

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 41, Number 6 - November/December, 2010

State of Tennessee Partnering to Protect Fiery Gizzard Trail System State Lands Acquisition Fund, Private Donations, Critical to Conservation Efforts

NASHVILLE – Governor Phil Bredesen and Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke announced Sept. 16 the third phase of an effort to protect a critical recreation and conservation area adjacent to South Cumberland State Park in Grundy and Marion counties, known as Fiery Gizzard. The state of Tennessee has committed approximately \$4 million to acquire a threatened 2,900-acre portion of the Fiery Gizzard Trail and viewshed, which is part of a larger campaign to protect 6,200 acres. In addition to the state's contribution, conservation groups are working to raise \$2.1 million needed to complete the transaction.

"Fiery Gizzard is nationally recognized for recreation, and threatened by development," said Bredesen. "By leveraging resources to preserve this land, we will be able to both protect the breathtaking scenery and important ecological features at the site for future generations, as well as continue to draw visitors to South Cumberland State Park, enhancing tourism and the local economy in one of Tennessee's rural areas."

The majority of the state's funding comes from the State Lands Acquisition Fund. This year the Governor proposed and the General Assembly approved re-establishing the SLAF using a portion of the Real Estate Transfer Tax. The state's commitment also includes federal funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and a portion of a federal grant.

The Land Trust for Tennessee and The Conservation Fund, supported by the Friends of South Cumberland, are partners with the state to raise private dollars to complete the 6,200-acre phase of the project. The total project cost is \$8.1 million - \$4 million from the state, \$2.1 mil-



lion in private fundraising and \$2 million from the expected sale of part of the property to a conservation buyer.

"The purchase of the Fiery Gizzard tract at South Cumberland preserves both the trail and the viewshed into the future," said Fyke. "This opportunity won't come along again. We appreciate all the efforts of our conservation partners, and particularly want to recognize the late Marvin Runyon, a long-time member of the Friends of South Cumberland State Park, who was instrumental in securing nearly \$2 million in federal grant funding to initiate this series of acquisitions."

The Fiery Gizzard Trail is managed by South Cumberland State Park, though most of the trail and viewshed have historically been privately owned. The area has been a priority for conser-

vation as the land becomes available. Upon the completion of phase three, the state's total investment in Fiery Gizzard since 2003 will be \$6.2 million in SLAF and federal funding, resulting in the acquisition of 4,559 acres. In all, including phase three, the state and conservation partners' commitment at Fiery Gizzard will protect a grand total of 9,779 contiguous acres.

The Fiery Gizzard Trail has been ranked as one of the top 25 backpacking trails in the country by Backpacker magazine. The 17-mile trail features streams, waterfalls, rocky gorges and spectacular panoramic views. For more information about the trail or South Cumberland State Park, visit the website at www.tnstateparks.com/SouthCumberland.

To learn more about the Fiery Gizzard campaign, visit www.fierygizzard.org.

Groups Secure Protections for Tennessee Water, Support for Land Preservation Claims Settled in Clean Water Act Lawsuit against Mountaintop Removal Coal Mine

NASHVILLE, TN – Tennessee Clean Water Network, Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment, and the Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter have reached a settlement agreement with National Coal Corporation over a lawsuit the groups filed regarding the company's discharges of toxic selenium from the company's Zeb Mountain mountaintop removal mine without a permit.

The suit claimed that National Coal's permit under the Clean Water Act did not authorize selenium discharges. After the suit was filed, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) issued a new draft permit that would, for the first time, authorize selenium discharges but impose stringent limits on the amount of those discharges.

Under the terms of the settlement agreement, during the period prior to issuance of a final permit by TDEC, National Coal will be required to monitor its selenium pollution and report these results to TDEC and to the three organizations.

"This is an important victory in our efforts to keep Tennessee's streams and waterways clean and free of mining pollution," said Renée Hoyos, executive director of the Tennessee Clean Water Network. "Coal companies need to know that they can't just dump toxic pollutants like selenium into our waters."

National Coal will also provide \$40,000 to the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation for the acquisition and protection of property in the Clear Fork or Cumberland River watersheds.

"This is a positive step in efforts to protect Tennessee's headwaters on Zeb Mountain.

The settlement will allow us to keep better track of National Coal's discharges," said Cathie Bird, strip-mine committee chair for Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment (SOCM). "It is also nice to know that another parcel of land in eastern Tennessee will be protected for the people of the state and not subjected to disturbance from surface mining."

Selenium, a toxic element that causes reproductive failure and deformities in fish and other forms of aquatic life, is discharged from many surface coal mining operations across Appalachia, and is commonly found in coal combustion byproducts like coal ash.

Selenium bio-accumulates in the tissues of aquatic organisms, and experts predict that waterways across Appalachia could be on the brink of collapse due to increasing levels of the pollutant.

"We're glad that TDEC has now included selenium limits in the most recent draft of the Zeb Mountain mine's discharge permit," said Axel C. Ringe, of the Sierra Club's Tennessee Chapter. "These limits are important for keeping dangerous levels of toxic selenium out of our streams."

The groups filed their lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee in October 2008. U.S. District Court Judge Thomas W. Phillips entered the settlement and closed the case on September 3, 2010. For more information on selenium visit <http://sc.org/seleniumfacts>.

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

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

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 1st of the month preceding the new month's issue.

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to lbaker@usw.org either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Attached files are preferred. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.

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

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

The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

**Deadline to
Submit
Articles, Meeting
Notices, Outings
Listings:**

**No Later Than
Dec. 1, 2010**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



With your help, we can clean up our water.

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

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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
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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
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Conservation: Easton Evans
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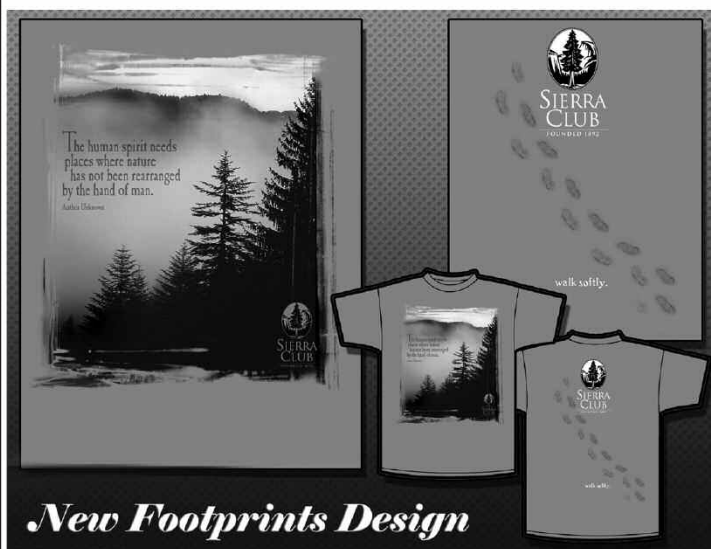
Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

New Design

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nature has not been rearranged by the
hand of man on gray background - Unknown Author"
on gray background.



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Tennessee Water Sentinels participates in September 11 "Serve Outdoors" Remembrance

By James H. Baker-Project Director-
Tennessee Water Sentinels

Tennessee Water Sentinels and its partners—Chickasaw Group-Sierra Club, Friends for Our Riverfront, Clean Memphis and the City of Memphis Public Works-Storm Water Department—braved gray skies and oncoming rain showers to conduct a stream side litter clean-up at a public boat ramp under the A.W. Willis bridge at Wolf River Harbor.

This event was part of Sierra Club's 'Serve Outdoors' on the National Day of Service and Remembrance. Sierra Club was proud to join with Americans from across the country who volunteered on September 11 in honor and remembrance of those who bravely serve the country. This was a way for us to come together in support of each other and our communities and to build a foundation for a better future.

The 16 participants, which included three youth, picked up between 300 and 400 pounds of trash and litter, including a "Tinker Bell" pillow, two old tires, a wooden pallet, the heavy base of a traffic control barrel, part of a chair, live fireworks (bottle rockets), heavy duty rope

as well as the usual beverage and food containers and other urban debris tossed by a public in need of a better conservation ethic and environmental education. We had just finished the clean-up and were packing equipment away when the rain began to fall. For their efforts, the volunteers were offered a Water Sentinels t-shirt and a Sierra Club backpack.

During the clean-up, it was sad but interesting to watch local residents drive right past a sign by the boat ramp to go fishing in a water body that has been posted by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation with a "no fishing" advisory because, as the sign reads, "All fish from this body of water contain contaminants at levels thought to increase the risk of cancer or other serious illness in humans. These fish should not be eaten."

Based on the amount of trash we picked up and observations of the people fishing, we in the environmental community still have a lot of work to do in the arena of education and advocacy so that people make healthy choices for themselves, their families and their community.



Serve Outdoors-Memphis Group. Photo: James H. Baker

Corner

The Chair's

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

Our fall Chapter meeting was held October 22-24, 2010 at Pickett State Park with Upper Cumberland Group (UCG) hosting. Many thanks go to Eston Evans for his time in shopping for and preparing the meals for the meeting. Thanks also go to Mary Mastin, Brian Paddock, Peggy Evans, Bonita Barger, and other members from UCG who made the Chapter meeting a success.

UCG will be in re-organization effective January 1, 2011. UCG members wishing to remain active via a Sierra Club group (voting in SC group elections, holding office, committee involvement, etc.) may petition the membership office of the National Sierra Club for re-assignment to another group during the re-organization period of UCG.

November is the month in which our Chapter conducts the "Defenders Campaign." Donations raised for Defenders are used toward paying for our lobbyist, Mike Murphy. Without a lobbyist, the Sierra Club would not have as strong a political voice in the Tennessee legislature. Please donate generously when you receive the Defenders letter. If you do not receive a letter, please consider making a donation, writing a check to "TN Chapter Sierra Club" and mail it to P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229.

The State of Franklin Group (SOFG) has been inactive since January 2010. Two attempts to re-organize the group met with limited success. A hearing will be held during the winter 2011 Chapter meeting at Cedars of Lebanon State Park on January 30, 2011 regarding action to be taken to dissolve SOFG. The Chapter executive committee will vote to either dissolve SOFG or put the group back into re-organization. Members of SOFG are encouraged to attend this hearing.

2010 has been so full of Sierra Club activity related to your Chapter Chair that space does not allow to tell of such. Please contact me for information regarding our Chapter, for National updates, or just to have a conversation! My phone number is 615-943-6877.

Wishing you a bountiful holiday season!

Katherine Pendleton, Chair
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Sierra Club's 2010 Environmental Justice Annual Conference

"An Interconnected Environmental Web"

Unitarian Universalist Church of the River
Location - Channel Three Drive (downtown)

Saturday, November 13, 2010

Registration: 8:30 a.m.-9 a.m. Program to 2:30 p.m.
Memphis, TN

This is the only annual grassroots environmental conference in West Tennessee!
Numerous presenters on a wide range of subjects.

Pre-registration is required and brochures will be distributed soon!

Free to the public & lunch included with advance registration!

Mark your calendars NOW!

For more information and to register, contact Rita Harris at (901) 324-7757, rita.harris@sierraclub.org
For details see <http://www.sierraclub.org/ej/downloads/2010-conf-brochure.pdf>

Announcement to Upper Cumberland Group

Effective January 1, 2011, Upper Cumberland Group will be in re-organization status. Any member of UCG may petition the National Sierra Club membership office for re-assignment to another group while UCG is in re-organization status, in order to have the opportunities to vote in group elections and to take active part in group activities and committees.

For additional information please contact Katherine Pendleton, TN Chapter Chair at 615-943-6877 or

Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org.

Voices of the South Presents *Wild Legacy* Play in Memphis

"Beauty is a resource in and of itself. Alaska must be allowed to be Alaska, that is her greatest economy. I hope the United States of America is not so rich that she can afford to let these wildernesses pass by, or so poor she cannot afford to keep them."

- Mardy Murie - In congressional testimony about the Alaska Lands Act

Voices of the South is presenting the play *Wild Legacy* at The Evergreen Theatre, 1705 Poplar Avenue in Memphis, Nov. 12-14 and Nov. 18-21. The play is adapted by Gloria Baxter and sponsored by Dorothy O. Kirsch.

Voices of the South's new play, *Wild Legacy*, is the result of a prestigious commission by The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This original stage production pays homage to husband

and wife, Olaus and Mardy Murie. Dedicated scientists, thinkers, writers, artists and visionaries, the Muries played a central role in the establishment of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, America's "Last Great Wilderness."

Created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, *Wild Legacy* is a celebration of the Muries' life work and their love of wild places.

Packed with lyrical imagery, live soundscapes and innovative staging, this one-of-a-kind theatre experience is a dramatic retelling of Margaret Murie's acclaimed book, "Two in the Far North."

The piece is adapted and directed by Gloria Baxter in collaboration with Voices of the

South. Baxter is joined by performers Jerre Dye, Alice Berry, Virginia Ralph, Geoffrey Wood, Michael Khanlarian and stage manager, Tiffany Hall McClung.

Wild Legacy opens with a two-week local preview at Evergreen Theatre before the official national premiere in Alaska this December. The show will then engage in a multi-city "50th Anniversary Tour" of the U.S. throughout 2011.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances are at 8 p.m. Sunday performances are at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for students/seniors and \$20 for adults. For tickets, go to voicesofthesouth.org or call 901-726-0800.

Voices of the South is funded in part by ArtsMemphis and The Tennessee Arts Commission.

Sierra Club Environmental Justice Activists Participate in "Gather at the River" Conference

By Rita Harris

On Friday and Saturday, September 24-25, 2010 over 300 people from communities of faith along the Mississippi came together in Memphis to learn about how we can all protect and preserve our river.

The Gather at the River Conference was hosted by a creative group of caring people of faith who cherish the Mississippi River as a sacred trust and want to equip each of us to address the issues challenging the river.

Chickasaw Executive Committee member and Douglass High School teacher Sandra Upchurch paired up with Rev. Ralph White, a Baptist minister and community activist from the Riverview area of southwest Memphis, to present a workshop at the conference. Both

Upchurch and White serve on the Environmental Justice (EJ) Steering Committee and work closely with Sierra Club EJ Organizer Rita Harris.

Their workshop topic was "Old Man River thru an Environmental Justice Lens." The workshop's focus was to share perspectives on understanding the impact the Mississippi River has on poor and people-of-color communities living in its path. The workshop included thoughts on how the longtime interstate commerce on the river has impacted life for people living in communities nearby.

Discussion also focused on the historical connection to water, water pollution problems, fishing, chemicals discharged into the river, and the local industrial corridor that thrives because of its location on the river.

Douglass High School students were encouraged to attend with a

special student registration rate, and they got to hear many great speakers and got to meet Congressman Steve Cohen (D-TN).

Douglass High School students left the conference with the following information: We learned how to honor and cherish the Mississippi River as a sacred trust, and gained knowledge and specific direction to do something to address issues facing the river. We know who the decision makers are and how to reach/influence them. We are aware of the river's importance as a local economic force.

Douglass High School is located in an environmental justice community in north Memphis and is dedicated to protecting and restoring the Mississippi River. The high school is a Tennessee Pollution Prevention and Partnership (TP3) Green School and Alliance of Energy Green School.

Sandra Upchurch also served on the steering committee for the Gather at the River conference. Sue Routon, Scott Banbury, and Keven Routon were also present.



Congressman Steve Cohen, Douglass High School students Moesha Williams and Nick Polion, and Ms. Upchurch.



(Left) Linda Kaplan, Temple of Israel; Susan Routon, Sierra Club; Sandra Upchurch, teacher, Douglass High School. (Center) Chris Peck, Commercial Appeal editor. (Right) Susan Peck; Rev. Ralph White, Bloomfield Baptist Church and Mrs. Janet White.

Middle TN Group Holiday Party December 18, 2010 6-9 p.m.

United Steelworkers Union Bldg.
3340 Perimeter Hill Drive
Nashville, TN 37211

Bring a potluck dish to share and beverages.
For information contact David Bordenkircher at
615-333-3377 or dabordenkircher@mindspring.com

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

ELECTION Time!

Election Ballot for At-Large Delegates for the 2011-2012 Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee

Please vote for three (3) of the following candidates.

Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate
_____	_____	Gary Bowers
_____	_____	Brian Paddock
_____	_____	Katherine Pendleton

Only current members can vote. Please put your membership number (found on the mailing label of the Tennes-Sierran) on the outside of an envelope containing the ballot. Place this envelope in another envelope and mail by close of business December 3, 2010 to:

Robert M. Hill
Election Committee Chairman
11504 Mountain View Road
Knoxville, TN 37934

Candidate Statements: (Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

Gary Bowers

Gary has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1984, and has been actively engaged in conservation work since the mid 1980's. He believes that everyone should have the ability to experience nature and the natural wonders of the world. To that end he has spent the last 25 years working to protect it.

Gary believes that we are at a critical crossroads in the areas of energy conservation/alternative energy generation and local/organic (non-genetically engineered) food production, and that these two very important issues should continue to be key focus areas of the TN Chapter.

As Chapter Conservation Chair, Gary worked with the TN Chapter Executive Committee following the Sierra Summit in 2005 to align the Chapter's conservation committees with the Club's new national conservation campaign priorities: Energy, Wild Legacies, and Safe & Healthy Communities. A Super Committee structure was created paralleling the three national priorities. A Super Committee chair was assigned to each, and Chapter conservation committees were placed under their respective Super Committee. Each committee is tasked annually with developing an annual mission statement, goals, and submitting a year-end evaluation of their efforts during the year. This alignment proven to be very successful and provides the opportunity for synergy between the Chapter and national Sierra initiatives.

Gary's major accomplishments are recapped below:

- Sierra Club – TN Chapter Executive Committee 1998 – 2010 (At-Large Delegate 2001-2002, 2005-2010)
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter Conservation Chair 1998 – 2010
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – Creation of Chapter Super Committee structure – 2006
- TN Chapter Site Coordinator – Environmental Public Education Campaign (EPEC) to End Commercial Logging (ECL) in the Cherokee National Forest 1999-2002 (wrote the campaign matrix that garnered the first EPEC ECL site in the country)
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – founder and maintainer – TN Environmental Activist Messaging (TEAM) phone system 1998 – 2002
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – Sara Hines Award (for conservation) winner 1999
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – initiator and organizer – One Thin Dollar Silent Auction held at the spring and fall chapter meetings – proceeds going to support TN Chapter lobbyist
- Sierra Club – Middle TN Group Executive Committee – late 1980's to present
- Co-founder Friends of the Forest – the first assembly of environmental groups working to pass legislation to reform management practices of Tennessee's state forests
- TN Forests Council (TFC) – steering committee charter member – a unification of environmental groups working to stop the destruction of Tennessee's hardwood forests
- Author – 2008 Tennessee Locally Grown and Organic Farming Impact Task Force Resolution (TN Legislature)
- Co-author TN Sustainable Forest Management Act (TN Legislature)
- Author – TN Forest Landowner Boundary Protection Act (TN Legislature)
- TN Scenic Rivers (TSRA) – Board of Directors 2001-2003
- TN Scenic Rivers (TSRA) – Conservationist of the Year 2003

Gary would appreciate your vote so that he can continue his work on the TN Chapter Executive Committee.

Brian Paddock

I am an attorney living in Jackson County. I served as a Delegate-at-Large in 2009-10, and I am willing to serve another term. I am a Life Member of the Club. I have provided legal advice and legal, legislative and administrative policy representation to the Chapter, the Upper Cumberland Group, and other environmental organizations.

I work with the Chapter Water Quality, Energy and Climate Change, and Litigation committees and chair the Transportation Committee. I participate in the National Transportation Chairs' conference calls and listserv and the national Energy Activist calls and campaigns.

I am one of the Chapter's representatives to the Stakeholder Review Group for the Tennessee Valley Authority Integrated Resource Plan.

I attended the 2005 National Summit in San Francisco in which began the Club's reorganization and the development of the Climate Change campaigns. I support the Club's emphasis on the grassroots activism directly connected with Club staff and lobbyists by national conference calls and the evolving Climate Recovery Campaigns. See <http://www.sierraclub.org/crp/campaigns/>

Katherine Pendleton

My name is Katherine Pendleton. I am asking you to re-elect me as a delegate-at-large to the Tennessee Chapter. As your chapter chair the past four years, I have worked hard to promote positive change in our chapter. The Cherokee Group was re-organized under my leadership. I have kept in close contact with our groups, making regular visits.

Aside from being chapter chair, my experience within our chapter includes chapter at-large delegate (2004-current); alternate CCL delegate (2007-current); chapter treasurer (2005-2007); and chapter outings chair (2004-2007). I have represented our chapter at the annual CCL meetings in San Francisco as the CCL delegate the past two years. I am actively involved with the Middle Tennessee Group serving on the executive committee and as outings chair.

I became involved with the Sierra Club as an outings leader and have progressed through the "ranks," serving in various positions at the group level before becoming active with the chapter. I am well versed in Sierra Club policies having served on four national committees and attended numerous training sessions at the national Club headquarters in San Francisco.

My main goal in being involved with our chapter is to promote teamwork. As an at-large delegate, I will consider the opinions of all members of the chapter. I will be sure that you are represented and I will strive to serve you well.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (MTG) ELECTION BALLOT

FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT, you must enclose your marked ballot in an envelope marked "Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope for mailing. Write your membership number, which can be found on the address label of your newsletter, on the outer envelope with your return address. **ENVELOPES WITHOUT A MEMBERSHIP NUMBER CANNOT BE COUNTED.**

Please vote for four (4) of the following candidates. Your ballot must be received by Dec. 15, 2010.

Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate
_____	_____	Gary Bowers
_____	_____	Cliff Cockerham
_____	_____	Betsy Garber
_____	_____	Scott Heflinger
_____	_____	Vanessa Saenz
_____	_____	Don Scharf
_____	_____	Jennifer Thompson

Mail your ballot to: John Pigg
108 Lakeside Dr.
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

Candidate Statements: (Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

Gary Bowers

- Sierra Club member since 1984
 - Active at both the Group and Chapter level since the mid 1980's
 - Member of the Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee
 - At-Large member of the TN Chapter Executive Committee since 1998
 - TN Chapter Conservation Chair from 1998 to the present
 - Site coordinator from 1999 thru 2002 – TN Chapter's Environmental Public Education Campaign (EPEC) to End Commercial Logging (ECL) in the Cherokee National Forest, the first EPEC ECL site in the country
 - Co-founder Friends of the Forest
 - Charter member steering committee for the TN Forests Council
 - Co-author TN Sustainable Forest Management Act (TN Legislature)
 - Author TN Forest Landowner Boundary Protection Act (TN Legislature)
 - Author Tennessee Locally Grown and Organic Farming Impact Task Force Resolution (TN Legislature)
 - Tennessee Scenic Rivers (TSRA) Conservationist of the Year 2003
- Gary looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the Middle TN Group and asks for your continued support in the form of your vote.

Cliff Cockerham

Cliff Cockerham first started working on environmental issues in 1973 when the legislature appointed him to the Environmental Management Council of Central Upstate New York as an advocate for beverage container legislation and glass recycling programs. Since then he worked on a wide range of environmental education programs, conservation issues, & ecological studies at Cornell University, Georgetown University, and Emory University. In Nashville Cliff chairs both the Sierra Club Middle TN Group's Environmental Justice Committee and the Conservation Committee. Working with Betsy Garber and Joy Mayfield, Cliff organized & created the Water Sentinels Student Project, which engages high school students in monitoring local water quality in streams and creeks. This effort led to five Nashville students representing TN at the Sierra Club's national environmental youth leadership program in July 2010. Upon their return to Nashville, they recruited fellow students to form a new chapter of the Sierra Club Student Coalition that now spans seven local high schools and boasts a 20-fold increase in numbers spreading the word on global warming. Describing his environmental work, Cliff explained: "All our efforts for the greater good are important, but if we fail to get a handle on climate change, nothing else will matter. For that reason, I hope you'll vote for me to continue serving on the Middle TN Group Executive Committee and as a delegate to the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee. Together we can make a difference in what tomorrow will bring, but only if we start today..."

Betsy Garber

Betsy Garber has been a member of Sierra Club and the Middle Tennessee Group for approximately 14 years. Her first significant volunteer involvement was as the volunteer coordinator of the recycling site. She not only enjoyed meeting a wide variety of recyclers, she met her husband during this endeavor. Impressed by the need to get more Sierra Club members engaged in the activities of the Group, she started an e-mail list with bi-monthly postings of hikes, programs, meetings, and environmental action requests. With the help of Rachel Floyd, this grew into our current e-mail system geared to any and all who want to know what's going on with our Group. She then became Membership Chair, and started the system of mailing letters of welcome to new members with a current calendar of events and a request that they join our e-mail list. Betsy readily has joined and supported the environmental campaigns of our conservation chair, Cliff Cockerham. Finally and most treasured by her, she has had the opportunity to work with the development and maintenance of the Nashville Inner City Outings Group. While her organizational skills far exceed her ability to lead hikes for city kids, she has put heart and soul into recruiting new ICO hike leaders and supporting the incredible efforts of the amazing volunteers that make this program such a success. She would like the opportunity to serve on the executive committee to help shape the expansion of current programs, the reactivation of dormant programs, and the direction of our environmental efforts in the Nashville and Middle Tennessee area.

Scott Heflinger

Scott is a licensed professional engineer with a BS in Civil Engineering and an MS in Environmental Engineering. He started his career working for the State of Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control, then moved to the consulting world assisting clients with pollution control projects involving water, wastewater, solid waste, air, wetlands, and storm water. He is a strong believer in wildlife protection, renewable energy, recycling and global sustainability. Scott and his wife have been members of the Sierra Club for over 10 years and have been long-time supporters of many wildlife, environmental and conservation organizations.

Vanessa Saenz

Originally from the island of Puerto Rico, I came to the United States thinking everything would be just as lush and green as it once was back home. As time passed I have seen how every state I have lived in is losing its green spaces and how water rights have become such a hot button issue. I have become much more aware of all these issues within the last 10 years. I have a Bachelors of Arts degree in Sociology and Spanish from Macalester College and a Law degree from the University of New Mexico. I took environmental law in school but have never put it to use. I really want to become more involved in environmental issues and I believe the Sierra Club is the perfect place to do that.

Don Scharf

Don Scharf currently serves on the Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee and is the Vice-Chair of the MTG. He has been a Sierra Club member for over 20 years and is a past Chapter Conservation Chair and MTG Chair, Conservation Chair and Treasurer. Don's focus is on air quality, energy and global warming issues.

Jennifer Thompson

I am the current secretary of the Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) and have served on the MTG Executive Committee since January 2009. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1993. I represented the Sierra Club at the Watershed Summit on Short Mountain in 2007 and 2008. I received an M.S. degree in Biology in May 2003 from Middle Tennessee State University and a B.S. in Environmental Biology in December 1985 from the University of North Alabama. I am currently employed as a biologist with the state of Tennessee and have worked for the state for 24 years as an environmental specialist and biologist. Through many years of employment with the state I have a working knowledge of state and federal environmental regulations, particularly those concerning streams, wetlands and rare species. I have participated in fish, freshwater mussel, crayfish and rare plant surveys as well as general environmental boundaries surveys. In previous years, I served as an education contact for the Nonpoint Source (water pollution) Program, participated in educational events, and written and worked on publications including a riparian zone restoration handbook and various articles for the Tennessee Conservationist. If re-elected to the Executive Committee, I will continue to work to help the MTG achieve its goals and to promote environmental stewardship.

Chickasaw Group ExCom Election Ballot

The ballot must be postmarked or received by a member of the election committee by Dec 15, 2010. You may vote for up to six (6) candidates for the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom).

Membership		Candidate
Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Scout Anglin
_____	_____	Julie Baltz
_____	_____	Jim Johnson
_____	_____	Christian Man
_____	_____	Mary Phillips
_____	_____	Don Richardson (incumbent)
_____	_____	Emily Schwimmer (incumbent)

To vote, send the ballot to Sierra Club Chickasaw Group, PO Box 111094, Memphis, TN 38111. Your membership number should be listed as part of the return address. It can be found at the return address of the newsletter or on your membership card. The ballot needs to be placed into an unmarked envelope for privacy. The unmarked envelope then needs to be placed into another envelope for mailing. The Committee members are Keith Hoover, Sue Williams, and Tom Lawrence. Contact Keith Hoover for membership information at (901) 363-8299 or hooverkw@yahoo.com

Candidate Statements: (Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

Scout Anglin

A second-year graduate student of Urban Anthropology at the University of Memphis, Scout is involved in a number of groups on campus, including the Environmental Action Club Student Organization and the campus Recycling Committee. She has a BS in Biology from Christian Brothers University and was involved in animal and land conservation fieldwork in both Brazil and Seattle, Washington during her time there. Scout is currently an intern at Shelby Farms Park Conservancy working on the Shelby Farms Greenline outreach initiative. She is also a graduate assistant at Keep Tennessee Beautiful, working on outreach, engagement, and education regarding greening and conservation initiatives statewide. Scout believes that community engagement and education are important in changing behavioral attitudes toward sustainability and conservation.

Julie Baltz

Julie Baltz has worked at the Memphis Botanic Garden for 10 years as the Outreach Coordinator. She takes vibrant environmental education programs out to the Greater-Memphis area, which includes Tie-dying T-shirts, a Recycling Program, and Botany Basic lessons where she gets to dress up as fun characters such as Inspector Nectar and Captain Chlorophyll!

She has been a member of the West Tennessee Chapter of the Tennessee Environmental Educators Association for 10 years and has served on the Fall Conference Planning Committees.

She has been part of the grassroots effort to better the community of Memphis and environment of the area neighborhoods by serving as a board member and resident of the DeCleyre Cooperative, which serves the community through direct action, community involvement and community garden projects.

Julie has been a part-time naturalist trip leader for Great Outdoors University, a program through Tennessee Wildlife Federation since its inception, and enjoys taking under-privileged youth on outdoor excursions.

She hopes to continue to bring greater awareness to the general public about the issues that currently affect our beautiful green earth.

Jim Johnson

Jim holds a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in physics and has taught and researched at Mississippi State University, Florida State University, Tallahassee Community College and Georgia Institute of Technology. He has also completed research at NASA and Naval Ocean Research and Development Activity. Jim's current interests include the control or eradication of invasive and exotic plant species, sustainable agriculture, the balancing of agriculture and wildlife needs, water issues, and renewable energy systems. Jim is a Sierra Club life member.

Christian Man

Christian Man holds a B.A. in Economics & Community Development from Covenant College. He has taught English in Nepal and conducted field research for a community development non-governmental organization (NGO) in South Africa. He has also held internships with a local church and the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce. He is presently working for an inner-city non-profit in Memphis, helping the organization to transition from children's after-school programming to broader social and economic development initiatives. Christian's vision is to play a role in helping his respective communities develop right thought and right actions toward the local environment, such as humility, dependence, reverence, and conservation.

Mary Phillips

Mary is a recent graduate of Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina where she received her B.A. in English. She has worked on farms in North Carolina, Kansas, and Washington, and finally putting her passion for sustainable agriculture to use in Memphis, Mary is now the farm manager at the Urban Farms in Binghampton. Mary also has a passion for pollinators: She is a novice beekeeper, a graduate of the Western North Carolina Beekeeping School, and a member of the Memphis Area Beekeepers Association. Mary spent six years teaching early childhood education and is passionate about bringing environmental education to young audiences. She started a gardening and recycling program at Lindenwood's childcare and after-school center and would like to continue to find ways to reach out to the Memphis youth.

Don Richardson (incumbent)

Don is a current Executive Committee member seeking re-election. He looks forward to helping grow a more energetic, influential Chickasaw Group with new leaders and new members by providing the needed continuity with our green allies and community partners. Don places great emphasis on cultivating the group's ongoing coalitions and living up to commitments to expand the group's capacity to keep our city, county and region green and sustainable.

Emily Schwimmer (incumbent)

Emily Schwimmer received her BA from the University of Florida. She is currently pursuing a history master's degree and museum studies certificate at the University of Memphis. As a graduate assistant at the University, she co-coordinates the West Tennessee District History Day contest. Emily loves being part of the Sierra Club because it allows her to actively work for a more sustainable future. She is a current Executive Committee member and Secretary of the Chickasaw Group and looks forward to the chance to continue to serve this organization.

Watauga Group Election Ballot

Please vote for five (5) of the following WG Executive Committee (ExCom) candidates:

Membership		Candidate
Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Max Cuddy
_____	_____	Webb Griffith
_____	_____	Gloria Griffith
_____	_____	Susan Riggsbee
_____	_____	Virgil Riggsbee
_____	_____	Dennis Shekinah
_____	_____	Carol Walker
_____	_____	Dean Whitworth
_____	_____	Mike Wiles

Place your ballot in an envelope and mark the word "ballot" on it. Place this envelope with the ballot in another envelope and write your membership number in the upper left hand corner with your address. Your 8 digit membership number appears on the mailing label. Your ballot must be received no later than DEC 30, 2010. Please consider mailing your ballot today!

Mail election ballot to: Rita Cowan
WG Election Committee
900 Miningtown Rd
Mountain City, TN 37863

Five successful candidates will serve on the 2011-2012 WG ExCom along with returning ExCom members Rita Cowan, Sandra Cranford, Mary Gale and Louise Shoen.

CHEROKEE GROUP ExCom ELECTION BALLOT

This is our ballot for the election of five (5) members of the Cherokee Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term of office beginning in January 2011, who will join the four other ExCom members in guiding our Group's activities.

Your ballot must be postmarked no later than Monday, December 27, 2010, for your ballot to be valid.

Please vote for five (5) candidates:

Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate
_____	_____	Jami Brown
_____	_____	Tami Freedman
_____	_____	Barbara Kelly
_____	_____	Caara Stoney
_____	_____	Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway

Submit Your Ballot: Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write the word "Ballot" on it. Place that envelope inside another envelope, seal, and write your Sierra membership number (found on the label of the Tennes-Sierran) and your return address in the upper left hand corner. **Mail your combined envelopes to: Barbara Hurst, Election Committee, 1506 Sunset Drive, Signal Mountain, TN 37377. Must be postmarked no later than December 27, 2010**

Candidate Statements: (Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

Jami Brown

My name is Jami Brown. I have been a Sierra Club member for four years now. I am currently seeking my Masters degree in Environmental Science. I am working on getting Slow Food established on the UTC campus. I am also manager of the Gathering Garden in Hixson Tennessee; this community garden is open to all and extra vegetables are donated to a local food bank. I am a brand new mother to a wonderful baby boy named Kaden.

Tami Freedman

Hi! I'm Tami Freedman. I care about the planet. I care about human health. I care about animals and animal rights. I have a degree in Communications PR from UTC and was Publicity Chair for Cherokee Sierra 2010. It's a great Group and I feel honored to work with such beautiful caring people. I'd like to continue working with and for you!

Barbara Kelly

I have been a member of the Club for a long time, and worked on many issues including water quality, wild land protection and surface mining. I am so happy to see the Sierra Club back in action and growing! I love meeting our members, helping with education on issues and learning new things at our programs, while helping on the behind-the-scenes things like mailing lists and newsletters. There is a lot to cover -- let's keep growing!

Caara Stoney

I am very involved in the Green and Sustainable community in Chattanooga, and look forward to serving on the Executive Committee. I've spent the last 2 1/2 years turning a 2.5 acre parcel of eroded land into an urban meadow, having fought City Hall with some success over a lawn ordinance requiring vegetation over 10 inches be cut like a golf course! This summer I organized our "Hands Across the Sand" -- part of the national event raising awareness of our use of fossil fuels and in solidarity against the Gulf oil spill -- where people joined hands across the span of the Walnut Street Bridge. Being involved and making a difference in Chattanooga is possible in ways that a larger city would not allow.

Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway

I've greatly enjoyed serving on the Executive Committee as the chair of the Cherokee Group of the Sierra Club. I've held a position on the Ex Com for the last two years through enormous changes. Our Group is strong and growing! I am so grateful for all the amazing volunteers in the Group; the Sierra Club is a team and we share our ideas, support, and participation in order to make our community a safer, healthier, and cleaner place to live. My goal is to facilitate collaborations, initiate action, and be a representative of the Group to the rest of the community. As a mother and a lover of Tennessee, I am passionate about preserving our land in the healthiest way possible for my future grandchildren. I would be honored to continue to serve you in this capacity.

Harvey Broome Group Election Ballot

Election Ballot for HARVEY BROOME GROUP Executive Committee Candidates for the 2011-2012 term.

Please vote for six (6) candidates:

Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate
_____	_____	Barbara Allen
_____	_____	Liz Dixon
_____	_____	Robert (Bob) M. Hill
_____	_____	Bob Perlack
_____	_____	David Reister
_____	_____	Linda Smithyman

Only current members may vote. Please put your membership number (found on the mailing label of the Tennes-Sierran) on the outside of an envelope containing your ballot. Place the envelope inside another envelope and mail by close of business on December 3, 2010.

Mail to: Ron Shrieves
7812 Ember Crest Trail
Knoxville, TN 37938

Candidate Statements: (Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

Barbara Allen

I joined the Sierra Club in 1989 and have been active in the club since my first meeting that year. Of special interest to me is advocating for and protecting wilderness areas—The Cherokee National Forest and all other national forests and public lands. I am an avid backpacker and hiker and also enjoy canoeing and bicycling.

I have served on the HBG Executive Committee (ExCom) for several years, holding the position of group chair for one term and currently serving as a member of the Group ExCom and as group secretary. I have been an outings leader for the HBG as well as the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, where I also served as secretary.

Liz Dixon

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1994, and worked on some significant campaigns, including End Commercial Logging, Save Our Smokies (SOS), Reform TDOT, end Mountain Top Removal coal mining, protecting wildlands in the Cherokee National Forest, and the lawsuit against TVA power plant pollution.

I am also the Webmaster (or Web Ms.) for the Tennessee Chapter and for the Harvey Broome Group, and the Listmaster for the listserves: TENNESSEE-EXCOM and NEWS, HBG-EXCOM and ALERTS, and the Greater Smoky Mountains Coalition. Previously, I have served as Chapter Chair and Chapter Vice Chair; Group Chair, Conservation Chair, Vice Chair, and Hospitality Chair of the Harvey Broome Group; and have worked closely with SPEAK, the student environmental group at the University of Tennessee.

Robert (Bob) M. Hill, P. E.

I am running for re-election to the Harvey Broome Group Executive Committee (ExCom) for the term beginning Jan. 1, 2011. I am currently serving a full term on the ExCom as a result of election in 2009. My wife and I joined the Sierra Club in 1987. I have taken an active interest in ExCom activities for the past 10 years.

I am a member of the Sierra Club because it is the only national environmental organization with a local level (grassroots) focus. We have approximately 1,500 members in the HBG area and of those, not more than 30 members are active. I want to continue to work with the ExCom members to get more members active and interested in the many local environmental issues that we face in the HBG area and in the state, particularly in combating the many pieces of proposed state legislation that have adverse environmental effects. I have been a resident of Knoxville and Farragut for 56 years since moving here in January 1954.

I retired from active engineering work in CY 2000 but still put some of my engineering experience to use in volunteer work. My work experience consists of extensive work in project management at ORNL and Y12 on general construction projects, special research projects, environmental restoration projects and waste management projects.

I served for 10 years (1970-1980) as a member of the Knox County Quarterly Court and the Knox County Commission as one of the two representatives for the West Knox County area. I have served since about 1982 on the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission and retired as Chairman of that organization in May 2010 after serving about 17 years in that position. I also served five years on the Farragut Storm Water Advisory Committee and retired from that committee in July 2010.

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Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

All programs will be held at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN and will start at 7:00 PM.

November 9, 7 PM Program: "The Two Sides of Glacier National Park." Duane Simmons' slide show will look at the grandeur of Glacier National Park from the back country to the luxury of the National Park lodges.

December 14, 7 PM, Our annual Holiday Party! Bring a dish to share. Everyone is welcome! Please refer to the Harvey Broome Group web page or Facebook page for additional information.

Strategy Meetings: Fourth Tuesdays of each month—November 16, December 21. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN and will start at 7:00 PM. All members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Harvey Broome Group.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

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

Wow! Randy Hedgepath, Tennessee State Naturalist, storyteller, and sought-after interpretive specialist, will bring us slides of his favorite trails and hiking spots in state parks (as shown in the "Ms. Cheap" column recently in The Tennessean). With more than 26 years of experience with Tennessee State Parks, Randy has served as a Ranger Naturalist at South Cumberland and Radnor Lake State Parks. He has contributed as a regular hike leader at Sierra Club quarterly chapter meetings in addition to the large number of hikes he leads for various groups across the state.

Randy's enthusiasm and his beautiful photographs will highlight the best that Tennessee has to offer. Free and open to the public.

PROGRAM: There will be no program in December, instead there is our annual holiday party.

MTG Holiday Party

The annual MTG holiday party will be held on December 18, 2010 from 6-9 p.m. at the United Steelworkers Union building at 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, TN 37211. Participants are asked to bring a potluck dish such as a salad, vegetable, or dessert. For additional information contact David Bordenkircher at 615-333-3377.

STRATEGY MEETING: November 15 and December 20, 6:30 p.m. at the United Steelworkers Union Building, 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211. Follow the signs to the conference area. If you arrive late, please ring the bell at the side door on the left, and someone will come down to let you in. Conservation issues are first on the agenda, and all members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

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

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

NOVEMBER STRATEGY (Board Meeting): 2nd Wednesday, November 10, at 6:00 pm - At NEW location -- the Brainerd Bethlehem Resource Center, located at the Brainerd United Methodist Church, 4413 Brainerd Road, next to the Balloon Factory.

(Program Meetings continue at GreenSpaces.) Join us there -- all members and interested people welcome -- as we discuss issues and plan our actions! To place an item on the agenda, contact Elizabeth Gazaway-Tallman at 423.619.0379.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: Last Monday, November 29, 7 p.m., at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Our topic: Green Medicine/Environmental Medicine, with a Panel Presentation of Green Medicine Practitioners, including Dr. Charles Adams, MD; June Drennon, CCT; Faye Henry; Jeff Ransom; and Jeff Hall, DC.

Sierra Club members, and most people who care about the environment, acknowledge the massive levels of toxins being dumped on our planet. With Environmental Medicine, holistic health practitioners make the connection between a toxic planet, toxic people, and nutritional deficiencies from depleted soils, pesticides, genetically modified organisms, and factory farming practices. They seek to detox and support nutritional balance. People in the environmental movement and those in holistic health share many concerns while appreciating the benefits of organic foods and supporting local farming. Come to hear a thoughtful presentation from some of our area's best "Green Health" practitioners. Bring your friends -- the public is always welcome at all Sierra Club activities, and after the program we'll enjoy great (and healthy) refreshments too!

NOTE: Our Program Meetings continue to be held at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main St., which is a non-descript storefront building in the 1st block off Market Street -- last building on the block, on the left. It is kiddy-corner from the Fire Department. Watch for the Sierra Club banner!

DECEMBER STRATEGY (Board Meeting): 2nd Wednesday, December 8, at 6:00 pm - At NEW location -- Brainerd Bethlehem Resource Center, located at the Brainerd United Methodist Church, 4413 Brainerd Road, next to the Balloon Factory.

(Program Meetings continue at GreenSpaces.) Join us there -- all members and interested people welcome -- as we discuss issues and plan our actions! To place an item on the agenda, contact Elizabeth Gazaway-Tallman at 423.619.0379.

DEC/JAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION COVERED DISH SUPPER: Jan. 2, 5:00 pm.

Takes the place of our December program -- Come together for fun and fellowship at Barbara & Bill Hurst's home on Signal Mountain for our annual covered dish supper. Bring a dish to share -- and your favorite photos of travel, outings, the environment -- as we talk about interests and issues along with fellowship. Invite your friends and bring your family for a relaxing and fun evening at Barbara and Bill's wonderful home. Call Barbara at 423.886.9503 for directions, or e-mail her at barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

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

Thursday, November 4, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Monthly First Thursday Gathering, Otherlands, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN.

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

Monday, November 8, 6:30 pm, Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Strategy Meeting, Panera Bread, 4530 Poplar Avenue, Suite 101, Memphis, TN.

The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. For more information or to place items on the agenda, contact Nancy Brannon at nthechair@gmail.com or (901) 829-4360. Agenda items must be submitted at least 3 days (preferably 5) before the meeting.

Saturday, November 13, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Sierra Club Environmental Justice Conference: "An Interconnected Environmental Web," Unitarian Universalist Church of the River, Memphis, TN.

Enjoy a wide range of presenters at the only annual grassroots environmental conference in West Tennessee! Free to the public & lunch included! For more information and to register, contact Rita Harris at (901) 324-7757. For details see <http://www.sierraclub.org/ej/downloads/2010-conf-brochure.pdf>

Wednesday, November 17, 6:30 pm, Networking & Snacks; 7:00 pm Program, Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Presentation: Topic TBA, Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN.

Topic and speaker to be announced on the Chickasaw Group web page and Facebook page. For more information or to suggest a future presentation, contact Susan Roton at susan.rotou@gmail.com or (901) 413-3888.

Thursday, December 2, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Monthly First Thursday Gathering, Otherlands, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN.

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

Friday, December 10, 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm, Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Holiday Party: Burch, Porter, & Johnson Law Firm, 130 N Court Ave., Memphis, TN (located across from the northeast corner of Court Square).

This party is for members and invited guests only. Join us for our annual awards event and celebration! Street parking is free at meters in the evening and in parking lot behind building (enter from Jefferson). Please bring an appetizer or dessert with serving utensil. Beverages provided by Chickasaw Group with a donation. For more information contact Nancy Brannon at nthechair@gmail.com or (901) 829-4360.

Monday, December 13, 6:30 pm, Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Strategy Meeting, Panera Bread, 4530 Poplar Avenue, Suite 101, Memphis, TN.

The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. For more information or to place items on the agenda, contact Nancy Brannon at

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Outings

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Nov. 7 (Sun.) Mystery day hike. Where would you like to go within a 50-mile radius (all suggestions are welcome)? Likely less than 6 miles. Rated Easy/moderate. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or call at 335-3559.

Nov. 13 (Sat.) Day hike, Piney River Segment of the Cumberland Trail. This segment of the Cumberland Trail is near Spring City, and follows the Piney River past several interesting cascades and gorgeous Cumberland gorge views. We'll learn about the fascinating geology of the Cumberlands and about Tennessee's progress in building a linear state park. The trip will require a car shuttle. Hiking distance, about 10 miles, rated moderate. Drive: 75 mi each way. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

December 4 (or 11) (Sat.) Day hike, Charlie's Bunion, GSMNP. About 8 miles roundtrip from the Newfound Gap parking lot. Max elevation gain about 1,200 feet. Rated moderate. A busy section of the AT, but the almost continuous views from the crest of the Smokies make the relatively heavy hiker activity worth putting up with. Will probably hike a little beyond the "Bunion" to a good lunch spot. In the event that highway 441 is closed due to snow, an alternate hike at lower elevation will be substituted. Drive: 58 miles each way. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or rshrieve@utk.edu (email is preferred).

December 11 (or 4) (Sat.) Rankin Bottoms Cleanup. Those of us who have floated Rankin Bottoms appreciate the area as a gem for wildlife viewing. Designated as an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society, Rankin deserves our efforts to eliminate the trash that accumulates. We'll spend a day picking up and hauling out plastic bottles and other litter that bespoils the area. Wear work clothes and bring gloves. Some canoes available. Drive: 50 miles each way. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

Jan 1, 2011 (Sat.) Day hike, University of Tennessee Arboretum in Oak Ridge. New Year's Day very easy-paced hike less than 4

miles. This is a natural area well marked with names of trees and variety of holly and dogwood and other vegetation so the trek will be highly educational. We will meet at 10 AM so you can sleep in a little bit! Rated easy. Drive: 22 miles each way. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or call at 335-3559.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Middle TN Group Holiday Party, December 18, 2010, 6-9 p.m. United Steelworkers Union Bldg., 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, TN 37211. Bring a potluck dish to share and beverages.

For information contact David Bordenkircher at 615-333-3377 or dabordenkircher@mind-spring.com

CHEROKEE GROUP

Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway, Outings Chair for the Cherokee Sierra Group (Chattanooga), leads outings and hikes at least one or two weekends per month. Our activities are always open to the public and to members of the Club from across the state! We explore interesting and unique parts of Tennessee and gain an appreciation of how wonderful (and sometimes threatened) our wonderful area is, while having fun. Outings are planned to take in the interests and skill levels of the participants. For more information on our current outings schedule, contact Jeremy at 423-619-6548 or gazawaypainting@gmail.com.

OUTINGS LEADERS WANTED: We are setting up a First Aid Training class for those wishing to become certified as Sierra Club Outings Leaders, to be followed by the Sierra Club's on-line training in the history and details of leading outings. Are you willing? Contact Jeremy at 423.619.6548 or gazawaypainting@gmail.com, Barbara Kelly at 423.718.5009 or rpyle@chattanooga.net for more information. With more leaders we can expand our outings offerings -- we need YOU to take us to the places you know and love!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

(Sat.) Nov 6, 10 AM, Meeman Shelby State Park. Meet at the Visitors Center, 910 Riddick Road, Millington, TN 38053. Hike up to 3 miles. Trees, hopefully with fall leaves, river-cane and other unique species will be a part of this fall adventure. Bring lunch and or snack and water; hiking boots recommended. Contact Sue Williams at (901) 274-0524 or z4cmv@juno.com

(Sat.) Nov 20, 10 AM, Bluffwalk on the Mississippi River. Walk 3-plus miles on the Bluffwalk and Riverwalk—routes can vary, and stairs are likely part of the walk due to construc-

Meetings (continued from page 9)

nthechair@gmail.com or (901) 829-4360. Agenda items must be submitted at least 3 days (preferably 5) before the meeting.

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

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

Sierra Club Chickasaw Group is now on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>
This is a forum for public discussion, so please feel free to post comments, raise issues, and express environmental concerns.

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.

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!

tion. Meet at Union Ave and Riverside Dr at the trolley stop. Free parking at meters on Wagner on weekends. Bring water or hot beverage. No pets please. Option to go for lunch downtown after the outing. Contact Sue Williams at 274-0524 or z4cmv@juno.com

December or early January, 2011, Reelfoot Lake Eagle Viewing Outing, date to be determined by weather; if interested contact Sue Williams at 274-0524 or z4cmv@juno.com.

To subscribe to the Tennessee News Listserv, email the following text to

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Announcement to Upper Cumberland Group

Effective January 1, 2011, Upper Cumberland Group will be in re-organization status. Any member of UCG may petition the National Sierra Club membership office for re-assignment to another group while UCG is in re-organization status, in order to have the opportunities to vote in group elections and to take active part in group activities and committees. For additional information please contact Katherine Pendleton, TN Chapter Chair at 615-943-6877 or Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org.



Positive Energy, Environmental Legislation May be Introduced After Election

By Steven Sondheim

Before the congressional break very little clean energy or climate legislation moved forward. Corporate polluters and their allies in Washington continue to launch attacks on the EPA's ability to clean up pollution.

Recently a group of Republican senators introduced a bill that would require the President and both chambers of Congress to approve all major rules from the EPA and all other federal agencies. It is reflective of a growing wave of corporate opposition to the protection of public health and welfare. Let Senators Corker and Alexander know you want to preserve EPA's authority.

Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) introduced a bill to create a national renewable electricity standard (RES). This bill would require that electric utilities generate 15% of their energy from renewable energy or efficiency by 2021, and is based on the version of the RES that passed out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee last year (S.1462).

It will likely come up when the Senate comes back after the November elections.

In addition to an RES, there are a number of positive energy and environmental bills that

may come to the floor in November. Namely, a Gulf Coast Recovery bill that includes key programs such as the "Home Star" energy efficiency retrofit program, Senator Dorgan's (D-ND) electric vehicle initiative, and full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Transportation Initiatives

EPA authority on clean air is under attack by industry, many Republicans and some Democrats. We need to rally around EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gas after Congress returns in November.

The President announced his support for a full 6-year transportation authorization, front-loaded with a \$50 billion infrastructure bank to fund transportation, energy and water projects. The President's support is helpful, but at the end of the day these initiatives must be passed by Congress.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood met with Sierra Club Chairman Carl Pope to discuss how to pay for transportation by linking it with reducing oil consumption and lowering VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled).

"We need both lower VMT and greater fuel efficiency to effectively lower greenhouse gas. Neither gets us there alone," Pope said.

See Pope's blog entry of August 25, 2010: A New "American System"? Pope discussed, among other things, LA's "30-10" proposal on transit.

Historic standards have been approved for vehicle fuel economy and fuel efficiency and are effective in 2016. The next round is 2017-2025: Electric cars could help reach a 60 miles per gallon goal.

The work on clean ports is based on Port of

Los Angeles progress. We are pushing for the Clean Ports Act (H.R. 5967). We have 82 cosponsors in the House and are working with labor for passage of the legislation. Ask your Representative to cosponsor the Clean Ports Act!

Join Activists Network

The new Transportation Activists network is a place for folks of all experience levels to learn about and take action on transportation issues at the local and national level. The reason for building up the network is to showcase a widespread interest in reducing VMT as a way to move "beyond oil." These new activists are called on to 'take action' to reduce VMT and oil. You can sign up for the network at <http://action.sierraclub.org/TransportationActivists>

The Freight Working Group is focusing on more efficient shipping that uses less oil, requires less road capacity, and makes better use of rail. The trucking industry is pushing for new truck only lanes and freeway widening. Contact me at StevenSondheim@yahoo.com for more information about these issues.

See Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune's comments on climate change, energy legislation, EPA authority, coal ash, and transportation by typing "Daily Kos Michael Brune" into Google.

Tennessee Green Jobs Conference a Success

Space doesn't permit a full article, For a report and YouTube videos of some of the presentations click www.taptn.org

Contact me at StevenSondheim@yahoo.com to suggest energy related topics for future Energy Corner columns.

Wind Energy Could Play Big Role

Reprinted from Oil Daily

Given the right financial and political backing, wind turbines could generate more than a fifth of the world's electricity by 2030, saving 34 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions by not burning fossil fuels, according to a report

released Oct. 12, Global Wind Energy Outlook 2010, from industry lobby group Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and Greenpeace International.

That is the best scenario envisaged by GWEC — but it says that even less optimistic and pragmatic assumptions suggest wind power could meet 6%-22% of global electricity needs by 2030. It adds that installed capacity could climb from around 200 gigawatts (GW) now to 1,000 GW in 2020 and, potentially, 2,300 GW by 2030.

Commercial wind farms now operate in nearly 80 countries, with China and the US the biggest markets. GWEC expects annual growth

rates to decline from roughly 27% in 2010 to 9% by 2020 and to level off at around 4% by 2030, but stresses that the volume of installed capacity will still be substantial.

The group expects China to reach 95 GW of installed wind capacity by 2030 under its reference, or lowest-assumption, scenario, up from roughly 25.9 GW at the end of 2009. India is expected to reach 31 GW, Europe 234 GW and the US 141 GW.

The International Energy Agency reckons global electricity demand could reach 29,000 terawatt hours (TWh) by 2030. But GWEC data suggest improved energy efficiency could keep demand to just 25,000 TWh by then.

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Notice to members of the State of Franklin Group

The State of Franklin Group has been inactive during 2010. A hearing regarding the future status of the State of Franklin Group will be held on January 30, 2011 during the administrative session of the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee, after which a vote will be taken regarding continuing status of the group.

Public Comments Wanted on TVA's Energy Plan

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is currently planning our energy future for the next 20 years. Will they go heavy on dirty coal? Or nuclear? Or will TVA focus on a future that reduces our costs and our reliance on pollution/radioactive waste while increasing emphasis on energy efficiency and renewables?

Will you join us and speak out in favor of a

1% per year energy efficiency goal? Please submit a comment online. You can easily do so by going to <http://www.tva.gov/irp> and clicking on "online comment form." The deadline for your comments is November 8.

The Memphis City Council and Shelby County Commission recently passed a resolution urging TVA to implement a 1% energy efficiency plan per year. Besides costing less, this would pollute less, free up extra energy for critical business development, and avoid new power plant construction.

For more info & talking points refer to <http://www.solarvalleycoalition.net/>



Harvey Broome Group Election Ballot

Candidate Statements: (continued from page 8)

Bob Perlack

I am currently employed as an environmental resource economist/analyst at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and have plans to retire early next year. I'm looking forward to having considerable time (and hopefully energy) to become much more actively involved in the Sierra Club. My career at the lab has focused mostly on renewable energy systems—bioenergy, forestry, and hydropower in particular—conducting energy, economic, and environmental assessments including environmental impact statements. My career has also involved similar work overseas including environmental assessments of parks and environmentally sensitive areas.

My interests are quite varied and I'm open to working on a variety of issues, hopefully utilizing some of my experience. For enjoyment I like to hike, backpack, and fish in real remote areas. I have been a Sierra Club member since the early 1980s co-leading outings (mostly in the 1980s with my wife, BJ) and as a participant in many outings. I was also a trail maintenance volunteer for the park in the early 1990s.

David Reister

I joined the Sierra Club in 1970 at Buffalo, N.Y., when I was asked to be the chair of the energy task force for the Niagara Group. I was active in the group until 1974 and served as outings chair and group chair. In 1974, I moved to Oak Ridge and worked at the Institute for Energy Analysis and ORNL.

I became active in the Harvey Broome Group in 1997 when the Tennessee Department of Transportation proposed to build the proposed Orange Route next to my house. In 1998 I joined the HBG ExCom. In 2000 I became conservation chair, and in 2008 I assumed the position of group chair. I am also the TVA chair for the TN Chapter. In 2005, I joined the national sustainable consumption committee. In 2007 I joined the sustainable planet strategy team, and in 2008 I was appointed as chair of the national biofuels task force. I plan to continue to be active on national energy issues. I am the chairman of the board for the Cumberland Trail Conference.

Linda Smithyman

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1989 and was involved in the Harvey Broome Group from 1994 - 2003 and 2009-10. When I moved to Nashville I continued my activities there. I have held positions as secretary, vice-chair, membership chair and chair, and have been a very active outings leader, coordinator of volunteers for the Third Creek Greenway Clean up and other activities. For years I have volunteered to do trail work and special events in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. I have attended public hearings about environmental issues and submitted my statements regarding issues to the EPA and other agencies. I would like to continue to serve on the HBG ExCom.

Environment and Conservation Announces Walk with Me Tennessee Initiative Helps Encourage Communities with Pedestrian-Friendly Planning

NASHVILLE – Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke announced the launch of its new Walk with Me Tennessee initiative, addressing recreational efforts for cities and counties that focus on planning, health and fitness opportunities, infrastructure, connecting community areas and safety.

Designed as an assessment tool, the program ranks community "walkability" and provides pertinent planning information to help communities increase their pedestrian friendliness.

"The department's Recreation Educational Services Division is striving to increase awareness of alternate transportation and lower the obesity percentage of our citizens," said Fyke. "Presently, Tennessee is ranked second in the nation for obesity and the national obesity rate of children is increasing to a hazardous level. Combine the obesity statistics, cost of fuel and the environmental impacts of vehicle emissions – having a community with alternate transportation options is invaluable to all Tennesseans' quality of life."

Prior to making the program available to communities across the state of Tennessee, seven pilot communities were chosen to serve as part of the program's initial research, including the cities of Athens, Clarksville, Cleveland, Collegedale, Jackson, Manchester and Sevierville.

For more information about the Walk with Me Tennessee program or to complete the Inventory and Assessment application, please visit the Web site at www.tn.gov/environment/recreation. Assessment applications also can be sent to the department's Recreation Educational Services for scoring at 401 Church Street, L&C Tower - 10th Floor, Nashville, TN 37219 or e-mail to TDEC.RES@tn.gov.



Lawyers, Activists Join to Exchange Information on Environmental Issues

Registration is now open for the first annual Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law (APIEL) conference Nov. 19-21 at the University of Tennessee College of Law in Knoxville. APIEL welcomes law students, attorneys, activists, scientists, and community members to the UT College of Law for a weekend of workshops and panels focused on exchanging information and fostering collaboration between activists and attorneys addressing the most critical ecological issues of our time.

Topics Include:

- The Basics of Mountaintop Removal and Strip Mining
- Utilizing the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act in the Appalachian region
- The Endangered Species Act and its potential for impact in the Southeastern U.S.
- Lawyering for Environmental Justice: The Broadform Deed
- NEPA and the Precautionary Principle
- Forest Protection and Ecological Restoration
- "Know your rights" as activists and as the attorneys who represent them

With the assistance of lawyers, grassroots activists, keynote speakers and presenters, the first APIEL conference hopes to both energize lawyers and create a common ground for community organizers and their legal support to communicate, educate each other and have fun.

For a complete list of workshops and panels visit www.apiel.org.

Cost

The attendance fee for the conference is \$45 for Friday through Sunday, which includes pizza on Friday night. All other meals, transportation and lodging are the responsibility of the participant. Participants who are only attending part of the conference may pay by the day.

For More Information and to Register for APIEL Visit the APIEL website at www.apiel.org Or visit our Facebook event page:

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=101827116534567&ref=mf>

Questions? Email us: apielconference@yahoo.com
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