

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 43, Number 3 - May/June, 2012

TN Climate Action Campaign Is Your Hair on Fire?

Anthropologists have learned that much human physical and cultural evolution occurred as adaptations to past periods of climate change. The current climate change presents us with a similar evolutionary bottleneck and the imperative that we change our bad manners and learn how to live on this planet as welcomed guests.

The need for climate protection grows more urgent. Many fight the despair that our species will not act in time or that it is already too late to prevent catastrophic climate fluctuations. Most know about climate change, but so few fathom its emergency. This has been the Campaign's experience in recruiting other climate protection activist / organizers. "Yes, it is important, but right now I don't have time." Very few of us are running around with our hair on fire.

A recent article "Why we disagree about climate change," by Mike Hulme ([link](#)) gives voice to the emerging idea that climate protection is not a goal, but a process of relationships. If we reframe climate protection as the sustainable transformation, then climate protection is the road we must travel to actualize the future we want. Each of us will express that process uniquely, but all in the name of the climate protection imperative.

- Through enactment of effective climate protection policies, carbon will have a price. This source of revenue will fund the green jobs of sustainable transformation – energy efficiency, renewables, healing of the damaged earth systems, food production, wellness.

- Through our growing understanding that the Earth does matter, more will value our place, our community.

- Through global emergency cooperation, we will learn how to work together as Earthlings so that we may survive. We will learn that the Earth does depend upon diversity and our nurturing of life, all life.

Unlike other times in history when humans had little understanding of climate changes, we do. We can respond with some intelligence and much caring for the Earth and each other.

This is the perspective of the TN Climate Action Campaign. We are not an organization but a wave. We follow no formulaic script as no culture has faced this climatic challenge in many millennia. Indeed, human life never existed without permanent ice somewhere on this planet, a reality we seem bent on experiencing. The Campaign learns, acts, and adapts as we go along. But what is certain, the more intelligence and good heart this wave has in responding to the need for climate protection, perhaps we and more likely future generations will experience the sustainable vision that sparkles with diamond-like clarity within our imagination.

This year TN Climate Action develops a network of 500 climate protection

activists. Each activist is an organizer within their own circle of influence. The challenge this year is not just to collect 500 names but to develop the change skills of the 500. We do this on several levels:

- Recruit other activists.
- Grow local climate action teams.
- Work together on local climate protection events

- Participate in capacity development webinars. (SACE will do a webinar for the Campaign on the TVA coal fleet in April.)

- Identify new ways to grow the Campaign network and develop our skills.

The second year (2013) goal of the TN Climate Action Campaign launches us into advocacy for effective climate protection policies. First up at the bat is getting TVA to adopt at least a 1.5% energy efficiency target to leverage the closure of more coal plants. After that the Campaign will move on to advocating for the next high leverage climate protection policy.

The reality is that no one group, organization, or whatever will do what needs to be done. It will take all of us. The Campaign is for those who feel the deepening urgency for climate protection. We wave the flag to attract others whose hair is on fire.

The ask: Be a climate protection activist. Find other climate protection activists. Develop strategies that reflect our principles and vision. Develop our capacities as social change agents to make the new way normal.

Be among the 500! Go to our website now (www.tnclimateaction.net) and make your pledge to reduce your carbon footprint. The Campaign will contact you to learn what you want to do as a climate protection activist. The clock is ticking.

Louise Gorenflo
TN Climate Action Campaign
lgorenflo@gmail.com

The Climate Recovery Partnership is a joint effort by the Sierra Club and The Sierra Club Foundation to prevent runaway global warming, protect ecosystems, and communities during the climate transition, and eventually restore climate stability.

The Climate Recovery Partnership fosters:

- A reduction in carbon emissions of at least 80% by 2050;
- U.S. energy independence;
- A thriving, clean energy economy -- supporting smarter industries, construction, and transportation; and
- Natural environments and threatened communities protected from the consequences of global warming.

Looking Ahead to Sierra Club Objectives

Our 2010 achievements positioned us well for our progress in 2011. Here are a few examples of where we are focusing our strengths:

- Launch nationwide campaign to retire and replace all existing coal plants by 2030.
- End mountaintop removal mining and block oil drilling in Alaska and other pristine wilderness.
- Advocate for adoption of high-performing building codes in 10 states.
- Establish 5-7 renewable energy zones in the Western United States.
- Promote strong Pavley 2 standards and an effective Zero Emissions Vehicle program to drive technology forward and influence national guidelines.
- Support initiatives that increase transportation choices and improve community planning.
- Reinforce protection for wildlife migration corridors.
- Uphold and strengthen the roadless rule for all national forests.

Now you can receive your

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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!

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Tennes-Sierran

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

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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 May 25 for the July-August 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.**

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed



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

Add your voice to protect the planet.

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Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

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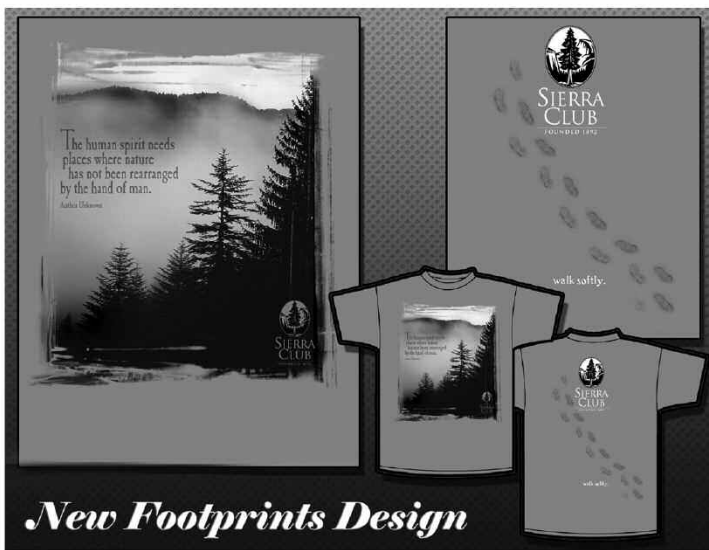
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org **F94Q W4300** 1

**Target Date for
July-August Issue is
May 25, 2012.
All meetings and out-
ings notices, articles
and photographs 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
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hand of man on gray background - Unknown Author"
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(sorry, credit cards only accepts via on-line orders)

Cool Off at Natchez Trace State Park

The Tennessee Chapter 2012 Summer Retreat and Executive Committee Meeting will be held at Natchez Trace State Park on July 20-22.



Events are still being finalized, but we have confirmed that our sensational State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath (<http://tn.gov/environment/parks/naturalist/>) will lead a canoe float on Maple Creek Lake on Saturday at 4 P.M. He'll also lead a walk at 7 A.M. Sunday morning. These times are chosen to take advantage of the cooler parts of the day. There is also a possibility of a Pontoon Boat ride on Saturday afternoon.

Other events are yet to be finalized, but you can be assured that they will be engaging, informative, and most of all *fun!*

This location differs from other retreats in that lodging accommodations are air-conditioned and consist of four cottages and a bunkhouse (see <http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/NatchezTrace/lodging/#grouplodge> for more information.) The cottages enable couples and/or families to lodge together, with the bunkhouse providing lodging by gender. We'll be meeting and eating in the adjacent **Group Lodge**, not to be confused with the Pin Oak Lodge (and restaurant) also located at Natchez Trace State Park.

The Natchez Trace State Park is located 97 miles west of downtown Nashville just off of I-40. After exiting the Interstate turn south and you'll soon find yourself in the park. The Natchez Trace State Forest surrounds the park. Hiking trails, navigable lakes, and equestrian trails (with a riding stables with reasonable fees for rides) are all available within the park and forest. If you're so inclined the park also has a shooting range.

Early Registration Price until July 13: \$40

Regular Registration Fee: \$50

Single day only price with no lodging:

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 Varnell, at rmvarnell@bellsouth.net.

Prices are low and include breakfasts and Saturday night dinner. Attendees need to bring their own linens or sleeping bag, towels, plus Saturday and Sunday lunches and beverages. Plan for fun!

Register by e-mail with Don Richardson at donrich@juno.com. *Pay when you arrive at the Retreat!*



For further information, call Chickasaw Group Chair Sue A. Williams at (901) 274-0524 or z4cmv@juno.com

The members of the Chickasaw Group hope to see you there!

The Chair's Corner



Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

Recently I was appointed to serve on a stakeholder task force for the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) representing the Sierra Club. The mission of the task force involves determining the best plans for building new roads in Tennessee. I need input from you regarding new infrastructure and road use in our state. I welcome contact from you via e-mail or telephone.

In February I attended the Good Jobs, Green Jobs conference in Atlanta, Georgia representing the Tennessee Chapter. The seminars were regionally focused. I spent some good quality time with Georgia Sierra Club leaders. Cliff Cockerham and two Sierra Student Coalition members also attended the conference.

During April I visited leaders from Chickasaw Group twice. I plan to visit all our groups this summer.

Many thanks go to the Watauga Group for hosting the spring chapter meeting at Sterchi Lodge. The work of hosting a chapter meeting is arduous and greatly appreciated.

**Katherine Pendleton, Chair
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club**

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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)

May Strategy Meeting: May 14 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6:00 P.M., at the Eastgate Town Center on Brainerd Road, at the south end near the indoor waterfall. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome -- this is where and when we plan our actions! We'll be brain-storming ideas for outings & programs for the rest of the year -- come add your ideas! To place an item on the agenda, contact Chair Davis Mounger at 423-877-4616 or wdmounger@yahoo.com, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

May Program: 3rd Monday, May 21, 7 P.M. at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: "Mountain Top Removal and The Last Mountain," by J.W. Randolph. JW will bring us the latest on the fight against mountain top removal coal mining, as well as highlight his talk with some clips from the award-winning movie, "The Last Mountain." JW, Tennessee Director of Appalachian Voices, helped lead the fight for the Scenic Vistas Act in the Tennessee Legislature this spring, and will brief us on the next steps for bringing this horrendous practice to an end. Our work is not done! We welcome JW home. He's from Birchwood!

NOTE: To avoid Memorial Day, we are **meeting 1 week earlier than the usual date.**

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

June Strategy Meeting: June 11 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6:00 P.M., at the Eastgate Town Center on Brainerd Road, at the south end near the indoor waterfall. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome -- this is where and when we plan our actions! To place an item on the agenda, contact Chair Davis Mounger at 423-877-4616 or wdmounger@yahoo.com, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

June Program: Last Monday, June 24, 7 P.M. at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: Energy Efficiency and YOU! Come for an informative panel presenting what YOU can do in YOUR HOME to save energy and \$\$\$ through weatherization and other tips. The panel will include an EPB representative who will give details about the Home Energy Audit/Reimbursements, as well as contractors and builders. With the climate heating up, come learn what you can do to preserve both your money and energy. Specific tips included for do-it-yourselfers.

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

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 last on the left in the first block off Market Street. It is kitty-corner from the Fire Department across the street. Look for the Sierra Club banner!

CHEROKEE GROUP WISH LIST:

- ✓ SVGA DLP Projector
- ✓ People to do water testing @old strip mines
- ✓ Board Member willing to work on Group priorities

Contact: Davis Mounger at wdmounger@yahoo.com

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

THURSDAY, May 3, 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, May 8, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Strategy Meeting Contact Sue 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 that you would like to see discussed, note that agenda items must be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to the Executive Committee Chair Sue Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524.

THURSDAY, May 17, 5:30 P.M. Meet & Greet & Snacks with a 6:00 pm Program Program TBA Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN

Topic TBA. Watch Facebook and our web page for more information. Programs contact: Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or 901-413-3888.

THURSDAY, June 7, 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, June 12, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Strategy Meeting Contact Sue 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 Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524.

THURSDAY, June 21, 5:30 P.M. Meet & Greet & Snacks with a 6:00 P.M. Program Program TBA Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN

Topic TBA. 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.

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

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

Sierra Club Chickasaw Group is now on

Facebook:

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

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

April 10, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church Tennessee Youth Environmental Network (TennYEN)

Laura Rigell and Alex Durand, Founders of TennYEN.org

The co-founders of TennYEN, Laura Rigell and Alex Durand, will present an interactive program introducing the youth environmental movement in Tennessee. Laura and Alex, alumni of Maryville High School, have taken a year off before starting college to establish TennYEN. Aware of the urgent threat of climate change, Laura and Alex were eager to become a part of the movement towards a more sustainable future -- the magnitude of the problem made a college degree seem trivial. The two are spending this year visiting classes and clubs in schools across the state to urge young people to mobilize. They serve as members of the TennYEN youth board, organizing and supporting youth environmental activism in Tennessee.

The Tennessee Youth Environmental Network (TennYEN) is a youth-led nonprofit organization that connects student environmental clubs across Tennessee. Arranged in county coalitions, TennYEN brings together local high school and middle school clubs through coordinated solidarity days of action and campaigns. This blossoming state-wide network is organized by a youth board of eight high school students. They believe that, by working together, they will help catalyze a transition towards sustainability.

May 8, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church Reflections of the Smokies Doug McFalls, Ridgerunner, Appalachian Trail Commission

Hiker, photographer, blogger, former winter caretaker for Mt. LeConte Lodge and former AT Ridge Runner -- Doug McFalls shares his backcountry hiking experi-

ences and unique slideshow images from the Land Of The Blue Smoke, The Great Smoky Mountains. For more info about Doug, visit his blog at: www.reflectionsofthesmokies.com. This presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Mac Post (mpost3116@aol.com).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM: May 10, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Environmental Justice -- Dr. Cliff Cockerham

The Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." While Tennessee is a wonderful place to live, the ideal of equal protection from environmental/health hazards remains a concern since Tennessee has consistently ranked near the bottom in this area. Dr. Cliff Cockerham, who previously held an adjunct appointment at the Center for Ethics in Public Policy (Emory University, Atlanta, GA), will share reflections on the environmental justice issues that touch the lives of Tennesseans, directly and indirectly, each day.

An illustrious educational and professional background gave Dr. Cockerham a wide range of choices, but he elected spend his last working years teaching at White's Creek High School (WCHS) in the belief that he can and should give something back to the community. WCHS is 95% African American and 85% of the students come from families below the poverty line. While making school as stimulating and as much fun as is possible, his overarching goal is to provide all students with an educationally challenging experience. In 2009 he started a robotics team that won two awards and captured five scholarships to attend the summer program in robotic engineering at Lipscomb University. The team received the Award for Engineering Excellence from Nissan and Lipscomb University in 2010, along with five more scholarships. He also introduced WCHS students to the cutting edge of ecology through the Sierra Club Water Sentinels Student Program, Sierra Club Activist Network, and the Sierra Student Coalition. As a result, three students from WCHS were awarded full scholarships to represent Tennessee at the Sierra Club's national environmental youth leadership program in July 2010. Five more were awarded full scholarships in July 2011. Students from Middle TN's Sierra Student Coalition have:

- led workshop sessions for the TN Alliance for Progress annual conference (October 2009 on Green Jobs);
- led programs for the national TV show "Independent Lens" (Nov 2009 on Mountain Top Removal; Dec 2010 on the Greenbelt Movement in Africa; March 2011 on electric cars);
- lobbied in the offices of U.S Senators and Congress members, working with Powershift 2010 and the Clean Air Campaign run by the Center for Biodiversity;
- organized flash mobs and a festival/concert as part of Moving Planet 2010; and
- represented the voice of TN youth at SSREC (Southern States Renewable Energy Conference), Green Jobs -- Good Jobs (of the Blue-Green Alliance), the Summit for a Sustainable TN (2009 and 2010), and town hall meetings with President Obama's Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Tom Vilsack.

All Sierra Club programs are free and open to the public.

PROGRAM: June 14, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. Good news! Walden's Puddle rescheduled. Helping Wildlife in Need

This popular program on Walden's Puddle will help us understand when, how, and if to bring in sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife for rehabilitation. Walden's Puddle is unique in being the only professionally staffed non-profit organization and wildlife rehabilitation facility in Middle Tennessee, providing treatment and care as well as encouraging education. Their activity promotes a greater understanding and appreciation for wildlife and its habitat.

Carolyn Pendarvis from Walden's Puddle will share information about the organization and how individuals can work with them to obtain help for injured wildlife and support their mission through education and awareness. Learn and enjoy! We anticipate that she will bring an "animal ambassador" or two, possibly an opossum and either a hawk or owl. Bring kids of an appropriate age to enjoy the demonstration of the work that Walden's Puddle does. The presentation is free and open to the public, and Club business is not conducted at these educational programs.

(continued on page 5)

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)

We must say "Auf Wiedersehen" to Leslie Jakobs, and "Danke" for a job well done as our Outings Chair; Leslie and her family will be moving back to Germany at the end of May.

We welcome Emily Marr Davis as our new 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 the state! We explore interesting and unique parts of Tennessee, gaining an appreciation of how wonderful, and sometimes threatened, our area is -- while having fun. Outings are planned to take in the interests and skill levels of the participants. For more information, contact Emily at 423-413-3083 or emily.marr.davis@gmail.com.

May 17-18-19-20 Heartwood's 2nd Annual Music Festival, 8700 Battlecreek Rd., South Pittsburg. The Cherokee Group is a sponsor and we'll have a booth at it. Connect with nature, enjoy live music (over 20 bands from 7 different states), dancers, art, yoga, eat some jambalaya, camping along the stream, and have a blast! Kid activities include exploring the creek with Sandy Kurtz. Kids 12 and under free with paid adult, tickets \$10-35. Check out the website at www.heartwoodbattleofthebandsandfest.com/

Contact Barbara Kelly, 423-718-5009, or bk1rivers@comcast.net to volunteer 1 or 2 hours of work at our booth! Gates close at 9 P.M. for security; drugs/alcohol not allowed.

June 8, 9, 10 (Fri-Sun) Pickett State Park Exploration Come explore large rock houses, natural sandstone bridges, scenic bluffs and wild mountain streams and well as the trails:

- Lake Trail-2 1/2 mile loop
- Lake View Trail-3/4 mile-one way
- Ridge Trail-3 mile loop
- Bluff Loop-1 mile-one way
- Ladder Trail-1 mile loop
- Natural Bridge Trail-1 1/4 mile loop
- Hazard Cave Trail-2 1/2 mile loop
- Indian Rockhouse Trail-1/4 mile-one way
- Island Trail- 1/2 mile loop

In October the Cherokee Group will host the Chapter's Fall Family Weekend. We've reserved a large, fully equipped cabin this weekend for Sierra members willing to lead an October hike at the retreat -- this way we can scout out what we want to do. If you're willing to be a leader, come on! (There is also camping available.) Contact Barbara to reserve your place in the cabin. Come to hike and have fun!! We'll pitch in together on food, and have a cook already set. Pickett is north of Crossville, along the TN/KY border. Come ready to hike. Contact Barbara Kelly at 423-718-5009 or bk1rivers@comcast.net. This offer is good for any Sierra member, not just from the Cherokee Group!! We're plan-

Meetings (continued from page 4)

STRATEGY MEETINGS: May 8 and June 12, 6:30 P.M. at the United Steel Workers Union Building, 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211. Follow the signs to the conference area. If you arrive late, please ring the bell at the side door on the left, and someone will come down to let you in. 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. Please contact Betsy at (615) 668-1977 if you want to confirm.

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Tuesday at 7 P.M. Please contact Gloria Griffith at gl4797@earthlink.net or 423-727-4797 for more information.

ning fun now, and for October.

Come ready to hike. Contact Barbara Kelly at 423-718-5009 or bk1rivers@comcast.net.

ADDITIONAL OUTINGS will be added, check out our Facebook page, Cherokee Sierra.

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!!

Volunteer First Aid Trainer

Are you certified to teach Basic First Aid, and willing to teach a 1/2 day session for us? We'd like to combine that with our Outings Leader certification training and get this done in one day.

For more information, and to volunteer, contact Sue A. Williams at 901-274-0524 or z4cmv@juno.com

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

May 5 (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity tour (Mixed Oak-Hickory-Red Maple) West Prong/Bote Mountain, GSMNP. This low elevation hike starts at Tremont and goes up the protected slope side of Fodderstack Mountain though a mature forest that was once dominated by chestnut. At 2.7 miles after gaining 600 feet in elevation we'll intersect the Bote Mountain Trail and descend 1.2 miles to the Laurel Creek Road. We'll have some training in basic topographic map reading skills and use of compass and GPS devices. Total distance 3.9 miles rated easy. Car shuttle involved. One-way drive: 46 miles. Contact Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (e-mail preferred).

May 12 (Sat). Dayhike, Virgin Falls. The Virgin Falls trail winds along and down into a gorge for about 4 miles before reaching Virgin Falls. Virgin Falls is formed by an underground stream that emerges from a sinkhole, runs over a large flat rock, drops over a 110-foot cliff, and disappears into a cave at the bottom. There is a loss of 800 feet in elevation along the way. Before reaching Virgin Falls we will pass some outstanding geologic features -- Big Branch Falls, the Caney Fork Overlook, Big Laurel Falls, and Sheep Cave. This trail has steep sections, and is rated moderate to difficult, requiring about 6-7 hours to complete. Virgin Falls was the first Pocket Wilderness Area established by Bowater Southern Paper Corporation in 1970 and subsequently purchased by the State of Tennessee in 1996. The driving distance from West Knoxville (Campbell Station Parking area next to the Farragut Library) is about 85-90 miles. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 675-7668.

May 19 (Tues). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity Tour (Northern Hardwoods), Thomas Divide to Kanati Fork, GSMNP. After setting up a car shuttle on the Newfound Gap Road just on the North Carolina side, we will ascend gently for 1.8 miles on the Thomas Divide Trail. This part of the hike goes through northern red oak forest over 200 years old. We will then follow the Kanati Fork Trail, descending steeply for 2.9 miles to the Newfound Gap Road. Total distance 4.7 miles rated easy. One-way drive: 60 miles. Preregister with Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred).

May 26 (Sat). Wildlife Float, Rankin Wildlife Management Area, Douglas Lake. Guided by Michael Sledjeski, we'll explore backwaters accessible only by canoe or kayak and learn about wildlife that inhabits this wetland paradise. The float is suitable for paddlers with reasonable flat-water paddling skills - no currents to contend with. The paddle trip will commence at 5 P.M., making a loop from the tippie area for sunset & birds flying to roost. Limited to 4 boats in addition to the leader. You can expect about 3 or 4 miles of flatwater paddling. You'll have to arrange your own canoe rentals if you need a boat. For rentals, you might try Michael Sledjeski of the Rankin Bottoms Project, e-mail mtnsylva@earthlink.net, or one of the outfitters in the Knoxville area. This trip will be repeated on June 2 (see below) as necessary to accommodate additional participants. Drive: 50 miles. Preregister with Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (e-mail preferred).

June 2 (Sat). Wildlife Float, Rankin Wildlife Management Area, Douglas Lake. This trip is simi-

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!

lar to the one described for May 26 (with the exception that Ron Shrieves is the leader), so see that description. Preregister with Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (e-mail preferred).

June 9 (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity tour (Spruce-Fir, Grassy Bald, Beech Gap), Forney Ridge to Andrews Bald, GSMNP. This recently refurbished trail starts at the Clingman's Dome parking lot. It begins in spruce-fir forest and we will travel to Andrews Bald, which is managed to preserve the native grasses and azaleas. Before returning, we will also visit a nearby beech gap forest, unique to this region. Total distance 4.2 miles rated easy. One-way drive: 60 miles. Preregister with Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (e-mail preferred).

June 16-17 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area (Jefferson National Forest, Virginia). The Mt. Rogers NRA and adjacent Grayson Highlands State Park, in southwest Virginia, make for one of the most scenic backpacking areas in the southeast, with huge open grassy meadows fringed by spruce trees and rhododendron bushes, usually flowering in June (portions actually look like the western U.S.). We will start and end in Grayson Highlands State Park and will make a large loop around much of the NRA's "Crest Zone," utilizing the Appalachian and Pine Mountain Trails, learning about the unique history of the area as we go. We'll camp at an "off-trail" campsite that's pretty much undiscovered in the heart of the area. Total mileage will be around 11 miles. Rated Moderate. One-way drive: 170 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; C 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

June 30 (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity tour (Pine-Oak), Roundtop Trail, GSMNP. We'll first drive to the end of this trail at the "Y" on the Little River near Townsend, and determine whether the water is low enough to rock hop or wade the river. If the water is low enough for a river crossing, we'll leave a shuttle car at the "Y" and do the entire trail, starting from Wear's Cove Gap Road near Metcalf Bottoms. Otherwise we'll drive on to the trailhead on Wear's Cove Gap Road, hike halfway to the top of Joint Ridge and return to the start. Total distance 7.5 miles rated moderate. One-way drive: 44 miles. Preregister with Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (e-mail preferred).

July 14-15 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Appalachian Trail (Jones Falls and Elk River Falls), Cherokee National Forest. One of the less used sections of the AT in Tennessee is from US 19E near the City of Roan Mountain across Little Pine Mountain to the Elk River. Former pasture lands provide outstanding high ridge views of the Highlands of Roan, and wildflowers are always present in the spring and summer. We'll see two outstanding waterfalls, Jones Falls on the AT and, near the end of the backpack on Sunday, Elk River Falls on the Elk River in North Carolina. Our camp will be right on the Elk River at Sugar Hollow. We'll learn about the natural environment of this beautiful area as we hike. Total mileage will be around 8.0 miles (6.2 miles Saturday and 1.75 miles Sunday). Rated Moderate. One-way drive: 140 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; C 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday, May 19 - 9:30AM - Beaman Park - We will hike approximately four miles, rated strenuous in parts. Hiking boots recommended and bring water. Meet at the visitor center. Please let us know you're coming. Contact: John Pigg at j.t.pigg@comcast.net or (615)851-1192.

Outings (continued from page 5)

(continued on page 6)

Saturday, June 30 - 10:00AM Goodlettsville Heritage Days, Mansker's Station at Moss Wright Park at the Bowen House. Colonial period demonstrations include black-smithing, leather-working, outdoor cooking, soap making and more. This 147-acre park has a two-mile trail (rated easy), picnic tables (some with grills), baseball fields and even a dog park. Bring the kids. Make a day of it! Moss Wright Park is located on Caldwell Drive off Long Hollow Pike in Goodlettsville and is only twelve miles from downtown Nashville. For more information contact: John Pigg at j.t.pigg@comcast.net or (615)851-1192.

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.

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 work load 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. 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 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

Volunteer Opportunities:

Social Media Team Member: Persons willing to help with the jump to more active social media involvement at the Chapter/Groups level as we increase our effectiveness with our members and the general public, and craft effective messages for our campaigns and conservation work.

Fundraising Team Member: Persons willing to work on our development team to better market our Chapter's conservation successes and campaign needs.

Interested in a spot to help with these critical needs? Have you proficiency in social media and strong writing skills? Good organizational skills? Then I want to talk with you!

Please contact me, Barbara Kelly, at 423-718-5009 or bk1rivers@comcast.net.

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Phenology Network Approaches One Million Observations by Citizen Scientists

Citizen scientists from across the United States have submitted more than 900,000 observations of plants and animals at 5,000 sites as part of the Nature's Notebook program. The program records the timing of natural events, such as tree blossoms, construction of bird nests, salmon migration, and leaves changing color in the fall.

The data collected by citizen scientists are used by researchers to understand how plants and wildlife are responding to climate change. The outcomes of this research are being used or will be used in the future to forecast the onset of allergy season or chance of wildfires,

manage wildlife and invasive plants, and set baselines for habitat restoration.

The program is part of the USA National Phenology Network, a partnership of federal, state, and local agencies, universities, schools, non-governmental organizations, and others. The network is funded by the United States Geological Survey, National Park Service, University of Arizona, and the National Science Foundation. Learn more about the program at <http://www.usanpn.org/participate> <<http://aibs.us1.listmanage.com/track/click?u=a2886d199362c2554974f78af&id=ae1e913925&e=af72e08f9f>>.

Public Opinion Data On Climate Change

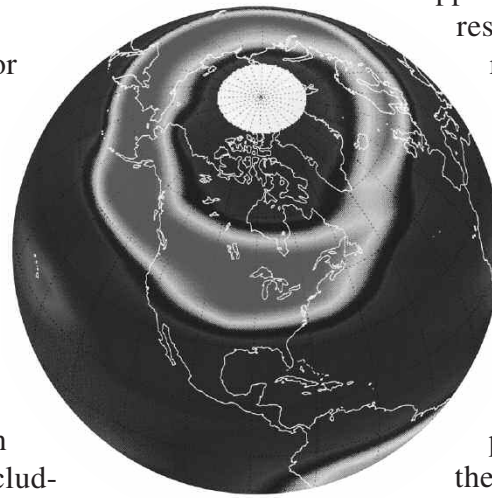
November 2011 update: a new poll conducted by the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication and George Mason University indicates that 70% of Americans say that "global warming" should be a very high, high, or medium priority for the President and Congress - including 44% of Republicans, 72% of Independents, and 85% of Democrats. 52% of Americans say that a presidential candidate's views on global warming will be "one of several important issues" in determining their vote - including majorities of Democrats (62%) and independents (54%). 66% say that the United States should make a "large-scale effort" (26%) or "medium-scale effort" (40%) to reduce global warming, even if it has large or moderate economic costs.

Americans support the concept of a revenue-neutral carbon tax (meaning the total amount of taxes collected by the government would stay the same). 65% would support "a shift in taxes that reduces the federal income tax that Americans pay each year, but increases taxes on coal, oil, and natural gas

by an equal amount."

Despite continued concern about the economy, Americans' support for many climate and energy policies remains high: 78% support funding renewable energy research, 78% support tax rebates for efficient cars and solar, 73% support regulating carbon dioxide as a pollutant, 63% support requiring utilities to produce at least 20% of their electricity from renewable sources (even if it costs the average household an extra \$100 per year), and 66% support the U.S. signing an international treaty to cut emissions.

October 2011 update: public opinion data shows that while an 83% majority of Americans believe global warming is happening (Stanford/Ipsos/Reuters poll), the majority are not worried about it -- (Nielsen's bi-annual online survey in 51 countries finds that while 69% of people around the world are concerned about climate change, less than half (48%) of Americans are worried about climate change - a 3-point drop from 2009 and a 14-point drop from 2007.)



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Hard Questions about Coal, Q&A

1. If we reduce coal use, won't that drive up electricity prices, particularly in parts of the country that have been hit hard by the recession and rely heavily on coal, like the Midwest and Appalachia?

Times have changed since solar and wind power first became available. Nationwide, the price of coal is going up, and the price of clean energy is coming down. Just like any technology, when cellphones first came out they were huge, rare, and expensive – now they are technologically advanced, widely available, and much cheaper – solar and wind are on the same trajectory and are getting cheaper every day.

Xcel energy in Colorado recently raised its electricity prices six percent to cover the cost of a new coal plant and less than 2 percent for a similar size wind farm. Wind is already cheaper than coal in many places. What's more, the cost of the actual coal fuel itself is going up and we have no idea how much more it will cost in a few years or decades – but we do know the exact cost of wind and sunshine – it will be free.

2. Why are you trying to kill jobs?

Moving towards clean energy will create jobs. Employment trends are shifting – today more workers are actually employed in the wind industry than in the coal mining industry. The coal industry has been shedding jobs – and we know that wind, solar, and energy efficiency create more jobs than the coal jobs that they replace.

In addition, we are not talking about making this switch overnight -We're talking about phasing out these old, dirty plants on reasonable timelines that ensures workers are taken care of. In two recent major announcements of old coal plants that were being retired – TVA in the Southeast and Centralia in the Northwest –tens of millions of dollars will be invested in workforce development and in investments in clean energy technologies and efficiency measures. The announcement of the Centralia deal had the major labor unions, the environmental community AND the company standing side by side highlighting how this was a win-win for workers and the environment.

3. Coal-fired power plants and coal mines provide the lion's share of local tax revenue in many rural areas. What do you propose for communities that are going to have to close schools, lay off emergency workers, and cut other vital services as a result of this campaign?

One of greatest tragedies of coal is that great wealth is extracted from these communities and they are left worse off, not better off, when the boom is over. The time is now to diversify these economies, before the coal has been mined and only pollution and ruined infrastructure is left behind.

4. Many electric utilities like American Electric Power are claiming that new EPA regulations are going to result in higher electricity prices and will slow down the economic recovery. How can you support these new reg-

ulations at a time when the economy is in such a slump?

EPA is taking common sense action to close loopholes that only benefit the polluters, and that cost the rest of us hundreds of millions per year in health costs and cleanup costs for polluted air and water. American families are currently footing the bill for over \$100 billion in health costs related to coal pollution. Loopholes for the coal industry include: no federal limits on mercury pollution from coal, no federal standards for disposal of toxic coal ash, outdated and unhealthy standards for soot and smog, which can trigger asthma attacks. These protections are long overdue, and study after study has shown economic benefits of clean air and water protections far outweigh the costs.

5. Clean energy sources like wind and solar provide 10% of our nation's electricity, while coal provides 45%. Renewables are not ready to replace coal – they are too unreliable and too expensive. Given that reality, how do you propose to replace all this coal power and keep the lights on?

First, clean energy is already replacing coal around the country. The state of Iowa is at 20 percent wind power and wind is providing low-cost reliable power to keep that state humming. Xcel Energy – one of the five largest utilities - just announced it will get 30 percent of its power in Colorado from clean energy in the next 3-5 years. Second, the solar industry is experiencing huge growth – it nearly doubled last year – and as the industry grows, the price of solar gets cheaper. And third, studies show that we can reduce 30% of demand for electricity just through reducing energy waste – energy efficiency is the cheapest, cleanest energy resource available.

6. Most of these coal plants are just going to be replaced or re-powered with natural gas. Aren't you concerned about the environmental damage and water pollution that will increase as a result, especially in states like New York where fracking is a big problem? And won't increased use of natural gas severely undercut the global warming benefits of reducing our coal use?

Wind, solar and geothermal energy are abundant and available today. As the Sierra Club's coal campaign retires coal plants it is working to replace them with these clean alternatives. Natural gas can only play a role in phasing out coal if it can be extracted responsibly. The Sierra Club is pushing for tough regulation of natural gas extraction, as well as putting gas extraction off limits in our most vulnerable areas, like the NY City Watershed.

7. Would you support the increased use of nuclear power to replace this coal power, especially given the recent nuclear disaster in Japan? Don't you think the manageable risks of coal power are preferable to the threat of a meltdown at a nuclear plant?

The Sierra Club has a long history of opposing nuclear power because it is dirty, dangerous, and extremely expensive. Coal is

also dangerous - burning coal causes tens of thousands of premature deaths and hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks every year, not to mention massive destruction of our land and water. In Appalachia alone, 500 mountains blown up and 2,000 miles of streams buried by mountaintop removal mining – there's nothing clean about that. Coal pollution is a very real threat to our health and safety. We don't have to choose between two dirty and dangerous sources of power. This is about securing investments in clean energy choices we all agree on – wind, solar, geothermal and energy efficiency – which are available today and ready to provide safe clean power.

8. Why should we replace these coal plants? Why not just retrofit them with modern pollution controls and keep them running? The Obama Administration's Department of Energy – which is headed by a Nobel Laureate – is deeply committed to clean coal and says it's an essential part of our energy mix, so why don't we just clean these plants up?

There is no such thing as clean coal. Talking about "clean coal" is like talking about "healthy tobacco." There is no technology ready to go today that can clean up the carbon pollution from these coal plants. And there's nothing clean about mining or transporting coal either. Why rely only on costly and time-consuming research when investments in already existing renewable energy like solar and wind can already help solve our energy problems today? We should be investing our money in carbon-free, truly clean energy – not propping up these dinosaur coal plants to operate for another 50 years.

10. Most people don't even know where their power comes from. Why should they care?

Pollution from coal knows no boundaries. Everyone who eats fish is affected by mercury pollution. Everyone who breathes is affected by soot and smog. Everyone who drinks water is affected by contamination from coal mining and coal ash. This is nothing short of a fight for the health of our children, and we have no time to lose. There is a better way to get our energy and the time is right to invest in solar and wind.

We give sincere thanks to our Defender contributors during February and March. This campaign supports our effective grassroots advocacy and lobbying efforts, and we appreciate all of our Defenders!

Nancy Anderson
Sharon E. Boyce
Dave Bordenkircher
Tom Gatti
Lynne Hancock
Robert and Elizabeth Peelle

Ben M. Petty
Robert Reese
Julia Ann Walker
Roman Weber
Glen and Martha Wilson





energy corner

Sierra Club No Nukes Activist Summit

By Brian Paddock

Friday, May 4, 2012 - Sunday, May 6, 2012 at Washington Theological Union [6896 Laurel Street NW, Washington, DC 20012 [Directions: <http://www.wtu.edu/about/directions.htm>]

Sierra Club Chapters and Activists are confronting nuclear issues all over the country. It is time to share our experiences and create a plan for mutual and national support for campaigns that challenge nuclear power, nuclear weapons systems and radioactive waste. Club members are invited to Washington, D.C. May 4-6, 2012 to develop a strategic plan for the Club's anti-nuclear work, learn how to organize around the issues, and create a national network.

We in the TVA area have special interest as TVA is finishing the Watts Bar 2 reactor and plans to build a reactor at Bellefonte in Alabama using a decades-old design. This is done with money from our power bills plus funny-finance borrowing that costs us more to build these multi-billion dollar plants. Tennessee now accepts about 75% of all the "low level" radioactive waste generated in the U.S. and the radioactive waste process companies are getting licenses to bring more waste from all over the world. This radioactive waste stays in ordinary landfills under a program fostered by the TN Department of Environment. It is called "BSFR". [<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/rad/bsfr.shtml>]

There will be presentations from national nuclear experts including Kevin Kamps from Beyond Nuclear and Sierra National Board candidate Arjun Makhijani, author of Carbon Free Nuclear Free. Presentation topics include:

- Overview of the current condition of the Nuclear Fuel Chain
- The True Cost of Nukes - Why the economics is their Achilles Heel
- Nuclear Waste: reprocessing, transportation, and storage
- Living in the nuclear neighborhood
- Creative strategies for stopping nukes
- Developing a national strategy to replace nuclear power with renewable energy and efficiency
- Using online community tools and social media to communicate, collaborate,

and organize.

Paul Gunter from Beyond Nuclear, Katherine Fuchs from The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, and Robin Mann, Sierra Club board president are also confirmed.

The No Nukes Team needs your ideas, enthusiasm and dedication. Sierrans are doing anti-nuclear work in many places and in many ways. This is our chance to share and to forge the basis for a national Sierra campaign to avoid the end of coal becoming the new impetus for nuclear power. Check-in starts at 3:00 P.M. on May 4. The meeting ends on May 6 at 5:00 P.M. There will be a group activity on Monday, May 7 at the Sierra Club office in Washington, DC.

All of the sessions will be held at the Washington Theological Union (WTU). The conference fee includes a reception on May 4, continental breakfast and lunch on May 5, and continental breakfast and lunch on May 6. The fee does not include lodging. There is limited space at the WTU that will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please register on line as soon as possible. There will not be onsite registration. Registrations need to be completed no later than April 20, 2012.

The on-line registration at <http://action.sierra-club.org/site/Calendar?id=159641&view=Detail> also accepts lodging reservations and payment. The Conference Fee is \$35.00 in advance. There are a limited number of scholarships available for conference volunteers. Contact Leslie March for more information on scholarships.

Contact Leslie March at lesliemarch@hotmail.com or 503-615-5750 for conference questions. Please add "No Nukes Strategy Summit" in the subject of your e-mail. You may also join the No Nukes Team on the Activist Network for current information.



Join fellow Sierra Club No Nukes activists for a national strategy meeting in WA, DC.



Friday Reception
Toast the anti-nuclear tradition of the Sierra Club with an award to Dr. Judith Johnsrud followed by Key Note Speaker Kevin Kamps Beyond Nuclear

Saturday

- David Freeman, "Winning our Energy Independence" (2007), Marvin Resnikoff, Radioactive Waste Management Associates
- Kevin Kamps, Beyond Nuclear
- Michael Mariotte, Diane D'Arrigo and Mary Olson, the Nuclear Information and Resource Service
- Arnie Gundersen, Nuclear safety expert
- Robert Alvarez, The Institute for Policy Studies
- Sarah Fields, Uranium Watch
- Wally Taylor, Iowa Chapter Sierra Club

Nuclear Experts from across the country will brief the conference with strategies to enhance the club's work against the nuclear fuel chain from uranium mining to waste dumps to new power plants and the economic incentives being developed to encourage the nuclear industry. Included in the discussion will be the true economic cost of nuclear power in relationship to renewables.

Register today at http://sc.org/no_nukes advance registration before April 15 required

Sunday's session is focused on developing a national campaign that will support local battles and develop a strong national network for Sierra Club No Nuke Activists.

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