

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 46, Number 5 - September/October, 2014

Who's afraid of the Carbon Rule?

By Ivy Main, chair of Virginia Chapter Sierra Club
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Sierran

When I was a law student working at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the '80s, we sued a company that had been polluting a Maine river for years. Back then, EPA calculated penalties based on the amount of money a polluter saved by ignoring the requirements of the Clean Water Act. The idea was to take away the economic benefit of pollution so that companies would make out better by installing treatment systems than by imposing their toxic waste on the community.

Not surprisingly, the company's lawyers tried to prevent their client from having to pay a penalty for all those years it had been dumping pollution into the river. But their reasoning was interesting. Faced with the lawsuit, the company overhauled its industrial process and eliminated most of its waste products, which turned out to be a money-saving move. Thus, said the lawyers, the company hadn't gained any competitive advantage by polluting the river; it had actually lost money doing so. Really, they'd have made a lot more money if we'd forced them to clean up their act sooner.

Needless to say, the argument didn't fly, and the company paid a fine. But its experience

turns out to have been a common one. When it comes to environmental regulation, industry screams that the sky is falling, but then it gets to work to solve the problem, and frequently ends up stronger than ever.

This is one reason to be skeptical of ad campaigns from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Mining Association trying to convince the public that the EPA's new regulations on carbon pollution from power plants will destroy the American economy. They've cried wolf so many times they have lost all credibility.

And in case you are of a generous nature and inclined to forgive previous false alarms, it's worth noting that the National Mining Association campaign earned the maximum four Pinocchios from the *Washington Post* fact-checker—meaning, it's a pack of lies. The EPA has been scarcely kinder in its analysis of the Chamber's campaign, and the economist Paul Krugman says the Chamber's own numbers actually prove compliance with the carbon rule will be cheap.

The fact is, there is little reason to fear the economy will suffer by cleaning up carbon pollution and transitioning to clean energy. To the contrary, we have already paid dearly for our reliance on fossil fuels, through rising health

care costs for asthma and heart disease, through premature deaths, and through babies born with neurological damage from mercury in their mothers' bodies.

Meanwhile, clean energy industries are growing and flourishing. The breathtaking pace of advances in wind, solar and battery technologies make it clear that the age of fossil fuels will end in this century. There will be winners and losers, as there always are in a free market, but the new energy economy offers so many opportunities for American companies and workers that one wishes the fear-mongers at the Chamber and the NMA would stretch their necks out of their bunker far enough to see the horizon.

As for society in general, we have seldom seen a limit on pollution that didn't make us collectively better off, and carbon protections will be no exception. It is always easier and cheaper to stop pollution at its source than to clean it up later or pay for the damage. That will be true here in spades, where the damage includes hotter summers, more crop losses, more disease, more destructive storms, and whole communities swamped by rising sea levels. These are already happening, and they affect both our health and our wallets.

We have nothing to fear but inaction.



Pickett State Park Fall Chapter Retreat

Presented by: Tennessee Chapter

Date: Friday, October 24 to Sunday, October 26, 2014

Time: Check in Friday after 3 P.M. Check out 10:00 A.M. Sunday.

WG Host Lead: Gloria Griffith - 423-727-4797 gla4797@embarqmail.com

Registration: Confirm before October 17 at 11:00 P.M.

Location: Pickett State Park Group Lodge

Members and guests can explore large rock houses, natural sandstone bridges, scenic bluffs, and wild mountain streams. The park memorializes and preserves the unique workmanship of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Many of the original buildings were constructed of native sandstone rock that the CCC quarried from the nearby forest. These beautifully built buildings have stood the test of time, thus qualifying the park to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. More info here: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/pickett>

You are invited to attend the TN Chapter Fall Chapter Retreat!

Group Lodge offers bunkhouse with separate bathhouse accommodations. Early bird reservation fee is \$40.00, which includes Saturday and Sunday breakfast plus dinner on Saturday night. Specify vegetarian or omnivore preference with your reservation. Special 1/2 price for first time attendees and a few scholarships are available with advance approval. Come join the fellowship, hikes, meetings and activities such as The Defenders Silent Auction. See You There!



Tennes-Sierran
via email

Subscribe simply by going to
<http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/subscribe.htm>

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

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and Go Paperless Today!**

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: gvanhorn26@gmail.com

USPS: Gene Van Horn, Editor
895 Red Cloud Trail
Spring City, TN 37381
423-365-0692

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is September 25 for the November-December issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to gvanhorn26@gmail.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files. Attached files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in Pages.

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

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

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

5. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Barbara Kelly, Communications Committee, bk1rivers@comcast.net.

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

**Target Date for
November-December Issue
is September 25, 2014.**

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

**Send material to
Gene Van Horn at
gvanhorn26@gmail.com**

National Award Given to Tennessee's Cliff Cockerham

By Whitney Jarrell

Tennessee Chapter Chair Keven Routon presented the Robbie Cox Award to chapter member **Cliff Cockerham** at the May Chapter Excom meeting on behalf of the national Sierra Club. The award is presented annually to acknowledge one member who has "made meaningful contributions to the progress of the Sierra Student Coalition." During this past year Cliff mentored students from six different high schools to attack environmental justice issues in Nashville, testing new social change and social media tools developed with grants from several foundations to the MYW [Map Your World] project. The Nashville group is doing groundbreaking work paralleling other MYW beta test student activist groups in sites such as Harlem, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh,

India, Venezuela, Kenya, and Swaziland. The Nashville Sierra Student Coalition is noteworthy in specifically focusing on an array of environmental justice topics such as home energy efficiency, sustainable lifestyles, and toxic pollutants in air and water. Through Cliff's international connections and previous work in developing nations, the Nashville student group is now fostering youth environmental advocacy counterparts in the Central Yucatan and in Northern India, joining to create a project-based learning model for environmental justice work that will be widely distributed when the MYW website on youth driven social change tools is globally launched later this year. The 2011 recipient of the Robbie Cox Award was Sierra Club President Robin Mann.



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

Add your voice to protect the planet.

Join Sierra Club

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

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
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Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMLX
Cardholder Name: _____
Card Number: _____
Exp. Date: ____/____/____
Signature: _____

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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 471041, Palm Creek, FL 32740-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

#242 W43M

Sierra Club Officers

TENNESSEE CHAPTER:

Chair: Keven Routon (901) 485-3960
kwrates@me.com
Vice Chair: Charles White (731) 307-8140
conscious.lightbeing@gmail.com
Secretary: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009
bk1rivers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Alice Demetreon (660) 247-2288
demetreon1981@gmail.com
Asst. Treasurer: Bob Perlack (865) 229-5027
perlack@aol.com
Conservation: Axel Ringe (865) 850-0255
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Outings: Phil Davis (423) 247-0473
phildavis2006@gmail.com
CCL Delegate: Keven Routon (901) 485-3960
kwrates@me.com

TN LOCAL GROUPS:

Cherokee Group

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
Co Chairs: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009
bk1rivers@gmail.com
John Doyal (423) 596-8171
baldie052@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Barbara Hurst (423) 886-9503
barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com
Conservation: Davis Mounger (423) 877-4616
wdmounger@yahoo.com
Outings: Sheryl Campbell (423) 693-4729
campfamily63@gmail.com
Upper Cumberland
Committee: John Harwood, 931-372-0493
jharwood@ntech.edu

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
Chair: Judith Rutschman (901) 485-3960
judithrutschman@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Mark Plumlee (901) 679-4622
mark.chickasaw@gmail.com
Secretary: Keven Routon (901) 767-3960
kwrates.me.com
Treasurer: Ed Jones (901) 374-0582
edshouse35@comcast.net
Conservation: Scott Banbury (901) 619-8567
smbanbury@gmail.com

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
Chair: Robin Hill (865) 966-9435
robin.hill8@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Dave Reister (865) 670-8991
dreister@bellsouth.net
Secretary: Kris Christen (865) 593-9876
christen@knology.net
Treasurer: Bob Perlack (865) 229-5027
perlack@aol.com
Conservation: Axel Ringe (865) 850-0255
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518
ronaldshrieves@comcast.net

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg
Chair: Cliff Cockerham (615) 336-3905
clifford.cockerham@comcast.net
Vice Chair: Penny Brooks (615) 792-5306
penny.h.brooks@vanderbilt.edu
Secretary: Charles High
cahigh1722@aol.com
Treasurer: Joel Gearhardt (615) 591-0268
jgearhardt@yahoo.com
Conservation: Scott Heflinger (615) 351-2626
sheflinger@aol.com
Outings: Craig Jervis (615) 400-4309
cmjervis@comcast.net

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

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga
Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797@embarqmail.com
Vice Chair: Sandi Cranford (423) 727-5044
sunshine@highcountryonline.net
Secretary: Dennis Shekinah (423) 727-6497
dshekinah@centurylink.net
Treasurer: Cindy Johnson (423) 768-3882
doemtn@hotmail.com
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797@embarqmail.com

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

Tennessee Chapter Call for Nominations for At Large Delegates (2015-2016 Term)

The Tennessee Chapter will elect three (3) at-large delegates for a two-year term beginning in January 2015. Members are requested to give serious consideration to running for these important offices on the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) which manages the fiscal, legislative, environmental and other appropriate responsibilities for our Chapter.

Requirements of the office of at-large delegate are as follows:

- Commit to attending the four chapter ExCom meetings each year. These meetings require an at-large delegate's presence for the meetings each quarter.
- Commit to study issues confronting the ExCom from a Chapter or statewide perspective.
- Commit, for the term of office, to vote electronically by email on issues that require a Chapter ExCom vote.
- Serve on ExCom committees when appointed and as needed for the term of office.

If you are interested in being considered for nomination for the office of at-large delegate, please notify the Nominating Committee Chairperson Barbara Kelly at (423) 718-5009 or email bk1rivers@gmail.com. The other members of the committee are Robin Hill and Brian Paddock. Please submit a short statement of your qualifications and reason for running, and respond by Sept 14. The at-large delegate position provides an opportunity to have an important role in the Chapter management of a large grass roots environmental organization having more than 6,000 members in the State of Tennessee.

Interested parties who are not selected by the nominating committee will have the opportunity to run by the petition process; contact Barbara for more information. All candidates will be expected to provide a short statement for the ballot -- details will be provided. Elections will be conducted by ballot distributed in the November/December issue of the Tennes-Sierran, with provisions spelled out for our "paperless subscribers."

Harvey Broome Group (Knoxville)

The Nominating Committee for this class will be chairman Mac Post with members Warren DeVine, Axel Ringe, and Ron Shrieves.

Thank you gentlemen for agreeing to serve on this important committee!

This committee will nominate a slate of at least six candidates to fill the six positions. This committee must report and post its slate of delegates no later than September 10, 2014 and place the ballot by that date for publication in the November - December 2014 Tennes-Sierran. Terms of office are for two years.

Any Incumbent who wants to be considered for placement on the ballot should notify the Nominating committee in writing of their intent and desire to be considered as a candidate.

Members please submit any suggestions you have for candidates to the nominating committee chair Mac Post at mpost3116@aol.com as soon as possible.

Nashville Area – A Call to Action

Or, how anyone can make a difference:

Our Nashville Area Group (MTG) is made up of many Sierra Club members – all of whom are well aware of the environmental threats to our planet. However, only a small number of people are actively involved in our local education, lobbying, and conservation efforts. If you are not already actively involved with an environmental organization, you are encouraged to do more, and join us by:

1. Attending our monthly business/local issues meetings,
2. Running for our executive committee, &
3. Encouraging others to become active with our group.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FOUR SEATS ON THE 2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Committee Members serve as our "Board." We have required monthly meetings (usually at the Mad Platter). We have nine voting members who take the lead on planning our activities and actions in the Middle Tennessee area. Please contact Betsy Garber at garberb@hotmail.com, or 615/668-1977 to express your interest, nominate someone else for the Executive Committee, or find out about our next meeting. The other members of the MTG Nominating Committee are Joy Mayfield and Charlie High; they also will be happy to answer any questions. Nominations must be received by September 20, 2014.



Watauga Group calls for Executive Committee nominations

The following members constitute the Nominating & Election Committee for the 2014 election cycle:

- Rita Cowan 423-727-6497
- Catherine Murray 423-929-8163
- Linda Carlough 423-768-1170

Current Watauga Group Sierra Club members may self-nominate by contacting any Nominating Committee member above by SEPT 8th 2014.

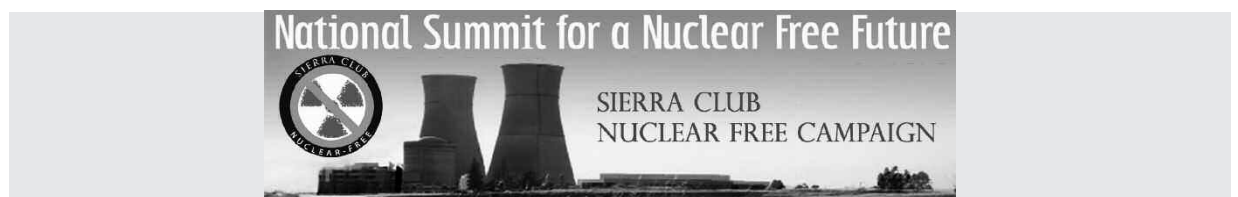
A total of five ExCom members, each serving two year terms, will be elected to serve JAN 2015 through DEC 2016. Successful candidates will join returning ExCom members, Cindy Johnson, Lyn Walker, Sandi Cranford and Mary Gale.

**Nominating Committee Reports
Nominees to Watauga Group ExCom
on Tuesday SEPT 9th.**

* Deadline to submit Candidate Petitions is SEPT 20th via file doc email to Dennis Shekinah at dshekinah@centurylink.net or USPS mail petition to Rita Cowan 900 Mining Town Rd Mountain City, TN 37683.

Cherokee Group Call for Nominations for 2015-2016

The Cherokee Group nominating committee for ExCom candidates for the term of 2015-2016 are: Alice Demetreon, Barbara Hurst and Bob Pyle. Suggestions for candidates, and those interested in becoming candidates should submit their names to Alice for consideration by the committee by September 15, 2014 at demetreon1981@gmail.com. Candidates, if elected, must be willing to actively participate in Group management. Serving on the ExCom requires some commitment of time and energy, but it is also interesting and fun. Please consider becoming a candidate!



SAVE THE DATE: November 14-17, 2014

WHERE: Washington, DC

WHO: Sierra Club members and all those interested in ending nuclear power and dealing properly with radioactive waste. Participating organizations include the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS), Beyond Nuclear, Nuclear Energy Information Service, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Earthworks and the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research.

FRIDAY, Nov. 14: Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) Pre-Summit event

- Peer to peer sharing of concerns of communities where reactors have closed (or will soon be closing) and communities that are being singled out for possible "centralized storage" of high-level irradiated nuclear fuel. In the morning people with the same immediate challenge will share information. In the afternoon everyone will meet together to find common concerns and share insights.

SATURDAY, Nov. 15: Plenary Workshops

- Moving to a clean energy economy through phasing out nuclear and carbon – discussion with Sierra coal, oil and gas campaigns; EPA Clean Power Plan Proposed Rule
- Front End: Uranium mining and milling; mine and mill waste cleanup; environmental justice issues
- Back End: Securing waste: high burnup fuel; waste confidence; hardened onsite storage (HOSS); centralized interim storage; transport; low level waste; importation; reprocessing; reports from Friday

SUNDAY, Nov. 16: Strategy

- Most useful actions we can take; coordination among organizations; coordination between Sierra nuclear, coal, oil and gas campaigns
- Strategies to shut down commercial reactors
- Media strategy
- Engaging youth, Sierra Student Coalition
- Reports from regions on local challenges
- Co-mingling of weapons and power issues

MONDAY, Nov. 17:

- Lobby day, Congress is in session

Registration cost is \$35. Scholarships will be available. Online registration forthcoming.

Contact: Steven Sondheim 901 237-6504 for information

See our Facebook page: Save the Date! for the Summit for a Nuclear Free Future

Meetings

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

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

2014: Learn Globally, Then Act Locally Strategy/Business Meetings: Sept. 8 and Oct. 13 (2nd Monday) 6:30 P.M. -Held at Second Presbyterian Church, at the corner of E. 7th Street and Pine, 700 Pine Street [parking is free in their Pine Street lot, across the street from the church, next to the old Blue Cross (orange) building.] If you want to be connected to the Environmental Buzz in/around Chattanooga -- this is where to be. Come add your ideas and share your concerns. We'll be planning our actions here. All are welcome!

September Program: 4th Monday, Sept. 22, 7:00 P.M. at Outdoor Chattanooga, Coolidge Park, 200 River St., Chattanooga. "We Speak for the Trees - and the plants, animals and habitats!" Davis Mounger will give a talk on the Cherokee Forest and his research and ramblings throughout the Forest as he checks out areas proposed for timber sales, looks for old growth timber, and just takes a walk in the woods. Davis, a science teacher at CSAS, has been involved in forest preservation for decades. We are blessed to have a good chunk of the Cherokee within our Group boundaries. Community Invited! Bring your friends and family -- and your camp chair, just in case we run out of seating.

October Program: 4th Monday, Oct. 27, 7:00 P.M. at Outdoor Chattanooga, Coolidge Park, 200 River St., Chattanooga. Learn: Sustainable Building, with Carol Kimmons, Director of Education and Research, Sequatchie Valley Institute (SVI.) Carol will talk with us about sustainable building, along with ecological construction and technology. Carol has much to share: she has taught in Nigeria (Peace Corp), India, and Haiti, and was an agricultural research scientist in Guam. A mainstay at the SVI; she and her husband Johnny and family moved to the Sequatchie Valley in 1971, where they cleared land, planted gardens and orchards and built their home, Moonshadow, and developed the program that is now the Institute, a learning center and model for sustainable living. Surrounding Moonshadow are four acres of edible landscaping integrated with the forest ecosystem!

The public is very welcome, healthy snacks are served. Parking is free in the driveway & parking lot behind the building, and along the sidewalks of the park, or there's paid parking in the Theatre lot. Invite your friends!!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

September 9, 7:00 P.M. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville. Chris Ann Lughino, Organizing Representative, Beyond Coal Campaign Sierra Club

Overview of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign to End Fossil Fuel Emissions

October 14, 7:00 P.M. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville. To Be Determined.

All Harvey Broome Meetings are free and open to the public. Our Executive Committee Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 P.M. at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville. All Sierra Club members are invited to participate.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM: September 11, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center (always enter from Granny White Pike) Cumberland Trail State Park: Del Truitt will present this program on the Cumberland Trail State Park. Cutting through eleven Tennessee counties along a line of pristine high ridges and deep gorges of the Cumberland Plateau, this park is a real treasure. Come learn about the history, hiking, and other interesting happenings in Tennessee's first linear park. Light refreshments. These programs are free and open to the public.

PROGRAM: October 9, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center (always enter from Granny White Pike)

We are excited and honored to host Les Johnson, physicist, author of science fiction/science fact, and the Senior Technical Advisor for the Advanced Concepts Office at NASA in Huntsville. He is also a co-investigator for The University of Surrey's Deploytech (Solar Sail) Project and served as the NASA co-investigator on the Japanese T-Rex Space Tether Experiment. He has received three NASA Exceptional Achievement Medals and was the featured

interstellar explorer in the January 2013 issue of National Geographic. How, you ask, does this relate to the Sierra Club? Les will discuss how space technology can help solve (in the long term) some of the energy and environmental issues we face here on Earth. His presentation to the Sierra Club will be drawn from his book *Harvesting Space for a Greener Earth*. He has also written science fiction books including *Rescue Mode*, *Going Interstellar* and *Back to the Moon*. Popular science books include *Solar Sails*, *Living Off the Land in Space*, *Sky Alert: When Satellites Fail*, and *Paradise Regained*. Les will be bringing books to autograph. Don't miss this very special program!

PROGRAM: November 13, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, Ice Climbing: Ronson Dykstra will present our first-ever program on Ice Climbing! Ronson has climbed in Canada and Northern Michigan. The program will include photographs from his climbs, tales of his adventures, and information on how it's done. Please join us for this unique opportunity. These programs are free and open to the public.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: September 16, and October 21th, and November 18th - Tuesdays at 6:30 P.M.

Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Meetings are usually held at the Mad Platter Restaurant, 1239 Sixth Ave. North, Nashville 37208 (near the Nashville Farmer's Market), but there may be times we meet elsewhere. *If you are not a regular attendee*, please contact Betsy at 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com in case the meeting location has changed. Come a bit early because we start the meeting at 6:30. The Mad Platter is not open on Tuesday evenings, so be sure to eat before you come or bring something with you. We look forward to seeing you.

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.

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via email



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

Outings

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Sheryl Campbell is our Outings Chair, and point-person for outings information for our Group. Our activities are always open to the public and to members of the Club from across our state! Outings are planned to take in the interests and skill levels of the participants. For more information, contact Sheryl at campfamily63@gmail.com. Also check our Facebook page, Cherokee Sierra, for the latest on our outings.

Sept. 6 - 7 (Sat-Sun) Citico Creek Wilderness (A Celebration), 10 A.M. Sat to 5 P.M. Sun. We will leave from the Whole Foods parking lot (near the bank) at 8 A.M. or folks can meet us at McNabb Group Camp in the Cherokee National Forest. Activities for Saturday will include Leave No Trace taught by Master Scout and Educator Wayne Hannah, and a Edible Native plant hike led by Holli Richey. Certificates will be given to participants. Come and experience the Wilderness and let it rejuvenate and restore you. We will camp overnight and the next day you can enjoy the activity(s) of your choice from fishing, cooling off in the creek, and hiking. Activities Saturday night will include cooking and singing around the campfire, and we will view a special guest who will teach you about the wilderness. All ages are welcome. To register, and for more information, contact Sheryl Campbell at campfamily63@gmail.com

Oct. 5 (Sun) Stringers Ridge Walk - great family outing right in the middle of the city! Citizen effort has preserved one of the last large natural areas within Chattanooga's city limits! Tree identification markers will be placed by TN Heartwood members, Davis Mounger's CSAS students and Sierra Club members. We are encouraging all to join in on this event and help place markers (trees have already been identified!) To register, and for more information, contact Barb Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com.

Nov. 2 (Sun) South Chickamauga Creek Afternoon Walk - bring your family, good for all ages, We'll be walking along the boardwalks that wind above the creek, through towering oak-hickory forests and rolling farmland. Dogs welcome too, on leash. To register, and for more information, contact Barb Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com.

Chickasaw Group (Memphis)

Time and dates of outings are to be determined. Check <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

6 Sept (Sat). Wildlife Float, Rankin Wildlife Management Area, Douglas Lake. At this time of year, Douglas lake will be "drawn down" enough to expose large mud flats in the Rankin Bottoms area. These attract many species of migrating shore birds and waterfowl, making Rankin a real treat at

this time of year. Though we can't know for sure what awaits us in terms of migrating birds, we'll have a fair chance of spotting several species that may be new to you. Only very basic canoe skills are necessary for this trip. Sorry, but we cannot provide canoes. Check with local outfitters for rentals. One-way drive: 50 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

13-14 Sept (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Rabbit Creek, Hatcher Mountain, and Abrams Falls Trails, GSMNP. We will meet at the Cades Cove Loop entrance parking lot at 10:00 A.M. (closed for bikers before then). Starting from the Abrams Falls trailhead, we'll hike up Rabbit Creek Trail to Campsite 15. It is an easy hike, but not too easy - there is a creek crossing (Mill Creek) that requires wading, a little under 1,000 feet of elevation change, and about 4 miles. For the return trip, we'll consider returning by way of Hannah Mountain and Abrams Falls if Abrams Creek isn't too high. The Abrams Creek crossing can be challenging or pleasant depending on the weather. If it's more of a challenge than we want, we'll return the way we came in. The campsite is limited to 12 persons. Backcountry camp fee \$4 per person - check with the leader about reservations status. Distance, about 11 miles. Rated easy to moderate. One-way drive: 50 miles. Pre-register with Conrad Ottenfeld, col1505@charter.net; 865-288-0975.

20-21 Sept (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area (John Muir Trail). One of the best hiking-only trails in the Big South Fork NRA is the John Muir Trail (JMT), and on this backpack we'll be hiking the JMT from Leatherwood Ford to Station Camp, a distance of about 15.1 miles (9.5 miles on Saturday to a creek side campsite, and 5.6 miles on Sunday). Features include the famous Angel Falls Overlook (in recent years a featured Hike-of-the-Month in the Knoxville News Sentinel) plus fall wildflowers and numerous views of the Big South Fork River and the cliffs and rock houses for which the Park is famous. We'll learn about the history of the Big South Fork along the way. Because of mileage and some significant up and down elevation gain, plus a wet crossing of the Big South Fork River at the end, it is rated difficult. One-way drive: 72 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 72-7327; whshome@bell-south.net.

4 Oct (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity Tour (Mixed hardwood Forest), Boogerman Trail, GSMNP. We will hike a 6.6 mile loop that includes the Boogerman Trail and a section of the Caldwell Fork Trail. Boogerman contains a large section of old-growth forest including the Boogerman White Pine, the tallest tree in eastern North America. The once heavily settled Cataloochee Valley is special this time of year when the elk are bugling. Rated easy to moderate. One way driving distance is 86 miles. Preregister with Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or

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!

mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred).

11 Oct (Sat). Canoe/Kayak Float, French Broad River. This go-with-the-current float covers 10.5 miles from the TN 66 bridge to the Seven Islands public access point on the French Broad. Though far from pristine, this river does have some interesting sights and a bit of wildlife (and some not-so-wild life). There may be some shoal water, but no white-water. Basic canoe/kayak skills are required. Adverse wind conditions are another possible "hazard." Sorry but we cannot provide boats, so you will have to contact a local outfitter and make your own arrangements for boats, paddles, and pfd's. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

18-19 Oct (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. We will explore the west end of the area on this 13-mile lollipop route. Sights include Slave Falls, Needle Arch, and the Twin Arches. We will camp along Station Camp Creek and hike the Twin Arch Loop on Sunday morning. Rated moderate. Driving distance about 60 miles each way. Pre-register with Rob Davis at 865-202-6661 or hikin-rob@charter.net (email preferred).

25 Oct (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Old Settlers Trail, GSMNP. We'll hike the section from Webb Creek to Campsite 33. Traveling the Old Settlers Trail, a hiker can see more traces of 19th and early 20th century mountain community life than any place else in the park. This trail illustrates the powerful force of forest succession after settlement. We will hike a 6.5 mile section in the middle passing through many old homesteads marked with chimneys and rock walls. Rated moderate. One-way drive: 55 miles. Contact Mac Post: 938-3116, mpost3116@aol.com.

Middle Tennessee Group (Nashville)

We have an active outings schedule and want you to come along! To check out our outings, please click on the outing of choice at <http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures/events/calendar/>

CELEBRATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF WILDERNESS ACT

Event: Tennessee Wilderness: Celebrating 50 years of people, place, and promise

Date: September 3, 2014

Time: 6 P.M.-9 P.M.

Location: East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, Tennessee

Speakers include:

Tom Tidwell, Chief of US Forest Service

Bill Meadows, former President of The Wilderness Society

Will Skelton, Sierra Club

Charles Maynard, Historian and Methodist Minister

Bill Hodge, Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards

Bill Broome, Nephew of Harvey Broome

Join us on September 3, 2014 at the East Tennessee History Center in downtown Knoxville for an inspirational evening celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The Wilderness Act of 1964 was landmark legislation and has protected thousands of acres of Tennessee's most beautiful natural wonders. If you cherish the woods, waters, and wildlife of East Tennessee you don't want to miss this event.

Tennessee has played a key role in helping our nation realize the importance of protecting wild places that define America and represent freedom in the truest sense of the word. Celebrating this history, speakers at the event will tell the story of people, place, and promise. The evening will take you on a journey to explore what wilderness means in Tennessee, why it is more important than ever, and what the future holds for the next 50 years of this natural legacy.

The event will include refreshments and plenty of time to socialize. The event is sponsored by the USFS, Wild South, Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, the TN Wild Coalition, Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards, The Wilderness Society, East Tennessee History Center, Sierra Club, Cherokee Forest Voices, and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning.

Photos by: Will Skelton



Former Tennessee Chapter Chair Roger Jenkins hiking along the State Line Ridge Trail on the first Sierra Club backpack into the Upper Bald River area in April 1996. The 9,038-acre Upper Bald River Wilderness Study Area is the centerpiece of the Wilderness Bill introduced in the current session of Congress by Senators Alexander and Corker.



Tennessee Falls along the Bald River Trail in the Upper Bald River WSA, taken on a June 2011 TN Wild day hike with various congressional, media and foundation representatives.



Randy and Julie Clemons relaxing beside Brookshire Creek on a Sierra Club backpack into the Upper Bald River WSA in October 2010.



Barbara Allen fording the Bald River on a Sierra Club backpack into the Upper Bald River WSA in October 2011.

Deepening Honeybee Crisis and our Food Supply

By Sierra Club's Genetic Engineering Action Team (GEAT)

July 16, 2014

WHAT IS THE HOOPLA ABOUT HONEY-BEES?

When people think of honeybees, honey comes to mind. Most people are not aware that honeybees are a major pollinator for crops that produce one third of American food, including over 140 fruits, vegetables, seeds and nuts.

Yet honeybee populations are in significant decline.

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE DWINDLING HONEYBEE POPULATIONS?

There is a strong body of scientific peer-reviewed papers linking the honeybee demise to a widely-used class of neurotoxic pesticides called neonicotinoids ("neonics" for short). This new class of pesticides has been registered for use since the early 1990's. Commonly used neonics are imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam (and others).

Traditionally, pesticides are applied directly to the soil or plant. In 2005, Monsanto received patents to "coat" their proprietary genetically manipulated seeds with neonics, primarily manufactured by Syngenta and Bayer.

Since 2005, seed treatments became the new norm, in order to protect emerging seedlings from pests. These neonic-coated seeds are encapsulated with a material which releases the pesticide slowly. www.i-sis.org.uk/requiemForTheHoneybee.php
www.i-sis.org.uk/SmartStaxCornCorporateWarOnBees.php
www.i-sis.org.uk/MysteryOfDisappearingHoneybees.php

Neonics are systemic pesticides that are taken up through roots and leaves and distributed throughout the entire plant, including pollen and nectar. They are even present in the tiny drops of fluid which form on the plant's surface. Neonics are slow to break down. They contaminate surface water, ground water, and soil. The entire food chain becomes contaminated.

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22228315

Neonics endanger not only pollinators, but also other beneficial species that inhabit these ecosystems, such as butterflies, earthworms and birds. Many are calling this critical situation the next Silent Spring.

www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature13642.html

www.iucn.org/?uNewsID=16025

www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jul/09/neonicotinoids-farmland-birds

www.newscientist.com/article/dn25783-neonicotinoid-pesticides-are-bad-news-for-everything.html#.U6tK5vldVL

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEED COATINGS AND GENETICALLY MANIPULATED SEEDS?

Neonics are used extensively as seed dressings on corn, soy, sunflower, canola, as well as on horticultural crops.

www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/whats-poisoning-the-bees/Content?oid=3939487&showFullText=true

Most conventional corn seeds and virtually all genetically manipulated corn seeds are now treated with a neonic seed treatment. Corn is grown not only for human consumption, but also to feed animals raised in livestock factories and feedlots and to drive our cars.

www.organic-center.org/reportfiles/Final_Paper.pdf

WHAT IS COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER (CCD)?

The surge in seed treatments coincided closely with the crash in honeybee populations. In 2006, David Hackenberg, former president of the American Beekeeping Federation, and other beekeepers discovered their foraging bees left the colony in search of pollen and nectar but did not come back, which is highly unusual for a social insect to leave a queen and its brood or young behind. This finding of neurobehavioral disruption is a significant distinction of Colony Collapse Disorder.

Other responses include disruptions in bee

mobility, navigation, feeding behavior, foraging activity, memory and learning, and overall hive activity.

www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0091364

Neonics also impair the bee's immune system, leaving it much more susceptible to attacks by parasitic fungi and other disease agents.

www.pnas.org/content/110/46/18466

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22246149

Exposure to neonics has both lethal and sub-lethal effects on honeybees. Lethal effects occur when bees die within a few hours from exposure to a high dose. Sublethal effects, measured at very low doses in parts per billion or even parts per trillion, result in various harmful symptoms.

www.purdue.edu/newsroom/research/2012/120111KrupkeBees.html

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) AND REGISTRATION OF NEONICS

The U.S. EPA has allowed the very rapid and ubiquitous expansion of neonic application to most farmland in North America. EPA registration was based solely on the data submitted by the companies manufacturing their proprietary pesticide (primarily Bayer Crop Science). In addition, the EPA did not consider sublethal effects on honeybees in the approval process. (EPA spokesperson Margie Fehrenbach's wrote to Sierra Club (9/10/2008), stating: "With the recent concerns about the unusual honey bee losses in this country, we are now examining more advanced methodologies for assessing behavioral effects, such as mobility, navigation/orientation, feeding patterns, learning performance, and community ecology. In order to appropriately evaluate these types of sub-lethal effects and to use the information in a regulatory context, standardized methods and protocols need to be developed for assessing these types of behavioral effects.")

DOES THE MULTINATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS SUPPRESS THE SCIENCE?

Numerous independent scientists signed a statement which included: "When those with a vested interest attempt to sow unreasonable doubt around inconvenient results, or when governments exploit political opportunities by picking and choosing from scientific evidence, they jeopardize public confidence in scientific methods and institutions, and also put their own citizenry at risk. Safety testing, science-based regulation, and the scientific process itself, depend crucially on widespread trust in a body of scientists devoted to the public interest and professional integrity. If instead, the starting point of a scientific product assessment is an approval process rigged in favor of the applicant, backed up by systematic suppression of independent scientists working in the public interest, then there can never be an honest, rational or scientific debate."

www.independentsciencenews.org/health/seralini-and-science-nk603-rat-study-roundup

Many believe the crisis of worldwide bee deaths threatening the global food supply has been worsened by an industry-funded misinformation campaign and that public relation companies hired by leading chemical companies (Monsanto, Bayer, and Syngenta) have been distracting policy makers from identifying the causation of honeybee decline.

EUROPEAN UNION SUSPENSION:

In January 2013, the European Food Safety Authority officially labeled neonics to be an "unacceptable" danger to bees feeding on flowering crops and the regulations contained "major weaknesses." Following that review, the European Commission implemented a continent-wide two year suspension of the three most-used neonics.

THE SIERRA CLUB GENETIC ENGINEERING ACTION TEAM (GEAT):

Sierra Club's Pollinator Protection Campaign is a special project of the Sierra Club's GEAT. The evidence points to neonic seed coatings as an impor-

tant cause of Colony Collapse Disorder. Most corn, soy and canola are genetically manipulated and "coated" with neonics. (Sierra Club policy states: "Genetic engineering is a new technology which, unlike traditional breeding methods, allows the transfer of genetic material from one organism into a host



organism of an unrelated species, thus bypassing the natural reproductive barriers between species.")

Sierra Club's GEAT wrote the EPA, urging the regulatory agency to suspend all neonic seed treatment product registrations until it can obtain scientific evidence that the effects are not causing harm to America's honeybees.

Sierra Club's GEAT worked with Kevin Hansen, who produced the outstanding documentary "Nicotine Bees." The film included an interview with independent scientist Charles Benbrook, Ph.D., who explained in layman's terms how neonics are decimating honeybee populations. Sierra Club's GEAT then distributed copies of Nicotine Bees to every member of Congress, along with a letter from the National Honey Bee Advisory Board, stating: "Nicotine Bees vividly describes a very real threat to the pollinators of our country."

Sierra Club's GEAT sent a press release (11/11/2009) announcing the release of Nicotine Bees. The McClatchy newspaper publisher picked up the story, which made its way to federal regulatory agencies.

Following the Purdue study entitled "Multiple Routes of Pesticide Exposure for Honey Bees Living Near Agricultural Fields," Sierra Club's GEAT sent a press release (1/10/2012) with the header: "New research should nail the coffin lid shut on a toxic bee-killing pesticide." Again, our release was picked up on the McClatchy wire. www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0029268

Sierra Club and other groups and beekeepers (3/21/2013) filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court against the EPA for failure to perform adequate toxicity evaluations and allowing registration of the pesticides on insufficient industry studies.

According to Dr. Benbrook, the EPA has never denied an application for a new pesticide, nor banned a currently registered product because of adverse impacts on bees, nor is it likely to without new legislation and a push from the public and Congress. Therefore Sierra Club sent numerous action alerts for members to encourage Congress to support the Saving America's Pollinator Act of 2013 (H.R. 2692).

TAKE ACTION:

Tell the story.

(continued on page 8)

A First Hand View of “Fracking”

By John A. Cruickshank, Chair of the Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club. He lives in Charlottesville, Va. Printed with permission of the *Old Dominion Sierran*.

I had seen the movie “Gasland” and read numerous articles on this subject, but a visit to operational fracking sites increased my understanding of how this process can damage a community. In early April I went to Doddridge County, West Virginia, with a group of activists organized by Wild Virginia. During our two-day visit we got a close-up view of several sites where natural gas is being extracted by the process of horizontal hydraulic fracturing or fracking.

I never fully comprehended how this process can transform a beautiful rural community into a wasteland. It is more than just a natural gas well. Fracking includes clear cutting, mountaintop removal, and massive road building. It causes pollution of the air, streams, and groundwater. Compressor stations are like factories and public roads



A road being constructed to the well site passes close to a cemetery and church.



The old well site has a storage tank and pump coexisting with a nearby home and forest.

are often crowded with large tanker trucks. Water is frequently drawn from local streams and mixed with unknown chemicals to fracture shale thousands of feet below the surface. Four to six million gallons of water may be used to frack a single well.

Particularly disturbing is the inability of local residents to protect their homes. Our guides from West Virginia Host Farms told us the majority of people living above gas deposits in Doddridge County do not own the mineral rights below their land. There is no way for them to prevent the gas companies from laying pipelines, building roads, leveling hillsides, and constructing huge storage ponds and compressor sites. This can all be done within 600 feet of their homes. To date, 30 of the 300 leases have been drilled in Doddridge.

For about 100 years, natural gas was extracted from this area in West Virginia without seriously disturbing the natural environment or people living in the communities. Shallow surface wells were drilled vertically, usually at a depth of less than 2,000 feet. Storage tanks and pumps were relatively small and unobtrusive. People living on the land coexisted comfortably with this traditional form of natural gas extraction.

When fracking came to Doddridge County, everything changed for the people and their land. As one resident told us, “This is not your grandfather’s gas well. Fracking has ruined our county. Don’t let it happen where you live!”



The storage pond that will hold fracking fluids took more off the mountain top.

Deepening Honeybee Crisis and our Food Supply

(continued from page 7)

Call Congressional representatives to support the Saving America's Pollinator Act of 2013 (H.R. 2692). Phone calls are more effective than emails.

Encourage garden centers to refrain from selling neonic-treated plants. Replace grass with edibles and pollinator plants in residential and business areas.

Plant edible gardens.
Install backyard beehives.
Encourage cities to ban neonics.
See the Cleveland Hts, Ohio, ordinance that bans outdoor pesticides on public grounds:

www.neosierragroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/131-1995PSH-As-Amended.pdf

ENDING THOUGHTS

As Dr. Benbrook so eloquently explained in his Rachel Carson Memorial Lecture (12/2008), "Our failure to ask ecologically-grounded questions, coupled with the economic power behind the private sector push toward high-cost systemic, genetic engineering and proprietary pest management technology, has set the stage for a series of train wrecks."

www.organic-center.org/reportfiles/Final_Paper.pdf

The EPA claims the agency will review the situation in 2018. Clearly, that's not good enough. The time is now for EPA to quit dodging the illusion of oversight and, instead, cancel these bee-killing pesticides. If we travel too far down our current path, we could create conditions in our food system much like those that brought down the financial system.

For further information, contact Laurel Hopwood at <lhopwood@roadrunner.com> (volunteer) Chair, Sierra Club Genetic Engineering Action Team (volunteer) Coordinator, Sierra Club Pollinator Protection Campaign.

Moving?



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

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