

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 43, Number 4 - July/August, 2012

Doe Mountain Is Saved!

By Dennis Shekinah

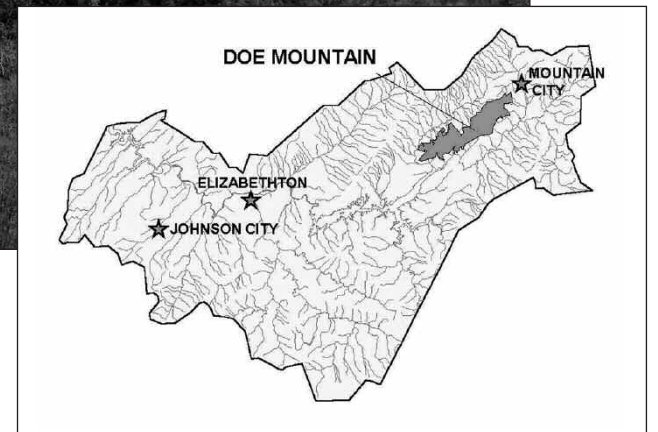
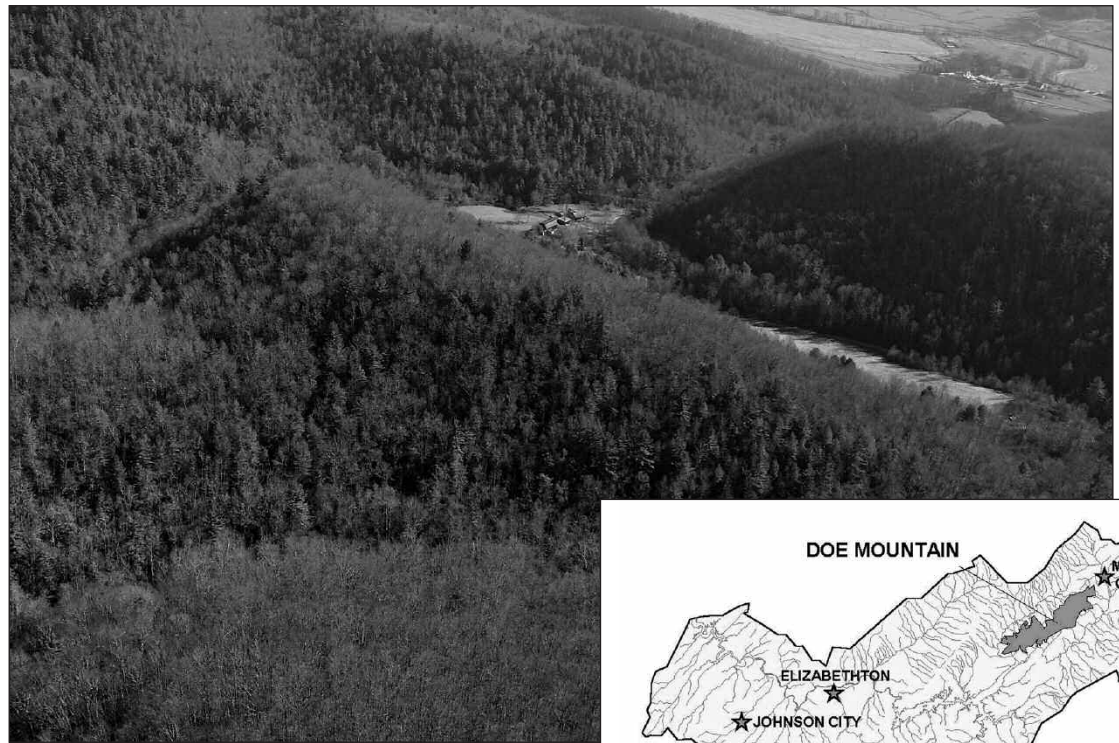
Doe Mountain encompasses 8,600 acres of wilderness known best by hunters on foot and TWRA officers in 4WDs. It is home to black bear, white tail, fox, coyote, turkey, bobcat, and, some say, cougar. Left alone for generations, this slice of heaven is about to change. Soon, ATVs, horses, mountain bikes and hikers from all corners will be drawn to Doe altering its timeless and peaceful character forever. Let me explain why this is a good thing....

My log cabin, built in the 1920s, sits in the shade of Doe Mountain in Neva Valley. In fields where the Cherokee once lived, I have hosted countless bluegrass gatherings, raised children and planted seeds in the fertile soil. In all the years I explored the Doe's trails, I can only recall coming across two other people. They were both hunters and as nice as they could be. Doe Mountain was a well-kept secret, hidden smack dab in the middle of Johnson County, TN.

Then one morning the sound of chain saws broke the peaceful melody of the East Fork Fall Branch. The dogs kept up as I literally ran into the sanctuary. I found a group of men clearing the jeep trail and setting a metal gate across its path. They seemed nice, but busy. I left them to their job and returned to my cabin and started working the phone. A developer had purchased Doe Mountain to build a gated community. Gates on all access points were a statement to his strict 'no trespassing' policy. No more hunting. No more quiet walks with my camera on Doe.

It turned out the deed for the mountain changed hands several times when the state didn't opt to renew the Wilderness Management Area lease from the original owners. A logging company owned it less than a month before the developer laid enough easy money on the table to get them to sell. A gated community can yield millions of dollars in profit; indeed, he had done it many times before. After resigning myself to the inevitable march of progress, I said a prayer for the black bear and all the critters who would eventually be displaced by manicured lawns and electrified fences. Then two things changed everything: the housing bubble burst and the developer died from a massive coronary. The Doe Mountain gated community project, named "Daniel's Trace," went into bankruptcy. No one seemed to know who owned the mountain or what its fate would be.

Months passed without any news, save rumor and speculation. One morning, the phone rang and Larry Potter, our county mayor, asked, "Dennis, do you know anyone with 8 million dollars?" Larry owns a small eatery in Doe Valley and overheard a logger proclaim that he was going to clear-cut Doe Mountain. Yes, like a shark sensing blood in the water, the logging company was putting a bid on the deed and had already done an assessment of the lumber's worth. Larry was desperate. Not only was he a fly fisherman (and thus a clean water advocate by default) he was passionate about Johnson County's economic development. An 8,600-acre scar in the middle of our county wasn't going to



bring in the tourists. Our closest neighbor to the north, Damascus, VA, has already pulled itself from ruin by developing its bicycle friendly trail system. Johnson County could do it one better, Larry thought. We have Watauga Lake, the Appalachian Trail and a network of great B&B's and small family owned restaurants. We just needed a hook to pull in outdoor enthusiasts. That was Doe Mountain, he rightfully reasoned. But the sharks were circling. "I'll make some calls," I told Larry. I immediately got ahold of my friend within The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Gabby Lynch. True to form, Gabby was already on the Doe Mountain situation. In short order, an environmental assessment was done and she applied for a loan from TNC international headquarters. Larry worked his network of state representatives (most notably Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey). Gabby asked that we send letters of thanks and encouragement for Ramsey's efforts towards securing funding for saving Doe Mountain. Still, months passed without any news.

At our monthly meetings, Gabby would place her finger over her lips and shake her head, "don't say a word." We had no reason to feel overly hopeful in this age of budgetary austerity. TNC had many worthy projects to consider funding and newly elected Governor Haslam was slashing budgets. Larry, somehow, got the Governor in an ATV and rode him, along with Ramsey, along the trails of the Doe. Soon after, Gabby announced TNC HQs approved the loan to

save Doe Mountain and the great state of Tennessee arranged to immediately buy Doe Mountain from TNC. A "multi-use" provision would be attached as a condition assuring the mountain would be developed to offer all citizens a chance to know a little of the peace that comes from nature even if they were looking out from the top of a horse, wheelchair, bicycle or a caravan of ATVs.

We may never know all the players who made this deal possible, but as I look out my window at beautiful Doe Mountain, I give thanks; a heart-filled prayer of thanks raised up to join those of all the wildlife and trees that depend on good people doing the right thing.

(Here's a short clip of Gabby Lynch of TNC atop Stone Mountain:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=kfYuNjumWTI)

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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.

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SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: gvanhorn26@gmail.com
USPS: Gene Van Horn, Editor
895 Red Cloud Trail
Spring City, TN 37381
423-365-0692

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is July 25 for the September/October issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to gvanhorn26@gmail.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files. Attached files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in Pages.
 2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or a .tif file format then either attached to e-mail or mailed via U.S. Postal Service on a 3 1/2" diskette or CD RM. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.
 3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted: however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.
 4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.
 5. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Barbara Kelly, Communications Committee, bk1rivers@comcast.net.
- 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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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

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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.

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

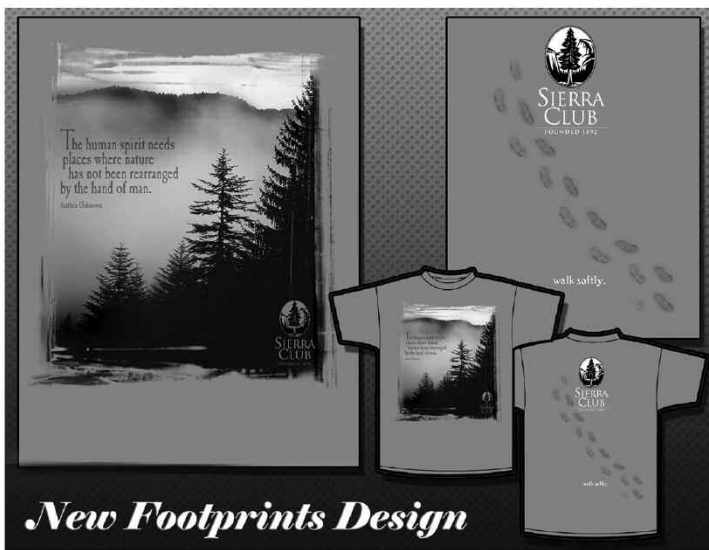
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org F94Q W4300 1

Target Date for September-October Issue is July 25, 2012. All meetings and outings notices, articles and photographs should be in by then. Send material to Gene Van Horn at gvanhorn26@gmail.com

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.



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Editor's Notes

This issue of the *Tennes-Sierran* clearly illustrates many of the best attributes of Sierra Club members. We are concerned about the environment and we are working to improve the situation in diverse ways. There are photographs of children being taken into the outdoors. The article on the Beyond Coal Campaign notes some immensely broad issues of great importance to everyone, and yet in that article and others there are some very simple steps offered for each of us to help prevent climate change. Good electric cars are available and many people are working to provide charging stations. Bicycles were developed before we were born and their use is increasing. During the late 1960s, while in graduate school, I rode a bicycle 1,800 miles per year from student housing to campus and back because it was very cheap transportation and because there was always a parking space for a bicycle. As we move beyond coal some energy-supplying organizations are unfortunately moving toward nuclear energy instead of wind or solar power. We have an article noting the Sierra club nuclear-free campaign.

The Doe Mountain project is a good example of different groups working together, and accepting a compromise, in an effort to save a beautiful area. The 8,600 acres saved will be open to the public for a variety of activities, but that is much better than being clear-cut.

The June 15, 2012 issue of the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* has an article by Jonathan Fahey of *The Associated Press*. Many of the important points are relevant to this issue of the *Tennes-Sierran*. Coal is expected to produce about 40% of our electricity, 10% less than four years ago. We are moving in the right direction. The main reason for the decrease in coal usage was the decreased price of natural gas. Environmental restrictions are a secondary reason for this progress. It is predicted that from 32 to 68 of the worst-polluting coal plants will close in the next three years as limits on emissions, such as mercury and carbon dioxide, go into effect.

Close to home, Tennessee Valley Authority figures indicate that coal produced 52% of their energy in 2011, a 12% decrease in a decade. Nuclear energy, however, increased its share of power generation from 29% to 34% during that same decade. Natural gas increased from 0.6% to 5%. Much of the TVA's renewable power generation is still from hydropower.

We are making a positive difference.

Gene Van Horn

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Cool Off at Natchez Trace State Park

The Tennessee Chapter 2012 Summer Retreat and Executive Committee Meeting will be held at Natchez Trace State Park on July 20-22.



Events are still being finalized, but we have confirmed that our sensational State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath (<http://tn.gov/environment/parks/naturalist/>) will lead a canoe float on Maple Creek Lake on Saturday at 4 P.M. He'll also lead a walk at 7 A.M. Sunday morning. These times are chosen to take advantage of the cooler parts of the day. There is also a possibility of a Pontoon Boat ride on Saturday afternoon.

Other events are yet to be finalized, but you can be assured that they will be engaging, informative, and most of all fun!

This location differs from other retreats in that lodging accommodations are air-conditioned and consist of four cottages and a bunkhouse (see <http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/NatchezTrace/lodging/#group lodge> for more information.) The cottages enable couples and/or families to lodge together, with the bunkhouse providing lodging by gender. We'll be meeting and eating in the adjacent **Group Lodge**, not to be confused with the Pin Oak Lodge (and restaurant) also located at Natchez Trace State Park.

The Natchez Trace State Park is located 97 miles west of downtown Nashville just off of I-40. After exiting the Interstate turn south and you'll soon find yourself in the park. The Natchez Trace State Forest surrounds the park. Hiking trails, navigable lakes, and equestrian trails (with a riding stables with reasonable fees for rides) are all available within the park and forest. If you're so inclined the park also has a shooting range.

Early Registration Price until July 13: \$40

Regular Registration Fee: \$50

Single day only price with no lodging:

Sat-\$20; Sun-\$10

(Children up to 15 attend free)

Special: ½ off for first-time attendees!

Note: A limited number of partial scholarships are available by request to the Chapter Treasurer, Michael Varnell, at rmvarnell@bellsouth.net.

Prices are low and include breakfasts and Saturday night dinner. Attendees need to bring their own linens or sleeping bag, towels, plus Saturday and Sunday lunches and beverages. Plan for fun!

Register by e-mail with Don Richardson at donrich@juno.com. *Pay when you arrive at the Retreat!*



For further information, call Chickasaw Group Chair Sue A. Williams at (901) 274-0524 or z4cmv@juno.com

The members of the Chickasaw Group hope to see you there!

Meetings

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

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

July Strategy Meeting: July 9 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6 P.M., at the Eastgate Town Center on Brainerd Road, at the south end near the indoor waterfall. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome -- this is where and when we plan our actions! Come add your ideas and share your concerns! To place an item on the agenda, contact Chair Davis Mounger at 423-877-4616 or wdmounger@yahoo.com, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

July Program: Last Monday, July 30, 7 P.M. at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: We're going to the movies! "The Last Mountain," will be shown, bring the popcorn! Bring your friends and family!

There is no such thing as Clean Coal. Watch this Sundance Film Festival documentary, it's a passionate and personal tale that honors the extraordinary power of ordinary Americans when they fight for what they believe in. Coal River Mountain is the last mountain left intact in the Coal River Valley, Massey Energy owns 4 permits to demolish and mine over 6,000 acres of the mountain...what do you think will happen?!

The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Plenty of parking -- take the first left at the corner (just past GreenSpaces) and there's plenty of parking at a public lot. Come and be inspired into action!

August Strategy Meeting: August 13 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6 P.M. at the Eastgate Town Center on Brainerd Road, at the south end near the indoor waterfall. 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 Chair Davis Mounger at 423-877-4616 or wdmounger@yahoo.com, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

August Program: Last Monday, August 27, 7 P.M. at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: Dawson Wheeler & Katie Dishman, from Rock Creek Outfitters will be here to talk about what to do outdoors in the Chattanooga area, innovations in gear/equipment, and what is now available to make your outdoor activities more enjoyable! Canoeing, kayaking and outfitting will be represented, and they'll be bringing equipment to display. Dawson has owned Rock Creek for 25+ years, Katie is store manager, and they know their stuff! Come with your questions.

Bring your friends: the public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Plenty of parking -- take the first left at the corner (just past GreenSpaces) and there's plenty of parking at a public lot. Come and meet people who care about the same things you do!

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 the 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)

THURSDAY, July 5, 5:30 P.M. Monthly First Thursday Gathering Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN Sierra Club

members, activists, and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. First Thursday contact: Mark Plumlee at mark.chickasaw@gmail.com or 901-679-4622.

TUESDAY, July 10, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Strategy Meeting Contact Sue A. Williams for location information The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. This is a business meeting where members are welcome to attend. Come and see exactly what we are planning. If you have an issue which you would like to see discussed, agenda items must be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to the Executive Committee Chair Sue A. Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, July 20-22 Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter Summer Retreat (hosted by the Chickasaw Group) Group Lodge, Natchez Trace State Park, Wildersville, TN

This location differs from other retreats in that lodging accommodations are air-conditioned and consist of four cottages and a bunkhouse (see <http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/NatchezTrace/lodging/#groupplodge> for more information.) The cottages enable couples and/or families to lodge together, with the bunkhouse providing lodging by gender. We'll be meeting and eating in the adjacent Group Lodge, not to be confused with the Pin Oak Lodge (and restaurant) also located at Natchez Trace State Park. For more details, see the full announcement on Page 3.

THURSDAY, August 2, 5:30 P.M. Monthly First Thursday Gathering Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN Sierra Club members, activists, and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. First Thursday contact: Mark Plumlee at mark.chickasaw@gmail.com or 901-679-4622.

TUESDAY, August 14, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Strategy Meeting Contact Sue A. Williams for location information The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. This is a business meeting where members are welcome to attend. Come and see exactly what we are planning. If you have an issue which you would like to see discussed, agenda items must be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to the Executive Committee Chair Sue A. Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524.

THURSDAY, August 23, 5:30 P.M. Meet & Greet & Snacks with a 6:00 P.M. Program. Program TBA Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN

Topic TBA. Watch Facebook and our web page for more information. Programs contact: Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or 901-413-3888. **NOTE: For more details, additional events, and updates, see our Facebook page.**

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.

"Nature of Conservation" Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Cable TV Show on WYPL-TV 18 (Comcast/Xfinity) and Online at Vimeo:

Days and times vary -- see <http://www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/schedule/> (or the Comcast/Xfinity 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. Previous programs are now available online at: <http://vimeo.com/user10896810>

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

July 10, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church Winter Hiking

in North Florida on the Florida National Scenic Trail

Ronald Shrieves, Harvey Broome Group Outings Chair with Will Skelton, Barbara Allen, Bob Perlack, and B. J. Perlack

Several friends in the Harvey Broome Group completed a week-long backpack on the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST). Our first venture on the FNST was a stretch through the Aucilla Wildlife Management Area, adjacent to the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, and defined by the beautiful Aucilla River. The second phase of our Florida Backpack was in the east portion of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. The third phase of our trip took us through the western part of the St. Marks NWR. We also took a short sightseeing drive over to the Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park, which is home to one of the largest springs in the world.

August 14, 6:00-9:00 P.M., Clark Park, Oak Ridge, TN Harvey Broome Group Picnic

All Sierra Club members, families, and friends are invited to this annual event. This year we are meeting at the Clark Park in Oak Ridge that has a boat ramp (bring your canoe and kayaks for paddling the extensive cove area), greenway trail, and swimming area. The HBG will provide a grill and burgers (veggie and meat). Please contact Mac Post (mpost3116@aol.com) so that we will have enough on hand and to find out what you might contribute to the pot-luck (salad, fruit/vegetable, etc., and of course dessert).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM: July 12, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. How Does Your Garden Grow? Featuring native plants for Middle Tennessee Gardens Sarah Lowe, Assistant Botanical Garden and Horticultural Manager at Cheekwood, will share tips for plant selection and care of gardens here in Middle Tennessee. In addition to providing information on using native plants to attract bees and other pollinators, she will suggest plants that have lower water requirements. She will also share a brief update on the two newest gardens at Cheekwood, the Howe Garden and the Sigourney Cheek Literary Garden, both of which opened in the late spring. Don't miss this informative and colorful presentation provided by one of the gardening experts at our own nationally recognized Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art.

Volunteers are needed for an ICO fundraiser coming up in August. Please contact Clay Hardy at 720-204-0037 or e-mail nclay.hardy@gmail.com. Thanks

All Sierra Club programs are free and open to the public.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO AUGUST PROGRAM.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: July 10 and August 14, 6:30 P.M. at the United Steel Workers Union Building, 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211. If you arrive late or if no one is there to open the door, 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. Please contact Betsy at (615) 668-1977 if you want to confirm.

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.

Outings

Welcome to the Tennessee Chapter's master list of our outings. Members, and the public, are always very welcome at any of these events. Listed by the sponsoring Group, you are welcome to attend as many across the state as you wish! We believe that what you come to love, you will stand up to protect.

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.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Emily Marr Davis is our Outings Chair, and point-person for outings information for our Group. Our activities are always open to the public and to members of the Club from across our 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 Emily at 423-413-3083 or emily.marr.davis@comcast.net.

July 16 (Mon) Riverwalk Bike Ride, 8 A.M. Meet at Rembrandts, ride the Riverwalk to Chickamauga Dam and back. Bring a helmet (required by Sierra Club policy), water and snacks. Family Friendly! Contact Emily with questions and to reserve your spot: emily.marr.davis@comcast.net Deadline to reserve spot: July 9.

August 13 (Mon) Paddling Trip, TN River-MacLellan Island. Meet at 8 A.M. at the ramp under the Market Street Bridge. Paddle up and around MacLellan Island with the option of visiting the island, including the Great Blue Heron Rookery and rain shadow desert. Pack snacks, water, and clothes/shoes for hiking. Bring your own paddling gear. Maximum 8 boats. Contact Emily with questions and to reserve your spot: emily.marr.davis@comcast.net Deadline to reserve spot: August 6.

ADDITIONAL OUTINGS will be added, check out our Facebook page, Cherokee Sierra.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Outings Chair for the Chickasaw

Group Looking for someone interested and willing to provide leadership and direction to the Group's Outings program, while keeping outdoor activities an integrated and vital element of our Group's efforts. Don't worry if you aren't a certified Outings Leader yet, we'll train you! Interest and experience in the outdoors a plus!!

Volunteer First Aid Trainer

Are you certified to teach Basic First Aid, and willing to teach a 1/2 day session for us? We'd like to combine that with our Outings Leader certification training and get this done in one day. For more information, and to volunteer, contact Sue A. Williams at 901-274-0524 or z4cmv@juno.com

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, July 21-22 Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter Summer Retreat (hosted by the Chickasaw Group) Group Lodge, Natchez Trace State Park, Wildersville, TN
State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath (<http://tn.gov/environment/parks/naturalist/>) will lead a canoe float on Maple Creek Lake on Saturday at 4 pm. He'll also lead a walk at 7 A.M. Sunday morning. These times are chosen to take advantage of the cooler parts of the day. There is

also a possibility of a Pontoon Boat ride on Saturday afternoon. Other events are yet to be finalized, but you can be assured that they will be engaging, informative, and most of all fun! For more details, see the full announcement on Page 3.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

14-15 Jul (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Appalachian Trail (Jones Falls and Elk River Falls), Cherokee National Forest. One of the less used sections of the AT in Tennessee is from US 19E near the City of Roan Mountain across Little Pine Mountain to the Elk River. Former pasture lands provide outstanding high ridge views of the Highlands of Roan, and wildflowers are always present in the spring/summer. We'll also see two outstanding waterfalls, Jones Falls on the AT and near the end of the backpack on Sunday, Elk River Falls on the Elk River in North Carolina. Our camp will be right on the Elk River at Sugar Hollow. We'll learn about the natural environment of this beautiful area as we hike. Total mileage will be around 8.0 miles (6.2 miles Saturday and 1.75 miles Sunday). Rated Moderate. One-way drive: 140 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; C 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

21 Jul (Sat). Canoe/Kayak Float, French Broad River. This go-with-the-current float covers 10.5 miles from the TN 66 bridge to the Seven Islands public access point on the French Broad. Though far from pristine, this river does have some interesting sights and a bit of wildlife (and some not-so-wild life). There may be some shoal water, but no whitewater. Basic canoe/kayak skills are required. Adverse wind conditions are another possible "hazard." 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. Preregister with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (e-mail preferred).

28 Jul (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Injun Creek and Grapeyard Ridge Trails, Greenbriar, GSMNP. After shuttling cars to the end we will start at the Greenbriar Ranger Station and go up the Injun Creek trail to the junction with Grapeyard Ridge Trail near Campsite 32. A short distance from here is a wrecked steam engine that likely resulted, after a corruption, in the name to this creek. We will return to the Greenbriar area. This area was heavily settled and we will pass by many home sites and cemeteries. We will compare the reduced diversity of herb flora on the old cultivated fields now forested, with the uncultivated ridges. Total distance 6 miles, rated easy. One-way drive: 50 miles. Contact Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (e-mail preferred).

11-12 Aug (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Shining Rocks Wilderness (North Carolina). The Shining Rocks Wilderness in North Carolina (off the Blue Ridge Parkway and near Waynesville) is one of the three original wilderness areas in the Eastern U.S., designated by the Wilderness Act when it was first passed in 1964. It is certainly one of our best, and the HBG has periodically done backpacks in the area in early August since the mid-1970's. The wild blueberries are usually plentiful and ripe then. We'll return again this year to the location of our early campsites in the 1970's, a perfect high elevation campsite just below the 6,030-foot summit of Cold Mountain (of movie and book fame, so we'll be exploring a historic area). The approach will be from the Daniel Boone BSA Camp and Deep Gap. The campsite has water and, although the bald is growing over, there are still lots of grasses and flowers. Hiking distance will be about 10.5 miles total with substantial elevation gain. Rated Difficult. One-way drive: 115 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523- 2272; Cell 72-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

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!

18 Aug (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Lower Falls, Slickrock Creek. Bring your bathing suit on this one. We will hike a loop on Ike Branch and Slickrock Creek trails to visit a 15-foot cascade that ends in a large catch pool that Tom Homan describes in his guide book as "the dark green color of a good, over-your-head-deep, goose-pimple-cold swimming hole." Bring a facemask and snorkel and we will examine stream life diversity in the creek above and below the falls. We will also glimpse the proposed Slickrock Wilderness Addition that Senator Alexander is introducing to the U.S. Congress. Total distance is 6.6 miles and rated easy. One-way drive: 59 miles. Preregister with Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (e-mail preferred).

8 Sept (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity tour (Virgin Cove Hardwood), Albright Grove. Not many low elevation cove hardwood forests remain. Albright Grove is a special place where tulip poplars, Fraser magnolias, silverbells and maples have grown into giants. It is hard to believe that the Smokies were once so heavily forested. For the hike to this unique place we will use the Maddron Bald Trail to Albright Grove Loop trail and then return to Laurel Springs Road just off Hwy 321. Total distance is 6.9 miles and rated moderate. One-way drive: 60 miles. Preregister with Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (e-mail preferred).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

We want you! All Middle Tennessee Group Sierra Club members are encouraged to apply. Be an Outings Leader for MTG. Please contact John Pigg at j.t.pigg@comcast.net or (615)851-1192.

RECYCLING VOLUNTEERS: EVERY SATURDAY - 9:00 - 12:00 -Volunteer at the recycling Site. We are looking for volunteers to man the recycling center from 9 to 12 on Saturdays. This is a major source of income for the club and we need volunteers to spread the workload out so that so few do not have to keep doing it every month. If you could volunteer just a few times a year that would help — that's only once every few months! Volunteers just need to be willing to ask people if they need help in unloading their recyclables and tell them "thank you" for recycling. The funds we receive from this effort help the group operations and activities, which includes lobbying efforts

The bins are in front of the Kroger at 3955 Nolensville Road, Nashville, TN. The Kroger lot is located about a half-mile towards town from the Walmart at Harding and Nolensville. It's a great place to get involved with our Group! Contact Tom at 615-373-9237(h) or 892-0128(c) for more information.

MTG COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Volunteers Penny Brooks (Chapter Legislative Co-Chair) and Scott Heflinger (MTG Conservation Chair) teaching recycling at Corps of Engineers School Field Day, May 3, 2012.



Students check out the Sierra Club at the Corps of Engineers School Field Day, May 3, 2012



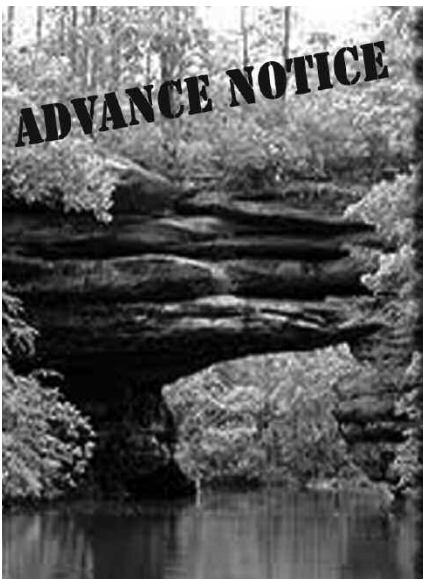
Meeting at the trailhead for the MTG Sellar's Farm hike on April 7, 2012" photo by Joy Mayfield.



Tom Cullen volunteers at Earth Day festivities April 21st at Centennial Park. Photo by Clay Hardy.



MTG Sellar's Farm Hike, April 7, photo by Bill Terry.



TN Chapter Fall Family Weekend Pickett State Park Group Camp October 19-20-21

Come explore a little known part of Tennessee's wilderness and history for a great weekend this coming fall!

Choose from viewing the home and mill of WWI hero Alvin C. York, exploring an English settlement in nearby Rugby, and experiencing the fall colors at their best as you hike Saturday and/or Sunday to the large rock houses and natural stone bridges that are a special feature of Pickett State Park. Something for all skill levels!

We'll have an informative program Saturday night, the annual Auction, and evening bonfire with s'mores!

Get this on your calendar now -- more details, including registration, to come in the next newsletter. Remember that first-time attendees are 1/2 price; meals (excluding trail lunches) provided, with lodging in the Group Camp bunkhouses.

The Cherokee Group is looking forward to serving as your hosts for this fun weekend. For further information, contact Barbara Kelly, bk1rivers@comcast.net or 423-718-5009.

Beyond Coal Campaign Joins the TN Climate Action Campaign

Today, a major Sierra Club priority is the fight to responsibly retire existing coal plants, ensure no new plants are built and build a clean energy future for the country. To date, the Club has helped put a stop to more than 150 proposed coal plants and secured retirement plants for 110 active ones. This campaign sits at the center of a critical economic and energy debate; “where do we want our power, and how do we get there?” The Club’s answer is, “We move beyond coal and invest in clean energy.”

The Club’s Beyond Coal campaign, one of the largest projects the Sierra Club has ever undertaken, seeks the ambitious goal of securing the responsible retirement of 30 percent of America’s coal-fired power fleet by 2015. To do so the Sierra Club is working at both the national and local level. Strong environmental safeguards are key to protecting our family’s health and wellbeing; while smart organizing in local communities, will help ensure that coal fired power is no longer a threat to health or a drag on the economy or climate.

Mike Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, notes that this campaign is critical because of its positive effects on public health, carbon reduction, local economic growth and clean energy, and creating the foundation of a more powerful environmental movement around the country.

Now, the Beyond Coal Campaign has joined with the TN Climate Action Campaign, allowing the Tennessee Chapter to add the services of Dan Joranko as the Campaign’s consultant organizer. In addition, the TN Climate Action Campaign benefits from the national Beyond

Coal Campaign’s many resources: analysis, communication skills, networking with other efforts, and the weight of the Sierra Club. Just connecting to the national picture gives our Campaign a more powerful focus.

The TN Climate Action Campaign goals supported by the Club include:

A. Press TVA for Higher Energy Efficiency Savings. TVA currently has 17,757 MW of coal units. The historic Sierra Club settlement with TVA closes 2,729 MW of coal plants. An additional 4,345 MW of coal units are identified in the settlement as needing to be upgraded, switched to biomass, or retired. This Campaign will leverage the closure of these units.

TVA’s own Integrated Resource Plan includes the possibility of achieving 5,100 MW of energy savings by 2020. The Tennessee Chapter will urge TVA to achieve the highest levels of efficiency savings identified within TVA’s own energy efficiency study through 2020. These additional energy savings can help TVA decide to retire additional coal units while meeting their customers’ needs.

B. Press TVA distributors to actively support ongoing and emerging energy efficiency programs. TVA and the distributors are two sides of the same coin, and we need to persuade both that energy efficiency is a good business model. However, distributors will only listen to their own customers. The Campaign’s local climate action teams will begin these conversations in 2012.

C. Develop the Organization of the TN Climate Action Campaign for Advocacy of Effective Climate Protection Policies. TN

Climate Action Campaign started to organize itself in August 2011. Highlights of our campaign development successes include developing local climate action leadership in cities across Tennessee, engaging organizational partners, regular leadership conference calls, identification of more than 200 climate protection activists, a Campaign website, and Campaign promotional materials.

The Campaign will further develop its capacities to harness the energies of those wanting climate protection policies. By the end of 2012, the Campaign will embody the climate protection leadership within Tennessee. While the Campaign will mobilize the energies of those less committed to achieving climate protection policies, the Campaign leadership itself will maintain clarity of what needs to be done and why, both in the short and long-term. Through 2012, the Campaign will have opportunities for activists to grow as leaders within their communities, within their fields of interest, and within the Campaign itself.

The TN Climate Action Campaign encourages Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club members to become climate protection activists to help bend the global carbon emissions curve downward. We start with ourselves and our region. Join the Campaign.

Visit www.tnclimateaction.net, click on Be a TN Climate Activist, and register to begin our journey together.

Louise Gorenflo, coordinator
TN Climate Action Campaign
TN Chapter Climate Recovery
lgorenflo@gmail.com



National Plug In Day Comes to Tennessee

Sunday, September 23rd is designated “National Plug In Day” to create a nationwide observance of drawing global attention to the environmental, economic, and financial benefits of plug-in electric vehicles (EV). Sierra Club, Plug In America, and the Electric Auto Association are pleased to team up with local partners to organize this second annual effort, which will call attention to the fact that a switch to electric vehicles is one important way to reduce emissions and dependence on oil.

Tennessee events are in the planning stage in Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Kingsport. Whether it will be an EV parade, an electric tailgate gathering, or a vehicle and charging station show-and-tell, the events offer a great way to educate the public, the media, and policymakers about the many benefits of electric vehicles. Watch for further details in a city near you. For additional information contact:

Kristy Keel-Blackmon, East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition
kristyak@utk.edu • (865) 974-9665

Volunteer Opportunities:

Social Media Team Member:

Persons willing to help with the jump to more active social media involvement at the Chapter/Groups level as we increase our effectiveness with our members and the general public, and craft effective messages for our campaigns and conservation work.

Fundraising Team Member:

Persons willing to work on our development team to better market our Chapter's conservation successes and campaign needs.

Interested in a spot to help with these critical needs? Have you proficiency in social media and strong writing skills? Good organizational skills? Then I want to talk with you!

Please contact me, Barbara Kelly, at 423-718-5009 or bk1rivers@comcast.net.

Congress Gets First Look at Powerful Results of Bike/Ped Experiment-

This federal study of the Value of Investments in Non-Motorized Transportation determined that adding paths, sidewalks, signage and other efforts gets people out of their cars and reduces congestion, requiring fewer new roads. Results from the nationwide test in the 4 locations studied showed an average 49 percent increase in bicycling, a 22 percent

increase in walking and 32 million miles of vehicle travel averted from 2007 to 2010. Additionally 22 percent of cars in morning weekday traffic were ferrying kids to school. Some schools were able to reduce car traffic by 70 percent.

<http://www.railstotrails.org/index.html>





energy corner

By Steven Sondheim, Green Transportation Leadership Team

Sierra Club Urges Environmental Protections Within the Transportation Bill

We joined our environmental partners in an effort to pass a clean transportation bill **without** anti-environmental provisions:

1. Gutting environmental review NEPA
2. Permitting the Keystone XL pipeline
3. Preempting EPA regulation for the safe disposal of toxic coal ash

We asked these provisions to be included:

1. Fix-It-First-Preserve the Senate provisions that provide dedicated funding for repairing our roads and bridges — and hold states accountable for repairing them.
2. Bike/Ped-Protect community access to funds in the Senate bill that make walking and biking safer by preserving the local grant programs.
3. Transit-Keep the flexibility for public transportation “operations” in the Senate bill that allows struggling transit agencies of all sizes to maintain service during a fiscal crisis.

Get on Board with Smart Transportation Advocacy in your location and our state

Check with Transportation Chair, Robin Hill robin.hill8@gmail.com, or Dennis Lynch dmlynch@mit.alum.edu, Steven Sondheim stevensondheim@yahoo.com, or Brian Paddock bpaddock@twlakes.com about your transportation concerns.

Congratulations to Dennis Lynch, Chair of Chickasaw Group's new Transportation Subcommittee, working on local issues such as sprawl, transportation equity, Shelby Farms Parkway, Livable Communities, reasonable development around the I-269 (outer freeway) and a Long Range Transportation Plan that revitalizes Memphis. Dennis is an MIT graduate with an MS in Civil Engineering (Transportation Planning) with years as a planner in Boston and as a project engineer in Memphis. Working with Dennis are Steven Sondheim, Mary Margaret Ware and Art Wolff.

Sierra Club NO NUKE SUMMIT launches Sierra Club Nuclear Free Campaign -held May 4-6 in Washington, DC

See the conference site for follow up videos, reports, campaign plans, creative strategies for stopping nukes and developing a national strategy to replace nuclear power with

renewable energy and efficiency. Join us to work on our outcome teams:

- Stopping New Nuclear Power Plants
- Shutting Down Existing Nukes
- Addressing Radioactive Waste (Low Level and High Level)
- Addressing the “Front End” including mining, milling, enrichment and cleanup.

http://connect.sierraclub.org/Team/No_Nukes_Team2

Sierra Club Chapters and Activists will be confronting nuclear issues all over the country. It is time to share our experiences and create a plan for regional and national support for campaigns that challenge nuclear power and strategically plan for the Club's anti-nuclear work.

Presentations from national nuclear experts include Kevin Kamps from Beyond Nuclear and Arjun Makhijani, author of Carbon Free Nuclear Free, Overview of the current condition of the Nuclear Fuel Chain, The True Cost of Nukes - Why the economics is their Achilles Heel, and Nuclear Waste: reprocessing, transportation, and storage.

Know Nukes Regional Summit-NUCLEAR ISSUES in the SOUTH

Was held in late June. For a report on the conference, the status of the Southeast and how you can get involved see <http://knownukesyallsummit.org/?m=0>

The South is ground zero for the attempted nuclear power revival, and is becoming the nuclear waste dump for the world. Environmental groups are gathering to learn and to teach one another and outreach to the public. Please join in.

Good Jobs/Green Jobs-the Sierra Club together with the Blue Green Alliance recently completed 4 Regional Conferences in Atlanta, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Detroit. Read all about each and view videos by clicking on the city <http://www.greenjobsconference.org/>

To see highlights from past years including Lisa Jackson EPA <http://www.greenjobsconference.org/highlights>

To learn about the Sierra Clubs Green Jobs Campaign <http://www.sierraclub.org/greenjobs/>

Summer tips for Energy Saving

www.mlgw.com/residential/summertips

Compass points the way to a clean energy future-keep up with our energy efforts

<http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass> click on topics like Transportation, Oil, Coal, etc.

The Status of Climate Change - What CAN Be Done About It? What YOU Can Do?

Our Tennessee Climate Action Team is working to convince TVA to implement a 1% Energy Efficiency goal per year. This would make new power plants unnecessary (coal, gas, and nuclear).

www.tnclimateaction.net Below is the first in a series of articles about how to reduce your home energy use. Take the challenge-show TVA it can be done. Reduce your bill by as much as 10% this year.

The world is getting hotter. No kidding, I went to a Sierra Club meeting last Monday night and learned of six cities on this planet that reached 128°F in 2010. This was a REAL eye-opener — since temperatures have been recorded the planet has never had that many cities record temperatures that high. Carbon emissions are to blame and that starts with power plants and vehicles.

So what can we do to change this? “Start simple” is my motto so why not start by simply using less energy?

Thermostats: Turn them up in summer and down in winter: 78 and 68 degrees respectively by MLG&W's calculation can make a 5-10% difference. It's amazing how a fan makes 80 degrees feel cool in the summer. A programmable thermostat can also save "watts" of dollars!

Light bulbs: Time to replace those incandescent dinosaurs. We can all lower our power bill 7 to 8% just by switching to compact fluorescent or LED bulbs, and turning lights OFF when we leave a room has always been cheap and easy.

Appliances: We all buy and look for Energy Star appliances when replacing old units. Perhaps now its time to actually unplug that 30 year old frig we moved to the garage. I know this is radical stuff BUT score \$37 to \$93 in your pocket and 420 to 780 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year NOT used.

Electronics: Can you say "Phantom Power"? Those entertainment and home office areas have become clusters of electronic marvels. Unfortunately they use electricity 24/7. One easy to reach power strip per cluster solves this problem and saves kWh.

Lifestyle: Embrace change. Everywhere I look there are highly efficient ways to do everything: hybrid/plug-in autos, tank-less water heaters, home performance/remediation packages, high efficiency furnaces, geothermal heat pumps, and so forth. We see more innovation now than at any other time in human history. Set a Google search for "Energy saver" and be amazed. In the meantime let's all PLAN efficient car trips and even (gasp) shop/carpool with friends and neighbors. Oh, lest I forget, recycle, recycle, recycle. I've read studies that claim up to 60% less energy is used when we recycle cardboard, paper, aluminum, plastic and steel. Remember using LESS energy lowers Mother Earth's fever.

I'll explore the mysteries of home performance/energy remediation in my next article. We will focus on the most effective energy remediation areas. Can you say "whole house air seal, full HVAC system duct/plenum seal, extra insulation at walls and ceilings that touch your attic." I know MOM told you never to let anyone touch your attic but Building Science studies prove that if the right touch is applied to these areas we can put hundreds, even thousands of dollars back in our family budget that was earmarked for utilities.

You can contact me at dtrentlage.npb@gmail.com. Now go unplug something!

Dave and Tom Trentlage own Neighborhood Pro Builders Inc, a residential/small commercial Tn licensed company. In 2009 NPB was the first Shelby County General Contractor admitted to Tennessee Valley Authority's In Home Energy Evaluation Program (IHEE) as an energy implementation partner. Since then NPB has completed 75 homes under the TVA "EnergyRight" program.

David A. Trentlage, President
Neighborhood Pro Builders, Inc.

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