

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 40, Number 3 - May/June, 2009

Tennessee Chapter Joins Economic Stimulus Tracking Project to Evaluate Savings from Energy Efficiency, Conservation Projects

By Don Scharf

In late March the Tennessee Chapter joined 12 other Sierra Club chapters around the country on a project to track and influence how federal economic stimulus funds are spent. One of the details of the economic stimulus bill, or American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), is a block grant program to fund energy efficiency and conservation projects at the state and local levels. As a result of this program, Tennessee will receive over \$42 million from the US Department of Energy (DOE). Our goal is to evaluate the block grants made in Tennessee for how much energy is saved, how much money is saved, and how many green jobs are created.

While detailed guidelines for what projects will be funded are not yet available to us, the DOE has said grants will be approved for residential and commercial

building energy audits, energy efficiency and conservation programs for buildings and facilities, implementation of transportation programs to conserve energy, energy efficient traffic signals and street lights, and other projects.

About \$28 million is available to 17 cities and 10 counties in Tennessee which will submit grant applications to the DOE. The cities are Bartlett, Brentwood, Chattanooga, Clarksville, Cleveland, Collierville, Franklin, Germantown, Hendersonville, Jackson, Johnson City, Kingsport, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville, Murfreesboro, and Smyrna. The counties are Blount, Hamilton, Knox, Maury, Rutherford, Sevier, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner, and Wilson. All other local governments in Tennessee can submit grant applications to the Tennessee Energy Office for a share of almost \$14 million.

So far, at least 16 Sierra Club volunteers

throughout Tennessee are tracking how their local government plans to spend the energy efficiency block grant. While some communities are considering several ideas, others have already decided how they want to spend the money. The city of Murfreesboro plans to spend its entire \$961,100 grant on an energy makeover of the 17-year-old city hall.

If anyone in the Tennessee Sierra Club would like to join us on this project, please contact Don Scharf at 615-896-8338 or d.scharf@comcast.net. Volunteers are still needed to contact their local government and find out how the block grant will be spent in Cleveland, Hendersonville, Kingsport, and Blount and Maury, Sevier, Sullivan, and Sumner counties. This is an exciting chance to help your community do what's best for both the environment and the economy.

Kick Up Your Green Energy Education!

Plan to Attend Our Home Energy Field Assessment Kick Off . . . 1:00 p.m., Saturday - May 16th

Are you passionate about saving energy but don't know how to get started? If so, the Middle Tennessee Group (MTG), in the Nashville area, is hosting its first ever pilot Home Energy Field Assessment event, and this may be just what you need to kick start your own home greenovations!

This first ever MTG Home Energy Field Assessment will not only provide you with lots of green energy efficiency information, but will also offer hands on instruction and experience that you can apply to your own home!

Did you know the typical American household spends about half the energy it uses within the home; the balance is devoted to transportation?

That's right! It takes supremely concentrated, refined, liquid fuel for our cars to flit around the way they do, and our current infrastructure requires lots of flitting, which means that big reductions in transportation energy use will be a tough nut



to crack. Houses, on the other hand, have a huge advantage: They don't move! That means converting them to greener, more secure forms of energy is much easier. On top of that, the typical house is leaky, under insulated, and harbors inefficient, energy hogging appliances. What that translates to is lots of opportunities to save energy, dollars, and carbon that would otherwise go into the atmosphere. Let's get started!

Here's how the Home Energy Field Assessment will work: Participants will converge on the host's house prepared to get grungy. We'll be assessing the house from the crawlspace to the attic, so you're liable to get dirty. If you're claustrophobic, fear not, you won't be forced to belly crawl up under the house. You may also want to bring a pad for taking notes, and definitely bring a flashlight. We'll go from bottom to top, assessing the structural and thermal systems as we go. You'll be accompanied by a certified Home Energy Rater, Steven Tyree, who will be talking a mile a minute about energy efficiency as we go along, but questions will be encouraged and welcomed. Once we've finished our assessment, we'll do a blower door test. Basically this test is a big fan that can suck gobs of air out of the house, and in the process reveals leaks that steal heating and cooling energy.

Now for the fun part: After identifying many of the air leaks, we'll take the opportunity to fix them with spray foam and caulk. Both

these materials are messy, so working with them will be strictly voluntary. Believe it or not, simply plugging up the myriad holes in a house is one of the most cost effective ways to improve energy efficiency and air quality.

After our labors, it will be time to break bread together, socialize, and talk about the opportunities we have in our own homes, including more sophisticated systems like solar hot water and space heating. Congratulations, you've just helped save the world, one house at a time!

So where is this Energy Field Assessment going to take place?

Mark your calendar for **May 16, 1:00 pm, at the residence of Don Scharf - 1608 White Blvd. - Murfreesboro, TN 37129. Light refreshments and drinks will be provided compliments of the Middle Tennessee Group! Attendance is limited, so be sure to RSVP to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bell-south.net or 615-406-9204.**



Tennes-Sierran

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

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SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: lbaker@usw.org
Snail Mail: Lynne Baker, Tennes-Sierran Editor
108 Pepper Ridge Circle, Antioch, TN 37013
(615) 831-6782

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Submission DEADLINE is the 10th of the month preceding the new month's issue.
1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to lbaker@usw.org either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Attached files are preferred. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.
 2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. 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 cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.
- 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.



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With your help, we can clean up our water.

Over the last 30 years, we've made great progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands.

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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.

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

Deadline for Tennes-Sierran July-August Issue

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Blacks Living Green Dispels Stereotypes about Environmental Activists

By Rita Harris

When people think of environmentalists they usually picture a white, granola-eating activist. Blacks Living Green contradicts that stereotype.

The author, Dr. Sharon T. Freeman, PhD, dispels the myth that African Americans are not interested in environmental or "green" issues. Her book makes us think about the human resources that we have in our communities not just in Memphis, but across this country.

Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope wrote the foreword for the book:

"...the stories in this book are important – they embody hope, they embody struggle, and they embody connect- edness – as an environmentalist, I'm glad to be in this together. And if we reflect on the stories in this book, we'll probably have a better grasp of the man we just elected to get this country out of the biggest mess in seventy years."

Blacks Living Green highlights individuals all over the country who have chosen environmental careers, lifestyles, or businesses. Ms. Freeman's book encouragingly includes an open letter for membership and a list of Sierra Club environmental justice program offices and contacts.

It must be noted that her book is not about environmental justice, but more about remarkable people doing remarkable things that are not limited by artificial barriers of race, class or culture. The success of our wide array of sustainability and environmental work relies on the dedication and capacity of key leaders in our community. Our green role models in Memphis, through their work and activities, promote a better quality of life for everyone and encourage environmental sustainability in the Memphis metropolitan area.

We seized the opportunity to see and hear this wonderful author, who has the endorsement of the national Sierra Club, on April 9. The Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program, Chickasaw

Group and Caritas Village sponsored the event.

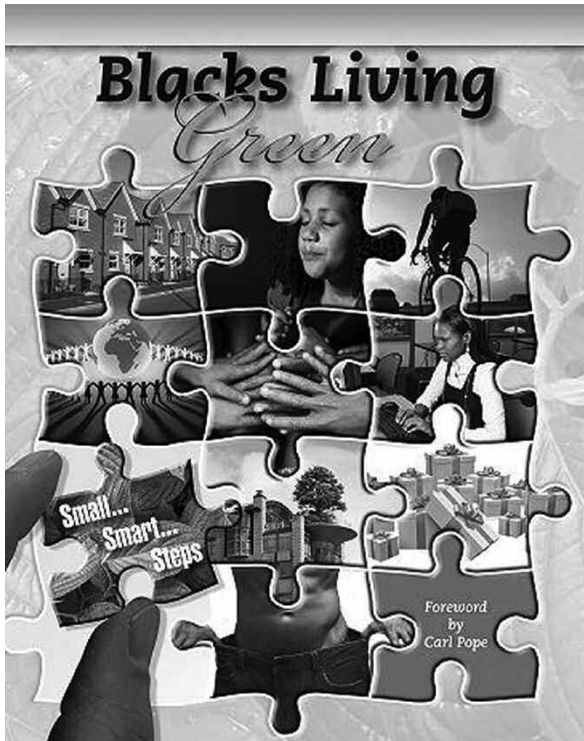
Ms. Freeman spoke to a crowd of over 75 people interested in her work as a black publisher and someone who has worked in developing countries around the world. She has served as a consultant and advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, U.S. Trade representative, and member of the U.S. Diplomatic Corps. She now is turning her attention to the state of Black America in urban areas.

Learning about the various interests, careers, motivations and inspirations, and even our strategies to create positive change is what compelled her to write her newest book about African Americans.

The Sierra Club took time to applaud those in the Memphis area who are doing similar work and have similar interests as those individuals highlighted in her book. I was proud to join her in applauding our 2009 green role models. Shelby County Mayor, AC Wharton, surprised Ms. Freeman with a key to Shelby County, and she noted she had never received such an honor before in all her travels.

After the program Ms. Freeman signed copies of her book. It should also be noted that each participant received a certificate, a copy of Ms. Freeman's book, and a unique piece of artwork by local Memphis artist and fellow green role model Frank D. Robinson. The event was a glowing success and one we want to repeat for next year!

Photo Below: 2009 Green Role Model Award recipients included the following: Sandra Upchurch, High School Teacher Extraordinaire & Industrial Chemist Frank D. Robinson, Reclaimed Materials Artist Hazel Burks, Health & Wellness Expert Rev. Ralph White, Environmental Justice Activist & Pastor of Bloomfield Baptist Church Andree Glenn, Co-Founder of "Neighbors for Trees" Dr. Stanley Abell, LeMoyne-Owen College Professor & Ecological Society of America Pearlle Estes – Master Gardener & Owner of Day Lilies Plus Nursery Shawn Posey – Regional Urban Forester, Department of Agriculture Calvin Robinson, Fuller State Park Manager Mayor AC Wharton – Mayor of Shelby County & Sustainable Shelby Visionary



The Chair's Corner

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

Many thanks to the Middle Tennessee Group for hosting the spring Chapter meeting at Nathan Bedford Forest State Park.

The Wilderness First Aid course will be held May 22-24 at Foster Falls. There is room for more participants. Cost is \$175/person. Information is in the March/April Tennessee Sierran.

During the month of March many of you received a letter from me asking for a donation to our Chapter. Thus far, we have received \$8,000. If you have not yet mailed your donation please do so as soon as you can. The Tennessee Chapter received very little funding from the National Club this year. Our Chapter is able to hire a part-time lobbyist with the donations we receive from the March Appeal. Any amount that you can spare will be appreciated.

On May 1, the office for our Chapter and the Middle Tennessee Group is relocating to 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211. We will be renting office space from the United Steelworkers Union. The Sierra Club and the United Steelworkers Union are part of the Blue/Green Alliance.

Over the summer, I will be visiting the groups. I am looking forward to spending time with you and hearing your comments and concerns. As always, I am available at kati-bug1959@aol.com or 615-943-6877.

Please save the date for our summer Chapter meeting at Dubose Conference Center in Monteagle, Tennessee July 31 thru August 2.

Have a safe summer,

**Katherine Pendleton, Chair
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club**



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Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

MAY 2009 PROGRAM: Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

Outdoorsman Jamie Dahl presents a program on his recent trek in Nepal. A native Tennessean, Jamie grew up hiking—and maintaining—trails in the Southeast and has fought two forest fires on Clinch Mountain. In recent years he has hiked Alaska's Gates of the Arctic National Park and the John Muir Trail in California. He has reached the summit of most of the Sierra Nevada higher peaks, as well as Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest mountain outside Asia. Everyone is welcome. For further information contact John Finger at 865-573-5908.

JUNE 2009 PROGRAM: Tuesday, June 9, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

David Reister, an engineer and longtime Sierra Club activist, presents "Energy Future: My 40 Year Perspective." As David puts it, "I have a Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering from Berkeley. In January 1968, my wife and I loaded our most important possessions in a trailer and moved to Buffalo, NY, where I became an assistant professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo. I soon became a member of the Sierra Club. As both a professor and an environmentalist, I needed to think and talk about the role of energy in society and about the future role of energy. This talk will review my perspective in 1968 and my perspective in 2009.

"My conclusion is that we were sustainable until 1800. We were almost sustainable until 1945. We became very unsustainable after 1945. I think that our goal for the next 60 years is to go back toward 1945 and preserve as much as possible of our current standard of living. I am not optimistic that we will make a smooth transition."

Everyone is welcome. For further information contact John Finger at 865-573-5908.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville, Madagascar!

Those of you who have been treated to programs presented by adventurers and eco-travelers Mike and Linda Doochin will be pleased to know that they are going to bring us their slides of Madagascar. Madagascar is ecologically both significant and threatened. It exemplifies the idea of islands evolving their own forms of life in isolation and, because of its size and its huge number of endemic species, it has been known as the "eighth continent." Unfortunately, the arrival of humans many years ago began a path of ecological destruction which has continued to an extreme today, with less than 10% of the original rainforest now remaining.

In the slides, we will see some of that destruction, but will also see the hope of the survival of unusual species. The island is known for its chameleons and its more than 20 species of lemurs, unusual mammals which have adapted to a wide range of environments. Because they traveled with the Lemur Foundation and the American Museum of Natural History, we will see a number of lemur species and may, if time permits, also see a video of these fascinating creatures. The distances we will travel during this trip over long, dusty, and rutted roads will showcase both the remarkable and the terribly disappointing experiences of this trip. The program is free and open to the public.

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, June 11, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.

Regional Naturalist John Froeschauer (Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation) will bring us a program on "Creating a Butterfly-Friendly Backyard." It is not too late to think about planting to attract these beneficial and beautiful creatures, but John's program concerns general insect ecology as much as gardening.

As you may know, many species of butterflies are disappearing due to habitat loss. Creating a natural habitat in your yard helps with conservation efforts as well as providing beauty. Plan to attend this enjoyable and educational presentation. It is free and open to the public.

STRATEGY MEETING: Third Mondays, May 18 and June 15, 6:30 p.m. in our new offices located in the United Steel Workers Union building at 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee. 37211.

Follow the signs to the conference area. Conservation issues are first on the agenda, and all members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net or call 406-9204. If you have problems finding or accessing the building, call

Rachel's cell at 406-9204.

HOME ENERGY FIELD ASSESSMENT KICK OFF: Saturday, May 16 at 1:00 p.m. Are you passionate about saving energy but don't know how to get started? If so, the Middle Tennessee Group (MTG), in the Nashville area, is hosting its first ever pilot Home Energy Field Assessment event, and this may be just what you need to kick start your own home greenovations! This first ever MTG Home Energy Field Assessment will not only provide you with lots of green energy efficiency information, but will also offer hands-on instruction and experience that you can apply to your own home! Mark your calendar for May 16 at 1:00 pm, at the residence of Don Scharf - 1608 White Blvd. - Murfreesboro, TN 37129. Dress for grungy work, bring a flashlight and a pad and pen for note taking. Light refreshments and drinks will be served after the assessment is completed compliments of the Middle Tennessee Group! See article in this issue of the Tennes-Sierran for more information. Attendance is limited, so be sure to RSVP to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net or 615-406-9204.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY/PROGRAM MONTHLY MEETING: 6:00 p.m. at the "The Acoustic Coffee House- Next Door" at 450 West Walnut in Ole Town Johnson City. Contact Tom Mozen at mozenetc@yahoo.com or 423-232-0827 for the date and more information.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

MONTHLY MEETING: Every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Putnam County Library. Alternating program meeting with planning meetings every other month. For more information, contact Mary Mastin at marymastin@twlakes.net or (931) 268-2938.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

May Strategy Meeting: May 12. Come participate in the business of the Group. The Executive Committee meeting is open to all interested people. It is here that our decisions as a Group are made! 5:45 p.m., GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga (2nd Tuesday each month).

May Program Meeting—Will be JUNE 1! (Instead of Memorial Day!) 7:00 p.m. at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Doug Mizell, biofuel guru, talks to us about making ethanol from invasive species such as kudzu. He is building a \$2 million refinery in Charleston, Tenn., with streams of kudzu, algae and several feedstock lines.

May Conservation Discussion: June 1—Conservation, legislation and political topics facing the Group will be up for discussion at 6 p.m., before our Program Meeting each month. Come with questions or concerns as ideas are formulated for Club action. 6:00 p.m., GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street.

June Strategy Meeting: June 9. Our Executive Committee meeting is our business meeting—come help with the nuts and bolts of the Sierra Club in South East Tennessee! All interested people welcome. 5:45 p.m., GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga (2nd Tuesday each month).

June Program Meeting: June 29—speaker/topic to be announced. (Last Monday each month.)

June Conservation Discussion: June 9—Conservation, legislation and political topics facing the Group will be up for discussion at 6 p.m., before our Program Meeting each month. Come with questions or concerns as ideas are formulated for Club action. 6:00 p.m., GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. (Last Monday each month.)

NOTE: We are hoping to reschedule our March speaker, Renee Victoria Hoyos, of the Tennessee Clean Water Network. She was called to Washington to testify before a Congressional Committee on the TVA Ash Spill. Many thanks to member Ken Dubke, who filled in for her with a program on local Osprey nesting/hacking.

Directions to our meeting place: We meet at GreenSpaces, at 63 E. Main Street, about a block off Market Street—it's on the left after you turn from Market. If you get to the fire hall, you just passed it on the left. Parking on the street is fine—this is located in the developing south side arts district. If you're lost, call Barbara Kelly at 423-718-5009 for directions. We want you to attend!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: May 7 & June 4, 5:30-7:00 pm -- Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, TN -- Join us for Chickasaw Group's "First Thursday" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Anyone interested in learning about the Sierra Club is invited. For more information, contact Juliet Jones at (901) 374-0582 or juliet101@comcast.net

Chickasaw Group Strategy Meeting, May 11 & June 8, 6:30 pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell. - This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Nancy Ream by May 8 (May meeting) or June 5 (June meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 759-9416 or njream@aol.com.

Chickasaw Group Film Night: "Wild vs. Wall" & "The Story of Stuff", Wednesday, May 27, 7:00 pm Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN – "Wild vs. Wall" covers the ecological effects of enforcement and infrastructure in the four states that share boundaries with Mexico. Tucson-based filmmaker Steev traveled to Texas and California during the spring to interview land managers, scientists, and activists who are working to limit the ecological impacts of border wall construction. From its extraction through sale, use, and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. "The Story of Stuff" is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. "The Story of Stuff" exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at the stuff in your life forever. For more information contact Tom Lawrence at bus@thecave.com

Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Program Meeting – "Randolph Bluff Conservation", Thursday, May 28, 7:00 pm. Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue. – Graydon Swisher, regional land conservation director for the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, will discuss recent activities of the foundation, including work on protecting the Second Chickasaw Bluff. Program starts at 7:00 pm. Come at 6:30 for social time! For more information go to www.tennngreen.org as well as the www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw website, or contact Tom Lawrence at bus@thecave.com

Chickasaw Group Film Night: "RiverWebs" Wednesday, June 17, 7:00 pm Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN – "RiverWebs" chronicles the inspiring life and work of the pioneering Japanese ecologist, Dr. Shigeru Nakano. From his boyhood exploration of Japan's mountain streams to his leadership of an international effort to understand river ecosystems, Nakano's life demonstrates the unquenchable curiosity and bold creativity that drive scientific discovery. Yet it is Nakano's tragic death that shows us the profound personal impact of his life, and reveals what is perhaps the greatest scientific strength – community. For more information contact Tom Lawrence at bus@thecave.com

Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Program Meeting – "The National Parks – America's Best Idea", Thursday, June 25, 7:00 pm. Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue. – In September 2009, WKNO will present the new Ken Burns 12-hour film "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." Between April and September, WKNO will work on outreach and promotion for this new broadcast, centering around Shelby Farms Park. The outreach will include a website that will feature a place for viewers to tell their own park stories and an interactive map of Shelby Farms Park, various community screenings, and a documentary about the park to premiere around the broadcast of the Ken Burns film. WKNO representatives will offer a short preview of what to expect from the films and the outreach and how you can help explore and celebrate parks. The program meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Come at 6:30 for social time! For more information contact Tom Lawrence at bus@thecave.com

Keep July 4 available for Sierra Club Picnic! Open to all! 12:00-5:00 pm at Meeman Shelby Forest State Park, Shelter #4 – Join us for an afternoon of great fun and friendship. Bring a side dish to share. There is a pre-picnic hike at 10:00 am. (See in "Outings") For more information contact Nancy Ream, (901) 759-9416.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee – Mondays at 1:30 am, 8:30 am, 3:00 pm; Tuesdays at 3:30 am and 10:00 pm; Wednesdays at 8:00 pm; Thursdays at 5:30 am and noon; Fridays at 3:00 am and 11:30 pm; and Sundays at 2:00 am and 11:00 pm. "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program on cable channel 18. For complete schedule listings on cable channel 18, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/schedule. For more information about "The Nature of Conservation," or if any groups or individuals in the community have a special concern and would like to see a program on it, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu

WATAUGA GROUP (North Eastern TN)

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

Outings

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/Sig nInWaiver PDF>, or call 415-977-5630 for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including car-pooling, ride-sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

May 2 (Sat). Day hike, Finley Cane Trail, near Cades Cove, GSMNP. The Finley Cane Trail is a fairly flat, easy 5.6 mile roundtrip hike to Bote Mountain Rd. We'll view varied spring wildflowers, large hemlocks, tulip trees, and hopefully, some of the many salamanders known in the park. We can go the whole way to Bote Mountain trail junction or just explore as far as the group likes. Rated easy. Drive: 45 mi each way. Pre-register with Priscilla Watts 966-4142 or sigmtngirl@earthlink.net

May 9 (Sat). Full Moon Hike on Cades Cove Loop Road, GSMNP. Bring your flashlight and extra batteries with a snack for this fun evening out. Hiking distance is 8 miles on the road. Rated easy. Drive: 45 miles each way. Pre-register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or 865-335-3559.

May 16-17 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Citico and Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Wildernesses. This loop hike will start at the parking area at Farr gap. From there we will hike down the Stiffknee Trail to the Slickrock Creek Trail. The beginning of this trail passes through the Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Addition Wilderness Study Area. Jeff Hunter, Tennessee field organizer for the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition will join us and discuss a wilderness proposal for the area that we will be hiking. We will follow the Slickrock Creek Trail upstream and camp along the creek on Saturday night. On Sunday we will continue up Slickrock Creek Trail to the Big Stack Branch Trail. We'll climb the Big Stack Branch Trail to the state line, and follow the Benton MacKaye Trail (aka Fodderstack Trail) back to our vehicles. Total distance: 11.2 miles. Difficulty: Moderate, with some significant elevation gains/losses. Drive: 65 mi each way. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

May 24 (Sun). Canoe – Wildlife Float, Rankin Wildlife Management Area, Douglas Lake. We'll explore backwaters accessible only by canoe or kayak and get acquainted with some of the wildlife that inhabit this wetland paradise. The float is suitable for paddlers with reasonable flat-water paddling skills—no currents to contend with. Rankin is best appreciated at a slow pace. We'll set out at 8:30 AM, and return in about 3 to 5 hours, depending on the mood of the group. You'll have to arrange your own canoe rentals if you need a boat. For rentals, you might try Michael Sledjeski of the Rankin Bottoms Project, email mtnsylva@msn.com, or one of the outfitters in the Knoxville area. Drive: 50 mi each way. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

June 6-7 (Sat-Sun). Beginner Backpack, Citico Creek Wilderness. We'll leave a shuttle vehicle at the "Warden's Station" on the Cherokee Forest Service Road #35, then drive out Double Camp Creek Road to the northern end of the Fodderstack Trail (FS #95) at Farr Gap. This is a ridge top trail with some good views. We'll hike from Farr Gap (elev. 2,800 ft) for about 3 miles to a campsite just below the ridgeline on the Crowder Branch trail (FS# 84). We'll utilize the remainder of Saturday afternoon to share experiences and information about equipment, supplies, techniques, and destinations relating to backpacking. Next morning, we'll continue on the Fodderstack Trail to its junction with the Pine Ridge Trail (FS #99), which we'll take to the Warden's Station on FS Road #35. The high point of the hike will be at the junction with the Pine Ridge Trail (elev. 4,000 ft). A short but steep side trip to Big Fodderstack Mountain (elev. 4,346) is possible for those who desire, and time permitting. The second day distance is 5.5 miles. Rated: moderate. Drive: 65 mi each way. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves: 922-

3518; ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

June 6 (Sat). National Trails Day is a day when volunteers around the country perform tasks related to taking care of wilderness areas. We will perform volunteer work on the Northridge Trail in Oak Ridge with the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning group. Pre-register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or 865-335-3559.

June 13 (Sat). Day hike, Ace Gap Trail, Cades Cove Section, GSMNP. This is a repeat of a rained-out spring hike from last year. We'll do a pleasant, easy to moderate 9 miles roundtrip on the Ace Gap Trail. One guidebook quotes the "great displays of pink lady's slipper in the spring." Also, Bull Cave, one of the "deepest in the southeast" is located near the trailhead. Drive: 36 mi each way. Pre-register with Priscilla Watts: 966-4142; sigmtngirl@earthlink.net

June 20-21 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Chattooga River/Ellicott Rock Wilderness (South Carolina). The Chattooga is one of the premier white water boating rivers in the United States. But there's also a wilderness area along the upper portion of the Chattooga with several wonderful trails. The 9,012 acre Ellicott Rock Wilderness is named for Andrew Ellicott who, in 1811, surveyed the area and the point that marks the boundary of NC, GA, and SC; we'll hike by his original marker, now very faded. On Saturday, we'll hike to the Chattooga River on the Fork Mountain Trail, then along the Chattooga River where we'll camp. On Sunday we'll continue on down the Chattooga and exit on the East Fork Trail. Hiking distance is about 12 miles total and it is rated moderate. Drive: about 150 mi each way. Pre-register with Will Skelton: H) 523-2272; Cell) 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net

June 21 (Sun). Day hike, Cades Cove Section, GSMNP. This excursion is to Gregory Bald. We'll meet at 7:00 AM at the Cove entrance for an early start on the 12 mile trek (with a 3,000 foot elevation gain). Bring lots of water and a lunch as it will be a long day. This will not be a fast hike! Rated: difficult. Drive: 45 mi each way. Pre-register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or 865-335-3559.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

Contact Tom Mozen, SOF Group chair, at (423) 232-0827 or mozenetc@yahoo.com about any outings.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

May 22-24, Wilderness First Aid, 7th Annual WFA at Foster Falls near Tracy City, TN. Cost is \$175 per person. Full details available in March/April Tennes-Sierran at www.tennessee.sierraclub.org. Contact Katherine Pendleton by May 20.

May 23, Outings Leader Training 101. For those interested in becoming a certified outings leader, Katherine Pendleton will conduct OLT 101 during the WFA weekend. Contact Katherine for details at katibug1959@aol.com or 615-943-6877.

May 29-31, New River Canoe Trip. Canoe trip on New River. Contact Webb Griffith for information at 423-727-4797.

June 25, Membership Wine & Cheese Party. Start your weekend with some wine and cheese and get to know some of your fellow Sierra Clubbers. Drop in from 6-8 p.m. at 3340 Perimeter Hill Dr., Nashville, TN 37211. RSVP Please!! Call Katherine Pendleton for more information at 615-943-6877.

June 26-28, Smokies Backpacking Trip. Start your summer with a trip to the Smokies! Tentative plans to backpack to Gregory Bald to catch the last of the flame azaleas. Will depend upon reservation availability. For more information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Please contact our outings co-chairs if you are willing to lead an outing, or if you have suggestions for where we should plan to go! We are building our outings program, and will be working on getting people certified as outings leaders. Do you have your Red Cross First Aid? Give either Denis Kiely (423.881.3620) or Jeremy Gazaway (423.619.6548) a call. We would like to get an outings schedule of easy to moderate hikes and trips set up!

Ten Essentials for Hiking



Sierra Club outings offer a variety of wilderness and near-wilderness experiences. It is important to realize that while all trips are guided by a leader, it is ultimately the responsibility of the individual to operate in a safe manner. To this end, the following is a list of essential items which should be modified according to the particular type of outing. These are:

1. Adequate map
2. First aid kit
3. Compass
4. Rain gear
5. Extra clothing (it is a good idea to always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Knife
8. Flashlight
9. Extra food, water
10. The tenth essential: You decide what is the most important thing to bring!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

"Signs of Spring" Walk, Sunday, May 3, 1:00 pm., Memphis Botanic Garden, 750 Cherry Road – This is an easy hour and a half walk on paved walkways and forest trail in this City of Memphis park. If you are interested in local park issues and park preservation, join the Chickasaw Group and the Memphis Area Master Gardeners as we visit this lovely setting. There is even a small, teeny wetland preserved as a butterfly garden. Free with admission. Additional opportunity to see the storm water retention area, which is a smaller version of that proposed for Overton Park. Contact Judith Hammond, (901) 276-2819 or judithhammond@bellsouth.net

"Car camp at Blanchard Springs," Thursday-Sunday, May 14-17, Sylamore Creek Campground, Mountain View, Arkansas – Come for all or part of the weekend in a beautiful campground in the Ozark National Forest. There will be hikes, swimming (if you dare – brrr) beneath high bluffs, bicycle rides on the new bicycle trails, and a trip to the Ozark National Folk Life Center. We'll potluck on Saturday and then head to town for folk music in the square. Optional trip to Blanchard Springs caves at the visitors' center. Don't camp? Stay in a local B & B or motel. Campground has new showers and restrooms. There is a charge for campsites, but free with American Eagle Pass. To reserve your space contact Judith Hammond, (901) 276-2819 or judithhammond@bellsouth.net

"Eagle Lake Canoe Trip," Sunday, May 31, 8:30 am., Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park – Here is the swamp canoe trip we have been waiting for! Meet at 8:30 am at the park visitors' center for an interpretive specialist-led, easy canoe trip in a heron rookery. If you are interested in wetland and wildlife preservation, this is an outing for you! Reservations required as space is limited. Contact Judith Hammond, (901) 276-2819 or judithhammond@bellsouth.net

"Sunset Hike," Saturday, June 13, 6:30 pm., Downtown Memphis – We will take our annual solstice hike a few days early with a walk on the Chickasaw Bluff trail, saved from development by the Chickasaw Bluffs Conservancy, the Sierra Club, and other organizations. We will learn about the effluent being discharged from the waste water treatment plant and the effect on air quality of electric production at the TVA steam plant which is visible from this area. This is an easy 2-1/2 mile walk on paved surface with spectacular views of the Mississippi River. A great location for sunset photos. Meet at the Butler Park entrance on Tennessee Street at the intersection with Butler Avenue, next to the old Tennessee Brewery. Après walk at a nearby eatery. Contact Sue A. Williams, (901) 274-0524.

Saturday, July 4 – Hold the Date! – There will be a hike before the Chickasaw Group's 4th of July picnic at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. At 10:00 am we will hike the new trail, built primarily for horseback riding, and learn about preserving a fragile area. The park is located in a wetland and an exceptionally beautiful Eastern hardwood forest on the banks of the Mississippi River. We will not see the river, but we will learn about a new trail-building technique as we enjoy the shade on a hot summer day. Bring water for the hike. We will meet at the picnic shelter number four (#4) and carpool to the trail head and back to the picnic. Contact Nancy Brannon, (901) 829-4360, or Judith Hammond, (901) 276-2819.

Chickasaw Group News Update from Memphis

Contributed by various members

Chickasaw Group's Day of Service

The Chickasaw Group participated in the National Day of Service on the birthdate of Martin Luther King, Jr., January 19 by working in the forest at Lichterman Nature Center in Memphis. We worked with the staff and other community volunteers to rid the center property of two invasive species of plants that are destroying the ecology of eastern forests: privet and non-native honeysuckle.

Sierra Club members and friends from West Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi included Shelly Bogada, Margaret Dixon, Diane Dyer, Eddie Ellsworth, Judith Hammond, Keith Hoover, Mike Lupfer, Shirley Lupfer, Nancy Ream, Nels Paulson, Steven Sondheim, Christine Taylor, and Sue Williams.

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama called for a National Day of Service, and the Sierra Club answered the call!

For more information and photos of this and other projects, visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/scrapbook>.

Chickasaw Group February Presentation

Sid Lerner gave the February 25 presentation to the Chickasaw Group at the Benjamin Hooks Central Library. Sid represents Greater Memphis Greenline, a group that has long worked for a creative use of the old CSX railroad right-of-way in Memphis.

The Greenline is a proposed 13-mile park and trail that extends from where Poplar and Union Avenue come together in Midtown out to near Houston Levee in Shelby County.

Sid said that an earlier "over the fence" appraisal was too high because it was dependent on values of nearby individual residential properties regardless of the Greenline's proposed use as

a park and trail. Another slowdown has been caused by the railroad thinking with a longer time-frame than many trail proponents. Now, the railroad has removed the old tracks, an important step in making the land useful as a trail.

The first part of the Greenline will be opened soon in rudimentary form without the proposed paving. This first part will not cross any water-courses, obviating the need for any work on bridges. There have been more developments in the story since this Sierra Club meeting.

For more recent information about the Greenline, visit the website www.greatermemphisgreenline.org.

Chickasaw Group March Presentation

Don Richardson of the Sierra Club moderated a panel discussion on "Sustainable Shelby" at the Trinity United Methodist Church on March 26. The four-person panel was composed of County Land Use, Transportation, and Code Enforcement officials Sheila Pounder, Tim Moreland, Gregory Love, and Brett Roler. Over 50 people attended the meeting.

Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton has made sustainability a priority. The initiative, begun some time ago, has taken Doug Farr's Sustainable Urbanism as its primary text. Farr has said, "The path to a sustainable lifestyle builds on the principles of smart growth, new urbanism, and green buildings."

Various committees have been formed to deal with all these topics. The initiative's committee of special concern to the Sierra Club is called "Environment and Natural Resources."

Input from the environmental community will be accepted on an interactive website which is soon to be developed by partners at the Memphis College of Art.



Mike and Shirley Lupfer at Lichterman Nature Center in Memphis.

A Yahoo Group for the Sierra Club

Chickasaw Group and Friends is a Yahoo group for members and friends of the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club (Memphis/West Tennessee). It is an announcement-only email list to send notices of upcoming events and other "green" information of local interest. All announcements are accessible to the public, so you can look up the latest posts anytime! To view and/or join the Yahoo Group, go to <http://Groups.yahoo.com/Group/sierra-club-chickasaw/>

Chickasaw Group Needs Volunteers

The Chickasaw Group is looking for a program coordinator in the Jackson, Tenn., area. If you are interested in helping to get exciting and informative programs in Jackson, contact Chickasaw Group Program Chair Tom Lawrence at bus@thecave.com.

Chickasaw Group members: At this time the Chickasaw group needs four volunteers for specific purposes. We need a conservation chair to help us organize all of the different conservation efforts we are doing. Secondly, we need a database administrator to help us with Constant Contact.com, our new email and newsletter effort.

Thirdly, we need a publicity person to help us get out our message.

We also need someone to manage our website and keep it up to date.

If interested, please call Chickasaw Group Chair Nancy Ream (901) 759-9416 or email njream@aol.com.

Memphis Goes Ape over Jane Goodall

By Barbara Standing

Fortunately for Memphis, Dr. Jane Goodall, the world's leading primatologist, humanitarian, and life long activist, included the Bluff City in her worldwide lecture tour.

Although I missed her first talk at Christian Brothers University, I was able to attend her second appearance at the Memphis Zoo on March 21. Despite the cold and rainy conditions, Goodall spoke to an overflowing crowd about her extensive and well-known research career on chimpanzees in Tanzania, and the complex web of social and environmental issues like the illegal bush meat trade that plague the continent and threaten chimpanzees and many other iconic African species with extinction.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of Goodall's lecture was her ability to connect the plight of African environmentalism to the lifestyle choices of average Americans, including those of us living in Memphis.

Specifically, Goodall pointed out the environmental impact of forgoing our own free, clean, locally provided, aquifer water source for bottled water shipped from distant locations and perhaps more questionable sources. Clearly an environmentalist, Ms. Goodall emphasized the vast number of simple opportunities available on a daily basis for reducing individual carbon footprints, such as eliminating bottled water, recycling and eating less meat.

Goodall wrapped up her lecture with a discussion on finding true happiness in lieu of the materialist agenda that has permeated our culture and a focus on today's children becoming the true generation of environmental giants.

Ms. Goodall travels and lectures 300 days a year. On April 3 she will be 75 years old. Thank you Dr. Goodall for making the world a better place for all of us! For more information, visit the Jane Goodall Institute at www.jane-goodallinstitute.org



Ms. Goodall featured her mascot, "Mr. H," and has taken him to over 50 countries with her.

Tennessee Chapter Participants Reflect on Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference

By Don Richardson

Over 250 Sierrans attended the three-day Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference with five from the Tennessee chapter, including Rita Harris, regional Environmental Justice (EJ) organizer; Mondell Williams, Memphis EJ community activist; and Don Richardson, chapter EJ chair and lead volunteer for sustainable strategies. They attended sessions on “Climate Equity & Environmental Justice,” “Green Recovery,” “Green Jobs and the Low-Carbon Economy,” “Green Chemistry for Safer, Healthier Products,” “Carbon Capture, Coal & Climate Change,” and “Business Case Studies of Climate Change & Job Creation.”

Here are two perspectives from the conference: **Steven Sondheim, Memphis:**

I attended in conjunction with my participation on national transportation and energy working committees. The conference made it clear that we know how to rebuild a new green economy today. It is only a matter of will, resources, and implementation.

I talked with many labor representatives who were open to working with environmentalists and had enthusiasm for our work. My father was a tool and dye engineer at Hunter Fan in Memphis and said many times to “always pay attention to the guy on the factory floor,” that they know how to solve problems and can point out the solutions. This is still true today – that it is important not to forget human factors, which include healthy working conditions and healthy productive products.

The following were the most informative workshops I attended:

“Transportation Act Reauthorization”— In October our Transportation Act will be reauthorized, setting spending priorities for the nation’s transportation infrastructure to encourage mass transportation, the revival of freight rail, greening of our nation’s transportation fleet, and walkable-bikeable communities. This act will outline an aggressive agenda for creating millions of good, green jobs while solving the climate crisis.

A Green Transportation System

“Ensuring Sustainable Movement of People and Parcels: Transportation Infrastructure Renewal”— From ports to subways, this workshop discussed how to shift society to sustainable transportation and how this can lead to



increased worker participation and higher living standards. Panelists emphasized energy conservation with less consumption, less long distance travel, and creating more local sourcing and intra-regional commerce. This can circulate the revenue flow through local communities seven times.

“Clean Transit and Green Communities:

Investing in Infrastructure, Environment and Equity”— Green transit initiatives can simultaneously reduce carbon emissions, create decent jobs, and link workers to employers in healthier, more sustainable communities. Policy levers and stakeholder alliances are required to do so effectively at the state and local level. Neighborhood walk-ability, bike-ability, and mass transit are a must for a connected vibrant community.

I also participated in Advocacy Day, visiting both Senate and House offices to lobby for green jobs, building efficiency, progressive transportation and transit, and an economic stimulus for workforce development. Along with other Tennesseans from the U.S. Labor Department and Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM), we met with Rep. Steve Cohen (District 9) and with aides of Reps. Cooper, Wamp, Tanner, and Davis. On the last day of the conference I returned to Capitol Hill to visit the offices of Senators Corker and Alexander.

Brennan Lowery, Rhodes College, Memphis:

This conference was an excellent opportunity for me as a college student to network and learn about the emerging green economy. One of the best things about the conference was the people I met, many of them also in college, who are making strides in their home states toward sustainability and who are also searching for green jobs.

I got to meet other Tennessee activists who are involved with Save Our Cumberland Mountains, and now I plan on joining that organization. I met several students from a North Carolina college who have invited my student group to visit and look at what their

green club has accomplished. It was a wonderful place to meet accomplished peers in the environmental movement.

The conference agenda was also sensational. I attended the workshops called “Towards Copenhagen and A New Global Climate Treaty,” “The Next Generation of Bio-fuels,” “Green Jobs in Appalachia,” and “The International Dimensions of Green Jobs.” I attended many of these to match my academic interests in International Studies at Rhodes. I got to learn about the next global treaty on greenhouse gas controls to follow up the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and the challenges associated with people trying to have green jobs in Third World countries.

Lobbying for Change

Perhaps the most exciting component of the conference was Advocacy Day, where I got a chance to visit Capitol Hill and meet my congressmen in person to advocate for environmental issues in Memphis and Tennessee. I talked to Congressman Steve Cohen about the potential Memphis has for college students entering the labor market and how green jobs could attract young talent to the city and keep it there. I also heard his history with environmental issues in the city, and asked him to keep the concerns of the Sierra Club and green jobs in mind as he legislates in Washington.

As a student about to enter the work force, I was also glad to learn about lots of green employers who hire people with bachelors’ degrees to do all kinds of work, from consulting green businesses to working against poverty and creating sustainable economic development. There was information about paths I could take to postgraduate study that might lead me to more qualified green jobs. I was interested to learn how Memphis has a potential for green industries such as biofuel production and wind turbines, and I’m eager to take the conference’s lessons back home to advocate for the green economy here in my city and college.

For details about the 38 speakers, 50 workshops, 85 Expo vendors, and 18 Expo presentations, reports and videos, please visit www.greenjobsconference.org and www.bluegreenalliance.org. Also check out the Green Jobs Guidebook at www.edf.org/cagreenjobs. The majority of keynotes are now posted online and can be found here: www.youtube.com/bluegreenalliance

Tennessee Sierrans Spearhead Educational Project at Legislative Plaza with LCD Screen

By Peggy Evans and Mary Mastin

The Tennessee chapter’s new 42-inch LCD display screen has received extensive use this spring. Its purchase was part of a project from the legislative committee of the TEC/TCV Sustainability Summit. Participating environmental groups across the state can use the screen.

It was used Feb. 18 for a slide show at Legislative Plaza on the TVA Coal Ash disaster and drew much attention. Mary Mastin and Peggy Evans manned the table most of the day, and David Bordenkircher packed the screen for safekeeping.

Other groups signed up to use the screen over the legislative session are Tennessee Clean

Water Network, Tennessee Environmental Council, Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Tennessee Forests Council, Breathe Clean Air Task Force, and a local clean air group from East Tennessee. Local food groups

from Chattanooga and Nashville have also

expressed an interest.



(L) Lynn Cimino-Hurt, executive committee member from the Cherokee group, and Pam Patterson from Murfreesboro display the new screen.

energy corner **Energy Matters**



By Steven Sondheim

These are exciting times for Sierra Club members with much happening on the national, state and local levels. After years of being on the defensive, now YOU can help shape Tennessee's energy future.

Join our conference calls---usually **3rd** Wednesdays 7:30 pm CST. We will familiarize and train you. Contact Gloria Griffith, 423-727-4797, gla4797@EMBARQMAIL.COM for instructions.

Nuclear—Contact Bill Reynolds, 423/624-6821, CIsland@aol.com

Radioactive Waste

Several of Tennessee's municipal landfill dumps have long been piling up so-called "low level radioactive wastes." No other U.S. state is known to permit that sort of landfill dumping at all? The Tennessee Sierra Club, in conjunction with the "Know Nuclear" coalition and Senator Beverly Marrero, is promoting bills in this year's General Assembly to put a stop to radioactive waste dumping in our municipal landfills.

New Power Plants

In conjunction with the TN-AL coalition "Bellefonte Efficiency and Sustainability Team-BEST" (chapter of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, BREDL <http://bredl.org>) interventions have been filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) through BREDL

to stop TVA from being granted license to build two newer generation nuclear plants, designated "Units 3 & 4," at TVA's old Bellefonte nuke site in northeast Alabama (about 44 miles from Chattanooga.). In response to TVA's recent request for NRC to reactivate its license to complete construction of "Units 1 & 2," we are getting ready to file a petition to stop that construction from going forward.

TVA—Contact Louise Gorenflo, 931/484-2633, lgorenflo@gmail.com

Board appointments

Tennessee Sierra Club signed on to the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) initiated letter to Obama's transition team urging all future TVA board appointees have an environmental compliance track record. National environmental groups (including Sierra Club) sent a sign-on letter to the Obama transition team urging TVA's new board appointees be selected on the basis of their willingness to transform the TVA into an energy efficiency and renewables environmental protection leader. A recent Tennessean news article suggests the Obama administration is moving on these nominations.

Energy Efficiency and Renewables Program

There is ongoing communication with Jim Keiffer's staff on TVA energy efficiency and Generation Partners. TVA assures that the 1,400 MW target and funding for Energy Efficiency (EE) savings remain intact.

Rollout of EE programs may be having problems due to distributors' resistance—they fear falling revenue.

Citizen Engagement

We requested true cost accounting and greater citizen participation. Jim Keiffer said that TVA would soon convene a public meeting to reveal its EE programs. Joe Hoagland said that TVA would do an environmental impact statement on its environmental guidelines. Mike Duncan, TVA chair, said he wanted TVA to revisit its environmental guidelines for all of its programs—land, air, water, energy. TVA will soon hold scoping hearings across the Valley.

Solar Valley Coalition—Contact Louise Gorenflo, 931/484-2633, lgorenflo@gmail.com

Bi-monthly calls working on TVA, state energy

plans and legislation.

Transportation—Contact Brian Paddock, 931/268-2938, bpaddock@twlakes.net or Steven Sondheim, 901/761-1793, StevenSondheim@yahoo.com

Work with the Tennessee Dept. of Transportation continues to influence smart transportation/land use design. Recent stimulus funds monitored. Unfortunately, much of the money is going to road and freeway building of out of legacy projects. The next chance to influence future transportation is by working on the 2009 National Transportation Re-Authorization Bill. We are working with the National Sierra Transportation Committee and T4America <http://t4america.org/> **Global Warming, Energy, and Cool Cities** <http://coolcities.us/>

Cookville Cool Cities—Tennessee Technological University students working on greenhouse gas inventory. City in contact with International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) regarding software to assist. Rain Barrel Festival April 25. Contact Mary Mastin, 931/268-2938, marymastin@twlakes.net **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)**

A block grant program to fund energy efficiency and conservation projects at the state and local levels. Contact Don Scharf, 615/896-8338, d.scharf@comcast.net to help. We need local contacts in cities/counties. See the article in this issue entitled Tennessee Chapter Joins Economic Stimulus Tracking Project.

National Energy Campaign—Contact Steven Sondheim, 901/761-1793, StevenSondheim@yahoo.com National Sierra Club is working to build support for two critical clean energy bills in the House.

Markey-Platts Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) bill (HR 890) and the complimentary **Markey bill for an Energy Efficiency Resources Standard (EERS) (HR 889)**.

Talk to your US Representatives about the importance of these two bills, an effective climate change bill and the upcoming Transportation Re-Authorization bill.

For up-to-date information/event dates go to the Energy Corner on the chapter website: <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/>

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Thank You!

The Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club is very appreciative of its Defender contributors, whose generous support has allowed our legislative advocacy and lobbying program to successfully promote environmental issues for the past 11 years. The Defender fundraising campaign has ended, officially, for the year. However, we welcome donations at any time.

We thank our most recent month's Defenders, including:

**Bob Barnett
Dave Bordenkircher
Judy Walker
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For further information, contact Adelle Wood at adelleintn@juno.com or at (615) 665-1010.

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