

Tennesse - Sierran

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

Volume 50, Number 2 - March/April 2017

Reflections on the upcoming weekend at Pickett State Park

"Pickett State Park has an unusual, if not truly astounding, array of rock formations to see," said Professor Cliff Cockerham, a biologist who trained at Cornell, Georgetown, Harvard, and Emory Universities. In January 2017 he was elected by acclamation to his third consecutive term as Chair of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club. In looking toward our next quarterly Sierra Club weekend [28-30 April 2017] he excitedly explained: "Pickett is home to around 700 arches carved by weather & wear into the stone, complemented by 7 full blown mesas of the type you would normally think you need to travel to Utah to experience. Along with Pickett's many caves and striking natural beauty, virtually every land form that may be found in the State of Tennessee can be found somewhere within the boundaries of this amazing, rugged natural area of 3,700+ acres called Pickett State Park."

"Suffice it to say, this is the place where the State of Tennessee trains young park rangers and first responders to deal with emergency rescue situations in the wild." Dr. Cockerham went to explain, "If you come, be sure to stay close to Tennessee Park Ranger Travis Bow on the three scheduled hikes during this next Sierra Club weekend in nature. Otherwise, as happened to me a few years ago, you'll have the opportunity to visit Kentucky as well! Do yourself a favor and make time to see these videos for yourself

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_i03pkAQLk&feature=youtu.be
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rl-LiZpJoLo>

• <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-SE6dS2UnlM>

• <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQghIi5nNIE> . "

"You'll see what I mean," said Dr. Cockerham, "when I say these remote views in truly natural spaces are spectacular and taken together, the experience is incomparable. Show them to your family and friends if you want to end up with a full caravan heading into Sierra Club's April weekend in nature. Honestly, it's insane if you don't have this park on your bucket list of natural areas you hope to one day visit in North America. And while you are at it, don't forget to learn about how this particular park is also an active, living memorial to the Civilian Conservation Corps [CCC]. Back in the 1930's President Roosevelt's New Deal approach to the Great Depression charged the CCC with the task of building Pickett's beautiful, rustic cabins that are a history treasure to behold. Even better, you get to stay in them if you do some serious planning."

Notably, Ranger Bow who will lead the weekend's hikes actually grew up in the area, attending high school just twenty miles from this park. At ETSU Ranger Bow studied natural history and archaeology. In subsequent years, he has developed a reputation as a leading expert in the interpretation of biological uniqueness on the Cumberland Plateau, making the Pickett State Park land mass the centerpiece of his focus.

"Pickett State Park represents an unusually large swath of natural land, which is quite unlike anything else on the Cumberland Plateau

and for that matter, throughout the State of TN," explained Ranger Bow. "My goal on Saturday morning is to have the Sierra Club group dropped at one end of a 6-mile hike through the canyon, being met by shuttles that will pick them up at the other end. This one-way walk through the newly opened Pogue Creek Canyon Trail delivers a very highly concentrated exposure to the extraordinary range of geologic features you would find if you set out to survey the entirety of the Cumberland Plateau. I want to use this morning hike to give people a sense of Pogue Creek Canyon's stunning diversity. In addition to visiting several natural arches, we will literally hike through multiple micro-climates and stumble into dramatic changes in scenery just by turning a corner; then, looking up to notice the array of federally listed endangered species, side by side with rare and beautiful botanicals."

Weather permitting, Ranger Bow will offer a rare off-trail hike on Saturday afternoon, visiting new areas that have just been approved for opening up trails that run along the base of some of the large, visually engaging mesas. Finally, on Sunday morning, Ranger Bow will lead a visit to the lower end of Pogue Creek and the highland rim area.

We will have to drive for 45 minutes to get to the start of the Sunday morning hike, but it will be worth it," said Ranger Bow. "We'll be in the middle of something truly amazing. Of the three hikes I've planned, this one will be gradual, low-key, and slow paced. We will cover less than 1 mile of land

Continued on page 8.

Looking Ahead: Tennessee Chapter Spring Retreat April 28-30, 2017 at Pickett State Park

Come enjoy the company and interaction with environmental leaders from across the state. Join us on hikes, star gazing, and fireplace chats. Meet others that share your respect for natural resources and appreciation of wild spaces.

Engage in the fellowship, interpretive walks, bon fire, clear night skies and silent auction. Spring wildflowers will be popping out all over. Pickett State Park offers miles of scenic trails featuring geologic features on the Cumberland Plateau.

Meet Travis Bow, park ranger at Pickett State Park, as he describes Pogue Creek Canyon

and its newest trail first opened in 2016 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_i03pkAQLk&feature=youtu.be

Weekend Features:

- Nature hikes on Saturday and Sunday led by Park Ranger, Travis Bow
- Saturday evening Silent Auction benefiting Tennessee Chapter Defenders
- Bon fire Saturday night

Meet up at Pickett State Park Group Lodge which offers bunkhouses with separate bathhouse accommodations. Check in begins Friday after 5

PM. Early bird reservation fee is \$50.00 per person for the entire weekend which includes Saturday & Sunday breakfast plus dinner on Saturday night. Pay by check or cash upon arrival. Registrations after April 20th are \$60.00.

Everybody pitches in to help with clean-up after 11am Sunday bunkhouse checkout. Special 1/2 price for first time attendees, children under 15 are free and several scholarships are available with advance approval.

Partial attendance pricing: Saturday meals \$30.00; Sunday breakfast \$10.00; attendance only registration \$5.00

REMEMBER TO BRING:

Sturdy shoes, weather appropriate clothes, favorite beverages, midday lunches, trail snacks, reusable water bottle, toiletries, towels, pillow and sleeping bag or bunk bed linens.

Watauga Group is hosting your Spring Tennessee Chapter Retreat. Registration contact is Gloria Griffith at 423-727-4797 or GLa4797@Embarq-mail.com Specify vegetarian or omnivore when you confirm.

Donated items for the silent auction are greatly appreciated!



Tennessee Chapter Summer Retreat Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park July 21st thru 23rd

1825 Pilot Knob Road
Eva, TN 38333
<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/nathan-bedford-forrest>

Mark your spring calendar to attend the TN Chapter Retreat!

Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park is known for fishing, birding, hiking and swimming. Come join the fellowship, hikes, campfire, and star gazing.

We stay at the Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park Group Lodge which includes bunkhouses with separate bathhouse accommodations. Early bird reservation fee is \$50.00 which includes Sat & Sun breakfast plus Sat night dinner.

Specify vegetarian or omnivore when you confirm. Everybody pitches in to help with clean-up before 11am Sunday checkout. Special 1/2 price for first time attendees, children 15 and under are free and several scholarships are available with advance approval.

Chickasaw Group is hosting this Summer Chapter Retreat. For further information contact Dennis Lynch at dmlynch@bellsouth.net or 901-361-8029.

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 below and mail

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: c.demetreon@mchsi.com and sean.m.rinehart@gmail.com

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is March 31st for the May/June 2017 issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to c.demetreon@mchsi.com and sean.m.rinehart@gmail.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files. Attached files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in Pages.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or a .tif file format then either attached to e-mail or mailed via U.S. Postal Service on a 3 1/2" diskette or CD RM. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.

3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted: however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.

4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

5. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Tennessee Chapter Ombudsman, Joel Gearhardt at jgearhardt@yahoo.com. The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

Target Date for the May/June Issue is March 31, 2017.

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

Send material to Chris Demetreon at c.demetreon@mchsi.com and Sean Rinehart at sean.m.rinehart@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.

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Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



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 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

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

MEETING SCHEDULE

Chapter Meeting	Location	Dates
Spring	Picket State Park	April 28 - 30
Summer	NB Forrest State Park	July 21-23
Fall	Picket State Park	October 27-29

INSPIRED CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS - The Kids Are Alright

By Charles High

The Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club has developed a volunteer service program that provides outdoor adventures for school age boys and girls. Established through the Sierra Club's Inspiring Connections Outdoors program, the Nashville ICO group plans and carries out a summer program for hundreds of young people. Volunteers believe that the next generation of ecologists and environmentalists will be inspired by wilderness and outdoor recreation experiences.

Sierra Club members, Joy Mayfield and Craig Jervis, are the co-chairs of Nashville ICO. Their efforts in organizing the program have created a cadre of dedicated volunteers, a working relationship with social service agencies and schools and a platform for fun, safe outdoor explorations. In the recent past, ICO has led hikes, camping trips, water outings, cave explorations, wild animal experiences and educational programs.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

The Sierra Club provides training and publications to its chapters. Outing Leader Handbook is a comprehensive guide to conducting sponsored outings.

The basic requirements to become an ICO Leader are:

1. Sierra Club membership
 2. First aid certification
 3. Outings Leadership training
 4. Approval of leader application with a signed Code of Ethics Agreement
 5. Annual Child Abuse Recognition and Prevention training
 6. Criminal Background Check
 7. Actual experience co-leading an outing
- ICO Leaders must be 18 years or older.

Leadership recruitment is primarily done by soliciting members participating in outings or those expressing interest in leading. Co-chair Craig Jervis says, "Taking a member on an ICO outing usually 'hooks' them. The kids are so much fun."

Contact your local group chair or outings chair to participate in an outing. Training is available on the Sierra Club website at no cost. ICO will often reimburse expenditures for first aid training.

STRUCTURING AN OUTING

Outings do not just happen. Sierra Outings have a stated purpose, designated leadership and a conservation focus. The locations are scouted beforehand to anticipate difficulties and opportunities. Leaders are selected based on the experience and abilities to perform necessary tasks. Necessary equipment is secured and checked to assure safety. First aid equipment is always present. Adequate hydration and nourishment is planned. These matters are usually contained in a written outings plan.

All outings participants are required to sign in and out of an outing. Liability waivers should be secured from participants (parents or guardians, for minors).

Transportation to outings is determined. If Sierra Club leaders drive participants, proper licensure is ascertained. A safety and emergency plan is completed. Outings begin with a trailhead talk to orient participants and



review expectations. Outings generally have a lead and a sweep. The lead stays in front of the group and the sweep brings up the rear keeping the group together.

ICO leaders are trained to deal with many types of incidents, accidents and emergencies. Whether there is a search or rescue, a medical emergency or an abuse or neglect situation, the National Sierra Club is a valuable resource. Leaders are constantly updating their training.

SPECIFIC OUTING TYPES

Nashville ICO attempts to provide varied experiences. Recently, water outings have become popular. Water safety is imperative on these excursions. Leaders with lifeguard experience are sought.

We have conducted canoe, kayak, paddleboard and white water raft trips. Sierra Club regulations do not allow the club to own these watercraft. Consequently, we usually rent the watercraft from concessionaires. White water trips require separate approval from the National Sierra Club. Many concessionaires provide discounts for our group. We use our tax-exempt number to save additional money. Of course, we always utilize appropriate personal flotation devices (life jackets) and check that they fit correctly. A number of our members who are not certified leaders accompany our group as safety boats. ICO has been on the Harpeth, Ocoee, Elk and Duck Rivers and J. Percy Priest Lake.

We have taken cave trips with ICO. The wild cave tour at Cumberland Caverns allowed us to crawl through mud and narrow passageways to see the undeveloped portions of the cave. The cost of that trip was underwritten by Nissan Motor Company. We also toured Dunbar Cave guided by a State Park Ranger. We saw evidence of Native American cave drawings, civil war graffiti and cave animals.

We have visited the farm of the "Barefoot Farmer", Jeff Poppen, to learn about organic farming and to take a dip in the farm pond. We have hiked at Hidden Lakes, Beaman Park, Radnor Lake, Bell's Bend Park, Percy Warner Park and Dunbar Cave Park.

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

The following are a portion of our volunteer members that support our program: Deanna Bowden, David Sesler, Caroline

Drury, Daniel Shaykevich, Marcia Jervis, Pendry Watson, Todd Bowden, Brittany Murphy, Mountain Dave Kuhn, Suzanne Petrey, Jackson Goodman, Bill Thrasher, Nicholas Weaver, Craig Jervis, Joy Mayfield, Deb Dixon, Jo Ann Tumey, Betsy Garber, Betty Ann Lay, Andrea Carey, Craig Murphy and Charlie High.

PARTNER AGENCIES

Our partner agencies are an essential part of the program. In addition to providing the children we serve, they provide escorts and drivers to accompany the children. Often they are able to contribute in money or in kind to the trips. We have worked with Youth Encouragement Services, The After School Program, Catholic Charities, The Generation Connection and Preston Taylor Ministries, among others.

FUNDING THE PROGRAM

Nashville ICO has a number of funding sources. A grant from the National Sierra Club supported the white water rafting trip. The Middle Tennessee Group provides gifts to ICO. ICO leaders donate supplies, meals and money. Marcia and Craig Jervis have organized and financed dinners and other events for prominent donors. Donations through the Sierra Club Foundation are tax deductible. The children we provide recreation activities for would not otherwise have the opportunity to get out in the natural environment and discover that world. We encourage other Sierra Club members to participate in our rewarding adventures. Harvey Broome Group in Knoxville and Chickasaw Group in Memphis also have ICO programs

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Visit our website: Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors
2. Come out and see: Contact Craig Jervis at cmjervis@comcast.net
3. Donate to our group. We use resources prudently. We use funds to rent equipment, pay admission fees, feed our kids, transport our kids and buy supplies. A small donation helps a lot. There is a "Donate" key on our website. By Mail, a check payable to Sierra Club Foundation, 2101 Webster Street, #1250, Oakland, CA 94612. IMPORTANT: Write on check in the "For" line: Nashville ICO to get it to our group.
4. Become an outings leader.

Meetings

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

CHEROKEE GROUP

March 28, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. – March Program: Located at Nutrition World's Speaker Room, 6237 Vance Rd., Chatta. 37421 (downstairs from Nutrition World on Lee Highway) The Sociology of the Environmental Movement, presented by Shawn Trivette, Asst. Professor of Sociology, Social, Cultural and Justice Studies, UTC. Shawn will help us understand how political, economic, and other social systems interact to produce key environmental outcomes -- sometimes positive, but more often negative. By learning more about this we can learn how to generate more of the positive outcome, particularly in a time when it seems many environmental gains may be in jeopardy. This is important information for activists and those who care about protecting the environment!

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

April 28, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. – April Program: Located at Nutrition World's Speaker Room, 6237 Vance Rd., Chatta. 37421 (downstairs from Nutrition World on Lee Highway) Tiny Houses: Pros and Cons of Tiny Houses from people who have built and lived in them! Is this a valuable option for reducing our carbon foot prints? Perhaps you've been thinking about building one... Come with all your questions!

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

Strategy/Business Meetings: March 6, 2017 and April 3, 2017 – 6:30 P.M. – Strategy/Business Meetings: Held at Second Presbyterian Church, @corner of E. 7th Street and Pine, 700

Pine Street [parking is free in their Pine Street lot, across the street from the church] Come add your ideas, share your concerns as we plan our actions. We've got committees on outings, clean energy, forest watch/protection, mining/fracking issues, and room to support YOUR concern. Come share! The building looks like an old school - knock on the door, and if somebody doesn't answer, call 423-718-5009 for access! All are welcome!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Check <http://www.facebook.com/ChickasawGroup/> for meeting information.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

See our web page (sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs) for details.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

March 6, 2017 – 6:15 P.M. – ICO MEETING: Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet in Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids, and training. Contact Craig Jervis at cmjervis@comcast.net for our new location. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

March 21, 2017 – at 6:30 P.M. – LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. We are in the midst of changing our meeting location, so please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com to find out where we will be meeting and to let him know that you plan to attend. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

April 3, 2017 – 6:15 P.M. – ICO MEETING: Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet in Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids, and training. Contact Craig Jervis at cmjervis@comcast.net for our new location. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

April 18, 2017 – at 6:30 P.M. – LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. We are in the midst of changing our meeting location, so please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com to find out where we will be meeting and to let him know that you plan to attend. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

May 1, 2017 – 6:15 P.M. – ICO MEETING: Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet in Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids, and training. Contact Craig Jervis at cmjervis@comcast.net for our new location. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

May 16, 2017 – at 6:30 P.M. – LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. We are in the midst of changing our meeting location, so please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com to find out where we will be meeting and to let him 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 PM on the second Tuesday near Doe Mountain Recreation Area from spring through fall at R&D Campground Pavilion at 900 Mining Town Rd., Mountain City, TN. During the wintertime meet up at The Loft 5902 Hwy 421 south Mountain City, TN. Got questions, contact bmw@icloud.com 423- 534-4804 or GLa4797@embarqmail.com 423-727-4797.

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Tennes-Sierran E-News

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Please Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Sierra-Club-Tennessee-Chapter/574009059275758

on Twitter: twitter.com/sierraclubtn

Keep those e-mail addresses coming so you will get our E-News: send your e-mail address to Alice at demetreon1981@gmail.com so you get the News about our Programs and Outings!

We have e-mails for only about 1/3 of our members -- so you are missing out on all our activities! We will not give your address away.

Rally to reject Trump's Anti-Environment Nominees



SOCM speaker Erin Bicknese speaks at the Rally to Reject Trump's Anti-Environment Nominees. About 40 turned out in Knoxville on Feb 19. All 3 TV stations and The Knoxville News Sentinel got our message out!

Outings

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

March 9, 2017 – Nashville PROGRAM - How Natural Burial Can Conserve Land in Tennessee: John Christian Phifer of Larkspur Conservation will present this program on the stewardship of our natural environment through earth friendly funeral and burial practices, including Larkspur Conservation's mission, goals and current projects. We will also discuss the impact of current funeral practices on our environment. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Betsy at 615 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com. The program is free and open to the public. (Middle Tennessee Group)

March 11, 2017 – Outings Leader Training: at Outdoor Chattanooga, 200 River Street, Chattanooga, TN 37405. There are 2 parts - First Aid and Outings Leader Training 101

First Aid Certification Class, 8:00-11:00 am: Outings leaders must hold a current basic first aid certification. We R CPR is presenting the 3-hour class, with a fee of \$35. You are welcome to seek certification independently and it is recorded.

Sierra Outings Leader 101, Noon-4:30 pm: Elizabeth Tallman and Terri Chapin will present the class, which covers information all trip leaders should know, including guidelines on planning and conducting an outing, safety management and emergency response. There is no fee!

Orientation/Registration Sessions at Outdoor Chattanooga will be held on Feb. 21, 5:30-7 pm or March 9, 5:30 - 7 pm. The session shares detailed information about the program, expectations, leader requirements, policies, and insurance issues.

Contact Outdoor Chattanooga (info@outdoorchattanooga.com) for more information or to register for the program - call them at 423-643-6888.

We encourage you to become a certified outings leader so you can share your favorite places with us and the public! You will receive expert assistance with trip planning, expertise, guidance and support. Don't feel that this means you have to be a backpacker, though those are very welcome! Fishing, paddleboarding, bike trips, local day hikes, whatever is your interest - we need you! This is open to all Sierra members. (Cherokee Group)

March 11-12, 2017 – Backpack - Hannah Mtn & Rabbit Creek Trails, GSMNP: With Parson's Branch Road still closed, this hike will unfortunately start off with an approximately 2.5 mile road walk up to the trailhead at Hannah Mt, about a 700 foot incline. From there, we will take a 7.6 mile pleasant hike along Hannah Mountain to the junction with Rabbit Creek. We'll hike about a mile down Rabbit Creek Trail to our campsite by Rabbit Creek. Campsite 15 is a spacious level site with a capacity of 12. These require a backcountry reservation for \$4 per person. First day distance will be about 11 miles. The second day will be about 4 miles, but starts off with a tough 800 foot climb to Coon Butt. Hike is rated strenuous for distance, and the road walk and hike to Coon Butt on the second morning are difficult climbs

as well. Driving distance, 50 miles. There will be a small shuttle involved in this hike; we will work out details when I see what the response is. Preregister with Conrad Ottenfeld: col1505@charter.net; home phone 865-288-0975; cell 256-777-1675.

March 25, 2017 – Dayhike - Old Sugarlands Trail, GSMNP: This trail ultimately climbs about 1,000 feet to its junction with the Bullhead Trail, but we may not get that far, due to the recent fire damage, but never mind, as there are several interesting historical relics to examine along the way. These are mostly remnants of CCC facilities used during the construction of park infrastructure in the 1930's and 40's. Also, there's the option of visiting the "Stone House," a bit of a mystery. Distance 6-8 miles total, depending on how far up the trail we go. Rated moderate. Drive: 45 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves: 922-3518: ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

April 1, 2017 – Backpack - Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area: The approximately 125,000 acres of the Big South Fork NRRRA protects a unique river and its tributary gorges and plateaus, all of which provide a variety of recreation activities. Our backpack will be from the Honey Creek Trailhead to Leatherwood Ford, utilizing the new connector trail between the two. The route is generally downhill and we'll be crossing the O&W Bridge, and will camp a bit before or after the bridge. We may do a day hike over to the Honey Creek Overlook of the BSF River. A highlight will be Devil's Den, a huge "stand alone" rock house, and Echo Rock that juts out across the Big South Fork River. Backpacking hiking mileage is about 6 miles total with some optional mileage and the backpack is rated Easy. Drive 69 miles from Knoxville one-way, about 1.5 hours. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; C 742-2327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

April 1, 2017 – Morning Walk: Riverwalk Exploration, 9:00 am We'll be walking "upstream" from the newest endpoint near St. Elmo, and then return to where we began. Great scenic views and vistas. Bring water and a snack. For details and to pre-register, contact Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com or 423-718-5009. (Cherokee Group)

April 8, 2017 – Naturalist Ramble - Classic Cove Hardwood Forest, Porters Creek Trail, GSMNP: This trail has spectacular wildflowers from late March through April, so bring your wildflower books and cameras along. The trailhead is located in the Greenbrier area (About six miles east of Gatlinburg highway via US-321). The trail offers good wildflower viewing. Lunch at SMHC cabin is possible. Hiking distance 4 miles round trip. Rated easy. Families are encouraged to bring children along for a fun and educational day outside. You do not have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate. One-way drive: 52 miles. Preregister with Mac Post: 865-806-0980; mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred)

April 13, 2017 – NASHVILLE PROGRAM: "Your Friendly Neighborhood Gas Compressor Plant" – Come hear a presentation from the neighborhood volunteers from Concerned Citizens for a Safe Environment (CCSE), a coalition against the building of natural gas compressors on the north and south ends of Nashville. Learn

about the purposes such plants serve, the environmental and physical dangers created in compressing gas, and the status of the two proposed plants. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Betsy at 615 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com. The program is free and open to the public.

April 22, 2017 – Canoe/ kayak float - Wildlife Float, Rankin Wildlife Management Area, Douglas Lake: We'll explore backwaters accessible only by canoe or kayak and hopefully observe some migratory birds that visit this wetland paradise. The float is suitable for paddlers with reasonable flat-water paddling skills - no currents to contend with. The paddle trip will commence at 4 PM, making a loop from the Leadvale boat ramp for a late afternoon outing (sunset about 8:15 pm). Limited to 4 boats in addition to the leader. You can expect about 4-5 miles of flatwater paddling. You'll have to arrange your own canoe/kayak rentals if you need a boat. For rentals, you might try Michael Sledjeski of the Rankin Bottoms Project, email mtnsylva@earthlink.net, or one of the outfitters in the Knoxville area. A similar trip is scheduled in May (see below) as necessary to accommodate additional participants. One-way drive: 50 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves: 922-3518: ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

April 22, 2017 – NASHVILLE'S EARTH DAY: If you would like to volunteer at our earth day table, please contact Betsy at garberb@hotmail.com. New people are encouraged to volunteer at this fun event.

April 29-30, 2017 – Backpack - Piney River segment of the Cumberland Trail: This segment of the Cumberland Trail is located near Spring City. The trail was one of the ten original Bowater Company Pocket Wilderness Areas. It is a linear trail alongside Duskin Creek and the Piney River of about 7.5 miles starting at Duskin Creek and ending at Shut In Gap. The trail includes a number of interesting features – steel suspension bridges, an old narrow gauge railroad bed, waterfalls and cascades, rock houses, and wildflowers. The trail is noted for its wildflowers and at this time of the year. We will begin the backpack at the Duskin Creek parking area, hike downstream crossing a couple bridges and passing White Pine Cascades and Hemlock Falls, camp near Rockhouse Branch to allow exploration of the old lumber camp and the creek, hike out over a 100-foot suspension bridge, see lots of amazing wildflowers, and end the backpack at the Piney River trailhead (Shut In Gap Road). We will do a car shuttle. The driving distance is about 60 miles from West Knoxville. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 229-5027.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Time and dates of outings are to be determined. For information check: <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

See our web page (sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/outings) for details.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

The Nashville area Middle Tennessee Group has an active outings schedule and want you to come along! Many times our outings are planned too late to be included in this newsletter. To check out our outings, please click on the outing of choice at <http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures/events/calendar/>

2016 Sierra Student Coalition's Summer Program (SPROG)

By Lindsay Mills

My name is Lindsay Mills, and I am a Junior studying Environmental and Sustainability Studies at Tennessee Tech University. Last summer the Cherokee Group and the Tennessee Chapter gave me the opportunity to travel to Colorado and partake in the Sierra Student Coalition's program, aka SPROG.

I spent a week in Evergreen, surrounded by the Rocky Mountains, learning about environmental activism. The entire program is run by students, for students. I met incredible people who changed my outlook on the environmental movement and gained awareness that I didn't know I needed.

We studied leadership development and were given case studies to learn from. I gained understanding on how to be a more effective leader, which includes delegation, training, team-building; and how to be a token for representing a minority group. I have used the information I learned about leadership development at SPROG several times during my Fall 2016 semester at TTU. I became the President of one of the only environmental groups on our campus and I was equipped to lead the group in an effective way. Spring semester I have a new leadership role within the Office of Sustainability and I am eager to continue to use the leadership tools I gained at SPROG.

A major component of the program was solidarity. Before I left for Colorado I had little to no understanding of this word. By the second or third day I had a completely new outlook on the environmental movement. Solidarity is necessary in our efforts to bring justice and environmental protection to all



people around the globe. What does it look like? It is working with other people towards achieving their goals, building accountable relationships with people that are a part of a group that we ourselves do not belong to or identify with, and it is a way to harmoniously help groups of people without trying to act as a savior. Solidarity allows different groups of people around the world to work together to aid in the achievement of both common and different goals and it allows us to support others in a respectful way, instead of facilitating unwarranted help.

Along with leadership development and solidarity, we learned about campaign planning, base building, and the public narrative. I learned specific tactics on how to start a campaign and support or offer my help in a campaign. The base building training taught me how to gain supporters and other leaders in a campaign to lead them in coordinated

strategic action in order to achieve the campaign's goals. I learned about the story of self, the story of us, and the story of "now" within the public narrative. The public narrative training included solidarity and the elements of working together to create a sense of community by establishing collective values that can motivate action.

I ended up having half of a notebook full of useful information that I will continue to put to use in my personal activism around my campus, within my community, and across the globe. I want to personally thank the Tennessee Chapter and the Cherokee Group for financially aiding me in the trip. It was one of the most memorable experiences of my life and I look forward to working in solidarity with groups around the world to bring environmental justice and help protect our beautiful natural world.



2016 SPROG attendees

Tennessee Chapter 2017 Winter Retreat



Left: Susan Thrasher discussing fly fishing on the Caney Fork Saturday night.



Above: Cliff Cockerham discusses gassification with the presenter.



Below: Saturday's Conservation Committee Meeting



Above: Joan Tomlinson, Scott Banbury (tirelessly organizing), and friend.



Above: Antoinette Olesen performs Saturday night.



Above: During open discussion, Elizabeth Murphy listens as her client Mike Melson bemoans the toxic landfill that appeared next door.

Nature Reflections at Pickett State Park

Ranger Travis Bow leading the April 28-30th Retreat weekend's hikes actually grew up in the area, attending high school just twenty miles from this park. At ETSU Ranger Bow studied natural history and archaeology. In subsequent years, he has developed a reputation as a leading expert in the interpretation of biological uniqueness on the Cumberland Plateau, making the Pickett State Park land mass the centerpiece of his focus.

"My goal on Saturday morning's hike is a one-way walk through the newly opened Pogue Creek Canyon Trail which delivers an extraordinary range of geologic features found on the Cumberland Plateau. In addition to visiting several natural arches, we will hike through multiple micro-climates and dramatic changes in scenery, including late spring wildflowers," explained Ranger Bow.

Weather permitting, Ranger Bow will offer a rare off-trail hike on Saturday afternoon, visiting new areas recently approved for future trails that run along the base of visually

engaging mesas. Pickett is home to 7 mesas of the type you would normally think you need to travel to Utah to experience.

On Sunday morning, Ranger Bow will lead a visit to the lower end of Pogue Creek and the highland rim area. "We will have to drive for 45 minutes to get to the start of the Sunday morning hike, but it will be worth it," said Ranger Bow. "We'll be in the middle of something truly amazing. Of the three hikes I've planned, this one will be gradual, low-key, and slow paced. We will cover less than 1 mile of land but I believe folks will find it incredibly dense and rich in its diversity. Frankly, no place else in the region comes close to the biodiversity we'll see along that 1-mile stretch."

Along with Pickett's many caves and striking natural beauty, virtually every land form that may be found in the State of Tennessee can be found somewhere within the boundaries of this amazing, rugged natural area of 3,700+ acres called Pickett State Park.

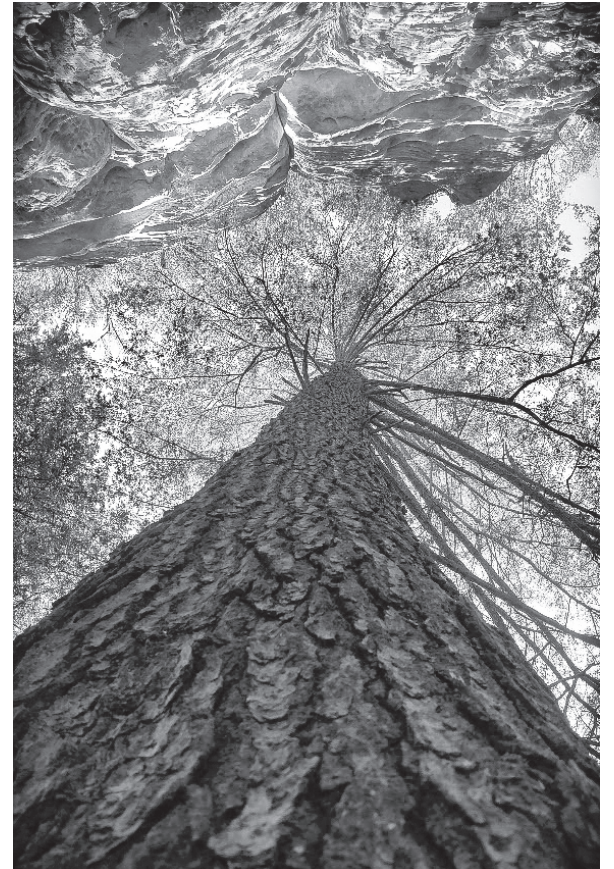


Photo at Pickett State Park by Denise Bivens

Kolb Brothers – Grand Canyon Pioneers

Ever wonder about the early photography of the Grand Canyon?

Join us on Saturday night April 29th for the story of Ellsworth and Emery Kolb who came to Arizona looking for adventure and found it at the Grand Canyon. In 1903 they set up the Canyon's first photography business in a shack on the Canyon rim. Their exploits included a trip down the Colorado River to produce the first motion picture of the Canyon.

Learn more about these colorful and resourceful brothers at the Tennessee Chapter Retreat.



Photo of Kolb Studio by Gary Bowers

Many, Many Thanks to Our Defender

Contributors 12-1 through 1-31

The annual Defender campaign funds our effective citizen-based legislative and lobbying activities. We appreciate the following Defenders.

Andrew Abernathy
 Gary Bowers
 Ken Brame and Judy Mattox
 Mary Buckner and Jack Lyle
 Charles and Marion Burger
 Mary Gale
 Betsy Garber
 Tom Gatti
 Richard and Sherry Loller
 Joy Mayfield and John Pigg
 John and Chris McCarthy
 Cynthia and Steven Rohrbach
 Glen and Martha Wilson

It's never too late. If you just haven't gotten around to it or want to become a new Defender, contact Adelle Wood at adelleintn@comcast.net for information.

Chapter Treasurer Sought for 2018

Are you good with numbers and looking for a way to get more involved? The TN Chapter Sierra Club is looking for a Treasurer starting in 2018!

Spend 2017 learning the ropes with current Treasurer, Alice Demetreon. She will stay on in 2018 as Vice-Treasurer to help you through the first year.

Go to Clubhouse to learn more about the position.

Call or text Alice with any questions at 660-247-2288 or email Demetreon1981@gmail.com with "Treasurer 2018" in the subject line.

Continued from page 1...

but I believe folks will find it incredibly dense and rich in its visually striking presentation of diversity. Frankly, no place else in the region comes close to the biodiversity we'll see along that 1-mile stretch, featuring over 3 dozen species of wildflowers that will be in full bloom as we walk through, listening to stories from folk medicine to cuisine from times gone by."

Most Sierra Club members never get to one of our quarterly weekend group lodge camping events. If you decide you want to change that, this is the one to reserve space for just as soon as possible!



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

Current Address: _____

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My new address is:

Name _____

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City/State/Zip _____

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