EV charging infrastructure, elimination of the TVA 100% supply contract, no nuclear, PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy), EJ, and Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW) rates restructuring. This should be a fun WG to work with and work on. There's going to be a lot of action here.

As mentioned above, one other key aspect of the WGs is to be very involved with other community members. In addition, some WG members will be representatives of other community groups, like the NAACP, BLDG Memphis, the Coalition of Concerned Citizens, and various neighborhood groups. This will bring diversity of individuals and breadth of ideas to each WG. It is also hoped and expected that it will enable us to broaden and strengthen Sierra Club membership.

We will report back to the Group and the Chapter as to how the Working Groups grow and evolve and ultimately succeed.

Message in a Bottle

Clarksville Conservation Committee Hosts Bottle Bill Presentation



by JoAnn McIntosh

Until recently, the phrase “message in a bottle” brought to mind a ragged castaway on a tiny island, retrieving a slip of paper from a glass bottle that had traveled the seas far and wide. If there was a caption to this picture, it was something ironic: maybe the message was from another castaway in even more dire straits than the recipient. But now, in an updated version of this picture, the message isn’t on a piece of paper and the bottle isn’t glass; the message is the bottle itself and it’s made out of plastic.

We’ve been marketed into becoming a throw-away society. Plastics especially are just too inexpensive to produce for anyone to consider them of any inherent value, and we didn’t think that throwing them into the Great Away would have the repercussions that we are witnessing now: aquatic birds and animals ingesting or strangling on plastic, landfills running out of space

to hide it, microplastics in our water supply – all right here in Tennessee. Our state hasn’t had a great track record dealing with trash issues, and our recycling rate is under 10%. But that could soon change.

In January, Sierra Club Clarksville-Montgomery County hosted a presentation by Marge Davis on the TennCan project. She spoke with great enthusiasm about the implementation of a “bottle bill” to a crowd that included a county sustainability official, city council members, and a state representative. Listeners were energized by the possibilities, ready to get to work supporting the bill.

Container deposit legislation is in the works. Other states and countries worldwide have laws that require a deposit on glass, metal, and plastic containers and their recycling rates for these containers are upwards of 80%. In Tennessee, the TennCan project has been developing a model based on these successful pro-

grams and has taken it up a notch: the five-cent container deposit will not only increase recycling, reduce trash, and improve water quality, it will also create jobs, generate revenue, and benefit non-profit organizations.

We can all support container deposit legislation. Talk to your city and county officials; show your schools, churches, scout troops how they can earn money; get your solid waste managers on board. If we prepare now--addressing this issue in our communities and building local coalitions of support--we can have statewide success when a bill is presented to the Legislature in 2020. We will all benefit from having a five-cent container deposit law in Tennessee – let’s get that message ON the bottle.

For more information: <http://www.tnbottlebill.org>

How Do I Dispose of Animal Waste Without Plastic Bags?

Mr. Green digs around for an answer.

by Bob Schildgen (Columnist, *Sierra Magazine*)

Hey Mr. Green,

I totally support banning plastic grocery bags. I also have several animal family members and am dutiful in cleaning up after them on walks (and in home litter boxes). How to clean up when we no longer have all those plastic bags? –Diane in Woodland Park, Colorado

While a number of solutions exist for dealing with dog waste, my preferred method is simply picking it up with a pooper scooper, carrying it home, and flushing it down the toilet. However, one should always contact local sewer czars to make sure that this practice is locally permitted. It is not recommended for households with private, nonmunicipal sewer systems, as dog hair could clog the sewer system. But such residences can simply collect

the dog residue in a single plastic bag for a spell, then seal it, and place it in the regular garbage, thereby reducing the number of bags required.

Cats are an entirely different matter. Their waste should never be put into sewage systems as it harbors *Toxoplasma gondii*, which can cause pregnant mothers to pass the disease on to newborns, where it can lead to various health problems, from eye damage to mental retardation. It can also affect adults who have weakened immune systems or are on chemotherapy.

Dirty cat litter should be removed daily and only be placed in trash that is disposed of in a landfill. Cats that are not fed red meat and are kept indoors—as all cats should be—are not likely to become infected.

Reprinted from www.sierraclub.org

Tennes-Sierran

3712 Ringgold Rd., #156
Chattanooga, TN 37412-1638

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Nashville, TN
Permit No. 3225

Bi-Monthly Newsletter for the TN Chapter Sierra Club
Vol. 52, No. 2 -March / April 2019

Moving?

Attach mailing address label, or fill-in current name, address & Member ID#.

NEW ADDRESS:

Member ID#: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____

Mail to:

Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041