

# Tennessee-Sierra

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

Volume 50, Number 6 - November/December 2017

## Middle Tennessee Group joins the Transit for Nashville Coalition

by Joe McCaleb

In response to the General Assembly's passage of the Governor's IMPROVE Act earlier this year, the Sierra Club, Middle Tenn Group, has officially joined the Transit for Nashville Coalition. The Sierra Club chose to become a member because of the tremendous opportunity to actually plan, develop and fund a mass transit system for Davidson County and perhaps broader if the adjacent counties take advantage of the opportunity provided in the IMPROVE Act. There are now over 53 member organizations in this Coalition and growing by the week representing African-American and Latino communities, churches, legal, business, labor, environmental, contractors, realtors and medical professionals. Every effort continues to drive membership in the Coalition and to make it as inclusive of the Nashville communities as possible.

The immediate goal of the Coalition is to educate the public about the need for mass transit, and support the Mayor's plan to improve transit through a referendum vote that will be on the ballot in May

2018. As you know, transportation creates at least 27% of the greenhouse gases and other emissions in our atmosphere. The study and plan is looking at multiple ways to reduce the number of individual vehicles on the interstate hwy's coming into and leaving the Nashville area as well as getting around inside the Nashville-Metro area. Everyone on the Coalition agree that we don't want Nashville to be a spread-out city like Atlanta. We want communities connected and the fact remains that yesterday's transit system is not going to take us forward in a city with now more than 1 million population and ranked as the largest city in Tennessee. Funding for this new transit system is also multi-leveled as set forth in the IMPROVE Act. Cities and counties are given 5 options to consider in funding the transit system and it is expected that the plan will propose a combination of those options. Additionally, there are limited federal and state grant funds in the pot too. The actual plan is being studied and prepared by an entirely different team of professional planners and engineers.

At this stage members of the Coalition are tasked with trying to secure as many signatures on the Petition as possible to present to the Metro-Council when it begins to deliberate the final plan during the coming Fall and Winter. The Petition does not commit the signer to voting for the plan when it is placed on the May 2018 ballot. The Petition is simply a way for potential voters to express their individual and collective opinions that "yes, we need it and yes, we are willing to help pay for it". The Petition can be found online at [www.transitfornashville.com/?recruiter\\_id=2208](http://www.transitfornashville.com/?recruiter_id=2208).

A draft of the plan is scheduled to be shown to the Coalition members for discussion in October and afterwards, it will be released to the general public. There will be scheduled public hearings and public forums throughout the Nashville-Metro, Davidson County area and every effort is being planned and executed for the public to ask questions and get answers. Approval of a final plan will be the responsibility of the Metro Council after input from the public and recommended changes.

## Remember To Vote! Ballots on pages 4 – 8.

### Looking Ahead: Winter Tennessee Chapter Meeting January 26-28 Cedars of Lebanon State Park

Join the TN Chapter as we meet for our Winter Retreat. Come and enjoy the company and interaction with environmental leaders from across the state. Be a part of the fellowship, hikes, fireplace chats, meetings, and star gazing. Be sure not to miss the Saturday evening program, live music and bonfire. Meet others that share your love and respect for Mother Nature.

Harvey Broome Group hosting - Contact HBG treasurer Bob Perlack to register: email [perlack@aol.com](mailto:perlack@aol.com), phone (865) 229-5027 or mail Bob Perlack, 234 Northshore Drive, Greenback TN 37742. You can also pre-register before January 14 online at <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3914124/January-26-28-2018-Sierra-Club-Retreat>

The Park is centrally located near Lebanon, TN. Register by Saturday, January 13th to receive early bird pricing. The rates are:

- Late registration (after January 13) - \$60
- Early Bird Discount (lodging, 2 breakfasts, Saturday dinner) - \$50
- For those attending their first Chapter retreat (lodging, 2 breakfasts, Saturday dinner) - half price at \$25
- Student (lodging, 2 breakfasts, Saturday dinner) - \$15
- Only on Saturday (registration, dinner) - \$30
- Only the Sunday Executive Committee meeting (registration, breakfast, no lodging) - \$10
- Only the Sunday Executive Committee meeting (registration only, no lodging, no breakfast) - \$5
- Child under 16 - No Charge

#### About the Park

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

In the 1940s, botanists noticed unique natural ecosystems found in and around Cedars of Lebanon State Park and Forest. These areas

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

Nearby attractions include Stones River National Historic Battlefield. The Saturday morning outing will be to the Stones River National Historic Battlefield (<https://www.nps.gov/stri/index.htm>). We'll tour the site, starting in the museum, where we'll see a short film about the famous battle. Both Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning will include hikes on the "Cedars" trails. We will make an excursion to the Elsie Quarterman memorial at the park. Here is a link to a recent article about her work as an ecologist, especially at these Cedar Glades:

<https://news.vanderbilt.edu/vanderbiltmagazine/elsie-quarterman-was-more-than-a-biology-professor-and-ecologist/>

"All retreat attendees will be required to sign a liability waiver. See Chapter Retreat Schedule on page 2 for details"

### Tennessee Chapter Spring Retreat N.B. Forrest State Park April 27th thru 29th

Come to Western Tennessee to meet and interact with Sierra Club leaders from all parts of the state. Enjoy hikes, campfires, environmental programs and camaraderie on the shore of the Tennessee River.

Most attendees stay in the bunkhouse style Group Lodge although some stay at the campground. Registration includes breakfast on Saturday and Sunday and dinner on Saturday night. Early bird registration of \$50.00 includes lodging and the meals listed. Registrants may specify vegetarian or omnivore. First time attendees are half price. Children 15 and under are free. Scholarships are available upon advance arrangement.

Attendees should bring a sleeping bag or bedding, a towel, toiletries, walking shoes, appropriate clothing snacks, beverages and Saturday lunch. Middle Tennessee Group is hosting the retreat. Contact Charlie High for information and reservations at [caigh1722@aol.com](mailto:caigh1722@aol.com) or by text at 615.500.5499.

# Tennes=Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

\*Email: [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto: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](mailto:c.demetreon@mchsi.com)

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is November 30th for the January/February 2018 issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to [c.demetreon@mchsi.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 January/February Issue is November 30, 2017.**

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

**Send material to Chris Demetreon at [c.demetreon@mchsi.com](mailto: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
<b>Special Offer</b>	<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](http://www.sierraclub.org)

F94Q W4300 1

## Sierra Club Officers

### TENNESSEE CHAPTER:

Chair: Cliff Cockerham 615-336-3905  
[cockerham@cecoalition.org](mailto:cockerham@cecoalition.org)  
 Vice Chair: Mac Post 865-806-0980  
[mpost3116@aol.com](mailto:mpost3116@aol.com)  
 Secretary: Paula Lennon (615) 506-1502  
[paulalennon615@gmail.com](mailto:paulalennon615@gmail.com)  
 Treasurer: Alice Demetreon 660-247-2288  
[demetreon1981@gmail.com](mailto:demetreon1981@gmail.com)  
 Conservation: Axel Ringe 865-387-7398  
[onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net)  
 Outings: Phil Davis 423-247-0473  
[phildavis2006@gmail.com](mailto:phildavis2006@gmail.com)  
 CCL Delegate: Dennis Lynch 901-361-8029  
[dmlynch1@gmail.com](mailto:dmlynch1@gmail.com)

### TN LOCAL GROUPS:

#### Cherokee Group

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/ Cherokee>  
 Chair: Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009  
[bk1drivers@gmail.com](mailto:bk1drivers@gmail.com)  
 Vice Chair: Bill Moll (423) 702-5779  
[whmoll@aol.com](mailto:whmoll@aol.com)  
 Secretary: Kate Anthony (513) 365-7989  
[rainbowgardener2@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowgardener2@gmail.com)  
 Treasurer: Barbara Hurst 423-886-9503  
[barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com)  
 Conservation: Sandy Kurtz 423-892-5237  
[sandykurtz4@gmail.com](mailto:sandykurtz4@gmail.com)  
 Outings: John Doyal 423-315-0965  
[2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com](mailto:2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com)  
 Upper Cumberland Committee: Josephine McQuail 931-520-0449  
[jmcquail@tntech.edu](mailto:jmcquail@tntech.edu)

#### Chickasaw Group - Memphis

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/chickasaw>  
 Chair: Dennis Lynch 901-361-8029  
[dmlynch1@gmail.com](mailto:dmlynch1@gmail.com)  
 Vice Chair: Ed Jones 901-374-0582  
[edshouse35@comcast.net](mailto:edshouse35@comcast.net)  
 Secretary: Karen Thornton 901-340-6997  
[kmthornton16@hotmail.com](mailto:kmthornton16@hotmail.com)  
 Treasurer: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
[jozegovich@yahoo.com](mailto:jozegovich@yahoo.com)  
 Conservation: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
[jozegovich@yahoo.com](mailto:jozegovich@yahoo.com)  
 Outings: vacant

#### Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

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

#### Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

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

#### Watauga Group - Northeast Tennessee

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/watauga>  
 Chair: Gloria Griffith 423-727-4797  
[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)  
 Vice Chair: Sandi Cranford 423-727-5044  
[scanford1258@yahoo.com](mailto:scanford1258@yahoo.com)  
 Secretary: Dennis Shekinah 423-534-4804  
[bmwbruno@icloud.com](mailto:bmwbruno@icloud.com)  
 Treasurer: Cindy Johnson 423-895-1687  
[cinnyj@hotmail.com](mailto:cinnyj@hotmail.com)  
 Conservation: Dean Whitworth 423-727-7214  
 Outings: Webb Griffith 423-727-4797  
[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)

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

**Editor:**  
**Chris Demetreon**

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

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

## MEETING SCHEDULE



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

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/individual\\_waiver.pdf](http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual_waiver.pdf)

Any attendee under the age of 18 not accompanied by parent 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](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>

# Major Milestone: America is Halfway to Moving Beyond Coal

By Mary Anne Hitt and Bruce Nilles

We have big news to close out a remarkable week of highs (Michael Bloomberg re-investing in the Beyond Coal campaign) and lows (Scott Pruitt's announcement of a Clean Power Plan repeal): half the coal plants in the US are now announced to retire. Luminant Energy announced it will close two of the nation's largest and dirtiest coal plants in Central Texas, Big Brown and Sandow. That brings the nation to a major milestone - more than half of the coal plants in America have now retired or committed to retire since 2010. With this announcement, 262 coal plants have either retired or announced that they will retire, with 261 plants still remaining.

Despite a federal administration tripping over itself to pander to a small handful of executives and Wall Street firms that gambled on coal, clean energy like wind and solar is rapidly replacing costly, polluting coal plants across the country as America transitions to a clean energy economy.

These plants are the 13th and 14th coal plants to announce retirement in 2017. As Michael Bloomberg and the Sierra Club's Michael Brune noted at our press conference on Wednesday, coal plants are retiring during Trump's administration at the same pace as they were during the Obama administration. Coal is not coming back. That is

why we, as a nation, need to put priorities on and to support the diversity of the economy in coal communities. This diversity will provide good twenty-first century jobs that can sustain families for generations to come.



This watershed moment in clean air and water advocacy across the country is also a milestone for public health. The two plants being announced for retirement are some of the most polluting in the country - for example, Big Brown is one of the nation's top five mercury polluters. Nationwide, since 2010, coal retirements secured by the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign and over a hundred allied organizations have prevented 7,029 premature deaths, 10,906 heart attacks and 116,043 asthma

attacks every year.

This is also an affirmation to the rest of the world that the US will continue to do its part to cut carbon pollution and prevent the worst impacts of climate change. For the past decade, the US has led the world in reducing carbon pollution, primarily by replacing coal plants with clean energy. With this announcement we are letting the world know that they should ignore the hot air out of Washington and look at what is actually happening in cities and states across this great country. As storms and fires worsened by climate change relentlessly besiege our country, continuing this progress is more important than ever.

We could not have reached this milestone without thousands upon thousands of amazing grassroots activists and organizers nationwide.

They continue to boldly act for cleaner air and water, coal industry worker transition, good union jobs in the clean energy industry, a safe climate for our kids, and so much more. We also would not be here without over one hundred allied organizations, including in Texas our partners at Earthjustice, National Parks Conservation Association, the Environmental Integrity Project, and the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis. Together we are making a difference - and we're not slowing down. Join us.

## We Won't Back Down: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Sierra Club Announce Increased Commitment to Retiring Coal, Fighting Climate Change

Take heart, friends - all hope is not lost for our climate, and our clean air and water. Today I was honored to join an event in DC where the Sierra Club and Michael Bloomberg, United Nations Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change and former Mayor of New York, announced we are doubling down once more to continue retiring America's coal plants and transitioning the US economy to clean energy. On the heels of the Trump administration's decision to repeal the Clean Power Plan, President Obama's signature carbon pollution standards, our message is clear - together with dozens of partner organizations, we will continue to advance our nation's overwhelming commitment to expand clean energy and fight climate disruption, even when the Trump administration chooses denial and inaction.

As storms and wildfires worsened by climate change ravage our nation, and as Trump and his Environmental Protection Agency head Scott Pruitt again put polluters over

public health, the grassroots power of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign and our allies won't back down. Coal is not coming back, and the renewable energy revolution is here to stay.

The pace of coal retirements and renewable energy growth haven't slowed since the election, and this renewed support from Bloomberg Philanthropies will allow us to ensure that progress continues. Seventeen coal plants have announced their retirement since Election Day 2016 - one plant every 20 days - including some of the nation's biggest and most polluting coal plants. That's 9,822 megawatts of dirty power that pollutes our air and water, makes

our families sick, and worsens climate change. Tens of thousands of parents, students, public health officials, business owners, Tribal leaders, clergy, community leaders and more have banded together nationwide to get those results by organizing, rallying, contacting their elected officials, and more - and those results are just from the past year.

Since the Beyond Coal campaign started focus-



ing on existing coal plants in 2010, our grassroots activists and partners have helped retire 119,417 megawatts of proposed dirty coal power, or 259 coal plants, which means that almost half the coal plants in the US are now slated for retirement. By continuing this progress, we'll provide the primary engine for meeting the US Paris climate commitment, regardless of Trump

In this next chapter of our work, we're going to keep slashing carbon, build an ever stronger and more powerful movement to move the electric sector to clean energy, and help decarbonize the remaining sectors, giving us a fighting chance to avoid

the worst impacts of climate change. It's also essential that we diversify the economy in communities that have historically relied on coal, like my home state of West Virginia. Our nation must provide the financial resources, political leadership, and other needed support to ensure no one is left behind as we make this shift to clean energy.

The Sierra Club's Ready For 100 campaign will

continue demonstrating the amazing support for expanding clean energy. More than 150 mayors and 33 cities have now committed to powering their communities with 100 percent clean energy, and we'll keep adding to that list in the months ahead. Cities and towns are stepping up where the national leadership is lacking on clean energy and climate action.

As I said in my column earlier this week, the fight against the dangerous Clean Power Plan repeal is only just beginning. We have every intention of mobilizing to make our voices heard when the EPA conducts its legally

required comment period and of fighting any new rule that does not comply with the Clean Air Act in court. That work extends to making sure the clean energy transition continues as well, by continuing to retire coal plants and replace them with renewable power, as solar and wind energy continue their exponential growth nationwide.

The Sierra Club and our allies are committed to making sure the U.S. remains as a leader on climate action, despite Trump. In the leadership vacuum created by the Trump administration, the grassroots are rising. Join us.

## Major Grassroots Victory: Last Coal Export Terminal Goes Down in the Northwest

By Mary Anne Hitt

Grassroots leaders just won a major victory for public health and the climate. The last surviving coal export terminal proposed in the Northwest was denied a permit by the state, spelling the end for the project. On Tuesday the Washington Department of Ecology denied a necessary water quality permit for the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals coal export facility in Longview, citing the project's negative impacts on climate, clean air, and water. This renders the project formally dead!

If you needed a reminder that people power can defeat polluters with big money, here I got a story for you. This project was one of six coal export terminals proposed in the Northwest over the past decade, as coal mining companies promised big markets in Asia were hungry for coal mined in Montana and Wyoming. Over seven years, a massive grassroots movement of over 1 million people, including Tribal Nations and dozens of organizations, opposed and defeated the projects. This was the last one standing.

If built, Millennium would have been the largest coal export facility in North America, sending up to 44 million tons of Powder River and Uinta Basin coal per year to Asian markets that are quickly turning away from coal-fired power. But thousands upon thousands of people across Washington and along the path of those coal trains organized, spoke out at public hearings, called, sent letters, rallied, met with elected officials, and did so much more over the past seven years.

Continued on Page 10...

# Election Ballot of At-Large Delegates for the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee: 2018-2019 Term

Please vote for the election of four (4) At-Large members to the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. Successful candidates will join our four other At-Large Delegates and Group Delegates in managing the fiscal, legislative, environmental, outings and other responsibilities for our Chapter.

Ballots must be received no later than 12/26/2017 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2017 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.

## 2017 Tennessee Chapter At-Large Election for 2018-2019

You may vote for no more than four (4) candidates:

	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Cris Corley	_____	_____
Cliff Cockerham	_____	_____
Erica Davis	_____	_____
Larry Davis	_____	_____
Charles High	_____	_____
JoAnn McIntosh	_____	_____
Mac Post	_____	_____
Axel Ringe	_____	_____
George Proios	_____	_____

**Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2017 may vote.**

Place both At Large and Group ballots in an envelope, seal and write "Ballot" on the envelope. Place your "Ballot" envelope in a second mailing envelope. In the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope write your Sierra membership number (which is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennessee-Sierran) with your name and address, mail promptly.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number, name and address cannot be counted.**

**Ballots must be received no later than 12/26/2017. Group ExCom ballot and At Large Delegate ballot should be mailed in same addressed outer envelope.**

**Mail to: Sara Plummer, Sierra Club Elections  
4612 Villa Green Drive  
Nashville, TN 37215**

## Candidate Biographies:

### CRIS CORLEY

Since I was a young man, my interests have been in studying the environmental consequences of human negligence. Jacques Cousteau stirred my interest in protecting the planet.

My undergraduate degree was in biology and chemistry. Dr. Oliver Yates, Chairman of Biology, Lipscomb University was my mentor. He led the effort to preserve Radnor Lake and in 1981, directed my research in protecting its shores.

In the summer of 2000, Nashville planned a super-regional landfill on the Cumberland River. Along with environmental attorney Frank Fly, I formed a grass roots organization, Save our Bend (SOB) and defeated their efforts.

Currently serving as vice chairman of the Wilson County Parks committee, we are planning and developing a trail system to connect Cedars of Lebanon and Long Hunters State Park.

With local and state wide participation of Sierra members, we can continue to increase our influence with government officials and the general public. We must keep Sierra's environmental issues in the fore front. Whether fighting landfills, protecting our waterways or

enjoying Tennessee trails, I will work hard as a member of the executive committee. Your vote would be greatly appreciated.

### CLIFF COCKERHAM

Cliff's activism began with 1973 legislative appointment to central NY's regional Environmental Management Council. After a diverse teaching/research career, he began engaging young Sierra Club (SC) activists in 2008; reviving TN's Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee; subsequently, the Environmental Education (EE) Committee. Consequently, dozens of students were awarded SC scholarships for national trainings/conferences and activist events/rallies.

After receiving SC national's Cox Award-2011 for student empowerment, Cliff (Rachel Carson Society member & Lifetime SC member) served as: keynote/plenary EJ/EE speaker at >12 national/international conferences; TN Chapter Chair 2015-17; adjunct faculty who designed/deployed Merritt College's San Francisco Bay Area EJ/EE Pipeline, for which he accepted SC's Bay Area "Emerging Voices" Award-2017. On SC's National Toxics Team, he monitors Trump administration impacts on EPA's clean air/water/energy protection.

"Early retirement in 2014 allowed me to dig deeper," Cliff explained, "spending 6 weeks on the Peoples Climate March team that brought 40,000 students to Manhattan-2014. This was an exciting prelude to COP21: live-webcasting Paris-2015 students to American audiences and organizing an NGO/SC side-event against fracking. If re-elected to the Chapter ExCom, my continued focus will be on building the "Connect the Dots" campaign, which has the potential to bring environmental activism to diverse new TN regions."

### ERICA DAVIS

As a 23-year-old law student, Erica is excited to bring new and diverse perspectives to the Tennessee Chapter. Born and raised in Tennessee, she became involved in environmental activism when she moved to Knoxville for college and fell in love with the mountains. Erica has been a Sierra Club member since 2015. She is interested in resource extraction issues, sustainable agriculture, and combatting climate change, as well as other areas of social justice.

She has lead campus organizing groups, spearheaded petition drives, and testified at public hearings on a number of environmental issues. She has drafted state legislation, advocated for a responsible TVA, and researched water quality and energy programs. She has also spent time in D.C. training and lobbying our state representatives on global sustainable development. In 2017, she gained national recognition as a Brower Youth Award recipient, for her work advocating for front line communities in Tennessee. She hopes to bring her skills in coalition building, campaigning, educating, and mobilizing to the great State of Tennessee and beyond. A fun fact about Erica: Adam Werbach, the youngest person ever to serve as President of the Sierra Club National, taught her how to surf.

### LARRY DAVIS

Larry Davis is native of Birmingham Alabama and retired from the U.S. Coast Guard after 23 years of service. He has a BS in History and a MBA from William Carey University and is currently employed as CFO of the Memphis United Methodist Conference. Larry and his wife Elaine have lived in Jackson TN for the past 2 years after relocating there from Mississippi. His non-profit experience includes working as the business manager of the United Methodist Katrina recovery in Mississippi, serving on the boards of Gulf Coast Habitat for Humanity, El Pueblo Hispanic Ministry and Seashore Homeless Mission. He has certifications in non-profit management from MS Center for Non-Profits, church administration and as a Certified HR Professional for Society for Human Resource Management. Larry's hobbies are reading non-fiction, hiking, railroads and lighthouses. His love of National and State Parks drew him to join and become active with the Sierra Club.

### CHARLES A. (CHARLIE) HIGH

Charlie High of Nashville, Tennessee, has been a member of Sierra Club since 1989. Charlie currently serves as the Chair of the Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) and the Group Delegate to the Chapter Executive Committee. He previously served as the MTG secretary. He is the Chair of the By-laws and Standing Rules Committee of the Tennessee Chapter. During his tenure, the Chapter

Standing Rules were put in written form for the first time and approved by the Executive Committee. Charlie has served as Compliance Officer for the Tennessee Chapter for over ten years, insuring that contributions to political candidates comply with State and Federal laws and Sierra Club Rules.

Charlie is a certified outings leader for ICO and Sierra Club outings since 2015. He participated in all of the ICO outings during the summer of 2017. MTG conducted twelve outings including canoe/kayak trips, hikes, creek walks and white water rafting trips. This is the first time Charlie has run to be an elected delegate to the Chapter Executive Committee although he serves as the Group Delegate this year. Charlie is a licensed Tennessee attorney but is retired from the active practice of law.

### JOANN McINTOSH

I have been an advocate for active environmental stewardship since the first Earth Day in 1970, and became a member of the Sierra Club shortly thereafter. Encouraged by the legislative measures taken to address and combat that era's "environmental crisis", I felt my energies were most productively spent living the green life on our small farm and supporting the many environmental organizations that were educating and lobbying for environmental protections.

Unfortunately, environmental issues increasingly took a backseat to economic issues in the eyes of the public and the government, and with little acknowledgement of the connection between the environment and the economy, we are now facing the consequences. In January 2017, I joined many others who realize the importance of grassroots activism, and started connecting with individuals and organizations to spread our message. I've engaged with local Indivisible and Resist chapters, met government officials at town halls and in their offices, proposed and led an environmental stewardship class at my church, attended Climate Reality Leadership training with Al Gore, and am in the process of establishing a local Sierra Club "team" in Clarksville-Montgomery County. I look forward to helping Tennessee's 5th-largest city become a leader on sustainability initiatives.

### MAC POST

I became a Sierra Club member while a graduate student in Ecology at the University of Tennessee over 40 years ago. I am a lifetime Sierra Club member. The Sierra Club continues to be the most significant conservation organization in the U.S. The Harvey Broome Group is an important voice in East Tennessee for wilderness protection, environmentally sound land-use, environmental protection regulations, and promotion of education and enjoyment of natural resources especially wilderness.

I have become very active in the Harvey Broome Group. I am an outings leader, leading 8 to 10 hikes each year with a focus on understanding the importance of the rich biodiversity of East Tennessee. I am the Program Chair coordinating monthly program meetings. My favorite involvement is being Chair of the Knoxville Inspiring Connections Outdoors (Knoxville ICO)

group. The Knoxville ICO partners with 5 agencies that serve inner-city youth and conduct over 30 outings a year including bike rides, day hikes, overnight camping, and whitewater rafting. I have been a Harvey Broome Group Delegate for the Chapter Executive Committee for the past 6 years. I currently serve as the Chapter Vice-Chair. If elected I will continue to serve the Tennessee Chapter in ways the Executive Committee decides is appropriate.

### AXEL RINGE

I would like to be re-elected to the Chapter ExCom as an at-large delegate. I have served on the ExCom continuously since 2001, have served as Conservation Vice-Chair, Wild Legacy Super-committee Chair, Water Quality Committee Chair, Population Committee Chair, and Biodiversity Committee Chair. I have also chaired the Chapter Litigation Committee, and consider myself to be a committed activist. I currently serve as the Chapter's Conservation Chair, Water Quality Committee Chair, Legal Chair, and Biodiversity Committee Chair. I am active in the TN Beyond Coal Campaign, and collaborate with the Beyond Coal Campaign TN organizer. I also serve as the supervisor of the Chapter's Conservation Program Coordinator. If elected, I will continue to work for the protection of Tennessee's environment on behalf of the Tennessee Chapter.

### GEORGE PROIOS

For 35 years I have been active in environmental protection. Have degrees in Biology, MA, Science Education, Para-legal. Executive Director of the Long Island Water Commission 10 years. Drafted legislation banning landfills over our Sole Source Aquifer. Received appointments to the NY State Oversight Committee investigating Brookhaven National Laboratory, and Chair of the NY State Soil & Water Conservation Committee. Have an excellent rapport with elected officials, given many talks and presentations. Being a science teacher helped me in educating the public about complex environmental issues, such as West Nile Virus. As Public Health Sanitarian inspected public and private water supplies. Appointed Board member to the Suffolk County Water Authority servicing 1.3 million residents through 650 wells. Have testified as an expert witness in several high-profile cases such as MTBE.

As Assistant County Executive for Environmental Affairs, had responsibility for 8 departments with environmental functions, Chair of CEQ, & the Central Pine Barrens Commission. I retired to Tennessee 3 years ago and am currently the Vice-chairman of the Cherokee Lake Users Association where 1 of my duties is to collect water samples from this lake each month.

# Election Ballot for Cherokee Group

## Executive Committee: 2018 - 2019 Term

You are in the Cherokee Group if you live in one of these counties: Bledsoe, Bradley, Coffee, Franklin, Grundy, Jackson, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Overton, Polk, Putnam, Rhea, Sequatchie, Van Buren, Warren or White.

Please vote for the election of four (4) members of the Cherokee Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group's actions.

Ballots must be received no later than 12/26/2017 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2017 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.

Cherokee Group  
Vote for no more than four (4) candidates

Single Member or  
First Joint Member

Second Joint  
Member

Kate Anthony  
Tim McDonald  
Mark Peach  
Theresa Underwood

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2017 may vote.**

Place both Group and At Large ballots in an envelope, seal and write "Ballot" on the envelope. Place your "Ballot" envelope in a second mailing envelope. In the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope write your Sierra membership number (which is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) with your name and address, mail promptly.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number, name and address cannot be counted.**

**Ballots must be received by 12/26/2017. Group ExCom ballot and At Large Delegate ballot should be mailed in same addressed outer envelope.**

**Mail ballot to:** Sara Plummer, Sierra Club Elections  
4612 Villa Green Drive  
Nashville, TN 37215

### Candidate Biographies:

#### **KATE ANTHONY**

Kate is a retired psychologist. She grew up in Southern California and spent her young adult years backpacking in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. She is an environmental activist of long standing, having done four different Sierra Club service outings and participated in the People's Climate March in NYC 2015. She completed the Climate Reality Leadership training. Besides the Sierra Club, she serves for Quaker Earthcare Witness and Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light. Her main focus is climate change and she has been serving as Cherokee Group Program Chair.

As honors director at Southern Adventist University, he has sent students to nearly a dozen Partners in the Parks (sponsored by collaboration between National Park Service and the National Collegiate Honors Council) to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Glacier National Park, Rainer National Park, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Harpers Ferry National Park. He is an Appalachian Trail section hiker (currently at 64%) and recently took up kayak touring. Mark is also developing a college course in North American environmental history.

#### **TIM McDONALD**

Tim is a retired biologist and water quality manager with several years experience in the regulatory field. His faith affiliation is with First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga where he serves on the Property and Grounds Committee. He is also a member of the Sierra Club, Arbor Day Foundation, South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Alliance, and Association of Southeast Biologists. Tim also serves as a volunteer for the public school in which his daughter teaches 5th grade science and mathematics.

#### **THERESA UNDERWOOD**

Theresa spent her childhood in the hardwood swamps of rural Southern Mississippi, where she developed a love of nature. She has volunteered on various environmental issues since college including her most memorable: a successful campaign in Maryland to protect 600 acres of privately owned Old Growth Forest called Belt Woods. Since moving to Chattanooga, she and her husband have hiked the Big and Little Frog Wilderness areas of the Cherokee and currently do volunteer work in the Bankhead National Forest in Northern Alabama. She has been active in Wild South and the Wilderness Society. Her primary concerns are national forest issues including increasing wilderness acreage and protecting unique habitats and how to live an environmental sustainable lifestyle.

#### **MARK PEACH**

Mark is a fifteen-year Sierra Club member with an abiding interest in our National

# Election Ballot for Watauga Group

## Executive Committee: 2018 - 2019 Term

You are in the Watauga Group if you live in one of these counties: Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi or Washington

Please vote for the election of four (4) members of the Watauga Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group's actions.

Ballots must be received no later than 12/26/2017 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2017 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.

Watauga Group  
Vote for no more than four (4) candidates

Single Member or  
First Joint Member

Second Joint  
Member

Dan Reese  
Sharon Genaille  
Ed Farnworth  
Jay Piper  
Wilbert Griffith  
Cindy Johnson  
Mary Gale

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2017 may vote.**

Place both Group and At Large ballots in an envelope, seal and write "Ballot" on the envelope. Place your "Ballot" envelope in a second mailing envelope. In the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope write your Sierra membership number (which is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) with your name and address, mail promptly.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number, name and address cannot be counted.**

**Ballots must be received by 12/26/2017. Group ExCom ballot and At Large Delegate ballot should be mailed in same addressed outer envelope.**

**Mail ballot to:** Sara Plummer, Sierra Club Elections  
4612 Villa Green Drive  
Nashville, TN 37215

### Candidate Biographies:

#### **DAN REESE**

A native of Northeast Tennessee, Dan has over 30 years of experience in the fields of social services, education, horticulture, landscape design, community development, transportation planning, and the development of greenways and trails.

He is the owner and principle of Alpha Trace Consulting a small firm with the mission of advocacy for sustainable development of our significant natural resources for accessible recreation.

Dan is a dedicated advocate and consultant for civic investment in safe bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and serves as a liaison between non-profits, local, state, and federal government agencies.

#### **SHARON GENAILLE**

I am the accounting manager for a night vision company. My electives at Kansas State were in environmental geography and geology. Currently, I serve as the Watauga Watershed Alliance Treasurer. I hope I can help preserve our environment.

#### **EDWARD G. FARNWORTH, PhD**

BS Biology, Stony Brook Univ.; MS Entomology/Zoology, Univ. Florida; PhD Entomology, Univ. Florida

I have performed research on tropical wood production and freshwater tidal marsh ecology, taught tropical ecology courses in Costa Rica, and served as Ecologist and Senior Environmental Advisor for the Inter-American Development Bank in Latin America and the Caribbean. I am a South

Carolina Master Naturalist, a long-time conservationist/environmentalist, and a member of the Sierra Club and The Nature Conservancy for many years.

#### **JAY PIPER**

I am a long time Sierra Club member, business owner and nature lover.

#### **WILBERT GRIFFITH**

I have been a Tennessee Sierra Club member since 2004, a woodworker, fishing enthusiast and canoeist for decades. As an amateur chef/ baker since retirement I've advocated for our local farmers market.

#### **CINDY JOHNSON**

I lived on Watauga Lake nearly all my life, attended West Virginia University and Marshall University. Currently, I serve as the Watauga Group Treasurer. I love the water and environment and want to help preserve it.

#### **MARY GALE**

Long time Sierra Club member and a Rotarian, Mary attends the Methodist Church. Retiring after 25 years as a Senior caregiver, Mary started grant writing for the good of the Community, especially the youth.

# Election Ballot for Chickasaw Group Executive Committee: 2018 - 2019 Term

You are in the Chickasaw Group if you live in one of these counties: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison; McNairy, Obion; Shelby, Tipton or Weakley.

Please vote for the election of three (3) members of the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group's actions.

Ballots must be received no later than 12/26/2017 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2017 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.

Chickasaw Group Vote for no more than three (3) candidates	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Clint Bray	_____	_____
Mia Madison	_____	_____
Dawn Nielsen	_____	_____
Charlie Belenky	_____	_____
Cari Harris	_____	_____

**Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2017 may vote.**

Place both Group and At Large ballots in an envelope, seal and write "Ballot" on the envelope. Place your "Ballot" envelope in a second mailing envelope. In the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope write your Sierra membership number (which is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) with your name and address, mail promptly.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number, name and address cannot be counted.**

**Ballots must be received by 12/26/2017. Group ExCom ballot and At Large Delegate ballot should be mailed in same addressed outer envelope.**

Mail ballot to: **Sara Plummer, Sierra Club Elections  
4612 Villa Green Drive  
Nashville, TN 37215**

## Candidate Biographies:

### CLINT BRAY

Clint Bray is a founding member and the president of the Mid-South EV Club. Since May 2014, he & the members have sponsored educational events about electric vehicles to promote "Sustainability, Conservation, Stewardship, Fun!" Clint believes that clean energy vehicles are the cornerstone to environmental protection.

His love for clean energy technology developed as a child when he first heard of photo-voltaic cells; a renewable energy source with an array of potential applications. From the point he learned that the electric motor preceded the combustion engine he became dedicated to owning a fully electric vehicle. In the early 2000's, the United States did not offer affordable options for purchasing electric vehicles, so Clint dedicated himself to converting an internal combustion engine car to electric. About half-way through the project, the Nissan Leaf became available for order and Clint was one of the first in the area to order this new electric vehicle. Clint not only drives electric, but he supports businesses who offer electric vehicle charging stations to further promote sustainability. He was the first business owner in Collierville, TN to offer electric charging stations at his business and allowed patrons to charge for free. He gladly gives any interested person a test drive to show them the value of clean energy vehicles.

### MIA MADISON

Mia Madison is an environmentalist and performs qualitative and quantitative research to provide informational and technical support for neighborhoods and organizations that work directly with communities. A native Memphian, Mia is dedicated to service with a unique perspective of advocacy, activism and community.

At the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, Mia manages LIVEGIVEmidouth.org, an online community information system made of two websites: WHEREweLIVEmidouth.org, an online data portal and WHEREtoGIVEmidouth.org, a comprehensive nonprofit database.

During her tenure with the City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development, Mia provided support to several nonprofit organizations and community groups while educating stakeholders of ways to rebuild the bridge between people and their immediate environment, including the Wolf River Brownfields Assessment Grant (Vice-Chair), Mid-South Regional Greenprint (Social Equity Chair), Mid-South Peace and Justice Center (Board Member), Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)-Uptown West Steering Committee, Memphis In May (Recycling Committee).

Mia holds a Master's degree in Anthropology and a Bachelor's degree in Geography with focus in Geographic Techniques and Planning, both from the University of Memphis. She has published several scholarly articles with other esteemed geographers and environmental anthropologists; served as a volunteer on a host of projects; and, continues her activism around teen/youth engagement.

### DAWN NIELSEN

I am Dawn Nielsen, and I would like to become a member of the executive committee of the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club. My qualifications are as follows:

I attended the University of Michigan for my engineering undergraduate degree and the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania for my MBA. While I worked in the utility business for nearly a decade, I ultimately worked on Wall Street in mergers and acquisitions in the banking industry with a focus on energy players.

I came to Memphis in 2003 with my husband, Eric Nielsen, a native Memphian. We co-own South Front Antiques, and I primarily focus on website development, social media, and accounting. We are raising our two children together. For many years, I was our children's homeschool teacher. A great deal of their education focused on environmental pursuits. We spent two months on an off-the-grid plantation learning about sustainability first hand. We practice using solar ovens, organic and hydroponic gardening, vermicomposting, and more. Additionally, I maintain an environmental blog: <https://bahamiantrek.wordpress.com/>

I held community positions in recent years. I was the chairman of the Harbor Town HOA and served on their board for several years. I was responsible for engaging the community regarding 3 playground installations; all designs had overwhelming community support. Additionally, responsibilities included: community planning, managing capital assets, and ensuring adequate financial resources and oversight.

Thank you for your support and I would greatly enjoy becoming a member of the executive committee.

### CHARLIE BELENKY

I have been concerned about the environment since the first Earth Day in NYC. I was active in the Abalone Alliance in California and was arrested at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in 1977.

In 1978-1979 I was an intern in the Water Division in Region IX of the EPA. I did some environmental litigation and compliance when I was employed with the State of California.

I believe in "small is beautiful" and "living lightly on the planet."

I began attending Chickasaw Group meetings and getting involved in local issues shortly after arriving in Memphis in 2016. Because of my involvement, the Chickasaw Group asked me in April to temporarily fill an opening in the Excom until this election.

### CARI HARRIS

Hello! My name is Cari Harris and I would like to serve on the Executive Committee for the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group.

I have always been interested in the intersections between people and the environment and am passionate about addressing environmental injustice. I believe in the Sierra Club mission of protecting our air, water and ecosystems and promoting sustainable solutions that ensure safe and healthy communities for both today and in the future.

I put this passion into action and in 2016, I graduated with a BS in Environmental Science from Rhodes College. During my four years, I was a leader and participant in many civically focused clubs that allowed me to develop an array of skills that would be useful to the Sierra Club including community outreach and organizing, activism, conservation policy, organization, leadership, and many others. Post College, I learned leadership, diplomacy, and public speaking skills while working in the Division of Housing and Community Development. Currently, I am continuing to learn as the new Community Development and Real Estate Manager at Habitat for Humanity. As someone with a desire to for constant development, I am especially excited about the learning potential in this role!

Before I end this short bio, I would like to state that I understand the resources and influence possessed by the Sierra Club and would not take this role lightly. I love Memphis. I believe in its future and that the Sierra Club will play a pivotal role in shaping it.

**Remind other members to vote.**

# Election Ballot for HARVEY BROOME GROUP

## Executive Committee: 2018 - 2019 Term

You are in the Harvey Broome Group if you live in one of these counties: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Cumberland, Fentress, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Pickett, Roane, Scott, Sevier or Union

Please vote for the election of six (6) members of the Harvey Broome Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group's actions.

Ballots must be received no later than 12/26/2017 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2017 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.

Harvey Broome Group Vote for no more than six (6) candidates	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Axel C. Ringe	_____	_____
Bob Grimac	_____	_____
Erica Davis	_____	_____
Jim Hackworth	_____	_____
Joanne Logan	_____	_____
Mary Headrick	_____	_____
Ron Shrieves	_____	_____
Mac Post	_____	_____

**Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2017 may vote.**

Place both Group and At Large ballots in an envelope, seal and write "Ballot" on the envelope. Place your "Ballot" envelope in a second mailing envelope. In the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope write your Sierra membership number (which is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) with your name and address, mail promptly.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number, name and address cannot be counted.**

**Ballots must be received by 12/26/2017. Group ExCom ballot and At Large Delegate ballot should be mailed in same addressed outer envelope.**

**Mail ballot to:** Sara Plummer, Sierra Club Elections  
4612 Villa Green Drive  
Nashville, TN 37215

**Candidate Biographies:**

**AXEL C. RINGE**

I would like to be re-elected to the Harvey Broome Group ExCom. I have been a Sierra Club member since 1996, have served on the HBG ExCom continuously since 2001, have held the position of Group Chair for four years, and currently serve as Conservation Chair. In addition I hold several positions in the TN Chapter ExCom, including Conservation Chair, Water Quality Committee Chair, and Biodiversity Committee Chair. I consider myself to be a committed activist for the environment, and believe I can continue to be an asset to the Harvey Broome Group. However, my position as Conservation Chair does not require me to be a member of ExCom, so if new blood is desired for the ExCom, feel free to vote for someone new.

**BOB GRIMAC**

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1987. Though I have not been active in HBG, it has always been important to me to be associated with our nation's first environmental organization, and I would be honored to serve on HBG's Executive Committee.

I currently work part-time at an agency that serves the homeless, teach music at a preschool, and lead folk dance classes at the Tremont Institute to youth groups. I am active in the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church and volunteer at the Centro Hispano, a non-profit agency which offers English lessons to the local Latino community.

I am interested in recycling, composting, and waste reduction, and was part of the founding team of the City of Knoxville recycling office in the mid-1990's. I was also the founder of the Ijams Nature Center Earth Flag program in 1995, which challenged schools to reduce, recycle, and connect with their school yards through gardening and composting.

I am interested in the connection between food production and the environment, and have been active in the local Vegetarian Society for the past 30 years, currently serving as its president.

**ERICA MECHELLE DAVIS**

As a 23-year-old law student, Erica is excited to bring new and diverse perspectives to the HBG ExCom. Born and raised in Tennessee, she became involved in environmental activism when she moved to Knoxville for college and fell in love with the mountains. Erica has been a Sierra Club member since 2015. She is interested in resource extraction issues, sustainable agriculture, and combating climate change, as well as other areas of social justice. She has led campus organizing groups, spearheaded petition drives, and testified at public hearings on a number of environmental issues. She has drafted state legislation, advocated for a responsible TVA, and researched water quality and energy programs. She has also spent time in D.C. training and lobbying our state representatives on global sustainable development. In 2016, she gained national recognition as a Brower Youth Award recipient, for her work advocating for frontline communities in Tennessee. She hopes to bring her skills in coalition building, campaigning, educating, and mobilizing to the Harvey Broome Group, the great State of Tennessee, and beyond. A fun fact about Erica: Adam Werbach, the youngest person ever to serve as President of the Sierra Club National, taught her how to surf.

**JIM M. HACKWORTH, Jr.**

Jim Hackworth, Jr. retired as a Senior Facility Engineer and Project Leader/Manager from UT-Battelle, LLC/ORNL, in 2008 after 34 years. He joined Sierra Club in 2017. Jim earned his Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Applied Organizational Management, from Tusculum College. During his last several years at ORNL, he worked within the Facilities Revitalization and Energy Management Programs. Prior to that, he won awards for managing the radioactive waste and environmental programs for the Plant and Equipment Division. He began employment at ORNL in the Mechanical Engineering Division doing reactor design. Jim also served as a Tennessee State Representative, District 33, from 2002 to 2010 and as an Anderson County Commissioner from 1978 to 1990. He now wants to put the experience and the knowledge he's gained in environmental protection and legislation to work for the Harvey Broome Group.

**JOANNE LOGAN, Ph.D.**

As a faculty member in the Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science at the University of Tennessee since 1987, I teach Environmental Climatology/Climate Change, Waters & Civilizations, Geographic Information Systems, and Professional

Development. I also supervise the undergraduate program in Environmental and Soil Sciences, with about 200 students. I've been a member of Sierra Club since 1988. Besides climate, I advocate for clean water and was a member of Mayor Rogero's Tennessee River Rescue Committee 2014-2015. I'm very devoted to youth education and development, especially with respect to STEM, currently serving as Treasurer and Board Member of the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair. I remain active in the local chapter of the American Meteorological Society and I'm a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists. I'm on the speakers bureaus of Climate Voices, NOAA Climate Stewards, and The Climate Reality Project. I'm an avid gardener and regularly volunteer at both the Beardsley and Pond Gap Community Gardens. I'm very committed to the protection of our natural world and constantly promote sustainability with my students. If re-elected to the Harvey Broome Group Executive Committee, I will continue promoting increased involvement of UT students in Sierra Club activities and issues.

**MARY HEADRICK, M.D.**

Please vote for the new nominees rather than me. I can be on a committee. If you elect me, I'll serve. I am a 68-year old retired physician (Internal Medicine) and a 'new farmer' living in Union County, north of Knoxville, with my husband Detlef Matt, a retired environmental physicist. I've been a long time, but intermittent, Sierra Club member for 45 years, and an ExCom member since 1/1/2016. I took many Sierra Club trips back in my twenties. I've served on nonprofit boards (League of Women Voters, American College of Physicians TN and, remotely, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning and SOCM). I am a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility. I view man-made Climate Change as the most important issue of our times (nuclear war and bio/chemical events are also threats). I believe climate change and campaign finance are critical issues, so I ran twice (defeated) for 3rd District U.S. Congress. It has been an honor to serve on the HBG ExCom the past two years. HBG has great members, activities & leadership and SC national has great programs. With HBG we asked our state for fracking regulations and asked TVA to expand renewable energy generation.

**RON SHRIEVES**

I have lived in Knoxville for 45 years, and am a retired professor from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. I am married (Ginger), with two grown children. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1988. I am also a member of the Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, NPCA, TCWN, and the Wilderness Society. I currently serve on the board of the Friends of Seven Islands State Birding Park.

I have been involved in Harvey Broome Group (HBG) outings since joining the Club, and served as HBG Outings Chair or Co-chair and as a member of the HBG Executive Committee for 14 years. I am currently in my second year as Chair of HBG. I feel very strongly about climate change, about preserving the remaining wilderness areas in our national and state forests, and about promoting wildlife refuges, parks and greenways in our urban settings. I feel that I can continue to contribute to the critical work of the HBG executive committee.

**MAC POST**

I became a Sierra Club member while a graduate student in Ecology at the University of Tennessee over 40 years ago. After graduate school I led research projects on the impact of rising atmospheric CO2 concentrations on global ecosystems and climate at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. I am a lifetime Sierra Club member. The Sierra Club is a significant conservation organization in the U.S. The Harvey Broome Group is an important voice in East Tennessee for wilderness protection, environmentally sound land-use, environmental protection regulations, and promoting education and enjoyment of natural resources, especially wilderness.

I am active in the Harvey Broome Group. I am an outings leader, leading 8 to 10 hikes each year with a focus on learning about and protecting the rich biodiversity of East Tennessee. I am Program Chair coordinating monthly program meetings. My favorite involvement is leading a group of dedicated Sierra Club volunteers with Knoxville Inspiring Connections Outdoors (Knoxville ICO). We partner with 5 agencies serving inner-city youth and conduct 30 outings annually including bike rides, day hikes, overnight camping, and whitewater rafting. If elected I will continue to serve the Harvey Broome Group in capacities the Executive Committee decides are appropriate.

# Election Ballot for Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee: 2018 - 2019 Term

You are in the Middle Tennessee Group if you live in one of these counties: Bedford, Cannon, Cheatham, Clay, Davidson, DeKalb, Dickson, Giles, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Moore, Perry, Robertson, Rutherford, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Wayne, Williamson or Wilson

Please vote for the election of four (4) members of the Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group's actions.

Ballots must be received no later than 12/26/2017 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2017 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.

Middle Tennessee Group Vote for no more than four (4) candidates	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
John Behn	_____	_____
Dan Joranko	_____	_____
Grace Stranch	_____	_____
Charles High	_____	_____
Craig Jervis	_____	_____
Reggie Miller	_____	_____

**Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2017 may vote.**

Place both Group and At Large ballots in an envelope, seal and write "Ballot" on the envelope. Place your "Ballot" envelope in a second mailing envelope. In the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope write your Sierra membership number (which is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) with your name and address, mail promptly.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number, name and address cannot be counted.**

**Ballots must be received by 12/26/2017. Group ExCom ballot and At Large Delegate ballot should be mailed in same addressed outer envelope.**

**Mail ballot to:** Sara Plummer, Sierra Club Elections  
4612 Villa Green Drive  
Nashville, TN 37215

**Candidate Biographies (in random order):**

**JOHN BEHN**

Sierra Club drew my interest because of my concerns for the environment including resources, open spaces, air quality, wetlands, and water supplies. Here in Middle Tennessee the rapid urban development of urban areas in rural areas seems to be done without regard to our environment. This is abundantly obvious in the Spring Hill area near my home. Yet too few people are aware of the efforts by Sierra Club to address these issues. Recently I began participating in the redesign of the Middle Tennessee Group web page to attract and inform more people for these causes. As an engineer and former consultant with IBM and SAP, I feel my experience can help MTG reach out, expand and drive stronger community involvement to protect our environment.

**DAN JORANKO**

Dan is a long-time community organizer - and has worked on energy justice issues since the 1980s. He initiated the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign efforts in Tennessee in 2012 by organizing Climate Action Teams in Nashville, Knoxville, Memphis, Chattanooga and Sewanee.

He currently convenes Climate Nashville - a very active grassroots group. He teaches at Vanderbilt Divinity School and coordinates their River-bend prison teaching program.

**GRACE STRANCH**

Grace is an experienced environmental activist from Nashville who was the lead organizer for the Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law Conference for five years. While on the Sierra Club Middle Tennessee executive committee, Grace organized the counting of the election ballots. Now that she has moved full time to just outside Nashville she is ready to be more involved. She plans on assisting with organizing the upcoming lobbying day.

As an attorney, she has worked on environmental cases and hopes to expand her environmental practice. This July, she was honored by the Tennessee Bar Young Lawyers Division as the attorney spotlight. She has considerable organizing experience and has completed grassroots organizational training in Memphis, lobbying training in D.C, and worked on a rural political campaign in West Tennessee.

**CHARLES A. (CHARLIE) HIGH**

Charlie has been a member of Sierra Club since 1989. Charlie currently serves as the Chair of the Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) and the Group Delegate to the Chapter Executive Committee. He previously served as the MTG secretary. He is the Chair of the By-laws and Standing Rules Committee of the Tennessee Chapter. During his tenure, the Chapter Standing Rules were put in written form for the first time and approved by the Executive Committee. Charlie has served as Compliance Officer for the Tennessee Chapter for over ten years, insuring that contributions to political candidates comply with State and Federal laws and Sierra Club Rules.

Charlie has been a certified outings leader for ICO and Sierra Club outings since 2015. He participated in all of the ICO outings during the summer of 2017. MTG conducted twelve outings including canoe/kayak trips, hikes, creek walks and white water rafting trips. Charlie is a licensed Tennessee attorney but is retired from the active practice of law.

**CRAIG M. JERVIS**

Born in Atlanta, raised and educated in New England, Craig has spent the last 32 years living and working in Nashville. With a degree in Biology from New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire, Craig's professional career was as Chef/Owner of the MaD PlaTTeR Restaurant in Historic Germantown, Nashville. After 28 years of operation, he and his wife sold the restaurant property in 2017 and embarked on a new journey.

From an early age, the outdoors was the greatest source of wonder and enjoyment for Craig . . . from volunteering as a teenager at the Westport, CT Nature Center to nursing and raising wild creatures in his bedroom, to being the "guy to call" if there was a snake in the basement. His youth and young adult life centered around nature. Craig is an avid canoeist, kayaker and fisherman, with rivers and lakes being some of his most comfortable venues. Since 2010, he has been Chair of the local chapter of Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO), a community outreach initiative of the Sierra Club. Craig has helped established ICO as a provider of signature outdoor adventures for many that have never had the opportunity to experience such. He is a strong part of the effort behind increased membership, outreach and fundraising. Additionally, he served as Outings Chair of the Middle Tennessee Group. Along with his wife, Craig has undertaken a reforestation project on jointly owned property in Costa Rica. The Jervises live part of the year on this property.

**REGGIE MILLER**

Reggie Miller began working within Tennessee's environmental movement when he was a teenager. As a freshman at Middle Tennessee State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Recording Industry Management, he took a leadership role with Students for Environmental Action. The organization ran a successful campaign to implement a policy that generates sustainability funding for the campus in perpetuity. This funding not only allows MTSU to invest heavily in energy efficiency, alternative transportation research, and other student-led projects, but also positions the university as one of the largest purchasers of TVA's Green Power Switch program. Additionally, he sat on the committee that managed the sustainability funding.

Miller joined the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy in 2008 as the Tennessee Valley Campus Coordinator. His responsibilities included organizing student-led campaigns to support the expansion of clean energy through TVA's Green Power Switch program and helping students collaborate with their administrations to bring energy efficiency, onsite generation, and environmental education initiatives to campuses across the TVA region. Additionally, he coordinated students to share resources and build grassroots momentum through their statewide network, while also connecting them with the larger youth climate movement on regional and national campaigns. In 2012 he left SACE and began working at Whole Foods Market. When he isn't organizing campaigns, he enjoys reading, playing music, and being outdoors.

**Remind other members to vote.**



# 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

**November 27, 2017 - 7 P.M. - November Program:** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chatta. 37411, Off I-24, just east of the Missionary Ridge cut. Take the Germantown Road Exit, turn north onto Germantown Road, take the 2nd left onto Navajo, go about 1/2 mile, UUCC will be on your left, up the hill!

Dr. Bill Cahalan's topic is: "Reconnecting with neighbors and the land." In the face of the "great unraveling," we need to reconnect more directly with our local sources in the land for water, food, firewood, fertilizers, etc. Doing this with family and neighbors can help us build local resilient communities we need as we face the breakdowns our ever-growing economy and ever-shrinking natural sources are leading our civilization toward. It can also help us be more grounded and connected with people and the rest of nature, as we engage in the political activism we are called to.

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

Bring a friend. The public is very welcome! FREE as always.

**No Program in December.**

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

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

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Our monthly programs are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 P.M., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. For

additional information see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs>

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

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**November 9, 2017 - 7:00 P.M. - Program:** Limestone Cedar Glades - Margie Hunter, author of Gardening with Native Plants of Tennessee, will present this program on limestone cedar glades. These cedar glades represent a unique habitat that achieves its richest expression in Middle Tennessee. Part of a mosaic of habitats based on shifting soil depths and canopy cover, the open glades contain numerous endemic species, including state and federally listed rare plants. This presentation will examine those characteristics that define habitats in the cedar glade complex and highlight some of the associated species. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Russ at 615 506-4070. The program is free and open to the public.

Margie Hunter is a writer and author of Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee: The Spirit of Place. She gives presentations on native plants and natural history, is a board member of the Tennessee Native Plant Society and Tennessee Invasive Plant Council and volunteers with the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in the Smokies. Margie is a founding board member of the Tennessee Naturalist Program and lives in Nashville. Her blog <http://hikinginthesmokies.wordpress.com> features trail and natural history accounts for Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Appalachian Trail, and Tennessee State Parks and Natural Areas. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor

Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Russ at 615 506-4070. The program is free and open to the public.

**November 21, 2017 - 6:30 P.M. - LOCAL ISSUES MEETING:** Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Come at 6:00 if you'd like to eat. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville. Please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or [cahigh1722@aol.com](mailto:cahigh1722@aol.com) with any questions. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

**December 19, 2017 - 6:30 P.M. - LOCAL ISSUES MEETING:** Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Come at 6:00 if you'd like to eat. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville. Please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or [cahigh1722@aol.com](mailto:cahigh1722@aol.com) to make sure we will meet in December. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

**January 11, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Program:** Electric Vehicles - Joe Ozegovich will present this program on electric vehicles. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Russ at 615 506-4070. The program is free and open to the public.

**January 16, 2018 - 6:30 P.M. - LOCAL ISSUES MEETING:** Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Come at 6:00 if you'd like to eat. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville. Please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or [cahigh1722@aol.com](mailto:cahigh1722@aol.com) with any questions. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

**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](mailto:bmw@icloud.com) 423- 534-4804 or [GLa4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:GLa4797@embarqmail.com) 423-727-4797.

Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/WataugaGroup](http://www.facebook.com/WataugaGroup)

# Outings

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

**November 4, 2017 - Backpack - Walls of Jericho Backpack.** The Walls of Jericho area is located on the TN-AL state line west of Chattanooga. Hiking distance will be about 7 miles total. Rated Moderate. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; C 742-2327; [whshome@bellsouth.net](mailto:whshome@bellsouth.net). (Harvey Broome Group)

**November 11, 2017 - Naturalist Ramble - Virgin Cove Hardwood, Albright Grove, GSMNP.** Albright Grove is a special place where tulip poplars, Frazier magnolias, silverbells and maples have grown into giants. Families are encouraged to bring children. Total distance is 6.9 miles and rated moderate. Preregister with Mac Post: 865-806-0980; [mpost3116@aol.com](mailto:mpost3116@aol.com) (email preferred). (Harvey Broome Group)

**November 18, 2017 - Dayhike - Honey Creek Loop, Big South Fork National River And Recreation Area.** This is a rather difficult 5.6 mile loop trail. The trail includes a number of

waterfalls, a spectacular rockhouse, and other great views. The hike is strenuous. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: [perlack@aol.com](mailto:perlack@aol.com); 229-5027. (Harvey Broome Group)

**December 2, 2017 - Dayhike - Cades Cove off-trail, GSMNP.** This "off trail" hike uses old roads/trails in the area between the Dan Lawson cabin and Forge Creek Road. Distance about 5.5 miles, rated strenuous due to creek crossings, blowdowns and rhododendron. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or [ronshrieves@gmail.com](mailto:ronshrieves@gmail.com) (email preferred). (Harvey Broome Group)

**December 9, 2017 - Dayhike - Piney Falls and Stinging Fork State Natural Areas, Grandview and Spring City.** This dayhike combines two short spectacular waterfall hikes - Piney Falls and Stinging Fork. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: [perlack@aol.com](mailto:perlack@aol.com); 229- 5027. (Harvey Broome Group)

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

## Tennes-Sierran E-News

Please Like Us:

on Facebook -- our Organization Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CherokeeSierra>

on Facebook - our Group Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/65310596576/>

Join our MeetUp --Green Events-- Group: <http://www.meetup.com/greenhome-107/>

Keep those e-mail addresses coming so you will get our E-News: send your e-mail address to Alice at [demetreon1981@gmail.com](mailto:demetreon1981@gmail.com) so you get the News about our Programs and Outings!

We have e-mails for only about 1/3 of our members -- so you are missing out on all our activities! We will not give your address away.

# Grassroots Victory - continued from page 3..

From my colleague Cesia Kearns: “Over one million people in the Pacific Northwest formally commented to say we can do better than fossil fuels, and thousands of impacted community members have shown up at hearings to speak to how they would be harmed. This is a victory for everyone who would have been caught in the destructive path of coal exports, but also those who are suffering the real impacts of climate change.”

Over the years, I had the great privilege of joining local leaders in the Northwest to stand up against these projects. Back in 2013, I spoke at a hearing and press conference in Tacoma to oppose this very proposal, the Millennium project in Longview. And in 2016, I had the profound honor of speaking alongside leaders from nine Tribal Nations at a press conference to oppose the Cherry Point project, which threatened the treaty-protected fishing grounds of the Lummi Nation. Every time I joined these advocates, I was awed by their numbers, their passion, and their commitment.

We were staring down six massive coal projects that would have been a catastrophe for our climate, health, and environment, backed by well-connected developers with deep pockets who were working in cahoots with the likes of Peabody Coal and some of the most powerful interests on the planet. The odds were stacked against us. But over the course of seven years, dozens of hearings, and one decision point after another, local leaders never gave up.

Finally this week, the people won! Those 1+ million people know the risks of air, water, and climate pollution and they took a stand. The state’s own analysis found that the climate and air pollution from this project would be equivalent to adding 8 million cars to the road!

And this victory was the latest in a trend of grassroots activism stopping coal projects in the Pacific Northwest. From Cherry Point and



Grays Harbor in Washington, to Coos Bay and Port of Morrow in Oregon, communities are saying no to coal and yes to a clean energy future.

No community – in America or the world – should face an energy source that sickens its children, dirties its rivers, and darkens its skies. Our movement is truly international, and stopping the export of coal helps both our country and the world fight pollution and climate

change. The promised international markets for this coal are drying up, as countries like China reduce their use of coal and double down on clean energy. The defeat of this project is one more big step on the clean energy path.

“With every single coal export proposal in the Northwest denied or abandoned, we hope Northwest community leaders can now turn our attention to cultivating sustainable economic opportunities with good union, family wage jobs that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving instead of the boom and bust of dangerous fossil fuels,” said Cesia.

We still have some work left to do. Our neighbors to the North in Canada may see a proposed expansion of an existing terminal in British Columbia, and many people already live with the impacts of mining and shipping coal across the country. We will do our best to continue defending communities anywhere that are affected by coal pollution and seeking better solutions.

Clean energy is the way to power the Pacific Northwest and the rest of the U.S. Trump may continue to make empty promises of a coal comeback,

but this victory underscores the reality that the decisions that matter are being made in the states, and our nation and the world are continuing to move away from coal to clean energy. Meanwhile, wind and solar power don’t pollute the air or water and bring with them an economic boost and good jobs. Help us continue to transition away from coal to clean energy - join us!

## Group Business Meetings

Group	Date	Location	Time
Cherokee (Chatanooga)	Mon 11/16, 12/4	Pilgrim Congregational Church, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chattanooga	6:00 P.M.
	Sun 1/7	Annual “Welcome the New Year Potluck” at Audubon Acres	4:00 P.M.
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Wed 11/1, 12/6	Cheffie’s Cafe, 483 High Point Terrace, Memphis	6:00 P.M.
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tuesday 11/28 No December meeting Sat 1/6 - Planning meeting	The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd., Knoxville	7:00 P.M. --- 10 A.M - 3 P.M.
Middle TN (Nashville)	Tues 11/21, 12/19, 1/16	House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville	6:30 P.M.
Watauga (Mountain City)	Tue 11/14	Harvest Dinner 1258 Arnold Town Rd, Mountain City	5:00 P.M.
	Tue 12/12	Holiday Dinner 1799 Roan Creek Rd., Mountain City	5:00 P.M.
	Tue 1/9	Excom Officers elected, Chairs appointed 5908 Highway 421 So, Mountain City Excom Annual Planning 5908 Highway 421 South, Mountain City	5:00 P.M. 6:00 P.M.

## Group Program Meetings

Group	Date	Location	Time
Cherokee (Chatanooga)	Mon 11/27, 1/22 No December meeting	Unitarian Universalists Church, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga Social Suppers before program - Amigo’s, 3805 Ringgold Rd. East Ridge	7:00 P.M. 5:30 P.M.
	Sun 1/7	Annual “Welcome the New Year Pot Luck” at Audobon Acres	4:00 P.M.
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Tue 10/31, 11/16 No December meeting	Benjamin Hooks Public Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., Memphis	5:55 P.M.
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 11/14, 12/12, 1/8	Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalists Church, 2931 Kingston Pike	7:00 P.M.
Middle TN (Nashville)	Thu 11/19 No December meeting Thu 1/11	Radnor Lake Nature Center, 1160 Otter Creek Rd., Nashville, TN	7:00 P.M.
Watauga (Mountain City)	Tue 11/14	Harvest Dinner 1258 Arnold Town Rd., Mountain City	6:00 P.M.
	Tue 12/12	Holiday Dinner 1799 Roan Creek, Mountain City	6:00 P.M.
	Tue 1/9	Excom Annual Planning 5908 Highway 421 South, Mountain City	6:00 P.M.

# Trump and Pruitt to Scrap Major Climate Action Plan, Endanger American Lives

By Mary Anne Hitt

As storms and wildfires besiege our nation, Donald Trump and his EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will announce Tuesday their intention to repeal the Clean Power Plan, the critical climate action plan set in motion during the Obama administration that will save lives and money. As yet another hurricane slammed into our country, the spectacle of these robber barons sitting in the White House with their fossil fuel pals and congratulating themselves for making money while people's lives are destroyed is maddening. Repealing the Clean Power Plan is a reckless, dangerous move by an administration that continues to show that it cares more about their fossil fuel CEO cronies than the lives of thousands of people.

I have a message for everyone distraught by this news: if we keep working and we don't give up, we can stop them. As director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, I can assure you that we will meet the targets of the Clean Power Plan by retiring coal plants and replacing them with clean energy, in spite of Trump. Just days before the Trump administration announced this repeal, the utility Luminant announced it will retire its massively polluting Monticello coal plant in Texas. That's the 259th coal plant to announce retirement since 2010. We've retired eleven coal plants under Trump, and none have opened, re-opened, or delayed their retirement.

Meanwhile, clean energy continues to skyrocket. The two largest clean energy projects in history were announced this year by AEP and Xcel. Coal use is down to its lowest level in history. And new projections from the International Energy Agency predict solar will account for one-third of all power worldwide in just five years, equal to half the world's coal power capacity. As a result of all this work and momentum, many states are on track to meet or exceed their 2030 Clean Power Plan emission reduction goals within the next two years, over a decade ahead of schedule.

At the same time, we still need the Clean Power Plan, for a lot of reasons. It has been a critically important catalyst for action in continuing this momentum and ensuring the benefits of both reducing pollution and growing clean energy are deployed in

an orderly, equitable, and fair manner across the country.

Because of the progress moving toward clean energy and retiring coal, the Clean Power Plan is already a part of most planning by utilities and the Public Utility Commissions that oversee them. That's why most states will stay on track to achieve their Clean Power Plan goals despite Trump's steps backward. Without it, there are serious questions of how, when, and where clean energy will deploy, and



Stop Pruitt, Rally To Oppose EPA Nominee Scott Pruitt Photo by Lorie Shaul

whether everyone can enjoy the health and financial benefits of reducing dangerous pollution.

In many states, without the Clean Power Plan, Trump's policies and the complacency of his political and industry allies are going to keep their constituents stuck behind the curve with dirtier energy, dirtier air, and dirtier water. Trump's aggressive pro-polluter action in attacking the Clean Power Plan means residents of heavily polluted states like Texas, Missouri, and Wisconsin will suffer from a more polluted environment while missing out on many of the benefits of a fair and just clean energy economy the Clean Power Plan would help create.

Despite being on track to meet the Clean Power Plan's nationwide emission goals years ahead of schedule, we have a lot of work to do to curb carbon pollution in the electric sector and phasing out the remaining coal plants that are making people sick and replacing them with clean energy.

In short, the Clean Power Plan provides a

thoughtful and necessary framework for the US to continue cutting carbon pollution. Indeed, the program needs to be preserved and strengthened in order to drive even further progress away from fossil fuels and towards renewable resources.

By throwing the program away, the Trump administration is putting the safety of our communities at risk, and making it crystal clear they have no intention of safeguarding people from the very real, immediate dangers of climate change. That's

especially distressing to hear this news as Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands recover from devastating hurricanes made stronger by climate disruption, while the West recovers from unprecedented wildfires also exacerbated by a changing climate.

In addition to reducing climate-forcing carbon emissions, the Clean Power Plan also curbs other harmful pollutants that contribute to dangerous smog and soot, causing heart attacks, respiratory illnesses, and even premature deaths. The EPA previously projected that the Clean Power Plan would prevent 90,000 childhood asthma attacks, 300,000 missed work and school days, and 3,600 premature deaths annually by 2030.

By 2030, the Plan would result in annual climate benefits of \$20 billion and annual

health benefits of between \$14 and \$34 billion. It would also reduce the average consumer's electricity bill by \$85 per year and save consumers a total of \$155 billion over the course of the next decade. Unfortunately, the only dollar signs that Trump and Pruitt see are profits of their friends in the dirty energy industry, whom they cater to and meet with at every chance.

No matter who is in the White House or in the EPA Administrator's office, the EPA is legally required to limit dangerous carbon pollution from power plants, and the Clean Power Plan is a flexible, affordable way to do that.

Make no mistake, the fight against this dangerous decision is only just beginning. We have every intention of mobilizing to make our voices heard when the EPA conducts its legally required comment period and of fighting any new rule that does not comply with the Clean Air Act in court. Join us.

## Cooking the Books

By Liz Perera

The Clean Power Plan protects the health of all Americans. Now that a date for its repeal has been officially announced, we are also learning about the crooked strategy this administration has employed to demolish this common-sense policy.

Politico reported that the Trump Administration will justify the CPP repeal by neglecting basic mathematics. Under President Obama's administration, the EPA had estimated that, by 2030, the Clean Power Plan would prevent 90,000 asthma attacks and up to 3,600 premature deaths annually. Additionally, the plan would provide \$20 billion of annual climate benefits and between \$14 billion to \$34 billion of annual health benefits by 2030. While annual CPP expenses are estimated to amount to \$7.3 billion to \$8.8 billion in 2030, the benefits far outweigh the costs.

Leaving aside the health and climate improvement potential of the CPP, the Trump Administration has concocted a way to work around the economic advantages of the plan: change the numbers. First,

the EPA will reconsider the social cost of carbon, the global metric used to calculate the benefits of reducing carbon emissions. Countries around the world calculate the social cost of carbon metric by including global climate and global economic models. The CPP's economic benefits are calculated on that same, internationally recognized standard. However, Trump is planning on breaking from the herd and removing the worldwide impacts from the US calculations.

Even more frightening, they will also be cooking the books by ignoring health benefits. Trump's EPA will count far fewer health benefits that could have come from reducing carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. That includes premature deaths, asthma hospitalization, and heart attacks. According to Politico:

"Taken together, the sources say, the recalculations eliminate tens of billions of dollars of the rule's benefits, which Obama's EPA had contended would outweigh the costs of enforcing a faster shift away from coal-fired power. The new numbers could be

meant to aid EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's legal case for scrapping the rule."

Lastly, EPA is artificially inflating its estimates of the Clean Power Plan's costs through a subtle accounting trick. In calculating these costs, the agency leaves out the reduced fuel expenditures and other savings that power companies would achieve from energy efficiency investments, which are expected to increase significantly under the program. Instead of considering these savings as reduced costs--which they are--EPA shifts these to the benefits side of the ledger. This allows the agency to tell the public that the Clean Power Plan's costs are dramatically higher than they actually would be in reality.

We already knew Donald Trump and Scott Pruitt reject public health science, but this smearing of the Clean Power Plan's massive public benefits shows they reject basic math, too. The Trump Administration's assault on the Clean Power Plan is about one thing and one thing only: helping corporate polluters profit.

# Trump Administration Turns Its Back on Broad, Bipartisan Support for the Clean Power Plan

By Grace McRae

The Trump administration's decision to dismantle the Clean Power Plan is as wrong as it is unpopular.

On October 9, 2017 EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt officially announced that he will sign an order to gut the Clean Power Plan (CPP) on October 10. As the first-ever national limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants, the Clean Power Plan protects the health of families and communities by curbing dangerous carbon pollution and reducing other toxic pollutants like mercury, smog, and sulfur dioxide.

Poll after poll has found strong and widespread public support for the Clean Power Plan because it would protect our air, water, and health. In fact, nearly half of Trump voters (48%) support limiting carbon pollution from existing coal-fired power plants to "reduce global warming and improve public health." And despite the very vocal denial of Trump himself, nearly half of his supporters (49%) say global warming is happening. In a poll conducted earlier this year by Yale and George Mason University, nearly seven in ten U.S. voters (69%) said they support putting "strict limits on carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants" – the heart of the

Clean Power Plan. This includes 90% of Democrats, 67% of independents, and 46% of Republicans. And, according to the Yale Climate Opinion Maps, majority support can be found in every single state across the country.

The Clean Power Plan would, by 2030, prevent 90,000 asthma attacks and up to



3,600 premature deaths annually. Not only are Americans in support of such a powerful measure, but a survey by Hart Research in December found that two-thirds of Americans who voted in the 2016 presidential elections (65%) said that they would oppose any effort by the Trump administration to take away the

EPA's ability to set limits on carbon pollution from power plants. This included strong majorities of Clinton voters and nearly half of Trump voters (47%).

While Trump, Scott Pruitt, and the rest of this administration continue to protect and promote the fossil fuel industry and corporate polluters, state and local governments are taking the lead on climate action and moving forward with job-creating clean energy. From Salt Lake City, Utah to Georgetown, Texas, cities are committing to achieve 100 percent clean energy by 2030. Entire states, such as New York and Oregon, have already put themselves on the path to completely phase-out coal-fired power plants in favor of cleaner sources of energy. These states and cities understand that our growing clean energy economy is the best path to create good-paying jobs while safeguarding our air, water, and climate.

As Trump and his administration attack the historic Clean Power Plan, they should know that they are out-of-step with most Americans. People across the partisan spectrum understand that dismantling the Clean Power Plan would help corporate polluters rake in billions at the expense of the health of our families and climate.

## We Won't Let Trump Pump the Brakes on Climate Progress

By Andrew Linhardt

From day 1, Donald Trump and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt have been colluding with corporate polluters to undo bedrock environmental safeguards that keep our air and water clean and curb dangerous climate emissions.

On Tuesday, Scott Pruitt gave corporate polluters a big win by gutting the Clean Power Plan. As the first-ever national limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants, the Clean Power Plan protects the health of families and communities by curbing dangerous carbon pollution and reducing other toxic pollutants like mercury, smog, and sulfur dioxide

Gutting the Clean Power Plan isn't the only polluter backed rollback in Pruitt's Dirty Power Plan, he's also working with auto executives to roll back vehicle fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions standards, also known as the cleaner car standards. Transportation is the single largest and fastest growing source of emissions in the U.S. Our cars and trucks account for 45 percent of oil used in the United States and nearly a third of our greenhouse gas emissions.

But for now, cleaner car standards are helping us drive away dangerous carbon pollution. October 15th marks the fifth anniversary of America's clean cars standards. While automakers stood by President Obama

as he announced the standards 5 years ago, they're now trying to roll back our single biggest defense against carbon pollution. Without the Clean Power Plan, these standards are the U.S.'s largest-ever effort to reduce climate pollution.

As soon as Trump took office, automakers started going back on their word, calling on Trump and Pruitt to put the cleaner car standards in reverse. Earlier this year, Pruitt held a series of closed-door meetings with auto industry executives and lobbyists. A few months later, he announced that EPA would re-open and expand the scope of a review of the clean cars standards, with the likely intention of rolling them back. Duplicating the midterm review of carbon pollution standards is a waste of taxpayer money and a blatant attempt by the administration to rig the system for corporate polluters at the expense of hard-working American families.

By 2025, vehicle efficiency and clean car standards are expected to: nearly double vehicle efficiency; save 6 billion metric tons of dangerous climate pollution; save America 12 billion barrels of oil; save individual consumers \$1,460 to \$1,620 in fuel costs by the time the standards are fully implemented; and save Americans \$67 billion to \$122 billion over the lifetime of vehicles when the standards are

fully implemented. But weakening standards to cut tailpipe carbon pollution will further contribute to climate change, which can worsen asthma symptoms for the 24 million Americans – including 6.3 million children – who suffer from asthma.

Rolling back the standards might be what the auto industry lobbyists in Washington want, but it would be a catastrophe for American families – pumping more carbon pollution into our air while forcing families to spend more of their hard-earned money on gas. Rolling back the standards now could pump a year's worth of climate pollution from 150 coal fired power plants into our communities. The tragic impacts of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria have further underscored the need for immediate action that will prevent climate change from getting even worse. Reversing or indefinitely delaying policies that cut carbon pollution would leave our communities more vulnerable to supercharged storms, flooding, drought, wildfires, and other deadly disasters and the health risks associated with them.

On the 5th anniversary of the Clean Car Standards, we won't let Trump and his cabinet of toxic polluters pump the brakes on climate progress.

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

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

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

### Moving?

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

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

My new address is:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041

Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041