

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 42, Number 4 - July/August, 2011

Unionists Tout Clean Energy Jobs With Pay, Benefits to Support a Family

By Mark Gruenberg
Press Associates Union News Service

WASHINGTON (PAI)—In a panel discussion unionists and their allies touted creation of “clean energy” jobs in factories and infrastructure, and restoration of collective bargaining, as two leading ways to revive the economy and recreate the middle class.

Former Change To Win Chair Anna Burger, SEIU Vice President/Organizing Director Tom Woodruff, Alliance for American Manufacturing Executive Director Scott Paul and BlueGreen Alliance Legislative Director Yvette Lopes all said that projects to retrofit buildings, build solar and wind-powered generators of electricity and wean U.S. dependence on imported foreign oil could generate thousands of jobs.

“We could retrofit America -- houses, public buildings, commercial buildings,” Burger, who serves on President Obama’s economic advisory board, said. “That could get America going again. But it takes political will.”

And the retrofits, she added, are measures that could be put in place now, to create “hundreds of thousands of jobs” for many of the 14-million-plus unemployed.

Job creation would especially happen, panelists added, not in the wind and solar projects themselves, but in downstream “supply chains” -- such as jobs creating the 4,000-5,000 parts needed for a wind turbine to generate and transmit power.

Including those supply chains, “about 70% of clean energy jobs will be in manufacturing,” Paul said. But he also said predictions that “green jobs can’t be outsourced” aren’t true. Without federal tax credits and other aid, they will be, he noted. And competitors—Paul cited China—are creating those jobs now.

Obama administration White House energy official Joe Aldy agreed, but said the biggest hope for such job creation, the massive energy-and-environment bill the House narrowly passed in 2009, is dead.

Lopes said the BlueGreen Alliance calculates that if utilities bought one-quarter of their power from wind, solar and other renewable sources, some 850,000 jobs would be created.

But Woodruff warned that without strengthening collective bargaining, any clean energy jobs could also be low-paying jobs that don’t support families. Reports from labor-backed Good Jobs First show many “green” firms that receive state and local subsidies turn around and oppose decent wages, benefits and unionization.

“The question is what the quality of those jobs will be,” he said.

“Even some green energy jobs in this country pay less than the average manufacturing wage.

“The solution is not to create 15 million minimum-wage jobs with no benefits” in “green” industries, Woodruff explained. “That can’t create a middle-class economy that supports working families.”

The solution to that dilemma, he added, is to increase the power for workers to collectively bargain, and he praised the Obama administration for starting to use the government’s buying power

to ensure a more-level playing field for that goal.

“The carrot is there” for companies to create well-paying jobs here, “but I’d like to see more of the stick,” Burger said.

“The question is do we have a robust system of collective bargaining that allows the workers to get” some of the gains of their productivity, Woodruff added. Unions, saying the answer to that question is “no,” campaigned for the

Employee Free Choice Act. But it too, fell victim to a GOP Senate filibuster threat and never came up for votes.

“Clean energy is the ‘test tube’ case for having a manufacturing policy, and the result is not encouraging,” Paul admitted. “Unless we want to see all the wind turbines and solar panels come from India and China, we have to do something else,” he said.

Do You Believe in Climate Action?

By Louise Gorenflo

The Climate Recovery Super Committee of the TN Chapter needs your help in developing a climate action communication campaign. Our goal is to encourage folks who fit the Sierra Club member profile to get a TVA home energy audit and follow-through with the energy saving recommendations. The Super Committee consists of the Beyond Coal, Rebuild and Repower, and Transportation committees.

Our communication campaign is still very much in the planning phase, so now would be a great time to jump on board this effort to make a difference in reducing our personal and community carbon footprint. Chapters’ Groups have already committed to work on delivering the campaign among their membership and within their communities.

If you live too far to regularly attend TN Chapter activities, this campaign is designed with you in mind. You can take leadership where you are, wherever that may be. One of the goals of this campaign is to minimize our carbon footprint by managing this campaign through phone conferences rather than having to travel distances for a meeting.

The Campaign will have two identical webinars to bring you up to speed and engage your talents and energy: 7pm (CT) Thursday, July 14 and 10am (CT) Thursday July 21. We scheduled two to make it easier for you to conveniently join the call. The two calls will cover the same material, so you only need to be on one.

If you have experience with developing and running a communication campaigns, please be in touch. We need your skills.

If you want to learn more and / or join the call, please contact: Louise Gorenflo at lgorenflo@gmail.com

Now you can receive your

Tennes-Sierran
via email



Subscribe simply by going to

<http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/subscribe.htm>

How does it work? Monthly you will receive an email notification and download link for your new Tennes-Sierran in a special email alert. All you will have to do is click on the link and presto, your Tennes-Sierran will appear in an Adobe Acrobat PDF format. View it, download it, save it but whatever the case you will be saving trees, and freeing Tennessee Chapter club funding to work for other conservation efforts. A double whammy win situation!

**So Join the Crowd
and Go Paperless Today!**

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:

Email: lbaker@usw.org
Snail Mail: Lynne Baker, Tennes-Sierran Editor
PO Box 1504, Antioch, TN 37011
(615) 831-6782

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Submission DEADLINE is the 1st 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.

**Next Deadline for
September-October
Tennes-Sierran Meeting
& Outings Notices,
Photos and Articles:**

August 1, 2011

**Please send to Lynne
Baker, editor, at
lbaker@usw.org.**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Friend or Foe?

America's water, rivers and lakes are at risk from giant, corporate-owned factory farms which are fouling our water with pathogens and chemicals. The air around these farms is contaminated with suspended dust particles, which have been linked to bronchitis and other diseases. Our government wants to pass legislation which would allow factory farms to be free from health and environmental laws. Support Sierra Club's effort to keep our water clean and our air friendly. The hogs have gone wild, now it's our turn.

Cause a stink. JOIN Sierra Club.

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

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



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

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org **F94Q** **1**

Sierra Club Officers

TENNESSEE CHAPTER:

Chair: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
Vice Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797@embarqmail.com
Secretary: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009
bk1rivers@comcast.net
Treasurer: Scott Kramer (423) 598-9516
TNChapSCTreas@gmail.com
Co-treasurer: Michael Varnell (615) 542-4075
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185
GB1Nature@aol.com
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797@embarqmail.com
CCL Delegate: Brian Paddock (931) 276-1387
bpaddock@twlakes.net

TN LOCAL GROUPS:

Cherokee Group

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
Chair: Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway (423) 619-0379
elizabethjamestallman@hotmail.com
Vice Chair: Jami Brown (423) 255-3014
jdbrown5188@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Barbara Hurst (423) 866-9503
barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com
Conser. Chair: Davis Mounger (423) 877-4616
wdmounger@yahoo.com
Secretary: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009
bk1rivers@comcast.net
Outings: Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway (423) 619-6548
gazawaypainting@gmail.com

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
Chair: Keven Routon (901) 485-3960
kwratcs@me.com
Vice Chair: JW Johnson (901) 850-9375
bubo1@bellsouth.net
Secretary: Emily Schwimmer (901) 753-5474
eschwimm@gmail.com
Treasurer: Susan Routon (901) 413-3888
susan.routon@gmail.com
Conservation & Outings Chair: Matt Farr 901-517-8879
matt.tennessierran@gmail.com
Membership Co-Chairs: Keith Hoover (901) 363-8299
hooverkw@yahoo.com
Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
donrich@juno.com

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
Chair: Robin Hill (865) 966-9435
robin.hill8@gmail.com
Vice-Chair: David Reister (865) 670-8991
dreister@bellsouth.net
Secretary: VACANT - Volunteer Wanted
Treasurer: Bob Perlack (865) 675-7668
perlack@aol.com
Conservation: Axel Ringe (865) 397-1840
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518
ronaldshrieves@comcast.net

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg
Chair: Keith Romig (615) 714-2704
krsp@aol.com
Vice Chair: Dave Bordenkircher (615) 333-3377
dabordenkircher@mindspring.com
Conservation: Dr. Cliff Cockerham (615) 336-3905
clifford.cockerham@mnp.org
Treasurer: Michael Varnell (615) 217-0985
rmvarnell@bellsouth.net
Membership: Betsy Garber, (615) 668-1977
garberb@hotmail.com
Outings: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
katibug1959@aol.com;
kdpendleton1@aol.com

Watauga Group - Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington Counties

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga
Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797@embarqmail.com
Vice Chair: Sandi Cranford 423-727-5044
sunshine@highcountryonline.net
Treasurer: Cindy Johnson (423) 768-3882
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797@embarqmail.com

National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:

Rita Harris, Field Organizer
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org

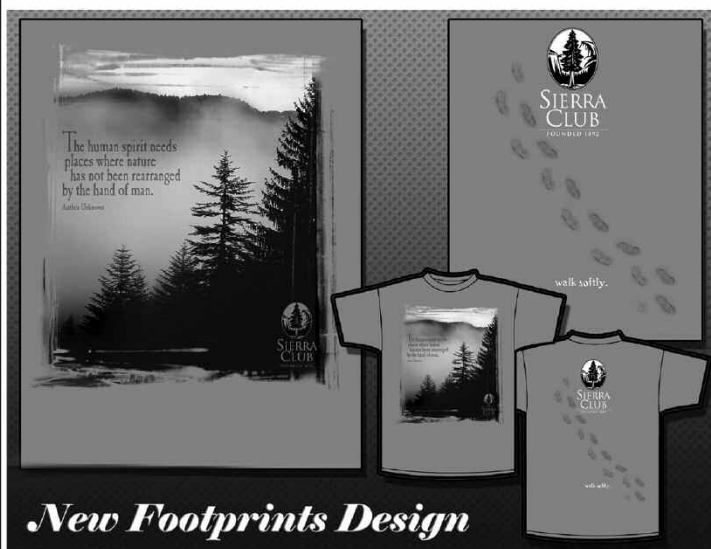
**Please notify the Editor when changes
are needed**

New Design

Footprints T-Shirts

Black print quotation:

"The human spirit needs places where
nature has not been rearranged by the
hand of man on gray background - Unknown Author"
on gray background.



New Footprints Design

Size	Qty	Unit Price	Total
Small	_____ X	\$16.00 =	_____
Medium	_____ X	\$16.00 =	_____
Large	_____ X	\$16.00 =	_____
1X-Large	_____ X	\$16.00 =	_____
2X-Large	_____ X	\$16.00 =	_____
		Sub-Total	_____
Shipping - Enter			
Total # of T-Shirts	_____ X	\$5.00 =	_____
		Grand Total	_____

Please make checks payable to:
TN Chapter Sierra Club

Mail To:
T-Shirt Order Fulfillment
P. O. Box 290306 - Nashville, TN 37229

OR

Visit us on-line at:
<http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/footprints.htm>

To pay by e-check or credit card
(sorry, credit cards only accepts via on-line orders)

The Tennessee Chapter's Summer Retreat & Chapter Meeting

July 8-10, at Max Patch (Sterchi Lodge) up in the mountains along the Tennessee/North Carolina border of East Tennessee. We'll explore this wonderful region with day hikes, learn from naturalists (including our own TN State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath), enjoy star gazing at night under the bright stars (with no city light pollution!) and rock in the huge chairs on the balcony while watching the hummingbirds visit the wild flowers. Plan now for a relaxed weekend - and plan on meeting/making new friends, hearing interesting programs and participating (if you choose) in the Chapter Exec. Committee meetings. Prices are low, and there are bunk house accommodations (bring sleeping bag, linens/towel, toiletries, etc.).

Friday, July 8

4:00 pm Registration/Check In begins
6:30 pm Cookout (\$5/person - let us know veg or meat)
9:00 pm Billionaire's Tea Party (movie)

Saturday, July 9

7:30 am Breakfast
9:30 am Day Hike on Max Patch
12:00 Chapter Committee Meetings
1:00 pm Chapter Ex. Comm. Mtg: Conservation
1:00 pm Hike with Randy Hedgepath
6:00 pm Dinner
7:30 pm Program: Bill Reynolds: Electric Vehicles
9:00 pm Program: Gary Bowers, Media Reform
10:00 pm Stargazing on the Bald (bring your binoculars)

Sunday, July 10

7:30 am Breakfast
9:00 am Chapter Ex. Comm. Mtg: Administrative
9:30 am Hike with Randy Hedgepath
11:30 am Clean-Up



Early Bird Price BY JUNE 30: \$40

(children up to 15 attend free!)

After July 1: \$50

1-day only price with meals: Sat/\$20 and Sun/\$10

SPECIAL: 1/2 price for first-time attendees!

A limited number of partial scholarships available by request to Scott Kramer, TN Chapter Treasurer: TNChapSCTreas@gmail.com
Friday Evening Cookout: \$5/person

To REGISTER: Call or e-mail **Barbara Kelly** bk1rivers@comcast.net or 423-718-5009. Registering before June 30 gets you in at the **Early Bird Price!** Let us know about the Friday Cookout too!

Further details, specifics on the hikes, and directions will be sent after you register with the Cherokee Group.

Directions to Sterchi Lodge: (http://www.churchstreetumc.org/sertchi_faq.php)
FROM KNOXVILLE:

Take Interstate 40 East through Newport and across the North Carolina state line.
Take the first North Carolina exit (Exit 7 - Harmon Den).
Turn left at the bottom of the exit ramp - the road turns to gravel almost immediately.
Drive approximately 6.8 miles and make a sharp left turn just past a brown forestry sign. (You will also see a sign pointing to Max Patch at this turn.)
Drive approximately 2 more miles, passing the Max Patch Trailhead on the right and a large pond with a boardwalk also on the right.
The driveway to the lodge is on the left, approximately 2/10 of a mile past the pond.

FROM KNOXVILLE (ALTERNATE ROUTE)

Note: This route takes longer, but may be useful in the event of traffic jams or snow.
Take Interstate 40 East to the 1st Newport exit (Highway 25). Take Highway 25 towards Newport.
Continue on Highway 25 through downtown Newport to Del Rio.
At Del Rio, turn right on Highway 107. Continue on Highway 107 for several miles.
Turn left on Round Mountain Road. This will turn into a gravel road almost immediately.
Follow this road for approximately 9 or 10 miles, winding through the mountains.
The lodge driveway will be a sharp turn to the right. If you reach the pond with the boardwalk on your left or the Max Patch Trailhead, you've gone too far.

*The Lodge has 2 street addresses, one in North Carolina and one in Tennessee.

*The driveway is marked with both addresses:
-5000 Round Mountain Road, Del Rio, Tennessee
-6303 Max Patch Road, Hot Springs, North Carolina

Corner

The Chair's

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

The leadership of the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club has decided to create a co-treasurer position for our Chapter. The enormity of the treasurer role really requires more hands-on work than one person can manage (and have time for other pursuits!).

Please welcome Michael Varnell as our Chapter's co-treasurer. Michael and Scott Kramer will work in concert with one another to insure that our Chapter financial standing is on point.

Please direct reimbursement requests (starting immediately) to Michael as follows:

Michael Varnell
7001 Stroop Ln.
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
615-542-4075

We want to salute Scott Kramer for shouldering the role as treasurer since March 2010! Thanks, Scott and Michael, for your contributions to the Tennessee Chapter. We look forward to working with both of them!

Best Regards,
Katherine Pendleton Chair,
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club
615-943-6877



To subscribe to
the Tennessee
News Listserve,
email the
following text—

SUBSCRIBE TENNESSEE-NEWS

YourFirstName YourLastName

(Of course, substituting your
actual first and last name
in the places indicated.)

to
LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

All programs will be held at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN and will start at 7:00 PM. For the list of programs in July and August contact Robin Hill at 865-966-9435, robin.hill8@gmail.com.

Strategy Meetings: Fourth Tuesdays of each month, 7:00 pm, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN. For more information contact Robin Hill, 865-966-9435, robin.hill8@gmail.com. All members are invited to attend to get the news on what's happening in our Harvey Broome Group.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM: July 14, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville

"They loaded up their trunks... and they moved to Tennessee!" Come hear about the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald. Rosanne Sietins, president of the Friends' Council, will brief us on the importance of a true sanctuary for elephants. This will include an 11-minute informational video about the sanctuary which was founded in 1995 and has rescued, to date, 24 elephants of the 100 they hope to eventually rescue. She will share how she got involved and some interesting stories about the elephants that make the sanctuary their home. The current Trunklines, the sanctuary's newsletter, will be available. Come prepared to ask questions.

This program is free, and the public is invited. More information on the sanctuary is available at www.elephants.com.

PROGRAM: August 11, 7:00 p.m., Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville

More than the Bear Facts. Joel Zachry, noted Tennessee author, photographer, and naturalist, will relate stories from his recent book, *Bears We've Met - Short Stories of Close Encounters*. In his writing and speaking engagements, Mr. Zachry recalls a range of experiences—from humorous to serious—over almost 30 years of leading educational sessions and guiding in both black and brown bear habitat from their homeland of the Southern Appalachians to the Last Frontier wilderness of Alaska.

Free and open to the public. If you want more information on Mr. Zachry and the guiding services offered by him and his wife, Kathy, go to www.gowithgoat.com. More information about the books can be found at www.bearswevet.com.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: July 18 and August 15, 6:30 p.m. at the United Steelworkers Union Building, 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211.

Follow the signs to the conference area. If you arrive late, please ring the bell at the side door on the left, and someone will come down to let you in. 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.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

July Strategy Meeting: July 18 (Board Meeting) 3rd Monday, 6:00 pm, at the Brainerd Bethlehem ReSource Center, 4413 Brainerd Road, next to the Balloon Factory. All members of the Group and interested people are

welcome -- this is where and when we plan our actions! To place an item on the agenda, contact Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway at 423-619-0379, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

July Program: Last Monday, July 25, 7 pm at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: **Biomass, and How Conservation & Efficiency Can Help the Transition to Truly Renewable and Sustainable Energy Options.** Presenter: **Denny Haldeman.** Denny has been researching and writing about biomass energy issues for over a decade. Come hear how we can help address the growing threat that biomass is to our forests and how we can influence TVA in this process. Open to the public; healthy snacks provided!

August Strategy Meeting: August 15 (Board Meeting) 3rd Monday, 6:00 p.m., at the Brainerd Bethlehem ReSource Center, 4413 Brainerd Road, next to the Balloon Factory. All interested people welcome - this is where and when we plan our actions and activities! To place an item on the agenda, contact Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway at 423-619-0379, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

August Program: Last Monday, August 29, 7 pm at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: **Nuclear Retreat or Renaissance -- Presenter: Sandy Kurtz, Co-founder of Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team (BEST/MATRR)** www.matrr.org. The Nuclear Renaissance never really got started, but it's now in retreat post-Fukushima. Countries around the world are banning nuclear power as an energy choice. Even in the U.S. the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, usually cozy with the nuclear industry, is examining its navel and slowing down on licensing for new plants. TVA has six nuclear reactors with an additional one being built at Watts Bar. In August, CEO Kilgore hopes to get approval from TVA board members to move ahead with construction at the moth-balled Bellefonte site despite some objections among rank-and-file employees. Then there's the unsolved waste issue lurking in our backyard and Tennessee's permits to process radioactive waste from Canada, Germany and the U.S. that other states refuse to take. Sandy will give us an overview of what's going on with nuclear power, why it's not an environmental solution for climate change, and the health impacts from radiation doses. Open to the public; healthy snacks provided!

Note: Our Program Meetings continue to be held at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, which is a non-descript storefront building with little-to-no signage -- it is last on the left in the first block off Market Street. It is kiddy-corner from the Fire Department across the street. Look for the Sierra Club banner!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

(Sign up for our monthly email events list on the calendar page <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/>)

Thursday, July 7, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Monthly First Thursday Gathering Otherlands, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN

Sierra Club members, activists and friends meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Emily Schwimmer at eschwimm@gmail.com or Deborah Mays at (901) 722-4111.

Monday, July 11, 6:30 pm, Strategy Meeting, Trolley Stop Market, 704 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN

The Executive Committee meets on the sec-

ond Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. For more information or to place items on the agenda, contact the group chair Keven Routon at kwrats@me.com -- agenda items must be submitted at least three days before the meeting.

"Nature of Conservation" Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Cable TV Show on WYPL-TV 18 (Comcast):

Days and times vary -- see <http://www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/schedule/> (or the Comcast on-screen guide) for the latest schedule. Topic changes every month. For more information, or if anyone has an idea for a future program, contact Judith Rutschman at jcrutschman@gmail.com or (901) 767-5916.

Sierra Club Chickasaw Group is now on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

This is a forum for public discussion, so please feel free to post comments, raise issues, and express environmental concerns. Updates and details about upcoming events are posted here.

For August meetings and programs go to <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/>

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern 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.

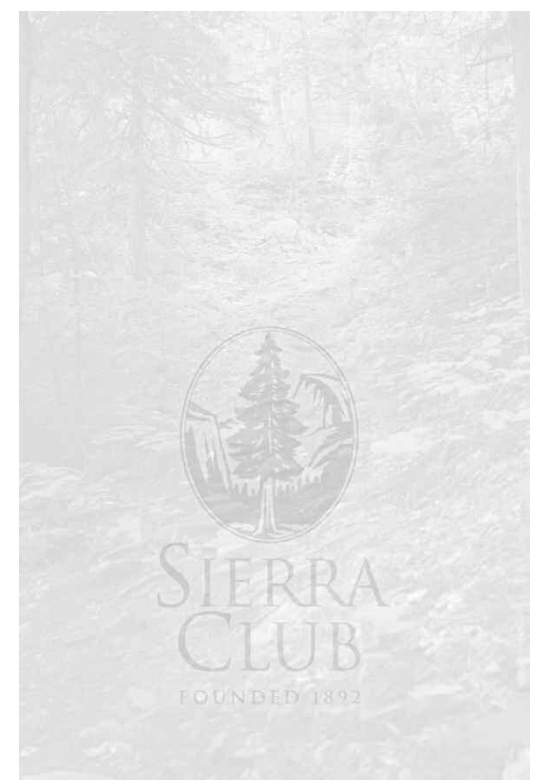
To subscribe to the Tennessee News Listserve, email the following text—

SUBSCRIBE TENNESSEE-NEWS

YourFirstName YourLastName

(Of course, substituting your actual first and last name in the places indicated.)

to LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG



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/SignInWaiver> PDF, or call 415-977-5630 for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, 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)

July 1-4 (Fri-Mon). Backpack, Dolly Sods Wilderness, WV. Dolly Sods is a 32,000-acre high plateau area in northeastern West Virginia, most of which is designated wilderness or Nature Conservancy lands; it is known for sphagnum bogs, spectacularly scenic open meadows, heath barrens and scattered spruce forest that are characteristic of areas much further north. As we do a large loop backpack through the heart of the area, we'll also learn of its interesting history, ranging from use as a practice artillery and mortar range area to mining and logging. The HBG has visited the area several times over the years (most recently in 2007). Because of the long 7-8 hour drive to the area, the trip will require three full days; we will leave Knoxville late on Friday afternoon and spend the night in a motel north of Roanoke, returning on Monday. Rated Moderate. Contact Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

July 9 (Sat). Canoe/Kayak Float, French Broad River. This 5-mile float starts just upstream from the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge on the French Broad River, about 35 minutes from Knoxville. We'll ride the current downstream for about five miles, enjoying the scenery and wildlife in this area. There may be some shoal water, but no whitewater. Basic canoe/kayak skills required. Sorry but we cannot provide boats, so you will have to contact a local outfitter and make your own arrangements for boats, paddles, and pfd's. One-way drive: 20 miles. Contact Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

July 16 (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Jakes Creek to Cucumber Gap to Little River Trails, GSMNP. This 5.1 mile loop hike explores a bit of the old Elkmont area, dominated by the activities of the Little River Lumber Company at the time of the park's creation. This area has been embroiled for many years in the controversy over disposition of old buildings that were occupied on leases after the establishment of the GSMNP. We'll start up the Jakes Creek Trail for about 1/2 mile, turn east for about 2.1 miles on the Cucumber Gap trail, where we may hope to see some wildflower displays. We'll head north where the Cucumber Gap trail ends at the Little River. The end of the hike will take us down an "avenue" with remnants of many of the finer cabins that once occupied the Elkmont area. Rated easy. Driving distance about 45 miles. Contact Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

July 15-17 (Fri-Sun). Summer TN SC Chapter Meeting: TBA, Cherokee Group.

Aug. 6 (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Bob's Bald, Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness. Enjoy great views from this high elevation destination in the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness. We access the bald by way of Beech Gap from the Cherochala Skyway. This would also be a good opportunity to look for higher elevation late wildflowers. Six miles roundtrip, but by starting at Beech Gap there is only an 800 foot elevation gain on the hike to a magnificent bald at 5,420 feet eleva-

tion. Rated moderate. Driving distance/time 90 miles/2 hours. Contact Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

Aug. 13-14 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Shining Rocks Wilderness, Nantahala National Forest, NC. Shining Rocks is one of the three original eastern wilderness areas, designated by the Wilderness Act when it was first passed in 1964. It is certainly one of our best, and the HBG has done backpacks in the area in early August for many years, partially for the blueberries that are usually ripe then. We'll return again this year to explore a less used area, and will camp at a relatively unused campsite off the main crest, Grassy Cove Gap, where we camped in 2000 and 2003. We'll also learn about the unique history of this area, which was logged and burned over in the past. We will hike in on the Graveyard Ridge and Greasy Cove Trails and out on the Greasy Cove and Bridges Camp Gap Trail. Hiking distance is about 7.5 miles total (4.5 Saturday and 3.0 Sunday). Rated moderate. One-way drive: 120 miles. Contact Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

CHEROKEE GROUP

The Cherokee Group sponsors outings and hikes at least 1 or 2 weekends a month. Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway serves as our outings chair and point-man for outings information for our Group. Our activities are always open to the public and to members of the Club from across the state! We explore interesting and unique parts of Tennessee, gaining an appreciation of how wonderful, and sometimes threatened, our area is—while having fun. Outings are planned to take in the interests and skill levels of the participants. For more information, contact Jeremy at 423-619-6548 or gazawaypainting@gmail.com

July 8-10 (Fri.-Sun.) Tennessee Chapter Summer Retreat, hosted by the Cherokee Group! We'll be staying at the Sterchi Lodge on Max Patch Bald in the Cherokee Forest near Del Rio. \$40 Early Bird registration covers lodging and most meals, Friday night cookout \$5 extra; hikes, berry picking, star gazing, programs on electric vehicles, and media reform and how it affects our messaging for conservation! Come relax, have fun, and meet like-minded people from across the state. For further info/to register, contact Barbara Kelly, 423-718-5009 or bk1rivers@comcast.net. Newbies (1st time attenders) are 1/2 price; children 15 and under are free! Bring your trail lunches, sleeping bag

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!

(bunkhouse style accommodations) and toiletries, hiking boots, etc. After July 1st, registration rises to \$50.

July 16 (Sat) - We are hosting an informational **strategy session** on the impacts of the proposed **Corridor K** on the Cherokee Forest. Please attend and learn how YOU can make a difference. 1:00 pm, Audubon Acres. For more info, contact Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway at 423-619-0379. Please invite your friends and other interested outdoor groups.

Aug. 13 (Sat) - Canoeing North Chickamauga Creek, 10:30 am

Join us for a beautiful, leisure paddle down the North Chickamauga Creek. We will be meeting at the North Chickamauga Creek Greenway at 10:30 am. We will be using their rental equipment, so there will be a small fee involved. If you are interested in attending please register by August 5. Contact Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway: 423-619-6548 or gazawaypainting@gmail.com.

Aug. 27 (Sat) Foster Falls Hike/Swimming, 10:30 am

Foster Falls Wilderness Area centers on a 60-foot waterfall, visible from sandstone overlooks and surrounded by 178 acres of lush flora, including Mountain Laurel, Azalea and Hemlock. We will go on a short hike to the falls and then spend the day swimming and picnicking. Contact Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway: 423-619-6548 or gazawaypainting@gmail.com if you are interested in attending.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Contact Matt Farr, outings chair, at 901-517-8879 for a list of the outings or go to the **Group's Facebook page**, <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

Now you can receive your

Tennes-Sierran
via email



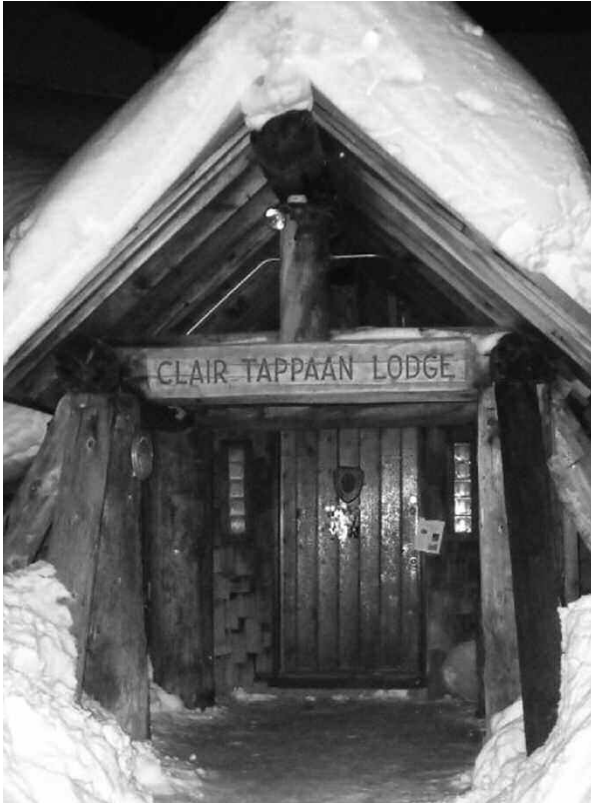
Subscribe simply by going to

<http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/subscribe.htm>

How does it work? Monthly you will receive an email notification and download link for your new Tennes-Sierran in a special email alert. All you will have to do is click on the link and presto, your Tennes-Sierran will appear in an Adobe Acrobat PDF format. View it, download it, save it but whatever the case you will be saving trees, and freeing Tennessee Chapter club funding to work for other conservation efforts. A double whammy win situation!

**So Join the Crowd
and Go Paperless Today!**

Clair Tappaan Lodge Hosts Variety of Activities



By Chuck Shackett, member Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee

The Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge sits just above Donner Pass, at approximately 7,000

ft elevation, and although it's busiest in the winter with all the great skiing in the area, it's a place for activities in all seasons. My favorite activity there is hiking—especially in summer for a refreshing swim in one of the many small lakes that dot the area. Hiking, however, is my 11-yr-old daughter's least favorite summer activity; she would rather drive to nearby Donner Lake and rent a pedal boat.

On the other hand, if your favorite activity is to breathe fresh mountain air with a good book, a good view, or a good beverage, you could hardly do better than the Clair Tappaan Lodge. There's always great food, a hot tub to relax in, a nice fire in the community fireplace, or the quiet of the library. And while the do-it-yourself activities are obvious, the lodge is now offering weekend specialty activities that people can reserve a space for.

In the early fall, the lodge will be hosting a yoga retreat. Participants will do yoga outdoors, learn Tai Chi, take guided hikes, and enjoy the beautiful fall weather. On that same weekend, September 16-18, the lodge will host a fly fishing weekend, designed for total beginners to learn all about tackle, rods, and reels, with two days of instruction and

demonstrations. The weekend will conclude on Sunday with a fish-out.

Later in the fall, the lodge will be hosting a very exciting Plein Air Painter's Weekend, which will include outdoor painting technique demos in watercolor, pastel, and oil painting by local artists. And in that same month, the lodge will feature "Chix in the Stix"—an opportunity for women to gather for hiking, crafts, and short programs.

If you want to bring your family for Halloween weekend, the lodge is hosting a Halloween Treats weekend with a special holiday menu (maggots and cockroaches, yum...). Saturday afternoon will include games and pumpkin carving with a prize for the most creative, a campfire ready for roasting hot dogs, and an after-dark hike to a party at the Witches Den.

Also specifically scheduled for families is a Nature Weekend that will include hiking, swimming, photography, and rock climbing, and be run by Peter Mayfield, director of the Gateway Mountain Center.

All of these activities and more can be found on the Clair Tappaan website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/ctl/>

Do You Know Where Your Meat Comes From?

By Joan Jones Holtz, Sierra Club Trade Team

Hamburgers have long been considered one of America's most traditional foods. But, many of us may soon be stocking our freezers with veggie burgers instead. A recent Reuters report suggests that World Trade Organization (WTO) rules will soon prohibit the labeling of meat as to the country of origin. That means that American consumers will have no idea where the meat products they consume originated or if they were processed in a manner which would induce them to eat the meat.

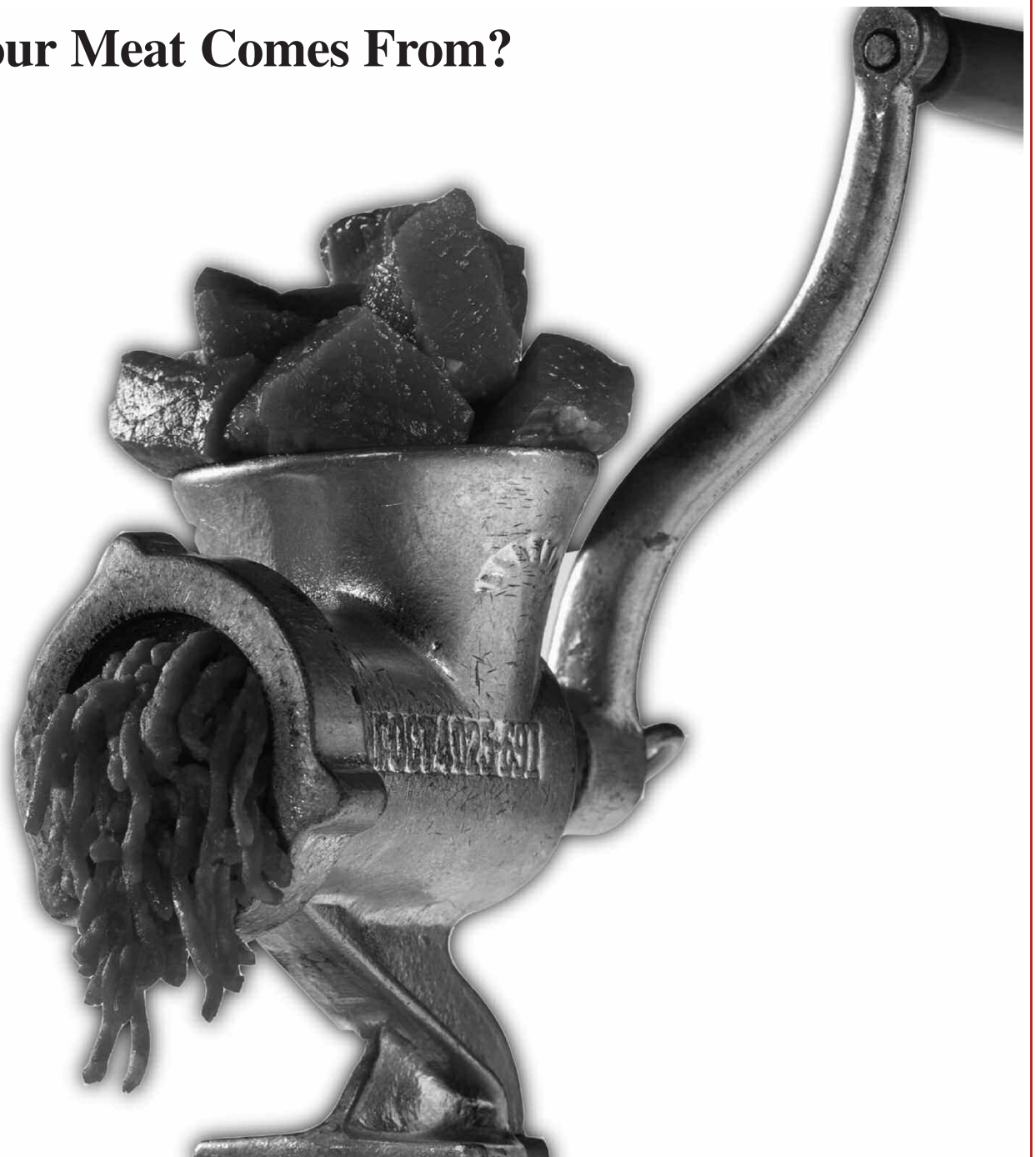
In his 2000 book and later movie *Fast Food Nation*, Eric Schlosser wrote, "The days when hamburger meat was ground in the back of a butcher shop, out of scraps from one or two sides of beef, are long gone. Like the multiple sex partners that helped spread the AIDS epidemic, the huge admixture of animals in most American ground beef plants has played a crucial role in spreading *E.coli*. A single fast food hamburger now contains meat from dozens or even hundreds of different cattle."

The ground meat horror stories publicized by Schlosser helped to push for the inclusion of COOL (country of origin labeling) in the 2007-2008 Farm Bill. COOL said that beef, lamb, pork, chicken, or goat meat could only be designated as "Made in the USA" if it were "exclusively born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States." Although President Bush originally vetoed the bill, Congress overrode the veto and COOL became law on May 22, 2008. Now the American COOL law has been challenged.

Mexico, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, European Union, Guatemala, India, Korea, New Zealand, Peru, New Zealand and Chinese Taipei have all asked the World Trade Organization (WTO) to step in to squash the U.S. meat labeling program. It is still unclear which WTO rule the U.S. is violat-

ing by labeling meat. The probable conclusion is that the U.S. can't institute a meat labeling program if by doing so consumers will choose against buying meat from unknown countries whose processing standards are hygienically questionable (and ground meat that may come from hundreds of animals and dozens of countries).

WTO rules puts trade volume and corporate interests first—way ahead of consumer safety or environmental standards. The laws we, in a democratic society, pass to protect our health and our safety mean nothing in the face of WTO rules and corporate profit. In other words, the trade rules that our country has agreed to follow rolls back democracy.



FIRST NOTICE

FALL FAMILY CHAPTER MEETING PICKETT STATE PARK

Friday – Sunday October 21-23

Enjoy beautiful autumn weather and fall colors!

Situated in a remote section of the upper Cumberland Plateau, Pickett CCC Memorial State Park is known for its geological, botanical, and scenic wonders. The park lies within the 19,200-acre Pickett State Forest, and adjacent to the massive 120,000 acre Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, both areas containing prime wilderness country. Visitors to the park can explore large rock houses, natural sandstone bridges, scenic bluffs, and wild mountain streams. Spring brings dazzling displays of wildflowers, summer an abundance of blackberries and wild blueberries, and autumn a patchwork of colors to the countryside. The park memorializes and preserves the unique work of the Civilian Conservation Corps CCC, who first developed the park.

The group camp is open year-round, and will accommodate up to 144 people. It consists of six bunkhouses, two bathhouses, and a large dining hall and kitchen. The kitchen is completely equipped for food preparation and serving, it features a walk-in refrigerator and freezer, icemaker, microwave, coffeemaker, dishwasher, and a commercial stove. Campers need to provide their own food, linens, and sanitary supplies.

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

Early Registration Price by October 15: \$40

(Regular Registration Fee: \$50)

1-day only price with meals: Sat-\$20; Sun-\$10 (children up to 15 attend free)

SPECIAL: 1/2 price for first-time attendees!

A limited number of partial scholarships are available by request to the TN Chapter Treasurer, Scott Kramer. Contact TNChapSCTreas@gmail.com

FOR ONLY \$40, YOU CAN ENJOY:

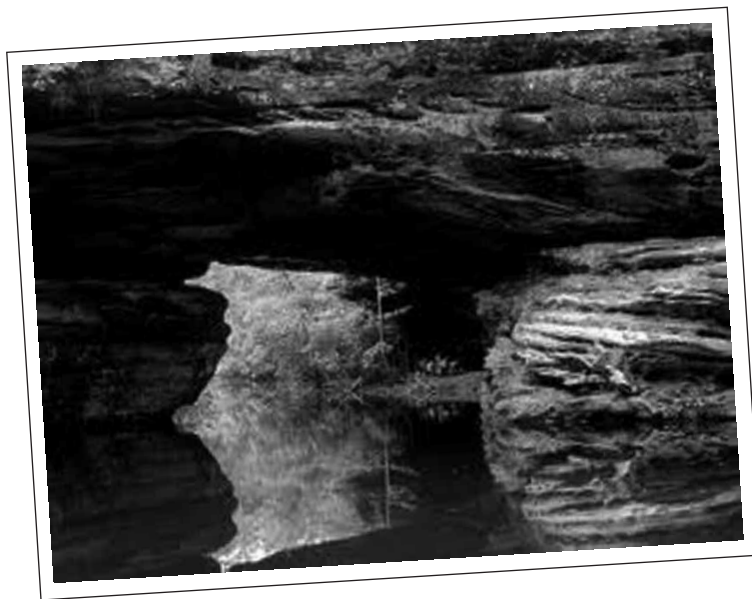
Hiking - good food – a program on Big South Fork National Recreation Area, and a bonfire with ghost stories and s'mores.

PLUS,

A silent auction to benefit our chapter's lobbying and legislative program.

The executive committee will be meeting on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, but those not on the executive committee may join in the activities, strike out on your own on nearby trails, or just enjoy the peace and quiet of a fall weekend. Lodging is in cabins that accommodate about 20, and family cabins (accommodating more than one family) will be available. Camping among the surrounding trees is another popular option (the cost for the weekend is the same for camping as for staying in the cabins). Bring your own bedding, towels and lunches. If you want additional beverages, you need to bring your own. Breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, and Saturday night dinner are provided. You are on your own for Friday dinner and Saturday lunch.

Directions: I-40 to Exit 317. Hwy. 127 north (46 miles). Turn right on Hwy. 154, travel 12 miles to the park entrance. OR, I-75 north from Knoxville to Exit 141. Hwy 63 to Huntsville. Right onto Hwy 27 north to Oneida. Left onto Hwy 297 through Big South Fork NRRRA. Right onto Hwy 154, follow to Pickett State Park. The park's office number is 931-879-5821.



2011 FALL FAMILY MEETING AT PICKETT STATE PARK REGISTRATION FORM

To register, please clip out and mail this registration form by Saturday, October 15, to:

**Harvey Broome Group
c/o Robin Hill - Chair
11504 Mountain View Road
Knoxville, TN 37934-3919**

If you know you will attend but are unable to mail your registration by the deadline, please contact Robin at robin.hill8@gmail.com by the deadline date in order to be assured of meals.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail address: _____

Number of adults @ \$40: _____

Number of children under age 15 _____

Number of vegetarians _____

Number of omnivores _____

Total enclosed _____

(Make check payable to Harvey Broome Group-Sierra Club)



TVA Urged to Abandon Completion of Bellefonte Nuclear Reactor

By Don Safer

Now is the time to contact TVA board members to ask them to abandon plans to finish the troubled Bellefonte nuclear reactor Unit 1 near Scottsboro, Alabama. TVA CEO Kilgore plans to ask the board to approve the project at the August 18 board meeting in Knoxville. It is important for many people to oppose this plan, otherwise board approval is likely.

The Fukushima disaster tragically exposes the lie of nuclear power being clean and safe. Yet TVA continues to blindly lead the way to more use of this risky and dangerous technology. The massive releases of radiation at Chernobyl and Fukushima are warnings our policy makers seem unable to comprehend. Is it going to take a disaster of this magnitude on United States soil to wake them up?

Bellefonte Unit 1 was designed almost 50 years ago. TVA said two reactors would be finished in eight years and cost \$650 million. Construction started in 1974 and was stopped in 1988. In 2006 TVA abandoned the moth-balled project and began tearing it apart for parts. Two years later they asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to reinstate the construction permit. So far \$4 billion has

been spent. Now TVA guesses it will take \$4 to \$5 billion more to finish one reactor.

There are no reactors of this design operating anywhere; it is similar to, but larger than, the ill-fated Three Mile Island units. The site is in an earthquake zone and is on karst limestone terrain with numerous sinkholes in the area. The quality and safety of existing components is questionable because of shoddy TVA nuclear construction practices in the 70's and 80's.

Most importantly, we will not need Bellefonte's power after the 2020 projected completion date if TVA moves aggressively forward on energy efficiency, conservation and cleaner, safer, cheaper alternative energy sources.

There are important developments on other radiological issues in the Tennessee Valley.

TVA has further shown its fascination with the false hopes of the nuclear industry by signing a letter of intent to become the guinea pig on small modular reactors (SMRs). Under this plan the world's first SMRs would be built in Oak Ridge. Industry claims of the commercial viability and safety of these reactors are certain to fall victim to the same realities that

have doomed the mega reactors.

The EnergySolutions proposal to bring 1,000 tons of German radioactive waste to Oak Ridge to be burned has been approved by both the state and federal government. Questions and objections raised were rejected. This action provides a clear view of Tennessee's unique role as the nation's and now the world's leading processor of low level radioactive waste. That role will continue until enough people object loudly enough.

To have a timely voice in objecting to the plan to finish Bellefonte Unit 1 contact TVA board members and CEO Tom Kilgore at board@tva.gov. President Obama can be reached through www.whitehouse.gov/contact. For addresses of your U.S. Senators and Representatives go to www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.

Tell them to kill this Bellefonte reactor and to move away from nuclear power (and coal) to carbon-free and nuclear-free sources because our future depends on it. TVA should be leading the way in this effort, not wasting more money on risky, dangerous nuclear power, including the chimera of small modular reactors.



energy corner

By Steven Sondheim, State Energy Committee

Funding Good Transportation Choices

The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee is releasing a draft transportation reauthorization bill. Policies to be addressed include environmental streamlining and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), affordable Transit Oriented Development (TOD), transit funding, bike/pedestrian funding, Complete Streets, high speed rail, green freight, workforce development, rural transportation, strategic planning, and highway/bridge repair. Check out www.sierraclub.org/transportation and www.T4America.org to learn how to positively impact the Transportation

Reauthorization Bill.

Tennessee Sierra Joins Dump The Pump Day

See www.sierraclub.org/transportation to read about how Tennessee and other chapters supported these efforts.

Most Baby Boomers Will Face Poor Transportation Options

See www.T4America.Org to learn about senior and rural transit.

Mercury from Coal is Toxic

Pregnant women and children are at greatest risk from mercury exposure, especially if they consume large amounts of fish and seafood. Exposure to mercury can contribute to severe birth defects.

Mercury Comes from Coal

Coal-fired power plants are one of the largest sources of pollution in our country. They emit thousands of pounds of toxic mercury pollution every year, but also spew out arsenic, lead and acid gases.

EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Rule

EPA has been moving forward with a mercury and air toxics rule that if sufficiently strong could slash air pollution, dramatically reduce our dependence on oil and finally ensure that polluters pay the true cost of mining, burning coal and disposing of coal combustion waste.

This rule is an important step toward protecting millions of American children from toxic air pollution from power plants including mercury, arsenic, and acid gases. It would limit air toxics from 1,350 combustion units at 500 coal and oil power plants.

This rule's reasonably strong emission limits will prevent as many as 17,000 premature deaths, 11,000 heart attacks annually, 120,000 cases of childhood asthma symptoms and 850,000 missed days of work, resulting in 11,000 fewer cases of acute bronchitis among children and

12,000 fewer emergency room visits and hospital visits.

EPA's recently proposed rule to clean up mercury and air toxics from power plants would be the first ever national standard to protect communities from toxic air pollution from these sources.

EPA predicts an increased demand for pollution control technology and increased job opportunities for Americans working to install, operate, and maintain these controls. This would mean 31,000 short-term jobs and 9,000 long-term jobs that will benefit steelmakers, pipe fitters, boilermakers and laborers. EPA does not predict any reliability concerns as a result of this rule, stating that any retirements or retrofits will be manageable as long as the utilities engage in adequate planning. The EPA predicts only 10 GW of plants will retire as a result of this rule, on top of the predicted 27 GW expected to retire regardless of the rule.

This step marks a victory – particularly for those who have been litigating this issue for years—and now we must work to defend and strengthen this rule.

Speak Out: Help Protect Mothers and Babies from Toxic Coal Pollution

In May 2011, hundreds of concerned Americans attended EPA public hearings in Atlanta, Philadelphia and Chicago to ask for stronger protections from mercury pollution.

The EPA will accept public comments on its mercury safeguards until mid-July. If you haven't made your voice heard, you can still help by sending a comment to the Senate, Congress or the EPA. See www.sierraclub.org/mercury

For information on these issues or other issues for this column contact stevensondheim@yahoo.com



Photo by: Jim McCullough

Sierra Club Thanked for Cummins Falls Donation

On behalf of the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, I want to thank the Sierra Club for their very generous donation of \$11,372 to help Save Cummins Falls. With this gift, we will be able to protect two acres at this magnificent waterfall. Thank you so much to all those who contributed and helped spread the word about this important campaign. We are so grateful for your support!

Cummins Falls is a true Tennessee treasure that should be preserved forever as a state park and natural area. With icy cool waters to refresh and play in, great hemlock forests to explore and enjoy, and natural untouched beauty to inspire and captivate, Cummins Falls is a magical place. With your help, we will Save Cummins Falls for all future generations. To learn more about this campaign and how you can help, visit www.tenngreen.org or call (615) 386-3171.

Kathleen Williams
 President and Executive Director
 Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation
 1205-A Linden Avenue
 Nashville, TN 37212
 Phone: 615-386-3171; Fax: 615-386-3115
www.tenngreen.org

Moving?



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

Current Address: _____

Member ID# _____

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

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

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group
Tennes-Sierran
 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive
 Nashville, Tennessee 37211

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