

Tennessee-Sierra

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

Volume 51, Number 5 - September/October 2018

Tennessee Chapter Fall Retreat October 19th thru 21st Pickett CCC Memorial State Park

Mark your calendar! Come join the fellowship, and explore a little known part of Tennessee's wilderness and history. It will be a great weekend this October. You will meet others from across the state that share your same interests and concerns! You can enjoy the beautiful fall colors while hiking on the great trails and exploring the geologic features of the scenic Cumberland Plateau.

The Park is at 4605 Pickett Park Highway in Jamestown, Tennessee. Go to the park's Group Camp, about 1 mile North of the Park Office- GPS coordinates = 36.5669, -84.7935). General information about the park is at <https://bit.ly/2LMPY2r>.

The Weekend

Those who Arrive on Friday enjoy the "informal" conversations which sometimes go late into the night. Some play games or cards and compare notes about their plans and hopes for the future (perhaps discussing the upcoming election day- Will the Democrats take over control of the House?)

On Saturday you can go hiking and you can participate in some committee discussions about strategies and programs.

Randy Hedgepath, State Naturalist, will lead hikes on Saturday and Sunday in the Park. Randy has led many hikes for the Sierra Club and he always makes them interesting, pointing out unique flora, fauna and topography along the way. The details of the hikes aren't defined yet (as this article is written), but we know Randy will make them interesting and insightful. Read more about Randy at <https://bit.ly/2spMeM6> and read his blog and see some of his photos at <https://bit.ly/2J2sloN>. Note two of his blog postings are about previous fall hikes to enjoy the fall colors, which are guaranteed to be amazing.

Some of the "sights" that might be seen are the home and mill of WWI hero Alvin C. York; large rock houses and natural stone bridges that are a special feature of Pickett; an English settlement in nearby Rugby; or the John Muir Trail along the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. There will be something for all skill levels!

Saturday will also include an update on the Tennessee Chapter's state lobbying efforts, and plans for the upcoming state legislative season. The Sierra Club's state lobbyist Scott Banbury will 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. Additionally, and our state Political Chair, Bill Moll

will lead a strategy and planning session for the upcoming 2018 season, including further growth of our revamped Conservation Lobby Day. We'll be planning the constituent mobilization effort needed to reach many of our legislators on that day. We hope to recruit leaders for many districts across the state. We need you—our environment needs you! (There will be appropriate training and guidance later this winter for all who get involved.)

Various Sierra Club committees will also meet (details on our website when the date gets closer)- feel free to sit in on any or all of interest to you. There will also be a small training session on the "Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing." (See <https://bit.ly/2PntGoT>) There's also our annual Silent Auction, benefiting our chapter's lobbying and legislative program – and a Saturday evening bonfire with S'mores, of course!

Sunday morning you will need to choose between another hike, observing the Tennessee Chapter's Executive Committee's (Excom) business meeting, or just relaxing until time to depart, which will be 1pm.

Procedural Details

Chickasaw Group is hosting and reservations may be made online at <https://bit.ly/2H9P10v>. If you have any questions, you can contact us at chickasawsierra@gmail.com or call Dennis Lynch at 901-361-8029 (Please make sure your name is in your caller-ID). Please specify vegetarian or omnivore as your food choice when you register.

- Early Bird Reservation Price until October 12: \$50/adult
- Regular Registration Fee: \$60/adult
- Students: \$15 for the whole weekend
- Single day only price with meals: Sat - \$30; Sun - \$10
- Day only, no meals: \$5
- Children 15 and under attend free
- Special: ½ off regular fee for 1st-time attendees!
 - Several scholarships are available with advance approval
 - Bring your own bedding, towels and personal items
 - Bring lunch for Saturday and Sunday
 - The Group Camp includes male and female bunkhouses
 - Everybody helps with clean-up before Sunday departure

All attendees at our Chapter Retreats must sign our standard liability waiver. These can be signed online during the

online registration or upon arrival at the Retreat. You can review the waiver at <https://bit.ly/2kGfev0>.

Any youth under 18 attending without their parent/guardian, must bring 2 forms signed by a parent/guardian- our waiver form (<https://bit.ly/2kGfev0>) and "Medical Treatment Authorization & Consent Form" (<https://bit.ly/2svzyCx>). Youth attending with a parent/guardian, can be signed in by the parent/guardian when they arrive.

About the Park

Pickett State Park is Tennessee's first park that was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Between 1934 and 1942, they constructed hiking trails, five rustic cabins, a recreation lodge, a ranger station and a 12-acre lake.

The park is located on the Kentucky border northeast of Jamestown, which is northeast of Nashville, and lies within the 19,200-acre Pickett State Forest, not far from the massive 125,000-acre Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

In 2015, Pickett CCC Memorial State Park and Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area earned Silver-tier International Dark Sky Park designation. It became the first state park in the Southeast to gain this prestigious recognition. Visitors can enjoy sweeping, rich views of the night sky similar to those found in many of the Western states. So bring your binoculars!

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

Sierra Social Hour

Join the Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club for a Happy Hour Meet & Greet

Refresh after work while meeting our new members. Renew friendships with those that you haven't seen for a while

Thursday, September 20, 5:30 to 7:30
Tailgate Brewery in Bellevue, 7300
Charlotte Pike

For additional information please email paulalennon615@gmail.com
Event will be in the back barn.

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: c.demetreon@mchsi.com

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is September 30th for the November/December 2018 issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to c.demetreon@mchsi.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.

Cutoff Date for the November/December Issue is September 30, 2018.

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

Send material to Chris Demetreon at c.demetreon@mchsi.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: Mac Post 865-806-0980
mpost3116@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Bill Moll 423-702-5779
whmoll@aol.com
Secretary: JoAnn McIntosh 931-338-2530
mcjoann@gmail.com
Treasurer: Larry Davis 228-282-3328
bmclarry06@hotmail.com
Conservation: Axel Ringe 865-387-7398
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Outings: Denise Bivens 865-384-5138
denisebivens@gmail.com
CCL Delegate: Mac Post 865-806-0980
mpost3116@gmail.com

TN LOCAL GROUPS:

Cherokee Group

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/cherokee>
Chair: Barbara Kelly 423-718-5009
bk1rivers@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Kate Anthony 513-365-7989
rainbowgardener2@gmail.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
Marie Brown 423-499-9691
marietommybrown@gmail.com
Chapter Delegate: Bill Moll 423-702-5779
whmoll@aol.com
Upper Cumberland Committee: Josephine McQuail 931-520-0449
jmquail@tntech.edu

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/chickasaw>
Chair: Dennis Lynch 901-361-8029
dmlynch1@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Joe Ozegovich 901-361-8029
jozegovich@yahoo.com
Secretary: Dawn Nielsen 901-283-5887
dawnnielsen@mac.com
Treasurer: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399
jozegovich@yahoo.com
Conservation: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399
jozegovich@yahoo.com
Outings: Sue Williams 901-274-0524
SCMemphisOutings@gmail.com

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome>
Chair: Ron Shrieves 865-922-3518
ronshrieves@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Joanne Logan 865-974-8803
loganj@utk.edu
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: Grace Stranch 615-646-1102
graces@bsjfirm.com
Vice Chair: Charles High 615-500-5499
cahigh1722@aol.com
Secretary: Mary High
mary.w.high@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
gla4797@embarqmail.com
Vice Chair: Sandi Cranford 423-727-5044
scranford1258@yahoo.com
Secretary: Dennis Shekinah 423-534-4804
bmwbruno@icloud.com
Treasurer: Cindy Johnson 423-895-1687
cinnyj@hotmail.com
Conservation: Dean Whitworth 423-727-7214
Outings: Webb Griffith 423-727-4797
gla4797@embarqmail.com

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

Editor:
Chris Demetreon

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

Chapter Retreat	Location	Dates
Fall	Pickett State Park	October 19 - 21
Winter	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	January 25 - 27
Spring	Fall Creek Falls State Park	May 3 - 5

The Chapter retreat will begin at 4 PM on Friday and end at 2 PM on Sunday. All TN Chapter Retreat participants will be required to sign the standard Sierra Club outings liability waiver when checking in at the retreat location. To review this waiver, please visit http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/forms/local-outings-sign-in_waiver.pdf

Any attendee under the age of 18 not accompanied by parent or legal guardian will need to have a signed liability waiver and medical authorization form with them when they arrive. To review these waivers, please visit

http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual_waiver.pdf and
<http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/forms/local-outings-minor-release.pdf>

Lessons from the Trail, A Mountain Meadow

By Joan Tomlinson, trail name Blue Jay.

By the time you read this article, I, with lots of good luck and good fortune, will be hiking in Washington state on the Pacific Crest Trail. It is my hope to complete my last 420 miles of this magnificent trail this year. I will have covered the distance from Mexico to Canada, through California, Oregon, and Washington, over a 3 year period. Long distance hiking is hard for me. Really hard. I'm not a young person. I have many more years behind me than in front of me. And, like I decided in 2014 before my Appalachian Trail thru hike, I'm not through yet. I'm not through exploring, I'm not through yearning, I'm not through learning. I long for connections to the natural world. I seek wisdom there, on the trail, where things are raw and real and the wisdom of the ages calls to me. I want to be open, with all my senses, to what is out there. That is why I hike long distances on these magnificent national scenic trails. I want to talk here about what I learned in a mountain meadow on the PCT in Oregon in 2016, the starting year of my PCT MYTH (multi year thru hike).

I've had many things that I would call teachable moments, or lessons, in my days, weeks, and months on the trail. Being "on the trail" is, for me, that time out and outside hiking long distances and deeply immersed in the natural world. These lessons come to me when I let go of self, of my self image, and become integrated - nothing held back - into the time and place I inhabit at that moment. These moments are so pure that the telling of them seems to diminish them. Language and words seem inadequate. We humans put so much emphasis on language, yet, in the end, it falls short of what I want to give expression to. It is my belief, in the absence of words, things are communicated well in the natural world. So here is my dilemma: I must attempt - and it is only an attempt - to use mere words to describe the signifi-

cance of what I felt and learned in Oregon, in a mountain meadow.

Much of Oregon was buggy, harsh, and hot. It did not feel kind to me. Late one afternoon I found myself alone in a beautiful mountain meadow. It was not buggy, harsh, nor hot. It was serene. It was peaceful. I remember wondering how I ended up there. Not on the hike but in my life. How was it that I ended up alone in that meadow? I set up camp, I looked around, I walked around. I felt. I listened. I erased the lines between me, as a person, and where I was. I became unbounded, a term I like to use for my natural world experiences. I was no longer contained. I was everything around me. There were no other humans there, yet I was far from alone. In that meadow, I understood that the frogs, in their long evolutionary history, had climbed that same mountain. The lovely and beautiful lupines, in their long evolutionary history, had climbed that same mountain, too. The trees, the grass, the ferns, the birds, the lone human. We had all climbed that mountain. Even though we were specific instances of our individual lineages, we were not separate from those that came before us. Our night in that meadow was just a blink in the time that came before us and the time to come after. The miracle of that night, for me, was that each of us - lupine, bear grass, frog, tree, stone, and other things not seen - had arrived at that intersection of time and place at exactly the same moment. We were all together. It was a shared time. One thing was not above or below another. One did not own or deserve anything at the expense of another. Each was taking what it needed and nothing more. We were all equal. I have had many things that have humbled me in my time on the trail. That evening of connecting, without separation, with every instance of existence in that mountain meadow in a mere blink of time stands out as nothing short of extraordinary. And

extraordinarily humbling.

Experiences like those in the mountain meadow in Oregon have changed me. My senses are more alive and fully active. I am aware of the nuances of life around me, on and off the trail. I know in a real and vivid way the necessity of wild and natural places. I am grateful for the Sierra Club for helping, since 1892, to protect and preserve wilderness areas. I'm grateful for the national Sierra Club, for my TN Chapter, and for my local Harvey Broome Group in the Knoxville area. I continue to be thankful to the Sierra Club's vigilance and attention to keeping wild places wild. And to reminding us - all of us - of our own personal responsibility to be the very best Earthlings that we can be. I help when and where I can with the Sierra Club. I need to do more. I must do more. Everyone should have their own mountain meadow experience. The Sierra Club helps you and me to have those.

I want to close by telling you about my latest wild and unexpected moment. I support national scenic trails by occasionally spending time on trail maintenance crews. Yesterday near the PCT in Washington, I helped my fellow trail crew members dig a deep latrine for our week's work. We added a novel sit-upon bench with a toilet seat. I may have been the first to use our latrine, and as I sat there the most beautiful frog I've ever seen jumped from our deep latrine right onto my lap. It was very startling, to say the least! I laughed so hard I hooted and hollered. My trail crew thought I might be hurt and wondered if they should go to my rescue. Frogs jumping out of latrines onto laps? The majesty of mountain meadows? You can't make this stuff up. The frogs and meadows are worth saving. They have inherent and intrinsic value. It's one world, one planet. Fall in love with Earth! Protect what you love!!

Blue Jay may be contacted at BlueJayAT@gmail.com

Chapter E-Newsletter Editor Wanted

The Tennessee Chapter is looking for an electronic newsletter editor.

The Chapter's monthly E-Newsletter contains Tennessee relevant content that is time-sensitive and action oriented, including requests for members and other activists to take action on issues of concern to the Club. This tool promotes the quarterly Chapter Retreats and celebrates victories and successes.

Editor responsibilities include receiving/gathering proposed articles from Sierra Club members in the Tennessee Chapter and its Groups, editing as required, confirming that material does not have publication restrictions, and developing the E-Newsletter in Sierra's implementation of Marketing Cloud software. Support for learning to use the software will be provided.

If you are interested, please email Gary Bowers at sierra@totheforest.net. Please use E-NEWSLETTER APPLICANT in the subject line of your email. Include any information that you would like that supports your desire to fill this vital role.

Tennes-Sierran Editor Wanted

The Tennessee Chapter is looking for a new editor for the Tennes-Sierran.

The bi-monthly Tennes-Sierran contains Tennessee relevant content that is primarily educational and historical. This tool promotes the upcoming quarterly Chapter Retreats and celebrates Chapter and Group victories and successes. It is also used to announce Group business program meetings, Group business meetings, and special events.

Editor responsibilities include receiving/gathering proposed articles from Sierra Club members in the Tennessee Chapter and its Groups, editing as required, confirming that material does not have publication restrictions, formatting and retouching photographs and developing the Newsletter in Adobe InDesign. Guidance will be provided.

If you are interested, please email Gary Bowers at sierra@totheforest.net. Please use TENNES-SIERRAN APPLICANT in the subject line of your email. Include any information that you would like that supports your desire to fill this vital role.

Meetings/Outings

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 (Chatanooga)

September 24, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - September Program: 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, UUCC will be on your left, up the hill! We meet downstairs, in the Forum Room.

Mary Beth Sutton will talk about the environmental work of TenneSEA, the local division of CaribbeanSEA. TenneSEA (Student Environmental Alliance) works at the grassroots level with kids and their communities to protect and restore our water. Clean water starts with me and you! Right here in Tennessee, TenneSEA has projects ongoing with storm water education and water monitoring. They provide resources for educators, projects with K-12 schools, and collaborations with universities.

October 13, 2018 - Flats Mountain Trail Dayhike - Citico Creek Wilderness. This is one of Citico Creek's most beautiful trails, with outstanding views of the entire Citico Creek Wilderness. The trail begins at Eagle Gap on the Cherochala Skyway and ends at Beehouse Gap on Citico Creek Road; it is 6.1 miles, rated moderate. (In the event of bad weather we will have lunch at Tellico Grains Bakery, visit Cherochala Skyway Visitor Center, and drive to Bald River Falls and Baby Falls.) Total round-trip driving distance from Chattanooga is 200 miles; departure from Chattanooga 8:30 am. For further details and to pre-register, contact trip leader John Doyal, 423-315-0965 or 2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com.

October 22, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - October Program: 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, UUCC will be on your left, up the hill! We meet downstairs, in the Forum Room.

Featuring The Poor People's Campaign. The reality is that poor people are directly affected by environmental degradation from the water crisis in Flint to the increase in black lung cases in Kentucky. There is no way to address poverty, systemic racism and the war economy without also fighting for the future of the very planet itself. Martin Hurley and Beth Foster, tri-chairs of the Tennessee Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, will discuss how the campaign seeks to organize the most marginalized to build power to address the ecological crisis of our time as it intersects with other forms of oppression.

Martin Hurley is a lifelong Memphian. As a longtime member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Martin is committed to justice and works with the denomination's Public Presence ministry. Currently, Martin is serving on the committee to plan the first Disciples Public Presence conference. Martin been a longtime advocate for children and youth, and spent several years working with children from the Tennessee child welfare system and their families.

Beth Foster is a resident of the Harriet Tubman House in Nashville and an organizer with No Exceptions Prison Collective, both devoted to the abolition of mass incarceration and prisons. Beth is co-founder and former director of the Mercy Junction Justice & Peace Center in Chattanooga, Tenn., where she continues to serve on the council of elders. In addition, Beth is an English-as-second-language teacher and does work around animal rights and vegan education.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis) **No Submissions**

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Our monthly programs are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7PM, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. For additional information contact Mac Post (mpost3116@aol.com) or see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs>

September 11, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Jennifer Aldrich, Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light, <https://www.tennipl.org/>

October 9, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Nick Stahlman, The Wonderful and Wacky World of Insects

November 13, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Joy Grissom, Gerry Moll, Native Plant Rescue Squad, <https://www.nativeplantrescuesquad.com/>, <https://www.facebook.com/nativeplantrescuesquad>

December 11, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Harvey Broome Group Holiday Party and Slide Show

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.

September 15, 2018 - . Nature Saunter - Monarch Butterfly Migration Monitoring (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. Rated easy. One-way drive, 50 miles. Preregister with Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred).

September 29, 2018 - Canoe/kayak float - French Broad River. This go-with-the-current float covers an easy 5 miles, starting from the Seven Islands State Birding Park public access point on the French Broad River, to a public boat ramp at Cruze Landing. 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. We'll take our time exploring the shoreline for birds and other wildlife, and stop to eat lunch and stretch our legs on an island that is in the State Park. 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. One-way drive, 20 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves: 922-3518; ronshrieves@gmail.com (email preferred).

October 12-14, 2018 - Canoe/Kayak Paddle and Backpack, Fontana Dam area, GSMNP. On Friday, we will launch our boats at Cable Cove, east of Fontana Dam. We will paddle across the lake (about 20 minutes) and up into Hazel Creek (about an hour). We will secure the boats, unload our gear, and hike about a half mile to campsite #86 where we will set up base camp and spend the night. On Saturday, we will day hike out and back along Hazel Creek Trail and Bone Valley Trail, to the end of Bone Valley Trail, about 15 miles round trip. We will spend Saturday night at our base camp at CS 86. On Sunday, we will have a leisurely breakfast, break camp, return to our boats, and paddle back to our cars at Cable Cove. About 65 miles and 2 hours each way because we will drive the Dragon. There are a few boats and PDFs available for participants, otherwise bring your own boat and PDF. This outing is weather dependent. Rated strenuous. Cost is \$8 per person for Park camp fees. Limit 6 people total. This outing will be led by AT thru hiker Blue Jay (Joan Tomlinson). Preregister with Blue Jay at BlueJayAT@gmail.com or 865-567-8051.

October 17-18, 2018 - Bob's Bald Backpack (Cherokee NF) with camp at Cold Spring Gap. Yes, this is a mid-week backpack on Wednesday and Thursday to give those who can't make a weekend trip a chance to participate. Bob (or Bob's) Bald is a favorite backpacking and dayhiking destination for many in the SE, and on this trip we'll combine the two. A short 1.8 miles backpack from Beech Gap on the Cherochala Skyway on an old roadbed (on the Fodderstack/Benton MacKaye Trail) for 1.8 miles to Cold Springs Gap where we'll set up camp. Then a 1.6-mile day hike up to the summit of Bob Bald, with grassy balds and high elevation views. Total hiking distance will be 3.2 miles and total backpacking distance will be 3.6 miles. Rated Easy. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

October 20, 2018 - 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 our to the Jumpoff. The Jumpoff is a 1000 ft near vertical drop with spectacular views of Charles Bunion. Then we'll return to the AT, and continue for another 1.3 miles to Charles 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 Russell Gillenwater: commissar67@gmail.com: phone 770-595-4193, email preferred.

October 19-21, 2018 - Chapter Meeting, Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club. Pickett State Park. 20 Oct (Sat). Dayhike, Maudes Crack/John Muir Overlook Loop, BSFNRR. Featuring two outstanding geological features, this is a loop from Terry Cemetery down the Maude's Crack Trail to its junction with the John Muir Trail, then over to and up No Business Creek to the John Muir Overlook. From there we'll backtrack to the junction with the Longfield Branch Trail, which we will take back to the cemetery. Total distance hike distance, 7 miles. Rated moderate. Drive distance, 90 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves: 922-3518; ronshrieves@gmail.com (email preferred).

November 3, 2018 - Dayhike, Lake, Ghost, and Chestnut Ridge Trails, Big Ridge State Park. This moderate 4 1/2 mile series of trails offers beautiful views of the lake, sinkhole and history. Roughly 20 miles from Knoxville 35 minute drive depending on where you are in Knoxville. Preregister with Denise Bivens: denisebivens@gmail.com: phone 865-384-5138.

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

NASHVILLE 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>

All outings require participants to sign a waiver. To review this waiver, please visit <https://goo.gl/1BvnK2>

Any attendee under the age of 18 not accompanied by parent or guardian will need to have a signed liability waiver and medical authorization form with them when they arrive. To review and print these waivers, please visit <https://goo.gl/y9Y976> AND <https://goo.gl/jNieor>

Thinking about going solar?

Actually, it is a pretty good time to invest in solar. Prices for installed residential solar have come down over 60% since 2010. While some incentives have expired, along with a new tariff, the overall price reductions are now greater, and with increased solar density! Currently, a Federal 30% tax credit towards hardware and labor is still in place. This credit can be carried over to the next year, if the full credit cannot be used. This credit will start to go down progressively in 2020 and is set to expire for systems put into service after 12/31/2021.

For my installation, without the incentive, I average about a 4-5% annual return on my investment, tax free, without risk, while investing in my home. Great selling point if you decide to sell. Hey, if the sun doesn't shine, we have a lot more to worry about.

So, where to start?

First, face south. A sunny southern facing solar panel with a 25 degree pitch from vertical provides the best production for all seasons (Memphis). Any variation from that perspective cuts into production. For me, my first installation was a pole mount. This allowed for the best fixed position production return, without worrying about the roof condition. If there is no southern position opportunity? The next best position is west, then east.

Things to consider:

- Shade, which will reduce solar production
- Roof age, you may have to replace the roof before installing solar on the roof.
- Roof condition, if you have more than one roof, or have a weak roof installation, you might want to reconsider using the roof
- Home Owners Association/City Code Ordinances, which may restrict/prohibit some installations
- Local utility and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) approval and interconnection processes, which should be obtained before you purchase any equipment

To see if your roof top has good solar potential, check here: <https://www.google.com/get/sunroof#p=0>

Simply add your address and look at your rooftop. The brighter the yellow, the better. NOTE: This webpage does not provide feedback for your yard if you want a pole or ground mount system.

Look good? Now, call your local utility company to be better informed when talking with installers about options, sizing, incentives and ballpark costs. Know your average monthly electricity consumption and cost. Use the TVA Valley Solar Calculator for localized estimates: <https://edt.tva.gov/>. The Advanced Options section allows you to adjust various factors. Adjust consumption offset percentages and enter various system costs per Watt, as prices will differ based on installer, generation capacity

(kW) and other factors. As a guide, a TN installer's system cost rate is \$2.50 per watt for a 10kw system and \$2.85 per watt for a 5kw system. Be sure to adjust this in the Advanced Options section.

Since you all are good Sierra Club conservationists, you are already conserving energy. So, to move away from fossil fuels, plan for more electric consumption. Going solar enabled me to move away from fossil fuels by purchasing an electric car (no gasoline), a heat pump (cooling & heating with no natural gas), and a heat pump water heater (no natural gas). With an electric car and a heat pump, I'm halfway there!!

You don't have to have a 100% offset. You can build with whatever size you can handle, or afford. Remember, a solar installation is still a long-term investment.

Get multiple bids from reputable solar installers, who will provide you precise numbers and installation options. They can tell you over the phone the complete breakdown of the project, then email the project proposal. Ask for the price per watt installed. They usually provide "Turnkey" service, covering all the aspects of the project. Although some require you to submit the applications to your local utility and TVA, others handle it for you. Once completed, you use this information to file your taxes for the 30% tax credit.

In the industry, renewable energy has become a market-based commodity, similar to the stock market. The renewable benefits of every 1000 kWh of renewable energy generated can be exchanged as credits, or Renewable Energy Certificates (REC), separate from the electricity.

In Tennessee, we fall under the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). They regulate all the electric power generated, so most of you will sell your solar power (including RECs) to TVA. This enables others, business and residential, to purchase enough RECs to "claim" they are using renewable energy. Only one entity can "claim" the REC. TVA certifies they are from clean sources.

In addition to providing green power to the TVA, I voluntarily purchase 2 blocks of 150 kWh of green power generation to "claim" I use clean energy to power my electric car.

For 2018, your local utility has several options, including TVA programs:

Green Power Switch

- Does not require investment in onsite generation
- Buy blocks of green power for \$4 each, added to monthly utility bill
- Each block represents 150 kWh of green power generation for participants to "claim"; TVA retires the RECs on behalf of participants
- Approximately 12,000 participants Valley wide

Green Power Providers

- Invest in onsite generation (0.5 to 50 kW, with limits if above 10 kW)
- Sell 100% of power and green attributes (RECs) to TVA for utility bill credits
- Earn \$0.09 per kWh for Residential or GSA-1 electric rate customers, provided 10 kW or smaller

- Earn \$0.075 per kWh, for all other electric rates and for all systems greater than 10 kW
- Supplies the RECs claimed by Green Power Switch participants

Dispersed Power Production

- Invest in onsite generation (up to 80 MW)
- Sell up to 100% of power to TVA at long term avoided costs (\$0.02-\$0.03 per kWh)

- Retain RECs

Self-Generation

- Invest in onsite generation (no limit; important not to over-size)

- Use 100% onsite or sell excess through

Dispersed Power Production

- Retain RECs

The TVA is working with local utilities on other programs to enable more people to move towards solar. Below is a summary of new options in development:

Distributed Solar Solutions (pilot)

- Opportunity for Local Power Companies to submit competitive proposals for innovative projects that deliver solar power, as well as lessons learned to share with other LPCs Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) products for commercial & industrial customers Businesses and organizations are increasingly setting sustainability goals that include green power

Community Solar for residential and small business

- Shared costs and returns from a larger solar array located offsite, but doesn't always include the RECs
- Lower cost than rooftop solar
- Requires capital investment in construction
- Requires TVA to buy the generated electricity
- Requires utility billing system integration for on-bill credits based on each participant's portion of generation

So, there are programs available (or in development) for most circumstances, even if you cannot obtain solar.

For more information on these solar options, contact your local utility or check here:

<https://www.tva.com/Energy/Valley-Renewable-Energy>

<https://www.tva.gov/Energy/Valley-Renewable-Energy/Green-Power-Providers/How-the-GPP-Program-Works>

Group Business Meetings			
Group	Date	Location	Time
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Tues 9/4 Mon 10/1, 11/5	Pilgrim Congregational Church, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chattanooga	6:00 P.M.
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Wed 9/5, 10/3, 11/7	Cheffie's Cafe, 483 High Point Terrace, Memphis	6:00 P.M.
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 9/25, 10/23, 11/27	The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd., Knoxville	7:00 P.M.
Middle TN (Nashville)	Mon 9/17, 10/15, 11/19	House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville	6:30 P.M.
Watauga (Mountain City)	Tue 9/11 Tue 10/9 Tue 11/13	R&D Campground 900 Mining Town Rd. Mt. City, TN 37683 Watauga Lake - Fish Springs Marina - Hampton, TN Harvest Dinner - Watauga Lake Winery - Butler, TN	5:00 P.M. 9:30 A.M. 5:00 P.M.
Group Program Meetings			
Group	Date	Location	Time
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Mon 9/24, 10/22, 11/26	Unitarian Universalist Church, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga	7:00 P.M.
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Thu 9/27, 10/18, 11/15	Benjamin Hooks Public Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., Memphis	5:55 P.M.
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 9/11, 10/9, 11/13	Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalists Church, 2931 Kingston Pike Group picnic - time/place to be announced.	7:00 P.M. TBA
Middle TN (Nashville)	Thu 9/13, 10/11, 11/8	Radnor Lake Nature Center, 1160 Otter Creek Rd., Nashville, TN	7:00 P.M.
Watauga (Mountain City)	Tue 9/11 Tue 10/9 Tue 11/13	R&D Campground 900 Mining Town Rd. Mt. City, TN 37683 Watauga Lake - Fish Springs Marina - Hampton, TN Harvest Dinner - Watauga Lake Winery - Butler, TN	6:00 P.M. 9:30 A.M. 6:00 P.M.

1.5 °C Global Warming Target Could Save \$20 Trillion over 2 °C Target

by Todd Waterman

Historically, environmental protection happens when it's recognized as economically preferable - and the economics of climate mitigation, dismissing fossil fuel industry propaganda, are compelling. 2006's benchmark Stern Review, the British Treasury's thorough mitigation cost-benefit analysis, found, "Using the results from formal economic models, the Review estimates that if we don't act, the overall costs and risks of climate change will be equivalent to losing at least 5% of global GDP each year, now and forever. If a wider range of risks and impacts is taken into account, the estimates of damage could rise to 20% of GDP or more" - versus an estimated 1% annual investment in then-costly sustainable energy to avoid that.

Now, a May 23 Nature study finds, "Relative to a world that did not warm beyond 2000-2010 levels, we project 15%-25% reductions in [GDP] per capita output by

2100 for the 2.5-3 °C [4.5-5.4 °F] of global warming implied by current national commitments, and reductions of more than 30% for 4 °C [7.2 °F] warming." The blameless poor would be hardest hit. Achieving the Paris Climate Accord's best-case 1.5 °C [2.7 °F] global warming target could save \$20 trillion over allowing 2 °C [3.6 °F] warming - about 70 times its additional cost of \$300 billion, The Guardian reports. That ratio suggests that even allowing for all its prognosticative uncertainties the study, as Nature editorializes, "makes a strong financial case for urgent action on greenhouse-gas [GHG] emissions. ... Our burning of fossil fuel is writing cheques that our economy can't afford to cash."

The Nature study excludes huge factors like unforeseen adaptations and the possible flooding of coastal cities. "My gut feeling is that our numbers - as large as they are - could even be a lower bound on the overall damages," co-author Marshall

Burke says in the Nature editorial's audio interview. And non-author Max Auffhammer adds, "How do we put a dollar value on things like the increased incidence of armed conflict? ... on biodiversity?" Or, as UTK environmental ethicist John Nolt asked in a recent Harvey Broome program, on the readily avoidable future suffering and death of millions of fellow humans? In his Q&A I asked John, "So what's the impact of my own average American's carbon footprint?" He replied, "We're each killing two future humans."

All that means we and our Club have an unprecedented opportunity, both through conservation and advocacy, to bequeath to our children and their children a still-livable, diverse, and verdantly beautiful Earth.

Action opportunities: Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Tennessee effectively leverages our donations and our participation through lobbying, lawsuits climate marches, rallies, hearings and action links.

Tennessee Wilderness Act is Almost There

By Axel Ringe

On June 13, the Senate Agriculture Committee passed (20-1) their version of the farm bill (Agricultural Improvements Act of 2018), and it largely rejected anti-environmental attacks, including attacks on the Roadless Rule.

On June 28, the full Senate passed that bipartisan bill (86-11), which largely rejects controversial forest management policies, and includes the Tennessee Wilderness Act and the Virginia Wilderness Additions Act.

Senator Alexander, the original sponsor of the Tennessee Wilderness Act, said "The United States Senate today passed the Tennessee Wilderness Act, and it's on its way to becoming law. My hope is that when the Senate and the House get together and

reconcile their differences in the farm bill, they'll send it to President Trump with the Tennessee Wilderness Act and then he will sign it. This is 20,000 acres in East Tennessee that's already managed as wilderness, but not made a part of the wilderness law. This is wonderful land that Tennesseans can use to camp and hike in our beautiful East Tennessee mountains. I thank Senator Corker and Congressman Roe and the many Tennesseans who've gotten in touch with us about making the Tennessee Wilderness Act law."

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives passed its version of the farm bill on Thursday, June 21. The House bill contains two attacks on the Roadless Rule: 1) a roadless loophole that would allow logging

and roadbuilding in about 10 million acres of roadless areas, and 2) an exemption from the Rule for Alaska's national forests. In addition, there are numerous attacks on bedrock environmental laws. The forestry title of the bill would essentially exempt everything the Forest Service does in the forest management space from environmental review and public input. And it does not contain any provisions for new wilderness, including in the Cherokee National Forest.

ACTION YOU CAN TAKE: Thank Senators Alexander (202-224-4944) and Corker (202-224-3344) but challenge them on the Roadless Rule and the exemption for Alaska's national forest.

Suit voluntarily dismissed after timber sale cancelled by Cherokee National Forest

On June 29, SELC, on behalf of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, with Knoxville attorney Shelby Ward, on behalf of Heartwood and Tennessee Heartwood, voluntarily dismissed a lawsuit previously filed in federal court alleging that the United States Forest Service has illegally endangered the soil, forests and waters of the Cherokee National Forest and hidden those risks from the public. The suit focused on the so-called Dinkey Project, a timber sale slated for an area along Tumbling Creek with steep slopes and fragile soils that made it a poor choice for commercial operations. For years, concerned citizens had flagged this sale as problematic to no avail. Last week, in response to the lawsuit, the Forest Service cancelled the sale.

"We take the Forest Service's decision to withdraw the timber sale near Tumbling Creek as an important first step in rebuilding the trust that has been eroded between local citizens and the Forest Service," said Sam Evans, leader of SELC's National Forest and Parks Program. "Our decision to dismiss the lawsuit is intended in the same spirit."

The health of Tumbling Creek was a major factor in the lawsuit. A cold-water trout stream running through the moun-

tains of southeast Tennessee, it feeds into the Ocoee River and is popular with local families for fishing, wading, and picnicking. Conservation groups were worried that, as with other recent timber sales in the area, heavy commercial logging along the creek would lead to erosion, harming fish and other wildlife.

In 2015, monitoring of a recent logging project, known as the Hogback sale, revealed severe violations of the Forest Service's requirement to protect soils, but this information was not acknowledged in the development of the Tumbling Creek project.

"There was no indication that the Forest Service learned anything from Hogback, and the Tumbling Creek project was even riskier, with more ground disturbances, larger harvests and steeper slopes, all concentrated on the banks of Tumbling Creek," said Axel Ringe, Conservation Chair for the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club. "This is one of the healthiest watersheds and streams in the area. We couldn't allow another disastrous timber sale to happen here."

For nearly four years, conservation groups tried to dissuade the Forest Service from taking unnecessary risks on publicly-owned lands, using pictures, examples

and monitoring data to show what could go wrong. The Forest Service did not respond to those concerns and so, in July 2017, these groups filed a formal administrative objection. That objection fell on deaf ears, and was dismissed without review. Local citizens felt they had no choice but to file suit.

"It's extremely unfortunate that the Cherokee National Forest refused to take public comments seriously until a lawsuit was filed," said Davis Mounger, co-founder of Tennessee Heartwood. "Cancelling the project is not exactly what we asked for, but it is a welcome development. It shows that the Forest Service is finally listening. However, that withdrawal of the project, by itself, isn't enough. The only way to fix the problem going forward is for the Forest Service to learn from its mistakes. That means accepting responsibility and working transparently with the public. Ultimately, the Forest Service needs to adopt new protective measures that we can all be confident will protect soil and water conditions. We look forward to being a part of that process."

Courtesy the Southern Environmental Law Center

We Go Lobbying in Nashville: Conservation Education Day and Conservation Lobby Day 2018

By **Todd Waterman**

At last year's Chapter Fall Retreat Jen Hensley, National Sierra Club's State Lobbying and Advocacy Director, and Scott Banbury, our own Tennessee Conservation Programs Coordinator/state lobbyist/legislative watchdog, together led a lively lobbying discussion and invited us to Nashville for a February 20, 2018 Conservation Education Day lobby training - from which we would surely emerge expert lobbyists all, just in time for the next day's Conservation Lobby Day.

At last January's Chapter Winter Retreat, Tennessee Political Chair Bill Moll, having volunteered to organize both the training and Lobby Day, invited us all to discuss and choose our lobbying goals. We decided we would ask our lawmakers to address these four areas of primary concern, most of them raised by Americans for Prosperity pressure to deregulate:

1. "Open Government and Public Notice," including the opportunity to see amendments in time to research and comment on them, to photograph public documents with cell phones, and to receive public notice on radioactive waste dumping, on application of pesticides applied to kill invasive aquatic plants in recreational waterways, and on lead levels exceeding the action level in drinking water supplies.
2. "Tennessee's Solid Waste Issues," including the dumping of low-level radioactive waste, toxic "special waste," and energy-squandering food waste, and insituting

TDEC training for municipal solid waste management boards.

3. "Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations [CAFOs]" and their freedom to contaminate waterways with excrement from factory farms, replacing fish and other aquatic life with algae, when it could be used as fertilizer. Public Chapter 293 would deregulate all but 15 Tennessee operations, putting us orders of magnitude behind surrounding states.

4. "Vehicle Emissions Testing," in which municipalities' health departments would be barred from the tailpipe exhaust testing programs that enabled their cities to meet federal air quality standards. Exceeding those standards again would require greater, more costly regulation in other areas and bar those cities from inviting new industry.

On the evening of Conservation Education Day twenty-seven of us from all over the state gathered at Scarritt Bennett Center, where Jen, Scott, and health, social welfare, equal justice and environmental non-profit lobbyist Stewart Clifton introduced us to the sometimes harsh realities of lobbying our Supermajority, and then role-played us through friendly, respectful, and effective lobbying.

The next morning, having accidentally set my watch back a half hour, I showed up late and panting, my suit hopelessly rain-rumpled, halfway through my first scheduled meeting - with my own Senator, Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally. Fortunately, Scott

and the rest of our delegation had already made our case well.

Thanks to our brief but reasonably thorough training, now joined by more experienced lobbyists, our many scheduled visits with our state lawmakers would generally be satisfying, fun, and productive. Our elected officials were elected because they're friendly, likeable folks. Most of their visitors are lobbying for special interests, so they appreciate hearing from actual constituents who seek common ground, even if they don't agree with us on much else. We were able to inform our lawmakers on the adverse effects of many bills. And, in a few cases, they told us they were going to change their votes thanks to our input. As we debriefed at our base camp in the Cordell Hull Building, there were many happy faces.

Bill Moll says we'll be back in Nashville on Tuesday, February 12, 2018 for another training. And on February 13 we'll be lobbying our state legislators once again. You're invited! Bill, with the help of Barbara Kelly and many others, made this year's Conservation Lobby Day - for years a joint effort of the Tennessee Environmental Council, Sierra Club, and Tennessee Conservation Voters - an unprecedented success. I'm looking forward to being there again for this coming one. We don't get many opportunities to protect the world we love as satisfying as this one.

VW Diesel Mitigation- One more Step

by **Dennis Lynch**

We last reported on the VW Diesel Mitigation process in the Jan-Feb 2018 edition of the Tennes-Sierran, and described how we recommended that the state spend it's \$45.8 million that would be received from the mitigation.

TDEC's Office of Energy Programs has now (July 18, 2018) published the state's "Proposed Beneficiary Mitigation Plan", (go to <https://bit.ly/2Aj9UbB>) describing how they believe the \$45.8 million should be spent. The public was given 30 days to comment, and we will be sending comments. As you read this, that time period will have expired, and comments submitted. We did send out a note encouraging your comments via the Tennessee-NEWS-ListServ email list. We will also send out an Action Alert. In case you didn't see one of those other messages, we're telling you here what happened, "just so ya know!"

The proposed Plan recommends that Tennessee's share of the Mitigation Funds be spent by distributing it into categories very similar to our earlier recommendations. They recommended the following distribution:

- * Class 8 Local Freight Trucks and Port Drayage Trucks: 10%
- * Class 4-7 Local Freight Trucks: 15%
- * Class 4-8 Buses (Transit, School, or

Shuttle): 60%

- * Light Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Supply Equipment: 15% (This is basically EV charging stations and infrastructure. 15% was the largest allowed in the settlement agreement.)

As I write this, we are reviewing the Proposed Plan to see what revisions we should recommend. The 3rd and 4th categories listed above were definitely part of our earlier recommendations. But we are considering to ask for more definition of the first 2 categories. We did recommend garbage trucks (because of the nature of their stop and go movements, and their use of diesel to run their lifting & crushing systems). Garbage trucks would be included in "Class 8 trucks".

After the Mitigation Plan is finalized, public and private organizations will be able to apply for grants for portions of the money. TDEC will evaluate these and then distribute the funds. Public organizations (governments, transit agencies, etc) can get 100% of their request, depending on the total amount of all grant requests that TDEC receives. Private organizations are only eligible for a lesser percentage (which varies by category).

So, it will still be a few more months until any of this money could be spent. Butterflies and flowers are certainly much prettier than all this bureaucratic procedure stuff.

Chickasaw Group Program July 26th Speaker Marge Davis on Tenn Can

The Chickasaw Group held its monthly group meeting at the Benjamin Hooks Public Library in Memphis on July 26. The program speaker was Marge Davis, who outlined the plans for the campaign to support the proposed legislation for a can/bottle deposit program for the state of Tennessee. Marge has been an advocate of can/bottle deposits in Tennessee for several years.

Marge discussed the benefits of container deposits, including:

- Reduction in litter on roadsides and in public spaces
- Re-use of valuable materials such as aluminum, steel, and glass
- Business opportunities for recycling of these materials which would create jobs in recycling facilities.
- Reduction in the amount of waste plastic left in the environment.

The hope is that a can/bottle deposit bill can be passed during the 2019 session of the Tennessee legislature. Marge urged all of us to be ready to contact our state legislature representatives and senators with a message favorable to this legislation.

Visit to recycling sorting facility

by Sue A. Williams

We've forgotten how much recycling impacts global warming, but the gases from organic matter—especially paper products in a landfill—release carbon dioxide and methane, both greenhouse gases. "Materials in a landfill don't really decompose, and sending plastics, steel and aluminum cans, paper products or glass to a landfill seems ridiculous when they can be recycled into new products," says Dennis Lynch, chair of the Chickasaw Group.

Memphis' Chickasaw Group recently conducted a different kind of outing to the BFI recycling plant, south of the the interstate loop. BFI contracts with the City of Memphis and several other nearby areas for materials. Memphis has household city sanitation workers pick up plastics, glass, cans (any material), milk and juice cartons, and paper/cardboard while some areas such as Bartlett have drop off locations. Memphis now has single stream recycling—everything goes into one large recycling bin, but less sorting might improve participation. The disadvantage is that crushed glass is too contaminated by paper; it has to be shipped to Atlanta for further processing. Paper goes to International Paper and is mostly reprocessed into cardboard boxes. China no longer accepts materials from America; some is shipped to Asia, and the best way to continue having it recycled is to adequately clean containers.

Processing includes raising the material with a bulldozer and belts to a complex platform. Gravity and wind are used to separate some things, but people also have to sort others. When the belts run, they do so at a dizzying speed. "Not everyone can do this job," said the manager. Cooled by fans, workers stand on foam rubber, but its got to be far from the most comfortable



Photo by Dennis Lynch

job no matter how great a contribution they make to our region.

Improper Materials:

Plastic shopping and newspaper wrappers cannot be recycled. They wrap around BFI's equipment, and the line has to shut down for them to be removed. Better to use cloth shopping bags than plastic, in any case.

Lithium batteries—from computers or cell phones—cause about two fires per week. Private individuals can dispose of phones with lithium batteries at many big box stores (check with customer service for drop off box sites) or to the Shelby County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility, located at 6305 Haley Road, Memphis, TN 38134. The facility is open free to Shelby County residents on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 P.M.

unless otherwise noted. See website below for more about what additional materials that HHW takes.

Additional improperly recycled materials include needles that have to be pulled from magnets by hand. Workers use special protective gloves. According to one manufacturer of a drug that has to be injected, the closest place to drop off used needles for proper disposal is Southaven, Mississippi. The prescribing doctor may take the needles. Otherwise, "sharps" containers—supposed to be child proof—are available for purchase at drug stores. If sharps containers are not available, a metal container may be a best solution, marked as not recyclable, and placed in the trash for regular landfill. (If you have the option of ordering from a mail order pharmacy, they may provide a free sharps container as part of the order.)

Sierra Club Clarksville-Montgomery County Committee Progress

by Sue A. Williams

Sierra Club Clarksville-Montgomery County (SC CMC), one of the TN Chapter's two new conservation committees, has been actively pursuing sustainability goals in our community. Since its formation in January, the committee has met with city and county mayors and their staffs to discuss issues studied in the county's 2017 Sustainability Report, and to offer assistance in a community transition away from fossil fuels. Both mayoral offices were receptive to Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign: city Mayor Kim McMillan had previously signed Clarksville on to the Alliance for a Sustainable Future, a joint effort by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions; Montgomery County was recently presented the Governor's Environmental Stewardship

Award for Excellence in Energy and Renewable Resources; and both Mayor McMillan and county Mayor Jim Durrett helped establish the Green Certification Program for businesses, schools, and churches, as well as a Sustainability Task Force (STF) to follow up on the county's 2017 Report. SC CMC is now participating in the STF on an Energy Conservation and Efficiency subcommittee that also includes representatives from our two local power companies, CDE Lightband and Cumberland Electric Membership Corp.

Other projects for SC CMC this year have included participation in:

- the TN Chapter's Conservation Education Day with state legislators
- political meet-and-greets to discuss candidates' conservation priorities

- public hearings by TVA and TDEC re nearby Cumberland Fossil Plant
- Letters to the Editor and public comments submitted to TVA, TDEC, EPA, NRC, etc. re present and future power generation
- community tree-planting, city park cleanup, and initiatives for reducing plastics consumption and waste (local groceries, schools, and Bi-County Solid Waste Management)

SC CMC meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library. Notice of meetings and other activities/actions can be found on our Facebook page: Sierra Club Clarksville-Montgomery County.

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

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

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