

Tennes-Sierran

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

Volume 50, Number 5 - September/October 2017

Looking Ahead: Tennessee Chapter Fall Retreat Oct 27 - 29, 2017 at Pickett State Park Group Camp

Come explore a little known part of Tennessee's wilderness and history for a great weekend this coming October while you meet others from across the state that share your same concerns! Pickett State Park, our state's first park built by the CCC and located on the Kentucky border north east of Jamestown, lies within the 19,200-acre Pickett State Forest, right next to the massive 125,000-acre Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. And Pickett is the first state park in the southeast to be certified a Dark Sky viewing location by the International Dark Sky Association, so pack your binoculars!

If you arrive on Friday, plan to chat with other participants, and we'll have a variety of games and cards going on. Saturday choose from viewing the home and mill of WWI hero Alvin C. York; exploring an English settlement in nearby Rugby; 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 or hike the John Muir Trail along the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. Something for all skill levels!

We're excited to welcome National Sierra Club's state lobbying expert, Jen Hensley, National Sierra Club State Lobbying and Advocacy Director of State Governmental Affairs. Jen will join TN Sierra Club lobbyist Scott Banbury to discuss the most effective how-to's on impacting legislation the Club is working on and the important bills the Club has positions on before the TN General Assembly. Following Jen's program will be a strategy and planning session for the upcoming 2018 season, including our revamped Conservation Lobby Day.

We'll be planning the constituent mobilization effort needed to reach all our legislators for Conservation Lobbying Day, so please plan to attend the afternoon lobbying sessions so that you can be prepared to be a leader in your area. We – and the environment – need you! (And of course there will be more training later this winter.)

Other fun and additional training activities will also be held Saturday:

No Sew T-shirt Bags, Alice Demetreon: Recycle an old T-shirt. Ones with a favorite picture you hate to give up but faded or stained, are the perfect choice.

We will make reusable bags using only a pair of scissors.

"Communicating as One Club" Workshop, Cliff Cockerham, et al.

This interactive training will focus on national SC initiatives and best practices in the areas below and leveraging the Ladder of Engagement in keeping with Chapter Best Practices. These include: General communications; Media relations; Campaign outreach [including social media.] Materials will be drawn from national tools that have been developed and deployed to help Chapters connect the dots from the aforementioned points of focus while highlighting connections to overarching tasks such as: intersectionality; connecting the dots between issue campaigns; developing constructive alignment with national priorities; moving from transactional mobilization to transformational organizing; attending to SC national best practices of utilizing succession planning, volunteer recognition, strategic prioritization, etc.

"Slime," Alice Demetreon: Alice is bringing material to make "Slime" which is geared for anyone from 3 to teens (and oldsters too!) If it's a rainy day, we'll break it out! And if you are bringing kids, you might want to pack some indoor toys/activities in case of rain too.

Various Sierra Club committees will also meet - feel free to sit in on any or all of interest to you.

There's also our annual Silent Auction, benefitting our chapter's lobbying and legislative program – and an evening bonfire with S'mores, of course!

Lodging is in 6 heated cabins/bunkhouses that accommodate about 20 each, so we can have separate families, couples, mens and womens cabins. Camping among the surrounding trees is another popular option (cost for the weekend is the same for camping on the grounds or for staying in the cabins.) You need to supply your own bedding, towels and personal items.

Everyone signs on to helping with at least 1 chore during the weekend (meal prep, serving and cleanup) and general cleanup of the facility before we leave.

Breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, and Saturday night dinner are provided. Be sure to indicate

whether you are vegetarian or omnivore. You are on your own for Friday dinner, and your trail lunches. If you wish additional beverages, you'll need to bring your own.

Early Bird Registration Price until October 20: \$50/adult

Regular Registration Fee: \$60/adult
Students: \$15

Single day only price with meals: Sat - \$30; Sun - \$10

Day only, no meals: \$5

(Children 15 and under attend free)

Special: ½ off for first-time attendees!

Note: a limited number of partial/full scholarships are available by request - make your needs know as you register with Barbara Hurst.

How to Attend:

1. Make your reservation by e-mail or phone to: Barbara Hurst, Cherokee Group Treasurer barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com or 423-886-9503 OR use our new on-line registration form at <http://www.surveymoz.com/s3/3753359/Fall-2017-Sierra-Club-Retreat> (you must register each person separately)

2. Tell how many adults/children in your party, when you plan to arrive, and whether people are vegetarian or omnivore for meal planning.

3. Pay on arrival at the Retreat!

4. You will receive a detailed schedule of events closer to time.

The Cherokee Group looks forward to hosting you!

Directions: I-40 to Exit 317. Hwy. 127 north (46 miles). Turn right on Hwy. 154, travel 12 miles to the park entrance, pass the main office and continue on, taking a right on the Group Lodge road. 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, pass the main office and continue on, taking a right on the Group Lodge road. For emergencies the Park's office number is 931-879-5821. Further details about Pickett State Park and surrounding activities are available at: <http://tn.gov/environment/parks/Pickett/>

Chapter At Large Executive Committee Call for Nominations

This year four of the seven members of the Chapter's At Large Executive Committee (ExCom) reach the end of their term. Some decide not to run again, others do. The Sierra Club uses democracy to hold itself accountable to its membership, so we need good candidates to best represent our members' interests. The Chapter's Nomination Committee is seeking candidates to run, so we're looking to you to self-nominate or suggest nominees!

The ExCom sets the Chapter budget and strategic direction, reaches consensus on conservation positions, raises money, appoints officers and committee chairs, and approves litigation and electoral endorsements.

To accomplish all of this, the Chapter ExCom meets quarterly, and there is e-mail correspondence between meetings. The ExCom also plans additional important events throughout the year.

After receiving your nominations by Sept 20, the Chapter Nominations Committee will consider and recommend candidates for the ballot, which is published in the November/December edition of the Tennes-Sierran bi-monthly newspaper. Candidates may also get on the ballot by petition. Candidates get space on the ballot to advocate for their election. Candidates receiving the top votes will start their two-year terms in January 2018.

Any Sierra Club member wishing to be considered as a Nomination Committee candidate should indicate their intent to do so by emailing Robin Hill at robin.hill8@gmail.com by September 20th.

Winter Tennessee Chapter Meeting

Cedars of Lebanon State Park

January 26th thru 28th

Harvey Broome Group hosting- Contact HBG treasurer Bob Perlack to register: email perlack@aol.com, phone (865) 229-5027 or mail Bob Perlack, 234 Northshore Drive, Greenback TN 37742.

Centrally located near Lebanon, TN.

- Adults - Early Bird - \$50 (Late Registration \$60)
- Children 15 and under - free
- First time attendees - 1/2 off
- Students - \$15 for weekend
- We offer partial scholarships

About the Park

The park is named for Eastern Red Cedar trees found throughout the area. The trees reminded early American settlers of the famed Biblical cedar forests that thrived across Mount Lebanon in what is now the Mediterranean area. Cedars of Lebanon became a state park in 1955.

In the 1940s, botanists noticed unique natural ecosystems found in and around Cedars of Lebanon State Park and Forest. These areas are natural rock gardens called cedar glades. The presence of glades is due to limestone rock coming so close to the surface of the ground that it causes the soil to be thin or absent. Water and surface temperatures vary so much throughout the year that a harsh, desert-like, inhospitable habitat is created with its own unique plant community. Nineteen rare and endangered species of plants grow profusely here and nowhere else in the world. Winter activities include hiking, birding and disk golf.

Note: Nearby attractions include Stones River National Historic Battlefield.

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 on page 8 and mail

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: sierratnnews@gmail.com

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is September 30th for the November/December 2017 issue.

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

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

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

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

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

Target Date for the November/December Issue is September 30, 2017.

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

Send material to Sinclaire Sparkman at sierratnnews@gmail.com



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



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

- John Muir

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

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



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

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

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32141-6417 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

F94Q W4300 1

Sierra Club Officers

TENNESSEE CHAPTER:

Chair: Cliff Cockerham 615-336-3905
clifford.cockerham@comcast.net
 Vice Chair: Mac Post 865-806-0980
mpost3116@aol.com
 Secretary: Paula Lennon (615) 506-1502
paulalennon615@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Alice Demetreon 660-247-2288
demetreon1981@gmail.com
 Conservation: Axel Ringe 865-387-7398
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
 Outings: Phil Davis 423-247-0473
phildavis2006@gmail.com
 CCL Delegate: Dennis Lynch 901-213-6088
dmlynch1@gmail.com

TN LOCAL GROUPS:

Cherokee Group

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/cherokee>
 Chair: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009
bk1rivers@gmail.com
 Vice Chair: Bill Moll (423) 702-5779
whmoll@aol.com
 Secretary: Kate Anthony (513) 365-7989
rainbowgardener2@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Barbara Hurst 423-886-9503
barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com
 Conservation: Sandy Kurtz 423-892-5237
sandykurtz4@gmail.com
 Outings: John Doyal 423-315-0965
2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com
 Upper Cumberland Committee: Josephine McQuail 931-520-0449
jmcquail@tntech.edu

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/chickasaw>
 Chair: Dennis Lynch 901-213-6088
dmlynch1@gmail.com
 Vice Chair: Ed Jones 901-374-0582
edshouse35@comcast.net
 Secretary: Karen Thornton 901-340-6997
kmthornton16@hotmail.com
 Treasurer: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399
jozegovich@yahoo.com
 Conservation: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399
jozegovich@yahoo.com
 Outings: vacant

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome>
 Chair: Ron Shrieves 865-922-3518
ronshrieves@gmail.com
 Vice Chair: Denise Bivens 865-384-5138
denisebivens@gmail.com
 Secretary: Kris Christen 865-292-8277.
christen@nasw.org
 Treasurer: Bob Perlack 865-898-5751
perlack@aol.com
 Conservation: Axel Ringe 865-387-7398
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
 Outings: Ron Shrieves 865-922-3518
ronshrieves@gmail.com

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/middle-tennessee>
 Chair: Charles High 615-500-5499
cahigh1722@aol.com
 Vice Chair: Grace Stranch 615-646-1102
graces@bsjfirm.com
 Secretary: Paula Lennon 615-506-1502
paulalennon615@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Joel Gearhardt 615-598-0268
jgearhardt@yahoo.com
 Conservation: Scott Heflinger 615-859-3553
sheflinger@aol.com
 Outings: Craig Jervis 615-254-5301
cmjervis@comcast.net

Watauga Group - Northeast Tennessee

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/watauga>
 Chair: Gloria Griffith 423-727-4797
gja4797@embarqmail.com
 Vice Chair: Sandi Cranford 423-727-5044
scanford1258@yahoo.com
 Secretary: Dennis Shekinah 423-534-4804
bmwbruno@icloud.com
 Treasurer: Cindy Johnson 423-895-1687
cinnj@hotmail.com
 Conservation: Dean Whitworth 423-727-7214
 Outings: Webb Griffith 423-727-4797
gja4797@embarqmail.com

Chapter Staff:
Scott Banbury
Conservation Program Coordinator
901-619-8567

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

Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

MEETING SCHEDULE

Chapter Meeting	Location	Dates
Fall	Picket State Park	October 27-29
Winter	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	January 26 - 28
Spring	NB Forrest State Park	April 27-29
Summer	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	Aug 3 - 5

Speak out for nature: Volunteer as a guest classroom speaker



Davidson Academy Students with Tara Rust, Science Team Leader (Kathy Hodges, photographer)

By Joy Mayfield

For the past 10 years I've been volunteering in local public and private schools as a guest classroom speaker. I want to share this experience with you as a way to encourage YOU to do the same.

Let me state from the start that I feel a moral responsibility to educate the next generation on behalf of the planet. After all, we will need them to carry the torch on our behalf when our time on earth is done.

If you have considered volunteering in schools but worry that your efforts will not be appreciated, rest your mind. I happen

to know firsthand that teachers welcome anyone willing to share their time and knowledge with students. Teachers tell me that students are stimulated to learn just by having a fresh face before them. I have NEVER had an audience of kids that wasn't both receptive and excited. Think how staggering it must be for a teacher to face 25-35 kids five days a week. I usually have to take a nap after only one hour of volunteering in the classroom!

Your presentations do not have to be technical nor long. Mine usually last

between 40-50 minutes and always involve a hands-on activity toward the end. My simple mission is to get kids interested in being outside. We Sierra Club members should all be inherently pretty good at selling the outdoors to a new audience.

Whatever knowledge you possess about the natural world is bound to be impressive to a 3rd grader or, sadly, even a 12th grader so you need not worry about feeling inadequate.

Props are helpful. Remember show and tell? It is amazing what kids find fascinating. No, actually it isn't. It is the same sort of thing we were interested in at their same ages.

If you're volunteering with little ones, bring along a book to read suitable for the topic and their age. Kids still love someone reading to them. Bring animal or bird puppets, bird nests (I collect them in the wintertime), nuts, leaves and tree branches with lichen – anything from the yard ends up being intriguing to most kids. In my experience I have found children's lack of

wonderful props available that don't cost much. This spring I was able to speak to 5th graders from Clarksville on Monarch butterflies and happened to bring my Monarch Café (a netted cage my friend Betsy Garber gave me for Christmas) with me. I had 14 caterpillars in residence at the time, safely munching away on milkweed. At the end of my talk, as if on cue, one of the caterpillars took this opportune moment to spin and twist into a chrysalis. 160 students were mesmerized, speechless and in absolute awe at witnessing this marvel of nature. So was I!



Sierra Club members Dave Walters and Joy Mayfield go on a tree leaf scavenger hunt with 4th and 5th graders

knowledge of the natural world alarming. We can change that. Children, even teenagers, are naturally inquisitive and eager to learn. We can open that door to the outside world for them.

Sometimes teachers even request field trips, which is certainly the ideal way to get kids excited about nature. Even a stroll around the school's campus can be an enlightening experience for most kids.

If your interest is butterflies, there are

The important point is that you do not need to be a teacher nor a naturalist nor a park ranger to share your knowledge of nature with school children. All you need is your own curiosity and sense of wonder and a willingness to devote a few hours of your time to a very deserving audience. You could be rewarded in ways you cannot imagine until you try it.

If you are interested in working in your local schools and need advice or guidance or even just a cheerleader, please contact me. I would be delighted to help. (615-681-5821 or joy.mayfield@comcast.net).

In closing I appeal to you to consider volunteering at one of your local schools. I

can tell you that it will make you feel better in your soul. We may not be able to influence our elected officials in the current administration but we CAN reach out to the young and teach them about the great, green garden planet we love and seek to protect so earnestly.

**Comes with Guarantee: kids love it, teachers love it and you leave with your batteries on full charge.

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

September 5, 2017 & October 9, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Strategy/Business Meetings:

Come add your ideas, share your concerns as we resist, insist, persist and enlist! We've got committees on outings, programs, clean energy and climate, water quality, forestry issues, and parks/land protection with room to support YOUR concern. Where: at our new location, Pilgrim Congregational Church, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chatta. 37404 (at the corner of Glenwood Dr. and E. 3rd Street. Come in the front door! We'll be in the parlor on the right. All are welcome!

NOTE: Our September Strategy Meeting will be held on Sept. 5th (the 1st Tues) to avoid meeting on Labor Day. We will meet at Bill Moll's home, and enjoy his outstanding botanic gardens. Meet at 5 pm for a tour, and bring along a picnic supper. His address is 4918 Marlow Dr., Red Bank 37415; call him at 423-702-5779 for directions. All are welcome!

September 25 2017 - 7:00 P.M. - September Program: at our new location: the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chatta. 37411, Off I-24, just east of the Missionary Ridge cut. Take the Germantown Road Exit, turn north onto Germantown Road, take the 2nd left onto Navajo, go about 1/2 mile, UUCU will be on your left, up the hill!

David Lochbaum, "The NRC: Does It Have Your Back, or Does It Have Your Back Covered with a Target?" David, Director of the Nuclear Safety Project for the Union of Concerned Scientists, and a nuclear engineer by training, has worked in nuclear power plants for nearly 2 decades. He'll be talking to us about the NRC's process for shutting down an operating reactor for safety reasons – and the dilemma the NRC faces as it lacks the criteria for judging when a reactor is unsafe, though it claims it would not allow an unsafe reactor to continue operating. Come give your thoughts on how we might reach out to the NRC Chairman and Commissioners about a lack of confidence in their role as the public safety's guardian.

Letter-writing materials on current issues with talking points will be available for those interested. Hand written letters do count! Phone calls and e-mails too.

October 23, 2017 - 7:00 P.M. October Program: at our new location: the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chatta. 37411, Off I-24, just east of the Missionary Ridge cut. Take the Germantown Road Exit, turn north onto Germantown Road, take the 2nd left onto Navajo, go about 1/2 mile, UUCU will be on your left, up the hill!

"From the Ashes," a screening of the just released documentary. The film explores the reality of coal's role in climate change while offering insight into solutions that could help revive the struggling economies of dying mining towns and still safeguard the environment – with compelling and often-heartbreaking stories about what is at stake for our economy, health and climate. We will have discussion

after, and discuss the issues we are facing with TVA and coal ash storage problems.

Letter-writing materials on current issues with talking points will be available for those interested. Hand written letters do count! Phone calls and e-mails too.

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

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Check <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group> for more meeting information.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Our monthly programs are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 P.M., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. For additional information see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs>

September 12, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

– Meeting: Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, The Moral Significance of the Long-Term Effects of Climate Change, by Dr. John Nolt, Department of Philosophy, University of Tennessee.

Our business meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd. Knoxville, TN 37909 at 7pm. Everyone is invited. These meetings are free and open to the public. See our web page (sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs) for details.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

September 14, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. – Program:

Reducing our Exposure to Toxics as we Build Healthy, Sustainable and Resilient Communities. Robert C. Wingfield Jr., Ph. D., Associate Professor of Chemistry, Fisk University, will discuss how participants can build healthy, resilient and sustainable neighborhoods, homes, and businesses while reducing their exposure to toxics. The presentation will include a discussion of the nexus of energy, water, food, material, and human health sustainability; as well as concepts and issues regarding environmental sustainability both locally and globally. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Russ at 615 506-4070. The program is free and open to the public.

September 19, 2017– 6:30 p.m. - LOCAL

ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Come at 6:00 if you'd like to eat. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville. Please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com with any questions. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

October 12, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. – Program:

Think globally, but act locally – clean water programs need you! Paul Davis, former TDEC Water Pollution Control Director, now teaches Clean Water Act programs and works with water advocacy groups. Paul will discuss why he thinks it's important, particularly now, for citi-

zens to be actively involved in local clean water programs. And he'll speak about opportunities for doing so, from baking cookies to attending meetings to writing letters to filing complaints and lawsuits. Clean water is a contact sport. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Russ at 615 506-4070. This Sierra Club program is free and open to the public.

October 14, 2017 – 9:00-3:30 – Tabling at Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light Conference:

MTG needs volunteers to table for 2 hour shifts at the "A Sacred Calling: Communities of Faith Caring for Our Earth" conference at West End United Methodist Church, 2200 West End Avenue, Nashville. Workshop registration is required, with topics including Environmental energy use in houses of worship; Waste reduction; Landscaping; Gardening; meals; Purchasing practices; Environmental advocacy; Earth care educational and worship resources; and Starting an earth care team at a house of worship. Register at <http://bit.ly/SacredCallingConference2017>. The event costs \$20 for adults and \$12 for youth (ages 12-18) which includes lunch from caterer Barley to Rise. To volunteer at our Sierra Club table contact Betsy at garberb@hotmail.com or 615 668-1977.

October 17, 2017 – 6:30 p.m. - LOCAL ISSUES

MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Come at 6:00 if you'd like to eat. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville. Please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com with any questions. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

November 9, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. – Program:

Limestone Cedar Glades - Margie Hunter, author of Gardening with Native Plants of Tennessee, will present this program on limestone cedar glades. These cedar glades represent a unique habitat that achieves its richest expression in Middle Tennessee. Part of a mosaic of habitats based on shifting soil depths and canopy cover, the open glades contain numerous endemic species, including state and federally listed rare plants. This presentation will examine those characteristics that define habitats in the cedar glade complex and highlight some of the associated species. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Russ at 615 506-4070. The program is free and open to the public.

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

Program and business meetings begin at

6:00 PM on the second Tuesday near Doe Mountain Recreation Area from spring through fall at R&D Campground Pavilion at 900 Mining Town Rd., Mountain City, TN. During the wintertime meet up at The Loft 5902 Hwy 421 south Mountain City, TN. Got questions, contact bmw@icloud.com 423- 534-4804 or GLa4797@embarqmail.com 423-727-4797.

Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WataugaGroup

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

Outings

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

September 9-17, 2017 - Drive Electric Week: The Cherokee Group is again sponsoring Drive Electric events in Chattanooga. On September 9th attend the Electric Tail-gate Party at the Chattanooga Choo Choo – with ride-and-drives, information booths and more. Owners will be on hand to talk about their all-electric and plug-in hybrid-electric bicycles, cars, trucks and motorcycles. Electric Vehicles are less expensive and more convenient to fuel than gasoline vehicles, better for the environment, promote local jobs, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Are you considering going electric? Come talk to owners who have successfully done so! Watch for the specifics on our Facebook page and website. (Cherokee Group)

September 16, 2017 - Naturalist Ramble - Monarch Butterfly Migration Monitoring and Citizen Science, Cades Cove, GSMNP. Who doesn't love running around in a sunny field with a butterfly net? Monarchs migrate en masse to Mexico every year for the winter, and we would like to learn more about their migration and population status by tagging them. Migrating monarch butterflies have been monitored in Cade's Cove for many years. Participants also catch and identify other butterfly and insect species. We'll set up on a spot in Cades Cove and catch butterflies from there. Bring a lunch since late morning to early afternoon is the best time. Families are encouraged to bring children along for a fun and educational day outside. You do not have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate. One-way drive: 40 miles. Preregister with Mac Post: 865-806-0980; mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred) (Harvey Broome Group)

September 23, 2017 - 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. One-way drive: 25 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves: 922- 3518; ronshrieves@gmail.com (email preferred). (Harvey Broome Group)

September 23, 2017 - Tennessee Riverwalk, 11:00 am: This month we'll be walking downstream from Blue Goose Hollow to St. Elmo, and enjoy lunch at Mr. T's Pizza. We'll meet at the Blue Goose Hollow Trailhead, the small park off Rlverside Drive on the Riverfront (at the end of Martin Luther King Blvd.,) adjacent to the Cameron Harbor Development. (for your GPS: 876 W 9th Ave, Chattanooga, TN 37402). Easy walking. Kids welcome. Bring friends! Pre-registration required, with John Doyal, 2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com or 423-315-0965. (Cherokee Group)

September 30, 2017 - Backpack - Savage Gulf State Natural Area. If you like waterfalls and nice bluff vistas, this is a great backpack. Starting at the Stone Door parking area in the Savage Gulf State Natural Area, we'll take the relatively easy and flat 4.2 miles long Big Creek Rim Trail to the Alum Gap campground, stop-

ping along the way to admire the views from several nice overlooks. After we set up camp we'll hike the three mile round trip to visit the impressive Greeter Falls, upper and lower. The next morning we'll break camp and take the decidedly tougher Big Creek Gulf trail back to the Stone Door. Along the way we'll take a short side trail to see the Ranger Creek Falls, for a total of about 5.8 miles. Total distance is about 13 miles between the two days. Drive distance, 150 miles. Pre-register with Brad Reese: bradktn@gmail.com; 865-599-1708 (email preferred). (Harvey Broome Group)

October 7, 2017 - Backpack - Frozen Head State Park. We'll follow the steep Chimney Top Trail from behind the Park visitor center to the Mart Field campsite, where we'll stop for the night. Although this is only a hike of five and a half miles or so, the steep ascent will test our legs and our lungs. In the morning we'll continue on the chimney top trail, taking a few short detours to visit the fire tower and a nice rock house, before descending the North Old Mac trail back to the trailhead. The total mileage for the second day is about five miles. total hiking miles: 10.5. Distance from Knoxville: 50. Pre-register with Brad Reese: bradktn@gmail.com; 865-599-1708 (email preferred). (Harvey Broome Group)

October 21, 2017 - Naturalist Ramble - Northern Hardwoods Forest, Thomas Divide Trail, GSMNP. These forests are remnants of a time when glaciers forced northern forests south. As the climate warmed and glaciers receded, forests types shifted to our present day configuration. However the northern hardwood forests, similar to those in New Hampshire and New York, found refuge on the cool upper slopes of our southern Appalachian mountains. Today northern hardwood forests are found in the higher elevations of the national park. They are composed chiefly of deciduous trees and give us some of the best fall color in the mountains. This hike goes through northern red oak forest over 200 years old. We will ascend gently for 1.8 miles on the Thomas Divide Trail or as far as we get and then return to the trailhead. Families are encouraged to bring children along for a fun and educational day outside. You do not have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate. Total distance is 3.6 miles and rated easy. One-way drive: 55 miles. Preregister with Mac Post: 865-806-0980; mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred) (Harvey Broome Group)

October 27-29, 2017 - TN Chapter Fall Retreat, Pickett State Park. Check out the details on page 1! The Cherokee Group is hosting a fun weekend at Pickett State Park. Fun hikes, interesting workshops and events, great food! At great prices, Early Bird registration \$50/adult or \$15/student – remember that first timers get 1/2 off, and kids 15 and under are free. Come meet people from across our state who share your interests and concerns. And bring your binoculars for evening star watching – Pickett is an International Dark Sky Park. Mark your calendars now, and e-mail or call in your reservation (pay on arrival) to Barbara Hurst: barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com or 423-866-9503.

NOTE: Our Outings Leader Training produced many enthusiastic new leaders/Outdoor Ambassadors, now scheduling their apprentice outings with the hot summer now over, so be watching for them. We look forward to our continued partnership with Outdoor Chattanooga, and a host of outings reaching diverse populations with the joy of nature. It's not too late for YOU, if you're interested in becoming a trip

leader – contact Barb Kelly, bk1rivers@gmail.com or 423-718-5009. Training opportunities still available! (Cherokee Group)

October 28, 2017 - Dayhike - Charles Bunion and the Jumpoff, GSMNP. Starting at Newfound Gap, we'll head along the AT for 2.7 miles, then, after about 1/10 of a mile on the Boulevard Trail, we'll follow an off-trail path out to the Jumpoff. The Jumpoff is a 1000 ft near vertical drop with spectacular views of Charlies Bunion. Then we'll return to the AT, and continue for another 1.3 miles to Charlies Bunion, a big rock outcropping with even more spectacular views. We'll return to Newfound Gap using the AT. This hike is 9 miles long, with 2086 ft elevation gain, and is rated moderate. Drive time, about 1.5 hours; distance, 60 miles. Preregister with Denise Bivens: denisebivens@gmail.com: phone 865-385-5138. (Harvey Broome Group)

November 4, 2017 - Backpack - Walls of Jericho Backpack. The Walls of Jericho area is located on the TN-AL state line west of Chattanooga in a couple of wildlife management areas. We'll do a shuttle backpack, starting at the Tennessee trailhead, hiking to a campsite below the Walls of Jericho, exploring the Walls of Jericho, and then hiking out to the Alabama Trailhead. The Walls of Jericho area was originally owned by the Texas oil magnate Harry Lee Carter until acquired by the Nature Conservancy for transfer to the WMAs. The main feature is a huge natural rock amphitheater that's part of a deep forested canyon in which Davy Crockett once hunted. Hiking distance will be about 7 miles total. Rated Moderate. Drive distance 197 miles; drive time, 3 hours. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; C 742-2327; whshome@bellsouth.net. (Harvey Broome Group)

November 11, 2017 - Naturalist Ramble - Virgin Cove Hardwood, Albright Grove, GSMNP. Not many low elevation cove hardwood forests remain. Albright Grove is a special place where tulip poplars, Frazier 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. Families are encouraged to bring children along for a fun and educational day outside. You do not have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate. Total distance is 6.9 miles and rated moderate. One-way drive: 60 miles. Preregister with Mac Post: 865-806-0980; mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred) (Harvey Broome Group)

Nashville Outings! - We have an active outings schedule! To check out our outings, please go to <http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures>

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!**

Letter to the Editor

CONCERNING BEDFORD FORREST STATE PARK:

I have been pleased to observe that recent issues of the Tennes Sierran have included articles relating to the national political process and how it affects not only our environment, but our personal lives as citizens. Especially with the current administration, it is clear that forces opposing environmental improvement and quality are having a field day. I believe these same forces are determined to undo the concept of government as a key to improving the lives of people in our society especially those who are in need. In the past six months, reduction in healthcare coverage, voter registration regulation, disinterest in citizen involvement in decision making, dismissal of scientific evidence, abolition and reduction of regulatory oversight, and reduced taxes on the wealthiest Americans

have become objectives of at least two branches of our government.

The article in the July/August newsletter concerning Bedford Forrest State Park asked for comments about the role that the Tennessee Chapter might play in considering a change of name for the park. Although I personally think this name change is appropriate and overdue, I do not think the chapter should take a leadership role on this issue. The chapter could support these efforts and express to park officials its concern about the facility name. Perhaps the Chickasaw group would be interested in working on this as well as finding another appropriate location.

Looking at the three clause Sierra Club national mission statement, it would be a stretch to find justification for the chapter to pursue a petition to the legislature. Perhaps, "to educate" would be the closest.

As it is, the Sierra Club has its plate full with work on various projects and legislative matters (statewide and locally). I think it would be awkward for Scott and others to add this issue to its agenda in dealing with state agencies and the legislature.

As a point of reference for those enamored with the Confederate legacy and the importance of "not forgetting" such history, I would strongly suggest reading Mayor Mitchell Landrieu's powerful May 19 statement on the removal of Confederate monuments from prominent locations in New Orleans. A transcript of the speech is available here: http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2017/05/mayor_landrieu_speech_confeder.html

Keep up the good work on the newsletter.
~Bill Kornrich

Trump Admin Releases Report Trying to Justify Bailing Out Dirty, Expensive Power Plants

By Mary Anne Hitt

Late Wednesday, Trump's Secretary of Energy Rick Perry released a controversial grid report in an effort to pressure market operators, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and utilities to bail out aging coal and nuclear plants by forcing electricity customers to pay more for their expensive electricity. But the facts throughout the report don't support those conclusions. To sum up the report in a tweet, Trump and the coal industry want customers to pay more for dirtier power. Meanwhile, most everyone else (including the Sierra Club) is making it possible for customers to pay less and get cleaner energy - something that is now a reality across this country.

Even before the report was released, its credibility was questioned by electrical engineers, policy experts, and electricity industry stakeholders as a political ploy by the Trump administration to prop up old dirty energy plants at the expense of the rapidly growing clean energy sector. Their suspicions were confirmed when a draft copy of the report was released early by nonpartisan Department of Energy (DOE) career professionals, and then quickly retracted by DOE's political press office.

It's disappointing - but not surprising - that Rick Perry took a well-crafted, insightful draft report from nonpartisan Depart-

ment of Energy professionals and tried to make it into a talking points memo for coal and nuclear subsidies.

The initial draft report was informed by studies from energy policy experts, major universities, and nonpartisan energy stakeholder reports. It found that wind and solar energy strongly contributed to the affordability, reliability, and resilience of the grid; lowered prices for customers; and would continue to grow rapidly into the future.

But some of this "new" report's recommendations echo the unsubstantiated claim that coal and nuclear plants are needed for grid reliability, and recommend that rules be changed to compensate them regardless of their competitiveness against cleaner, cheaper, and more flexible energy sources like wind and solar. What's more, buried in the report are statements claiming that wind and solar have not been a factor in coal and nuclear plant retirements - when in fact, those resources are playing a significant role in stabilizing electric prices and making utility bills more manageable for consumers. Joe Romm highlighted those and even more false claims in his column as well.

The report's secrecy before its release has been unprecedented and even prompted the Sierra Club to file a lawsuit against DOE under the Freedom of Information Act for access to basic information on the

report's premises and consultations. Perry has refused input from clean energy jobs creators, outside energy experts, and even members of Congress. The report's release is widely viewed as another instance of the Trump administration turning its back on basic transparency to the public.

The failed spin of this study is one more sign that the Trump administration is creating its energy agenda by looking in the rearview mirror, while clean energy passes them by in the fast lane. There is no evidence, in this report or elsewhere, that coal or nuclear plants are vital to our grid's long-term reliability, or that there will be increasing demand for them. In fact, all trends point in the opposite direction.

This report is nothing more than a half-baked attempt by the Trump Administration and its dirty energy allies to assemble a flimsy rationale in hopes of pressuring FERC, grid managers, and utilities to bail out uneconomical, highly subsidized coal and nuclear plants.

The truth is simple: coal and nuclear can no longer compete on their own, and they are now pushing Trump to save them. This study is a shoddy attempt to do just that, and considering that the Sierra Club just marked the nation's 257th coal plant retirement, it isn't going to work.

What Happens to More than 400 Toxic Sites in a Hurricane?

By Bryan Parras

For as long as I can recall, the more than 400 chemical plants and oil and gas refineries that litter my community weren't just an eyesore, as some may see them, they were the cause of hardship, of sickness, and even of death, polluting our air and dumping toxins into our water. Hurricane Harvey and the destruction it brought with it only magnified this threat. I've seen the black smoke burning off from these deadly and dangerous plants, I've smelled the oil and chemicals, and I know the fear that

strikes so many of our communities on a daily basis. On normal rain events, we know that these facilities, which are decades old, have situations where they have to shutdown to prevent and avoid these catastrophic explosions and events. As you can imagine, Harvey is only making this worse.

Hurricane Harvey has already dumped more than 9 trillion gallons of water, enough water to fill the Great Salt Lake in Salt Lake City twice. Entire highways in Houston are now underwater. Since the storm struck, there have been more than a

dozen chemical facilities and oil refineries that have reported serious issues, including leaks, spills, and potential explosions. These facilities, along with Superfund sites, are littered throughout my community.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard's National Response Center, there were more than 30 calls reporting spilled gasoline, crude oil, petroleum, and the release of contaminants from flare stacks in communities affected by Hurricane Harvey on

Continued on Page 8..

The RECLAIM Act Means Business for Appalachian Communities Historically Dependent on Coal

By Bill Price

It was a major victory in June when the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources voted to pass the RECLAIM Act with language that emphasized strong community input. As RECLAIM is written today, it will provide \$1 billion to communities historically dependent on coal to help spur long-term economic development projects. These projects will be guided by the very communities who have a strong interest in seeing nearby abandoned minelands cleaned up and new economic opportunities created in the process.

You may be asking, “but what do these economic opportunities look like?”

Good question. There are many examples across the country of abandoned mine sites being leveraged to create jobs in agriculture, recreational tourism, retail, and clean energy production.

Agriculture

In Dickenson County, VA, Tammy Owens operates a 110 acre farm on land that was stripmined in the 1970s and 1980s. She uses organic farming practices to grow medicinal plants like goldenseal and cohosh. These organic practices also help to heal the soil and make it fertile again. Meanwhile, in Mingo County, West Virginia, a High Priority abandoned mine site will be reclaimed giving way to the construction of an aquaponics facility on site that will

sustainability produce fish and vegetables. This project is funded by the AML Pilot Program and will create up to 12 full-time, permanent jobs.

Business Centers

Abandoned surface and underground mines had left a scarred landscape in Luzerne County, PA. After reclamation efforts, however, a business park was constructed on the land. The commerce and trade park employs over 4,500 people and is home to 39 companies, including Lowe’s, FedEx Ground, and Men’s Warehouse. While more industrial parks are not the economic solution for many rural communities, this case study demonstrates that mine sites could be reclaimed for “brick and mortar” project applications like local businesses, job training facilities, and business incubators.

Recreational Tourism

In western Maryland, water purifiers were installed on the North Branch Potomac River, where an abandoned coal mine had been leaking pollution into the river for decades. Water quality soon improved, and today at least 13 commercial angling and whitewater boating outfitters operate on the river. This new tourism supports more than 40 full time jobs and has an economic impact of nearly \$3 million on the area.

Clean Energy

In Glenrock, WY, a massive surface coal mine was converted into a 158-turbine wind farm. This farm produces 237 Megawatts (MW) of electricity, enough to power 66,800 households.

Projects like these are just the beginning. An Eastern Kentucky coal mining company announced this year that it plans to build what could become the state’s largest solar farm on a reclaimed mountaintop strip mine, promising jobs for displaced coal miners. The Berkeley Energy Group and EDF Renewable Energy are planning the first large-scale solar project in Appalachia - focusing on two mountaintop-removal coal mining sites outside Pikeville, where engineering and feasibility studies are underway for a 50- to 100-megawatt project.

The lessons from these stories are clear: investments in cleaning up abandoned mine lands can be used to successfully revitalize areas and create jobs. Abandoned mine lands can be transformed into engines of economic opportunity, creating stronger communities, and ecosystems at the same time. This is why Sierra Club and our national and local allies have been pushing Congress to pass the RECLAIM Act - which does just that -as soon as possible. With \$1 billion geared toward projects like these, hundreds of communities historically dependent on the coal industry can get a breath of new life.

Ethanol’s Contribution to a Record-Breaking Dead Zone in the Gulf of Mexico

By Vrinda Manglik

In August, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration observed the largest “dead zone” in the Gulf of Mexico since record-keeping began in 1985. At 8,776 square miles, the dead zone is the second largest in the world and approximately the size of New Jersey.

Dead zones, also known as hypoxic zones, are areas in the ocean where algal blooms caused by pollution lead to low oxygen concentrations - causing marine life to suffocate and die. The algal blooms prevent sunlight and oxygen from reaching below the water’s surface, and are fatal to most aquatic life, including plants, fish, marine mammals, and shorebirds.

Contributors leading to these inhospitable conditions include excessive nutrient pollution, which often comes from nitrogen-based fertilizer runoff used in agricultural production. In particular, corn production is notorious for its significant contribution to the dead zone. Unlike other crops, corn cannot grow without fertilizer and thus has high volumes of nitrogen fertilizer runoff associated with its production. Notably, scientists have been warning for years that increased production of corn-based ethanol would lead to a larger dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

Corn production in the U.S. was at an all-time high in 2016, with domestic production reaching 15,148,038 bushels. The top corn-producing states in 2016 were Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Texas, Ohio, North Dakota, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana, and Kentucky. All of these states are located within the Mississippi watershed. This means that nitrogen fertilizer runoff in these states flowing into local waterways will drain into the Gulf of Mexico.

It is likely that increased production of corn, including corn for ethanol, has been a major factor in this year’s enormous dead zone. Of the total 2016 U.S. corn production, 36.5 percent (or 5.325 million bushels) was used for ethanol fuel and ethanol distillers dry grains (DDGs). Indeed, production of corn-based ethanol has increased in the US since the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) was created in 2005. Although the goal of the RFS, which mandates increased volumes of renewable fuels, was to replace carbon intensive petroleum-based transportation fuels with lower emission renewable fuels to address climate change, it has not achieved its climate change impact reduction goals and has had vast unintended adverse environmental impacts.

Biomass-based diesel is one component that is not actually sustainable. In addition to the impact that corn production has on the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, producing corn for ethanol also has other adverse environmental impacts. Ethanol production is causing land conversion from other uses such as native grasslands and forests to cropland for corn production, leading to habitat and biodiversity loss. This includes loss of habitat for pollinators such as bees. In addition, a pesticide used in ethanol production, atrazine, is a suspected endocrine disruptor. The EPA has violated its legal duty to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service on the impacts to federally protected species in connection with the agency’s annual setting of renewable fuels volumes. For this reason, the Sierra Club has filed its notice of intent to sue the EPA over these issues.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the capacity to address its violations. It also has the authority to reduce the mandated ethanol blend. Reducing the production of corn-based ethanol can restore habitats, protect biodiversity, and lessen the size of the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

Group Executive Committee Call for Nominations

Each year half of each of the members of each Group's Sierra Club Executive Committee (ExCom) reaches the end of their term. Some decide not to run again, others do. The Sierra Club uses democracy to hold itself accountable to its membership, so we need good candidates to best represent our members' interests. Each Group's Nomination Committee is seeking candidates to run, so we're looking to you to self-nominate or suggest nominees!

The ExCom sets the Group budget and strategic direction, reaches consensus on conservation positions, raises money, appoints officers and committee chairs and TN Chapter delegates, and approves litigation and electoral endorsements.

To accomplish all of this, the Group ExCom meets monthly, and there is e-mail correspondence between meetings. The ExCom also plans additional important events throughout the year.

After receiving your nominations by Sept 20, the Nominations Committee will consider and recommend candidates for the ballot, which is published in the November/December edition of the Tennes-Sierran bi-monthly newspaper. Candidates may also get on the ballot by petition. Candidates get space on the ballot to advocate for their election. Candidates receiving the top votes will start their two-year terms in January 2018.

Watauga Group Nominating Committee

Rita Cowan 423.534.4785
Catherine Murray 423. 929.8163
Linda Carlough 423.768.1170

Harvey Broome Nominating Committee

Todd Waterman 865.363.1092
Robin Hill 865. 607.4542
Lynne Davis 865. 405.4412

Cherokee Nominating Committee

Bill Moll 423.702.5779
Marie Brown
Sandy Kurtz

Chickasaw Nominating Committee

Linda Kaplan 901.482.6473
Lynn Strickland 901.491.6189
Scott Banbury 901.619.8567

Middle Tennessee Nominating Committee

Betsy Garber 615.668.1997
Scott Heflinger 615.351.2626
Adelle Wood 615.665.1010
Robert Wingfield

LOOKING AHEAD: Conservation Lobby Day 2018

The Tennessee Sierra Club Chapter will be coordinating the Conservation Education Day at the state capitol in February 2018. This is an annual event, held in cooperation with the Tennessee Environmental Council and the Tennessee Conservation Voters. Because of the heightened threats to the environment, the Sierra Club will be leading an enhanced education effort.

The goal is to have a meeting with every Representative and Senator to ask for support of key environmental initiatives before the Legislature (last year, we met with just eight.) We are currently working with our

Continued from Page 6..

Tuesday alone.

Perhaps the most terrifying thing at the moment is that we simply don't know what's happening at these facilities. The monitors have been shut down, workers, understandably, have fled the toxic sites, and the only way we can really know what's happening is when we see it or smell it. Petrochemical companies are expected to report emissions of pollutants to nearby communities like mine, which are largely minority and low-income. This temporary self-reporting could leave us uninformed about potentially dangerous pollutants in their air.

There's a reason these facilities are located so close to my home, to the schools

allied conservation groups to determine the "asks." An example of an "ask" would be to support Forever Green Tennessee. Clean air, clean water and a healthy environment are important to everyone who wants to breathe, drink, hike, bird-watch, fish, hunt, or just enjoy nature, regardless of political affiliation.

These legislator meetings can only be arranged if there is a constituent at the meeting. At the Chapter's October Fall Retreat, Oct. 27-29, there will be a Saturday afternoon training session with our TN Chapter lobbyist Scott Banbury, and National Sierra's State Lobbying & Advocacy

in my community, and to my public places. It's because I live in a community of color. Environmental racism has been occurring across our country for generations, and Houston is perhaps one of the clearest examples. When you walk through West Houston, a predominantly white community, you won't see refineries, or chemical plants, or smokestacks, but when you crossover into East Houston, where I live, you'll see them everywhere.

The environmental crimes against my community and thousands more like it have been happening for decades. In April, a federal judge ruled that Exxon must pay nearly \$20 million in civil penalties for "serious" violations at the Baytown refinery,

Director of State Governmental Affairs Jen Hensley, on how to lobby your elected officials. There will be more training later this year, but we need leaders in every area of the state - not just in the major cities. We will also be planning the constituent mobilization effort. So please plan to attend the afternoon sessions so that you can be prepared to be a leader in your area. We (and the environment) need you.

Bill Moll,

Coord. Conservation Lobby Day 2018
Chair, TN Chapter Political Committee
WHMoll@aol.com

that caused the release of about 10 million pounds of pollutants into the atmosphere. The judge ruled that Exxon violated the Clean Air Act 16,386 times between October 2005 and September 2013.

This very refinery is currently leaking from Harvey's storm damage. It's clear, superstorms like Harvey only heighten the threats we face.

As the clouds clear and the sun returns, and we begin to think about rebuilding, we must ensure that the recovery is just and equitable, and ensures communities are not displaced nor threatened by these toxic sites ever again, no matter the weather.

Tennes-Sierran
3712 Ringgold Rd., #156
Chatanooga, TN 37412-1638

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

Bi-Monthly Newsletter for the TN Chapter Sierra Club
Vol. 50, No. 4 - September/October, 2017

Moving?

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

Current Address: _____

Member ID#: _____

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mail to:

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