

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 43, Number 5 - September/October, 2012

Plug In Day Coming to Tennessee

Troy Burbank

On Sunday, September 23, Sierra Club, Plug In America, and the Electric Auto Association are teaming up with local partners to organize the 2012 National Plug In Day (NPID). This year there are more than 50 confirmed cities around the country taking part in the second annual NPID, which will call attention to the fact that a switch to electric vehicles (EVs) is one important way to reduce emissions and dependence on oil.

The state of Tennessee has shown a tremendous interest in electric vehicles and will host at least four events on September 23rd in Chattanooga, Kingsport, Knoxville, and Nashville.

Chattanooga organizers are planning an EV parade through the downtown area to a popular shopping plaza where a series of charging stations are powered by photovoltaic cells. EV owners will be available for an electric tailgate Q&A to allow the public to learn more about electric transportation.

Organizers in Kingsport plan to host an event at Rush Street Bar & Grill from 2-4 P.M., featuring Kingsport's newest charging stations. There will be owners of the Nissan Leaf, Chevrolet Volt, and Tesla Roadster on hand to answer questions and possibly provide test rides.

In Nashville there are plans to stage an EV parade from Nissan North American Headquarters to the new SMART Charging station at Vanderbilt University. A few car dealerships will be onsite to offer EV test drives at Vanderbilt. Additionally, EV owners and EV-related vendors will be onsite to answer questions about the EV ownership experience and the purchasing process.

An event is also planned for Knoxville. More details are forthcoming about all National Plug In Day events at www.sierraclub.org/electric-vehicles.

The first National Plug In Day took place last October with events in 29 cities across the country with thousands of attendees. National Plug-In Day is a celebration of all-electric and plug-in

hybrid electric vehicles, and it is designed to show the environmental and economical benefits that a switch from gasoline-powered vehicles would bring. These events will feature test-rides, EV parades, award ceremonies, informational booths, charging infrastructure ribbon cutting, and press conferences.

The Sierra Club's *Go Electric* Campaign seeks to educate the public, the media and policymakers that a switch to EVs will reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and help break the U.S.'s costly dependence on oil. The Sierra Club recognizes that American citizens burn around 121 billion gallons of gasoline each year by driving their cars and trucks. *Go Electric* supports the adoption of fully electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles as a way to reduce the amount of gasoline consumed and carbon pollution in the air. The campaign aims to mobilize Sierra Club members and the public alike to advocate for policies that will incentivize EVs at the local, state, and federal levels.

New Report Shows TVA Could Save Customers Billions While Improving Air Quality

Synapse Report Finds Energy Efficiency Helps Bill Payers and our Air Quality

KNOXVILLE, TN – In a new report released today, August 14, Synapse Economics reveals that the Tennessee Valley Authority is risking wasting billions of dollars to keep aging, out-of-date coal plants online instead of pursuing lower cost options like energy efficiency. The Synapse report, commissioned by the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, outlines a dim economic scenario for TVA's coal fleet, including four coal plants - the Gallatin, Allen, Colbert, and Shawnee Fossil Plants – in which TVA is considering investing billions of dollars. The report, called "TVA Coal in Crisis: Using Energy Efficiency to Replace TVA's Highly Non-Economic Coal Units," finds that TVA's current plans will cost billions, raising customer's rates for decades. In contrast, Synapse finds that an energy efficiency savings program run at a level that TVA acknowledges is achievable, would reduce air pollution, cut customers rates over the long-term, and eliminate the need to operate at least one TVA coal plant in the next three years.

"TVA's coal plants are old and lack many modern pollution controls, meaning they pump out harmful pollutants whenever they run," said Jeremy Fisher, Ph.D., the lead author of the Synapse Energy Economics report. "Today's report shows that there are cheaper options that will both improve our air quality and lower customer's monthly power bills. TVA currently plans to keep these old, out-of-date plants on life support, but we are confident that a good, hard look at the numbers shows that it makes no business sense to run these plants anymore. TVA can do better for Tennessee by pursuing efficiency measures and retiring these plants."

Compared to other utilities coal fired power plants, TVA's are older, dirtier and generate less power on average. The Synapse analysis determined that TVA would need to invest at least \$11.8 billion to update its ageing fleet, with additional costs to operate the retrofitted plants piling up over time. According to the report, going forward, 30 of the 39 TVA coal boilers will cost more to run than market prices, once the capital cost of the pollution controls are counted.

"Purely on the merits, it's simply does not make economic sense for TVA to keep these plants running, let alone invest billions more to keep them on life support," said Fisher, with Synapse. "We recommend prioritizing an efficiency program that will save TVA and its customers billions in the long run."

TVA has already studied energy efficiency options, and according to the Synapse study, if TVA followed the course set by its own study, it could save enough energy over the next three years to retire one of its old, dirty coal plants.

"Pollution from coal-fired power plants threatens the health of communities everywhere," said Louise Gorenflo, a TVA ratepayer and lead volunteer with Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign. "TVA's coal plants pump harmful pollution into our air and water. Responsible utilities don't throw good money after bad, but that's exactly what TVA is planning to do now. TVA has an opportunity to prioritize energy efficiency which will boost our local economy while saving customers money and, critically, reduce the use of coal fired power. This is a win-win for our pocketbooks and for our health."

Gorenflo added, "Right now, TVA's plan will make my monthly electric bill more expensive while doing nothing to clean up the air or build Tennessee's economy. I'm calling on TVA to pursue energy efficiency instead. Even a modest energy efficiency program, with energy savings of just over 1% a year, will lower my bills over time, while reducing toxic air pollution and strengthening Tennessee communities."

Sierra Club commissioned the report from Synapse Energy Economics, an economics consulting firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Since 2001, the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign, along with partners and allies, has prevented the construction of 168 new coal plants nationwide. Currently, 120 coal plants are scheduled for retirement as coal is now providing less electricity to the United States than any point in the last thirty years.

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Subscribe simply by going to

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

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

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

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

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: gvanhorn26@gmail.com
USPS: Gene Van Horn, Editor
895 Red Cloud Trail
Spring City, TN 37381
423-365-0692

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
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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 32142-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org **F94Q W4300** 1

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

**Target Date for
November-December
Issue is
September 25, 2012.**

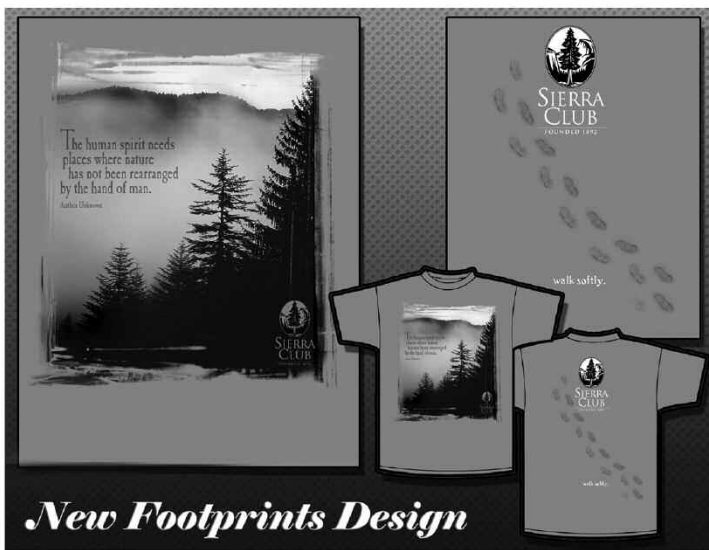
**All meetings and outings
notices, articles and photo-
graphs should be in by
then. Send material to
Gene Van Horn at
gvanhorn26@gmail.com**

New Design

Footprints T-Shirts

Black print quotation:

"The human spirit needs places where
nature has not been rearranged by the
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New Footprints Design

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TN Chapter Fall Family Weekend & Retreat: Pickett State Park Group Camp

October 19-20-21

You're Invited! Plan for FUN!

Come explore a little known part of Tennessee's wilderness and history for a great weekend this coming October while you meet others from across the state that share your same concerns! Pickett State Park, our state's first park built by the CCC and located on the Kentucky border north east of Jamestown, lies within the 19,200-acre Pickett State Forest, right next to the massive 120,000-acre Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Choose from viewing the home and mill of WWI hero Alvin C. York, exploring an English settlement in nearby Rugby, and experiencing the fall colors at their best as you hike Saturday and/or Sunday to the large rock houses and natural stone bridges that are a special feature of Pickett or hike the John Muir Trail along the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. Something for all skill levels! Our State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath, will be along to share his vast knowledge of the history, flora and fauna of our parks.

The Chapter's Executive Committee, and other Chapter committees, will be holding meetings during the weekend – feel free to sit in on any or all.

Our Saturday evening speaker is Dr. Virginia Dale, ORNL Research Scientist in the Climate Change Research Institute and Environmental Sciences Division. Global changes are expected to have real affects on Tennessee, for both climate and land-use changes will impact forest biomass and composition, as well as outdoor recreation, which Dr. Dale will discuss.

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

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

Breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, and Saturday night dinner are provided. Be sure to indicate whether you are vegetarian or omnivore. You are on your own for Friday dinner, and trail lunches. If you want additional beverages, you'll need to bring your own.

Early Registration Price until October 12: \$40

Regular Registration Fee: \$50

Single day only price with no lodging/camping:

Sat - \$20; Sun - \$10

(Children up to 15 attend free)

Special: ½ off for first-time attendees!

Note: a limited number of partial scholarships are available by request to the Chapter Treasurer, Michael Varner, at rmvarnell@bellsouth.net

Register by e-mail with Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@comcast.net

Pay when you arrive at the Retreat!

The Cherokee Group looks forward to hosting you!

Directions: I-40 to Exit 317. Hwy. 127 north (46 miles). Turn right on Hwy. 154, travel 12 miles to the park entrance, pass the main office and continue on, taking a right on the Group Lodge road. OR, I-75 north from Knoxville to Exit 141. Hwy 63 to Huntsville. Right onto Hwy 27 north to Oneida. Left onto Hwy 297 through Big Couth Fork NRRRA. Right onto Hwy 154, follow to Pickett State Park, pass the main office and continue on, taking a right on the Group Lodge road. The Park's office number is 931-879-5821. Further details about Pickett State Park and surrounding activities are available at: <http://tn.gov/environment/parks/Pickett/>

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ANNOUNCING

**Sierra Club's 11th Annual
Environmental Conference**

2012 Conference Theme

**“Community Health & Safety:
A Human Right”**

HOLD THE DATE

**Saturday, November 3, 2012
9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.**

Location

**Linderwood Christian Church
2400 Union Avenue
Memphis, TN**

**“Community Health & Safety:
A Human Right”**

You are Invited!

Come join us for a day of fellowship, learning and fun at the Sierra Club's 11th annual grass-roots environmental conference in Memphis. This is the only community environmental conference totally focused on providing easy-to-understand information and an opportunity to network with expert speakers and activists.

Our Conference theme for 2012, “*Community Health and Safety, A Human Right*”, capture our concerns fully. Over the past eleven or more years we have come to realize that the community's various environmental interests and concerns all relate heavily to our health, safety and quality of life. Whether we look at government regulations, air pollution standards, genetically modified foods (GMO), saving polluted rivers, or protecting our precious drinking water we all want to protect our families from present and future hazards in our city, county and state. This conference on November 3, 2012, offers an opportunity for people to come together to share and learn from each other, and take concrete steps for ACTION.

So, mark your calendars, now!

Plan carpools to make sure YOUR neighborhood is represented on Saturday, November 3rd. Your family and your community deserve at least one day out of the year to be pro-active, meet other like-minded people, learn something new, and enjoy good food & fellowship. There is always an engaging smorgasbord of speakers on a wide variety of topics. There will be enough variety to insure that YOUR interests will be covered. We extend a special invitation to college students, neighborhood watch leaders, community activists, community groups, church leaders, and even the “person next door.”

A conference highlight you will want to be present for is the presentation of the annual Dick Mochow Environmental Justice Award which will go to a worthy community recipient! A conference brochure and registration form will be available once details are finalized. The conference registration and hot lunch are free to registered participants, due to the generous sponsorship of the Sierra Club. Register before the deadline October 26th by e-mailing rita.harris@sierraclub.org
For more info or questions, please call 901-324-7757.

The Sierra Club's Memphis Environmental Justice Program is committed to raising awareness and increasing public participation to gain better environmental protection, better community services, and safer, healthier communities.

Meetings

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

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Strategy Meetings: Sept. 10 and October 8 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6 P.M. NEW LOCATION -- WE'VE MOVED! Our Strategy Meeting is now held downtown, at Second Presbyterian Church in their excellent meeting room! Second Presbyterian is located at the corner of E. 7th Street and Pine, 700 Pine Street - parking is free at their Pine Street lot, across the street from the church, next to the old Blue Cross (orange) building. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome -- this is where and when we plan our actions! Come add your ideas and share your concerns. To place on item on the agenda, contact Chair Davis Mounger at 423-877-4616 or wdmounger@yahoo.com, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

September Program: Last Monday, September 24, 7 P.M. at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: Tennessee Clean Water Network & Chattanooga Water Quality - The Settlement! TCWN Attorney Stephanie Matheny will present the settlement TCWN reached with the City of Chattanooga, the State and EPA over the longstanding problems of Chattanooga's sanitary sewer overflows, and explain the benefits we can expect to see. "The Consent Decree calls for a comprehensive fix to the City's entire sewer system, which will result in a substantial improvement in water quality over time," says Stephanie. She'll also discuss the supplemental environmental projects the City has agreed to in lieu of further federal and state penalties: the restoration of a tributary of South Chickamauga Creek and the Highland Park Green Infrastructure Project. Finally, she'll brief us on ways we, as citizens, can get -- and stay -- involved.

The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Plenty of parking -- the first left at the corner (just past GreenSpaces) and there's plenty of parking at a public lot. Come and be inspired into action!

October Program: Last Monday, October 29, 7 P.M. at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: Tennessee Wilderness Act Update. Jeff Hunter, from Tennessee Wild, will treat us to two feature presentations! First, an update on where we are with the passage of the Tennessee Wilderness Act, which deserves to be enacted into law, and what we need to do to help its passage. Second, Jeff will share his experience and the environment encountered on his recent backpack in Colorado. He rode the train from Durango to Needleton, to begin his trek to Silverton and back to Durango. Quite different from Tennessee hiking! Come enjoy his presentations.

The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Plenty of parking -- the first left at the corner (just past GreenSpaces) and there's plenty of parking at a public lot. Come and be inspired into action!

Note: Our Program Meetings continue to be held at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, which is a non-descript storefront building with little-to-no signage -- it is the last on the left in the first block off Market Street. It is kiddy-corner from the Fire Department across the street. Look for the Sierra Club banner!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

THURSDAY, September 6, 5:30 P.M. Monthly First Thursday Gathering Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN

Sierra Club members, activists, and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. First Thursday contact: Mark Plumlee at mark.chickasaw@gmail.com or 901-679-4622.

MONDAY, September 10, 5:30 P.M. Meet & Greet & Snacks with a 6:00 P.M. Program Shelby County Office of Sustainability Update. Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN

Shelby County Office of Sustainability's Paul Young will update us on the "green" initiatives that the region is pursuing. Sustainability is the "capacity to endure" in terms of ensuring our environmental, economic, and community needs are met with the resources we have while also providing for the needs of future generations. Sierra Club was involved in drafting the 2008 Sustainable Shelby agenda that his work is based on. NOTE the different day of the week for this month only. Watch Facebook and our web page for more information. Programs contact: Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or 901-413-3888.

TUESDAY, September 11, 6:30 P.M. Executive

Committee Strategy Meeting. Contact Sue A Williams for location information

The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. This is a business meeting where members are welcome to attend. Come and see exactly what we are planning. If you have an issue which you would like to see discussed, agenda items must be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to the Executive Committee Chair Sue A Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524.

THURSDAY, October 4, 5:30 P.M. Monthly First Thursday Gathering. Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN

Sierra Club members, activists, and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. First Thursday contact: Mark Plumlee at mark.chickasaw@gmail.com or 901-679-4622.

TUESDAY, October 9, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Strategy Meeting. Contact Sue A. Williams for location information

The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. This is a business meeting where members are welcome to attend. Come and see exactly what we are planning. If you have an issue which you would like to see discussed, agenda items must be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to the Executive Committee Chair Sue A. Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524.

WEDNESDAY, October 17, 5:30 P.M. Meet & Greet & Snacks with a 6:00 P.M. Program TVA Allen Coal Plant. Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN

What do we get from the TVA Allen Coal Plant besides electricity? Sierra Club Environmental Justice Organizer Rita Harris will lead a presentation and discussion about coal ash, mercury pollution, and the possibility for retirement of the 58-year-old coal-fired power plant. We will discuss other possibilities for cleaner and safer energy sources in the Memphis area. Watch Facebook and our web page for more information. Programs contact: Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or 901-413-3888.

NOTE: For more details, additional events, and updates, see our Facebook page.

Sierra Club Chickasaw Group is now on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

This is a forum for public discussion, so please feel free to post comments, raise issues, and express environmental concerns. Updates and details about upcoming events are posted here.

"Nature of Conservation" Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Cable TV Show on WYPL-TV 18 (Comcast/Xfinity) and Online at Vimeo:

Days and times vary -- see <http://www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/schedule/> (or the Comcast/Xfinity on-screen guide) for the latest schedule. Topic changes every month. For more information, or if anyone has an idea for a future program, contact Judith Rutschman at judithrutschman@gmail.com or (901) 767-5916. Previous programs are now available online at: <http://vimeo.com/user10896810>

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

September 11 at 7PM at our usual location. Regular People, Real Science. Tiffany Beachy, Citizen Science Coordinator, Great Smoky Mountain Institute at Tremont

Tremont embraces citizen science—the involvement of non-scientists in scientific research—as a great tool to connect people with nature. Participants of all ages have the opportunity to contribute to the scientific research conducted within the national park, fostering a deeper understanding of the ecology and natural history of these mountains. The citizen science program at Tremont enables students of any age to develop a sense of ownership of our research projects as they contribute to something larger than themselves. The resulting data are shared with collaborating scientists and park resource managers, as well as the general public through our web site.

Tremont has several projects that are particularly suited to people that enjoy being outdoors and learning. These include observation of cyclic events in nature (phenology), monarch butterfly tagging, bird banding, terrestrial and aquatic salamander monitoring, and pond breeding amphibian monitoring. These volunteers allow scientists to accomplish tasks that would be too expensive or time consuming to accomplish through other means. Come hear about this important activity and find out how you can become involved in the growing citizen science community. For additional information contact Mac Post (mpost3116@aol.com).

October 9, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville. To Be Determined November 13, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville. Climate Change: Joanne Logan, The Climate Reality Project. Details to follow in next newsletter or on FaceBook Harvey Broome Group Executive Committee

meetings take place on the 4th Tuesday of each month. We welcome all members and the public to these meeting which are at 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville, TN. Contact Robin Hill (robin.hill8@gmail.com). For up-to-date information check our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harvey-Broome-Group-of-the-Sierra-Club/491199940200?ref=hl>

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM: September 13, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center

Rebecca Selove and John Patrick will present information about the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI)'s discussion courses and how they can help Sierrans connect with others, reflect and act to improve their own quality of life and the health of the environment. Rebecca and John are Ambassadors for NWEI, a non-profit organization in 1993 founded in Portland, OR to foster dialogue about environmental issues. NWEI offers 12 courses, 4-9 sessions in length, self-facilitated by groups of 8-12 people. Consensus is not the goal, as facilitator guidelines promote personal values and attitude clarification, focus, and balanced participation. Over 130,000 people in the US have participated in NWEI courses. Further information is available at <http://www.nwei.org/>. This summer Rebecca and John are enjoying the Discovering a Sense of Place course with 10 others in Nashville.

In 2010 John and Rebecca moved from VA to Tennessee to be co-owners of Foggy Hollow (a certified organic) Farm in Cheatham County and live in a LEED Platinum home they built on that farm. They first learned about NWEI courses in St. Louis, MO where they were also active in the Sierra Club. They are eager to support Tennesseans who want to connect with others who are concerned about environmental issues, reflect on the writings of diverse authors, and perhaps develop personal and group plans for action. Free and open to the public, and wine, juice and a snack will be served.

PROGRAM: October 11, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville The evidence for climate change has certainly been all around us this summer in Tennessee. We have recently faced a devastating drought and an extreme heat wave. Moreover, the last 12 months have been the hottest on record in many parts of the state. In response to the unfolding climate crisis the Tennessee Climate Action Campaign is organizing for reducing carbon use -- particularly through energy efficiency. The Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club is one of the partners in the Tennessee Climate Action Campaign, and we are delighted that the campaign consultant organizer, Dan Joranko, will speak to the Middle Tennessee Group on October 11.

Energy efficiency is the first and least-cost method for impacting the climate. Towards this end the campaign is calling on the Tennessee Valley Authority to implement at least a 1% annual efficiency target. We are also calling on local power companies to support this goal. Achieving this goal can lead to the closure of coal plants and can avoid new plant construction. It will also lead to lower power bills through incentivizing households to weatherize homes and buy more efficient appliances. It will lead to savings for businesses that they can invest in jobs, and energy efficiency will create jobs as well. Finally, TVA's own energy efficiency study indicates that the 1% goal is quite achievable.

Local climate action teams have been formed in Chattanooga, Cookeville, Crossville, Johnson City, Memphis, Mountain City, and Nashville. Teams will form in Clarksville, Franklin, Jackson, Murfreesboro, Sewanee and the Southwest TN EMC area in the near future. Teams will be holding public vigils this fall in support of the campaign goals.

If you would like to participate in the campaign please e-mail Dan Joranko, Dan@TNClimateAction.net or go to the campaign website at www.tnclimateaction.net/. Free and open to the public, and wine, juice and a snack will be served.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: September 11 and October 9, 6:30 P.M. PLEASE NOTE THE MEETING PLACE HAS CHANGED FOR THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. If this site works well, information about the November and December strategy meetings will appear in the TennesSierran, or contact Betsy at (614) 668-1977.

All members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. This meeting will take place at Panera Bread, 2534 Powell Ave, in front of 100 Oaks. It is just a bit more than ¼ from Thompson Lane.

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Tuesday at 7 P.M. Please contact Gloria Griffith at gla4797@earthlink.net or 423-727-4797 for more information.

Outings

Welcome to the Tennessee Chapter's master list of our outings. Members, and the public, are always very welcome at any of these events. Listed by the sponsoring Group, you are welcome at attend as many across the state as you wish! We believe that what you come to love, you will stand up to protect.

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiverPDF>, or call 415-977-5630 for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride-sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Emily Marr Davis is our Outings Chair, and point-person for outings information for our Group. Our activities are always open to the public and to members of the Club from across our state! Outings are planned to take in the interests and skill levels of the participants. For more information, contact Emily at 423-413-3038 or emily.marr.davis@gmail.com

September 8 (Sat) More Whitewater Paddling! 10 A.M. Location TBA, depending on water levels. This will be beginner friendly and gear rental will be available. Is there a better way to enjoy nature in the Summer? RSVP to Emily Marr Davis emily.marr.davis@gmail.com by August 25, please.

September 22 (Sat) Hook, Bullet & Paddle Outing, Woods Reservoir. We'll leave Chattanooga at 9 a.m., and travel up I-24 towards Tullahoma to paddle on Woods Reservoir. Bring your canoe, paddles, personal flotation devices and fishing poles, and your firearm for a stop at a nearby shooting range afterward. No alcohol! Participation not restricted to the Cherokee Group - others are very welcome! For details and to RSVP, contact Trip Leader Davis Mounger at wdmounger@yahoo.com or 423-877-4616.

October 19-20-22 (Weekend) Chapter Fall Family Weekend/Retreat at Pickett State Park. You're invited to come for a hike and stay for the weekend! We'll have a variety of hikes and outings to unique places going on -- see the announcement/details elsewhere in this issue! Pickett offers a great selection of natural bridges, caves, creeks, threatened/angered plants, and great fun. You know you don't want to miss this!! Low cost - \$40 for the early bird price, and 1/2 price for first-timers! Children up to 15 free! Don't wait -- get this on your calendars now. Contact Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@comcast.net or 423-718-5009 for more information, and to register.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Outings Chair for the Chickasaw Group

Looking for someone interested and willing to provide leadership and direction to the Group's Outings program, while keeping outdoor activities an integrated and vital element of our Group's efforts. Don't worry if you aren't a certified Outings Leader yet, we'll train you! Interest and experience in the outdoors a plus!!

SATURDAY, September 15, 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. (Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 16) Tabling Event: Cooper-Young Festival. Cooper Street & Young Avenue, Memphis, TN

Memphis' most anticipated outdoor celebration in Memphis' largest historic district, this event has grown tremendously and is one of Memphis' most highly attended festivals. Enjoy an appealing mix of art, music and crafts presented by over 370 artisans from around the country -- a true celebration of the arts, people, culture and Memphis heritage.

PLEASE NOTE: NO PETS ALLOWED AT THIS EVENT.

The Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club will have a booth at this event (booth is in the courtyard along Cooper Street south of Young Avenue, between a beauty shop and First Congo Church). We'll be selling the 2013 calendars and our new Chickasaw Group t-shirts. It's also your opportunity to be more involved by signing up for the Memphis Climate Action Team or the Legislative Team. To volunteer to help staff the booth, please contact Mark Plumlee at mark.chickasaw@gmail.com or (901) 679-4622.

SATURDAY, September 22, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Outings Leader Training. Location TBA

Want to lead an outdoor excursion with like-minded folks in the Sierra Club? Then come and be a part of making it happen with the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club by attending the Outings Leaders training session. We will learn the ins and outs of planning and conducting an outing and receive basic first aid training. Fee for first aid training is refundable upon leading an outing. For more information, questions, and sign up, contact Judith Rutschman (judithrutschman@gmail.com) or Mark Plumlee at 901-679-4622 (mark.chickasaw@gmail.com) by September 15th.

SATURDAY, September 22, 5:30 P.M. to 7:20 P.M. Outing: Equinox & Sunset on the Bluff Walk overlooking the Mississippi River Downtown Memphis, TN

Meet at Union Avenue and Riverside Drive at the trolley stop. Parking is free at the meters on Wagner on weekends, just east of the meeting location. Bring your own water if it's a warm day. No pets please. Walk up to 3 miles on the Riverwalk/Bluffwalk with stairs possible part of walk depending on time frame. We often go to dinner downtown afterwards. Contact Sue Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or (901) 274-0524.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

8 Sept (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity tour (Virgin Cove Hardwood), Albright Grove. Not many low elevation cove hardwood forests remain. Albright Grove is a special place where tulip poplars, Frazier magnolias, silverbells and maples have grown into giants. It is hard to believe that the Smokies were once so heavily forested. For the hike to this unique place we will use the Maddron Bald Trail to Albright Grove Loop trail and then return to Laurel Springs Road just off Hwy 321. Total distance is 6.9 miles and rated moderate. One-way drive: 60 miles. Preregister with Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (e-mail preferred).

15-16 Sept (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Great Three Day Bald River Traverse. The Bald River is one of the Cherokee National Forest's most scenic, as it drains a huge basin and culminates in the spectacular Bald River Falls at the Tellico River. The lower portion is protected in 1984 Federal Wilderness Act (3,721 acres). A bill now pending in Congress, introduced by Senators Alexander and Corker, would protect the balance of the watershed in the 9,038-acre Upper Bald River Wilderness. On a two-night backpack we will traverse the entire Bald River Watershed, ascending from Bald River Falls up the Bald River and Brookshire Creek Trails to the mountain that divides NC-TN, across that divide on the State Line Trail, and then back on the Kirkland Creek and Bald River Trails. We'll see a huge area and among the very best of Tennessee's Wilderness. Camps will be along the Bald River and Kirkland Creek. The entire hiking distance is around 29 miles and it is rated Difficult. One-way drive: 70 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; C 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

29 Sept (Sat). Dayhike, Fodderstack Trail, Farr Gap to Pine Ridge, Citico Wilderness. Hiking this little-used wilderness in the Unicoi Mountains is always a treat. Though it's a little harder to get to, the trails in the Citico Creek Wilderness are little used, and well maintained. This trail follows the crest of Fodderstack Mountain in a beautiful setting. Hiking distance 8.6 miles. Rated moderate. Car shuttle. One-way drive distance, 64 miles. Preregister with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (e-mail preferred).

13-14 Oct (Sat-Sun). Gourmet Backpack. This fall trip is a Harvey Broome Group tradition. It started in the early 1980's with an outrageous canoe backpack to the Fontana side of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, to a similarly outrageous backpack to Little Bottoms in the 1990s, and recently to somewhat more modest affairs along Bald River Falls Trail, the Big South Fork, and North Fork Citico Creek. Even the modest affairs have involved some truly great backcountry appetizers, drinks, entrees, and deserts -- frozen margaritas, Caesar salad, roasted Cornish game hens, seafood Newburg, Santa Fe chicken, hot fudge ice cream sundaes, cheesecake, and much more. Depending on the level of interest we could make this year's gourmet backpack a rotation where participants share the gourmet offerings. The backpack will be no more than 3 miles to a campsite. We will decide on a location once we get a better idea of interest. Rating -- Easy to moderate depending on how much food one wants to carry. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 675-7668.

20 Oct (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Sugarland Mountain Trl, GSMNP. Starting from Clingman Dome Road, we'll descend the Sugarland Mountain trail to its junc-

Ten Essentials for Hiking



Sierra Club outings offer a variety of wilderness and near-wilderness experiences. It is important to realize that while all trips are guided by a leader, it is ultimately the responsibility of the individual to operate in a safe manner. To this end, the following is a list of essential items which should be modified according to the particular type of outing. These are:

1. Adequate map
2. First aid kit
3. Compass
4. Rain gear
5. Extra clothing (it is a good idea to always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Knife
8. Flashlight
9. Extra food, water
10. The tenth essential: You decide what is the most important thing to bring!

tion with the Huskey Gap trail, which we'll take over to US 441. We should see some great fall color foliage, and we'll build on our understanding of biodiversity in the Smokies. Total distance 10.9 miles. Rated moderate. One way driving distance, 75 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (e-mail preferred).

27-28 Oct (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Bird Mtn. and Arch Mtn. Sections, Cumberland Trail. This trip begins in Frozen Head State Park, ascends Bird Mt., then follows the newly-opened Cumberland Trail to our camp at The Garden Spot. Although there is around 2,000 ft. total elevation gain, distance to camp is less than 8 miles. The second day we also hike around 8 miles, but almost entirely downhill on brand new trail to our shuttle on Smoky Creek. This will be one of the first trips to use these sections of the Cumberland Trail in the remote New River watershed. Rating: not determined at press time. One-way drive: 45 miles. Pre-register with Warren or Carol Devine, 483-7894 or warrendevine@comcast.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

We want you! All Middle Tennessee Group Sierra Club members are encouraged to apply. Be an Outings Leader for MTG. Please contact John Pigg at j.t.pigg@comcast.net or (615)851-1192.

Join us **September 8** for a day hike to Cummins Fall State Park. This hike is rated moderate. Some areas can be slippery. Bring water and lunch. RSVP by September 5. Contact John Pigg at 615-851-1192 or j.t.pigg@comcast.net. From Nashville drive east on I-40. Take exit 280. Meet at the McDonalds at the Love Truck Stop at 10:30AM or meet at the park by 11:15AM. Check the Tennessee State Park website for more information.

Plug-In Day - **September 23.** Join us at the Electric Auto Association's annual celebration, helping share information and clean-up. The event will be at the corner of 21st and Broadway. Please contact Betsy Garber, garberb@hotmail.com, (615) 668-1977 for more information.

Hike the Walls of Jericho. This hike is in the planning stages and is tentatively set for **October 13**. It is a 7-mile hike that is rated strenuous and will require shuttle between trail heads. After scouting this trail a plan will be formulated by October 1. Contact John Pigg, after October 1, at 615-851-1192 or j.t.pigg@comcast.net. Check the Nature Conservancy website for more information.

RECYCLING VOLUNTEERS: EVERY SATURDAY - 9:00 - 12:00 - Volunteer at the recycling Site. We are looking for volunteers to man the recycling center from 9 to 12 on Saturdays. This is a major source of income for the club and we need volunteers to spread the workload out so that so few do not have to keep doing it every month. If you could volunteer just a few times a year that would help -- that's only once every few months! Volunteers just need to be willing to ask people if they need help in unloading their recyclables and tell them "thank you" for recycling. The funds we receive from this effort help the group operations and activities, which includes lobbying efforts.

The bins are in front of the Kroger at 3955 Nolensville Road, Nashville, TN. The Kroger lot is located about a half-mile towards town from the Walmart at Harding and Nolensville. It's a great place to get involved with our Group! Contact Tom at 615-373-9237(h) or 892-0128(c) for more information.

Tennessee Chapter Call for Nominations for At Large Delegates (2013-2014 Term)

Chickasaw Group Nominations

The Chickasaw Group seeks to fill a number of seats on its Executive Committee and welcomes your nominations. Candidates should be interested in promoting environmental issues, willing to learn and develop action plans within Sierra Club policy, participate in Group activities and attend monthly strategy and other meetings regularly. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact one of the following members of the Nominating Committee by September 10, 2012:

Keven Routon (kwratcs@me.com)

Keith Hoover (hooverkw@yahoo.com)

Deborah Mays (dmays@hobsonrealtors.com)

In addition to candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee, the name of any Group member proposed in writing by at least 25 Group members prior to the deadline for submission of petitions (September 10, 2012), and who gives consent, shall also be included on the ballot. Our elections will take place by the ballot listed in the November/December issue of the Tennes-Sierran, with terms to begin in January 2013.

Middle Tennessee Group ExCom Nominations Sought

The Middle Tennessee Group of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club is seeking candidates for election to the Executive Committee (ExCom). The ExCom has oversight responsibilities* for the Middle Tennessee Group to ensure it is carrying out our mission productively. If you know someone you wish to nominate or you are interested in serving, contact any member of the Nominations Committee by September 21, 2012

Contact:

Joel Gearhardt, jgearhardt@yahoo.com or 941-518-0063

Carol Dulaney at caroldulaney@comcast.net

*Oversight Responsibilities

- Understand and promote the mission of the Sierra Club
- Attend Executive Committee and general meetings as necessary
- Attend programs when possible
- Lead and provide educational training and conservation opportunities to the general membership
- Promote group and chapter outings
- Participate in long range planning
- Actively assist in fundraising activities
- Ensure financial stability and solvency
- Modify and allocate resources consistent with the opportunities, the abilities and the commitment of the group and chapter
- Monitor, question and evaluate club activities
- Provide leadership and vision for the group and chapter
- Contribute a sense of camaraderie and teamwork

Here's your opportunity to make a difference. Make your nomination today!

Now you can receive your

Tennes-Sierran

via email



Subscribe simply by going to

<http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/subscribe.htm>

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

So Join the Crowd and Go Paperless Today!

The Tennessee Chapter will elect three (3) at-large delegates for a two-year term beginning in January 2013. Members are requested to give serious consideration to running for these important offices on the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) that manages the fiscal, legislative, environmental and other appropriate responsibilities for our Chapter.

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

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

If you are interested in being considered for nomination for the office of at-large delegate, please notify the Nominating Committee Chairperson Sue A. Williams at (901) 274-0524 or e-mail z4cmv@juno. Please submit a short statement of your qualifications and reason for running, and respond by Sept 14. The at-large delegate position provides an opportunity to have an important role in the Chapter management of a large grass roots environmental organization having more than 6,000 members in the State of Tennessee.

Interested parties who are not selected by the nominating committee will have the opportunity to run by the petition process. Contact Sue for more information. Elections will be conducted by ballot distributed in the December/January issue of the Tennes-Sierran. Other members of the nominating committee are Barbara Kelly (Chattanooga) and Jennifer Thompson (Nashville.)

Cherokee Group Nominations Sought for 2013

The Cherokee Group Nominating Committee is looking for nominations for Executive Committee Members for 2013. We will have five (5) openings. Elections will be held by ballot enclosed in the December/January Tennes-Sierran.

What does an Executive Committee member do? They serve as our "Board," providing the leadership and vision of our Group, while helping us promote the mission of the Sierra Club. Members attend both program and strategy meetings, promote the Outings program and conservation activities, participate in long-range planning, actively assist in fundraising activities or contribute financially, and contribute a sense of camaraderie and teamwork. A tall order to fill -- but a rewarding one!

Please contact our Nominating Committee Chair Emily Marr Davis to volunteer yourself as a candidate, or to suggest a candidate: by e-mail at emily.marr.davis@gmail.com or by phone at 423-413-3083. Nominations must be received by 9/14/12 for consideration.

HBG GROUP — HELP WANTED!!!!

The nominating Committee for HBG Executive Committee (ExCom) members will consist of Randy Humble, Mac Post and Ron Shrieves. HBG members desiring to offer themselves or others as nominees must submit proposed nominees to Ron Shrieves by e-mail to ronaldshrieves@Comcast.net not later than August 31, 2012. Nominees must be members of the Sierra Club.

Nominees, if elected will serve for a two-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2013 and ending Dec 31, 2014.

The HBG Excom serves as the governing board of HBG.

The position of ExCom member is not an Honorary position. Members will be expected to participate in management by chairing committees as necessary, recruiting members for their committees and managing the project assigned to their committee.

Persons elected to the ExCom will be expected to attend a regular monthly meeting of the EXCom on the 4th Tuesday of each month and to attend any special ExCom meetings. ExCom meetings will last no more than 1.5 hours beginning at 7:00 P.M. the 4th Tuesday of each month at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church 2931 Kingston Pike Knoxville Tn.

Robin Hill
Chair- HBG

TN Sierra Club Calls for Immediate Suspension of TVA's Clear Cutting Program July 2013

The Executive Committee of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club has called for the immediate suspension of TVA's aggressive clear cutting program along approximately 12,000 miles of transmission lines.

The Sierra Club urgently spoke in support of property owners and the environment, as too many Tennessee citizens are not yet aware that TVA cutting crews are daily drastically changing the look and value of their homes, businesses, schools, parks and communities. TVA has always discouraged tall trees under its power lines, but now completely clear cuts up to 200 feet wide along its transmission lines. This is done without fair notice to property owners. The TN Sierra resolution requests TVA give a 60-day written notice to owners.

"The Executive Committee understands TVA's role to maintain transmission lines according to best water and forestry protection practices, which we encourage. Unfortunately TVA is clearing large swaths of vegetation under a new policy which denudes the rights of way of all vegetation with cutting and chemicals," said Executive Committee member Brian Paddock. "The trees removed have sometimes been growing for decades along the edges of the TVA easement for power lines. These trees have not been seen by TVA as a threat to power lines until now. Other, shorter plants including ornamentals planted by the property owners for beauty and as habitat for birds and wild things are being destroyed down to bare earth. They should be managed, not eliminated." added Attorney Paddock.

Part of TVA's mission is to protect and

enhance the Tennessee Valley's lands, waters and air quality. The Sierra Chapter resolution asserts that much of the vegetation targeted for removal isn't posing a threat to TVA equipment. The resolution decries the reduction in home values, and TVA's clearing which allows erosion and water pollution from herbicides, and makes the view of TVA lines ugly as well as eliminating the air quality improvements we get from trees and other vegetation.

Homeowners in Middle and East Tennessee, have filed suit against TVA: <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2012/jun/21/locals-root-for-plaintiffs-to-the-east/?print=1>

Because TVA did not do an Environmental, Impact Statement or notify and consult with the affected landowners and communities the new policy represents an unknown cost increase for ratepayers. TVA has not price tagged the contractor costs to clear the land and permanently destroy vegetation, and ignored the damage to the ecology and home values. "TVA should delay any clear cutting programs affecting millions of citizens and trees until it can present a clear cost estimate to the ratepayer, and a plan for managing right of vegetation that does the least environmental damage and sustainable financially in an area nature tries to return to forest as its natural condition." Paddock said.

According to the resolution, TVA's policy allows the vegetation to be removed regardless of whether or not these trees are in close proximity to high voltage lines, regardless of how fast a tree may grow or its maximum height it might reach and regardless of whether or not the trees are full grown, and regardless of whether or not these

trees have ever caused a problem in the past or have been trimmed in the past.

TVA's policy also doesn't consider the type of vegetation, whether it's native, thus providing a valuable service to the ecology, or ornamental or edible, thus representing a large investment by the owner. Many homeowners have helped TVA for years by maintaining its easements with appropriate vegetation. Their shade trees, fruit orchards and shrubs, which attract and shelter birds and wildlife, are on their private property. TVA's assertion that they have the legal right to destroy everything in a right of way without notice and without a full environmental analysis is bad management and destroys trust.

For more information, contact Brian Paddock at bpaddock@twlakes.net or 931-268-2938 Join TN Sierra in stewarding our environment at <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/conservation.asp>

We care about our climate and not wasting money. That's why we want TVA to set a 1% annual energy efficiency target and our local electric utility to urge TVA to do so. By investing our energy dollars in efficiency, we'll lower energy prices in our homes, create jobs in our communities, and take an important step in protecting our climate. TN Climate Action Campaign www.tnclimateaction.net

Tennessee Gives Free Pass to Dirty TVA Coal Plant

Environmental Groups Take Legal Action to Protect Clean Water

Nashville, Tennessee – Community and environmental groups appealed a pollution permit issued to Tennessee Valley Authority ("TVA") for its Gallatin coal-fired power plant to prevent toxic discharges of heavy metals and other harmful waste byproducts of burning coal. The plant's polluted wastewaters are dumped into unlined ponds that allow pollution to continue to harm the environment.

In addition to the toxic discharges, Gallatin's water cooling intake system routinely kills tens of thousands of fish and other aquatic life that become trapped in the structures every year. The group is asking that Gallatin use better technology to protect fish and other aquatic life.

The appeal, filed with the Tennessee Water Quality Control Board, challenges the wastewater discharge permit from the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation (TDEC) based on its failure to include any limits at all on the discharge of toxic metals. EPA, which has recognized that coal plants are among the top dischargers of toxics in the nation, had informed TDEC that these discharge limits were required, but TDEC has refused to set them.

"The water quality of the lake affects me on a daily basis, so I am outraged that the TDEC would allow this plant to discharge toxic pollutants into Old Hickory Lake," said Michelle Haines, who lives on Old Hickory Lake, adjacent to the Gallatin plant. "I am deeply concerned about myself, my family, our animals, and my

community's health and safety. Until TDEC takes proper action, I believe it's too dangerous to swim, fish, or boat in the water."

The groups also challenges TDEC's refusal to impose any permit conditions designed to protect fish. While the Clean Water Act requires coal plants to minimize harm to fish and other aquatic life, the Gallatin Fossil Plant uses an outdated cooling system with water intake structures that suck enormous numbers of fish into the works of the coal plant and kills them.

"Gallatin has polluted Tennessee's water since the 1950's. In all that time, TDEC has never seen fit to require modern pollution controls," said Josh Galperin, with Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. "While the best way for TVA to stop this pollution is to retire the Gallatin plant and move away from burning dirty coal, they are unfortunately poised to spend nearly \$1 billion to extend Gallatin's life and actually increase the water pollution in this process. TDEC must act expeditiously to enforce strict pollution limits on the toxics this old coal plant dumps into the Cumberland River every day."

The Tennessee Valley Authority ("TVA") historically has operated some of the dirtiest coal-fired power plants in the country. After years of litigation, TVA recently entered into a settlement that requires installation of modern air pollution controls, but the utility has not yet addressed its major water pollution and waste problems.

"TVA has been polluting water in Tennessee

for too long." said Renée Victoria Hoyos, Executive Director of the Tennessee Clean Water Network. "We need limits on the amount of heavy metals and other pollutants that this old coal plant can dump into the Cumberland River every day. TDEC can set these limits if they want to and we are asking that they do."

Almost four years ago, its Kingston Fossil Plant spilled over one billion gallons of toxic coal ash, killing nearby fish and wildlife and causing a mudflow wave of water and ash that covered 12 homes. Cleanup of that spill continues today. Weeks later, TVA's Widows Creek Plant spilled over 10,000 tons of waste into in the Tennessee River in Alabama.

"Even TVA has promised that it is going to stop using these dangerous impoundments for their ash and wastewater, but TDEC has given them a permit that lets them go on with business as usual for another five years," said Axel C. Ringe, Vice Conservation Chair of the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club.

"TVA is doing nothing to reduce pollution and nothing to stop daily fish kills, and TDEC giving that do-nothing program its stamp of approval," said Earthjustice attorney Abigail Dillen. "If TVA wants to keep operating this old plant into the 21st century, it needs to invest in 21st pollution controls."

Earthjustice represents the Tennessee Clean Water Network, the Sierra Club and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy in the case.

Know Nukes Summit Southeast by Don Safer-Tennessee Environmental Council

The Know Nukes Y'all Summit held late June at UTC in Chattanooga was successful in bringing together over 100 multi-generational anti-nuclear activists and concerned citizens to network, learn and organize. It was the first regional follow-up to the National Sierra No Nukes Activist team meeting in Washington in early May. The Southeast is a national hot spot for the nuclear industry.

This Southeast regional meeting was organized, sponsored and attended by a growing grassroots coalition of people and groups who recognize that nuclear power, weapons and their resulting radiation are a profound threat to life as we know it on earth. The presenters and participants made a compelling case against the continued creation of dangerous radioactive waste. The past failures, cover-ups and lies of the nuclear industrial complex were front and center; as was the truth that we can build a sustainable energy future without the dangers of all high risk energy sources.

Chattanooga is a strategic location; we were within 15 miles of two reactors, 50 miles of the proposed Bellefonte reactor, downstream from

the Watts Bar reactors, the leaking Oak Ridge Complex, and the radioactive contamination of the Nolichucky River at Erwin. Tennessee is the destination for the vast majority of the nation's low level radioactive waste and increasing amounts of foreign waste for processing including incineration.

The opening evening's program featured former TVA Board Chairman S. David Freeman and former TVA nuclear engineer and current Union of Concerned Scientists nuclear safety expert Dave Lochbaum. They gave the audience an insider's view of what is wrong with nuclear power and shattered numerous myths along the way, like nuclear safety, the need for nuclear as baseload power, and nuclear power as low cost.

During the next two days participants were aglow with the energy gained from working with experts who covered the issue in depth and breath. The horrible ongoing disaster and release of massive amounts of radiation at Fukushima has reawakened people to the awful realities and risks of nuclear power. It was a common refrain at the Summit that we must

reach more people with our message to prevent such a disaster in the United States.

Some of the key issues identified at the Summit for immediate focus were the new reactors being constructed in the Southeast beginning with Plant Vogtle in Georgia; the Construction Work in Progress (CWIP) financing scheme in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida; and the upcoming release of federal government plans to deal with the over 70,000 metric tons of extremely radioactive fuel waste that is being held at reactors across the country.

In Tennessee the recent Federal court "Waste Confidence Decision" about the absence of any way to deal with the fuel waste opens the door to mounting a strong fight against the relicensing of the Sequoyah reactors. TVA will begin the process to extend the operations of those aging "eggshell" containment reactors another 20 years in 2013. Another new major nuclear issue facing TVA is the possibility of using dangerous plutonium mixed oxide (MOX) fuel from the DOE in some of its aging reactors. The Watts Bar Unit 2 money sinkhole, plans to restart construction on the "zombie" Bellefonte reactor, and TVA's dreams to lead the way in small modular reactors are ongoing major issues.

To learn more or become active in stopping the manufacture and spread of dangerous radiation contact Don Safer: dsafer@comcast.net. Join the Sierra Club No Nukes Activist Team. http://connect.sierraclub.org/Team/No_Nukes_Team2

Read all about this well-documented Summit. To view Presentations or Summit Actions, click at the right side of the page, then choose Web Version.

<http://knownukesyallsummit.org/?m=0>

To read more about Nuclear-Free work in the Southeast

<http://www.matrr.org/?m=0>



Volunteer Spotlight: Kenny Carlisle

By Lynne Hancock

To say Sierra Club volunteer Kenny Carlisle is an animal lover is an understatement. Kenny, who does the graphic design work for The Tennes-Sierran, has eight natural Tennessee Walking horses, six cats, five dogs and three ducks. His horses include a stallion which he breeds yearly, and he raises the resulting colts.

"My passion for horses began as a child even though I never had one until I was an adult," he said. "Now, after about 20 years, my life pretty much revolves around them. I eat, sleep and breathe horses, and if you mention a horse to me the conversation is going to get very long. Most of the time people have no clue what I am talking about unless they have horses, of course."

"I think it's one of those things that are just a part of you. I can't even

express how much work is involved to maintain the farm and work a full-time job, but I also can't imagine not having horses be a part of my life."

Kenny has been a graphic designer for 25 years. He started at The Tennessean and then went to work for the United Steelworkers Union (USW) a number of years ago. The USW and the Sierra Club partner in the BlueGreen Alliance.

He started laying out The Tennes-Sierran five years ago when former Tennes-Sierran editor Lynne Hancock recruited him for the task. It takes him a full day to do the layout of the publication and handle the corrections.

He said he likes the Sierra Club's focus on protecting the environment since he gets the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors a lot.

In his spare time, he loves to camp and go trail riding.

"When I am on my camping trips I generally ride around six to eight hours a day depending on the time of year," he said.

Kenny also enjoys bowling and has bowled in leagues for about seven years. During that time he has had one 300-scored game.

"I may never see another perfect game, but I still have a good time trying," he said.

His second passion in life is photography.

"I got my first 35mm camera when I was 12. I drove my parents crazy taking pictures all the time. Who knows how much money they spent on film development, but the photos always brought smiles to peoples' faces," he said.

For six years he photographed weddings as a side job. Now he enjoys being outdoors and taking shots of the beautiful countryside.

Thank you, Kenny, for putting your talent to work for the betterment of the Tennessee Sierra Club. Your job on The Tennes-Sierran is much appreciated!



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