

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 46, Number 6 - November/December, 2014

Peoples Climate March Inspires Action On Climate Crisis

By **Steven Sondheim and Spencer Kaaz**

On September 23, world leaders came to New York City for a historic UN Summit on Climate Change—an opportunity to inspire the world's most powerful politicians to ambitious action on the climate crisis. With our future on the line and the world watching, the People's Climate March on September 21 met this moment 400,000 strong with unprecedented mobilizations in New York City and around the globe.

From New York to Paris and Delhi to Australia, we took to the streets to demand the future we want. It is within our reach: a world with an economy that works for people and the planet; a world safe from the ravages of climate change; a world with good jobs, clean air and water, and healthy communities. There is only one ingredient required: to change everything, we need everyone. Join us.

Spencer's Story

I went to the People's Climate March expecting to see very little other than privileged able-bodied white people yelling for a change in climate policy. I was pleasantly surprised to see a vastly different picture. There were indigenous people, people of color, disabled people, elderly people, children, and many other classifications of individuals. We were all there for different reasons and all had a different story as to why we had come. Some chose to come because they were being robbed of their livelihoods, some were there because their health was being threatened, some were there because their communities were being ravaged, but all of had something in common. We were all there because we know that we have to duty to fight for the environment. I was amazed by the sheer number of people in attendance. I cannot explain the feeling of having 400,000 people around you who are passionate about the same things you are and who are fighting everyday to make our Earth a better place. I'm honored to have been in the presence of so many beautiful people from all kinds of backgrounds and all kinds of places. I will never forget my experience at the People's Climate March.

Spencer Kaaz is a college freshman in Environmental Engineering at the University of Memphis, and an active ExCom member of the Chickasaw Group and the Sierra Student Coalition.

Steven's Story

The PCM advocated global action against climate change to raise awareness before the UN Climate Summit. This is to prepare for a global climate agreement in Paris, 2015, where the goal is for all countries to understand impacts of climate change and to commit to reduced emissions in time to turn around climate change.

What an inspirational experience it was, marching together in common cause. So many are concerned about all aspects of our environ-

ment and climate. I sense the public is actually getting scared as are many New York residents who experienced hardship and fear during Super Storm Sandy. I've never seen such a cross section of people, ordinary folks who don't usually advocate or demonstrate.

Of course the March itself was wonderful—so many fascinating conversations and looks of understanding. Feelings were hopeful that together we can solve this climate crisis, but that we must move quickly. I felt good that so many others accept there is a problem and want to do something.

Thoughts and experiences were as diverse as the people. One woman was brought to tears during the minutes of silence. She said it was so still, she felt connected and peaceful. Profound experiences are hard to put into words. Another person was angry with our systems that incentivize destructive corporate and individual behavior. Lack of regulation and responsibility are problems that need to be solved.

I was part of the Nuclear Free Carbon Free Contingent. We had a rally, speeches, and over 300 flags. People listened to our ideas to transfer money wasted on dirty and dangerous fossil and nuclear energy to ramp up efficiency and renewables as replacement energy. One day the world will operate on Clean Energy and the sooner the better. By the time we reached Columbus Circle our 300 flags were with marchers all along the route.

In New York as in Memphis, I had conversations with those who are worried about Climate Change but have bought into the myth of fear; fear of the dark, the cold, joblessness and hunger. Some brought up China and India. This resistance is natural, but must

be addressed by our showing the way to a more green, efficient, sustainable economy that satisfies needs and in some ways is even more fulfilling.

I arrived in New York a few days early to attend meetings and various environmental events: Fracking, Toxins Affecting Children's Health, Runaway Capitalism, a Nuclear Free Strategy Session, efforts to close nuclear reactors, the Climate Convergence workshops/talks, a Japanese Lantern Festival of Peace and even a speech by the NY Attorney General Eric Schneiderman about efforts to deal with climate change. New York State has a temporary ban on fracking. There was a demonstration for Governor Cuomo in front of the Plaza Hotel of Eloise fame. Many New Yorkers don't want fracking for a variety of reasons including increased radioactivity.

I left New York encouraged by a burgeoning movement gaining momentum. This Climate Crisis has everyone worried. I think the public is at a turning point. Join the movement. Speak up.

Steven Sondheim is a long time Sierra activist working on TVA, National Transportation Policy the Nuclear Free Campaign, and as a Sierra Club delegate to UN International Climate Conferences.

Follow the Sierra Club effort: www.sierraclub.typepad.com/planet.

Short Video: www.sierraclub.org/peoples-climate-march.

Photos: <https://m.flickr.com/#/photos/sierraclub/sets>

Stories: <http://peoplesclimate.tumblr.com>.

What can you do? Comment on EPA's Power Plan at www.sierraclub.org/peoplesclimateaction

6. TO CHANGE EVERYTHING, WE NEED EVERYONE
Here comes everybody! LGBTQ, NYC Boroughs, Community Groups, Neighborhoods, Cities, States, Countries & More

5. THE DEBATE IS OVER
The facts are in! Taking action is a moral necessity
Scientists, Interfaith & More

4. WE KNOW WHO IS RESPONSIBLE
Let's call out those who are holding back progress
Anti-Corporate Campaigns, Peace & Justice & More

3. WE HAVE SOLUTIONS
A just transition is possible – Renewable Energy, Food & Water Justice, Environmental Organizations & More

2. WE CAN BUILD THE FUTURE
Every generation's future is at stake, we can build a better one – Labor, Families, Students, Elders & More

1. FRONTLINES OF CRISIS, FOREFRONT OF CHANGE
The people first and most impacted are leading the change
Indigenous, Environmental Justice & other Frontline Communities

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

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

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: gvanhorn26@gmail.com

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

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is November 25 for the January-February issue.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Target Date for
January-February Issue is
November 25, 2014.**

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

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



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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Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 471041, Palm Creek, FL 32740-1041
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**Please notify the
Editor when changes
are needed**

Tennessee Students Attend Clean Energy Campaign Summit

By Taylor Lyon

From August 13th to August 17th, student environmental leaders gathered in Ohio at the Cuyahoga National Park to attend the Sierra Student Coalition's Clean Energy Campaign Summit. The program trained young people from across the country—even outside of the country—to lead a movement to demand 100% clean energy from the utility that powers their campus. In addition, students will fight to provide renewable energy to their local communities. This campaign could result in a mitigation of carbon emissions throughout the country, and in return, healthier communities and a more stable climate.

The campaign summit gave students the opportunity to attend programs similar to the SSC's Sprog training, such as campaign planning, anti-oppression, and team building workshops. These programs incorporated activities and exercises that encouraged structuring individual campaigns. Campaign planning focused on goals, strategies, tactics, and targets. It was taught that goals should be SMART goals: specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely. In my opinion, some of the most interesting workshops were about the energy grid and the

layout of energy utilities. It is critical to understand how the energy system works in order to make changes. Timothy Den Herder-Thomas led these presentations and demonstrated the intricate workings of the energy grid and how it can be manipulated to be advantageous to communities. Moreover, the workshop examined the faults in corporate energy utilities, and the efficiency of a community owned utility. Many community-owned ideas were discussed, such as solar power purchase agreements and a community solar garden. Through innovations like these, it is possible for community owned utilities to thrive. Timothy wrapped up one of the sessions proclaiming that corporate utilities can be overcome: "We have the power to change their market."

Tennessee showed up strong at the Clean Energy Campaign Summit with seven attendees. It was an exceptional opportunity to form relationships and strategize about bringing clean energy to our campuses and communities. The campaign will launch nationally on September 16, as will statewide campaigns across college campuses.

For more information, and how you can support the Seize the Grid Campaign in Tennessee, contact hhy584@mocs.utc.edu.

Why the Climate Movement Cannot Ignore Trade

By Ilana Solomon, Director, Responsible Trade Program, Sierra Club

This past weekend, I joined more than 400,000 community members on the frontlines of climate disruption, environmentalists, workers, students, parents, and others to demand action on climate and to claim our collective rights to clean water, air, and land.

As someone who has spent many years in the halls of Congress and United Nations climate conventions calling for strong climate action, this diverse, public, outspoken, and in-the-streets action was a beautiful, incredible feat that signals a tipping point in the climate movement that policymakers will not be able to ignore.

But there is another tipping point that will affect the success of the climate movement: the free trade tipping point.

The health of our planet depends on our ability to make big changes in our economy. These changes include moving beyond fossil fuels and building local green economies. However, our current model of free trade, which is written into agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and free trade pacts like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), threatens nearly every aspect of this much-needed economic transition. And yet, the U.S. is currently negotiating massive new free trade pacts, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) with 11 Pacific Rim nations and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the European Union. These deals would severely restrict the ability of governments to restructure our economy and address the climate crisis.

If these deals are beaten-back, we can open up space for governments to embrace a new model of trade that is compatible with -- even supports -- efforts to combat the climate crisis. If these agreements move forward, they lock in a new set of rules that will further hinder our ability to solve the climate crisis. Let's take a deeper look at just how our trade rules are getting in the way of climate progress.

Corporate challenges to climate and clean energy policies: In order to combat the climate crisis, we must move beyond fossil fuels and embrace clean energy. However, investment rules in free trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties threaten our ability to do so. The rules actually empower corporations to sue governments, in the secrecy of private trade tribunals, over laws and policies that corporations allege reduce their profits, including protections from dirty fossil fuels. Such rules have allowed

corporations including Chevron and ExxonMobil to launch nearly 600 challenges against almost 100 governments. Increasingly, corporations are using these perverse rules in free trade and investment agreements to challenge energy and climate policies, including a moratorium on fracking in Quebec, a nuclear energy phase-out and new coal-fired power plant standards in Germany, and requirement for a pollution clean-up in Peru. Nearly 60 percent of so-called investor-state cases are decided in favor of the investor (making taxpayers foot the bill to the corporation or investor) or settle (sometimes weakening the policy, as happened in Germany). When governments "win," they just get to keep the policy in place and are often stuck with part of a legal tab averaging \$8 million per case.

Unfettered exports of fossil fuels: The vast majority of fossil fuel reserves must stay in the ground in order to avoid climate catastrophe. We have to move beyond fossil fuels here at home and stop exporting them to other countries. Current free trade rules once again stand in the way. The U.S., for example, is legally bound to automatically approve all exports of natural gas to countries with which it has a free trade pact. (If no free trade pact is in place, the Department of Energy must conduct a public analysis to determine whether exports are inconsistent with the public interest before granting a license.) And there is increased talk of a potential free-trade challenge to current U.S. restrictions on crude oil exports. In fact, the EU is pressuring the U.S. to lift its crude oil export restrictions in the context of its negotiations on TTIP, the U.S. EU trade pact. According to Oil Change International, lifting the crude oil export ban would lead to 9.9 billion barrels of additional crude between 2015 and 2050, which would release as much carbon dioxide as 42 coal-fired power plants.

Restricting local and low-carbon economies: Another part of solving the climate puzzle relates to production and consumption: We need to start producing and using products, from our food to our energy, closer to home. Sadly, the current trend is to produce goods wherever labor is cheapest and environmental protections are lowest and ship them across the world. (This trend, incidentally, was made possible--even encouraged--by free trade rules.) But think about the endless benefits, both for our climate and for the creation of new green jobs, of producing wind turbines and solar panels locally. In fact, strong domestic renewable energy industries may be

one of the most powerful tools to combat climate disruption. The transition to a clean energy economy depends on local renewable energy industries that can challenge the power of the fossil fuel industry. Governments across the world recognize the benefits of renewable energy programs that create green jobs. From Ontario, Canada to India--in addition to a number of U.S. states--governments are increasingly using "local content rules" that require enterprises to purchase or use locally-manufactured goods in renewable energy programs. But a long-standing tenant of trade law is that governments cannot "privilege" local goods or producers over foreign ones, so there have been a string of cases at the WTO challenging local content rules in renewable energy programs. Japan and the EU have used WTO challenges to strike Ontario, Canada's local content rule out of its clean energy program; the U.S. is challenging local content rules in India's national solar program; India has, in turn, threatened a number of U.S. state-based renewable energy programs; China is threatening local content rules in EU renewable energy programs, and the list goes on.

Unfortunately, the trade rules described above are a small sample of the myriad rules that make it difficult to bring about what the 400,000-plus people marching the streets of New York City want -- strong action on climate. But, all of this is not reason to despair--it's a reason to organize.

Larger and worse threats from the fossil fuel industry have set a fire under the climate movement. New, dangerous trade deals such as the TPP and TTIP, which threaten health, environmental, and worker protections, have set ablaze another movement of trade justice advocates. If we can combine the force of these movements and continue to strengthen our work, the power of our movements will tip our governments to act on behalf of the people instead of on behalf of the polluters. The climate movement must stand up to the free trade rules and ideology that helped get us into this climate mess and that will thwart our ability to solve it and say, "enough is enough."

TAKE ACTION

The only way the TPP and TTIP can get approved is if the executive branch secures "Fast Track" authority, allowing signed pacts to be rushed through Congress with a guaranteed vote in 90 days, under rules that circumvent ordinary review, amendment and debate. To find out how you can help make sure that doesn't happen, go to sierraclub.org/trade and drop us a note at responsibletrade@sierraclub.org.



Election Ballot of At-Large Delegates for the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee: 2015-2016 Term

Please vote below in the election of three (3) At-Large members to the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee, each having a two-year term of office beginning January, 2015. They will join our four other At-Large Delegates and Group Delegates in managing the fiscal, legislative, environmental, outings and other responsibilities for our Chapter.

"Paperless Subscribers" may vote as well as those receiving the Tennes-Sierran by mail, but membership must be current; follow the directions as given below.

Only members (as of November 1, 2014) may vote. Joint Members use the same ballot. Ballots must be postmarked by December 15, 2014.

2014 Tennessee Chapter At-Large Election You may vote for three (3) candidates (listed in random order)

	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Alice Demetreon	_____	_____
Gary Bowers	_____	_____
Sara Neumann	_____	_____
Spencer Kaaz	_____	_____

Submit your Ballot: Only current members may vote. Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write "ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, write your Sierra membership number (found on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) in the upper left hand corner with your name and address.

If you receive your Tennes-Sierran electronically and need your membership number, you may contact Membership Chair Sinclair Sparkman at sinclairsparkman@gmail.com (put "membership number" in the subject line) or 615-945-0710. You will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number cannot be counted.
Ballots must be postmarked no later than December 15, 2014.**

Mail your combined envelopes to:
**Sierra Club
Tennessee Chapter Elections
3712 Ringgold Rd, #156
Chattanooga, TN 37412-1638**

Candidate Statements: (in random order)

Alice Demetreon

My husband Jim and I live in Whitwell, TN. I became more active environmentally in 2013, after watching Gasland. I met Scott Banbury at my first Anti-Fracking Rally in Nashville and he introduced me to Sierra Club. Although Fracking is my main concern, I know everything is connected and believe Sierra Club needs to continue educating the public on issues while creating awareness of legislative issues where we can make a difference. I love hiking to waterfalls in the parks with my husband; I feel strongly that we need to protect our National and State Parks and Forests for future generations.

I am active in the Cherokee Group, serving on their ExCom; I've organized the 2013 Chattanooga XL Pipeline and 2014 Global Frackdown Day marches. I serve the Chapter as Chapter Treasurer. From my view as treasurer, I have a good idea of the issues we face at the chapter level, and work to make the best use of our funds - both restricted (charitable) and unrestricted - possible, and our money stretch as far as it can.

Gary Bowers

The Nominating Committee has asked that ballot statements highlight accomplishments during the last twenty-four months. This was a period of recalibration following 15 years as Chapter Conservation Chair. My focus was

- Stepping back, giving new conservation leadership space (we all have our own style)
- At-Large member Chapter Executive Committee
- Actively working with National Beyond Coal Campaign (BCC)
- Researching, understanding workings of ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council), the Koch Brothers funded organization working to influence national, state, and local governments
- Delivering Summer Chapter meeting Saturday evening program on ALEC

An At-Large delegate represents the entire Chapter (State of Tennessee) and provides leadership. This means having working knowledge, historical and current, of

- Sierra Club national initiatives
- Tennessee Chapter initiatives
- How the two relate

15 years as Conservation Chair provide an extensive knowledge of these areas. Experience includes

- Revising Chapter conservation committees
- Aligning with National Club priorities
- Establishing goals, mission statements
- Helping bring National's BCC to Tennessee
- Obtaining Sierra's first End Commercial Logging state campaign
- Drafting forest protection legislation

Sierra member since 1984. Gary appreciates your vote.

Sara Neumann

A senior at UTC, majoring in Environmental Science/Biology, I've been the president of UTC's student environmental organization [Ecological Decisions for a Global Environment (EDGE)] since 2014, putting together a week-long Sustainability Festival on UTC Campus, including a vendor fair of community businesses and organizations dedicated to sustainability, which we're again staging.

Currently I'm working with Raccoon Mountain Caverns' owner to save an endemic species found in their caves from being wiped out from the effects of urban development and carrying out research, with a professor and two other students, about how global climate change affects plant populations in the Appalachian area.

I am an active member in the Sierra Club in Chattanooga, and across the state (keeping in touch with and in collaboration with people in Johnson City, Knoxville, Nashville, Memphis, etc.) and across the nation (through Sierra Student Coalition/summits/conferences.) I attended the Peoples Climate March in NYC, making a stand and connections. A good organizer and networker, I believe I can bring a different perspective to the table -- from a younger point of view, the upcoming generation's, with new and fresh ideas.

Spencer Kaaz

Currently a University of Memphis student, I'm highly involved with my local Sierra Club and on the Chickasaw Group's ExCom. At the Chapter level, I've worked numerous cleanup events and many climate related booths. I'm well versed in digital outreach/strategies in addition. I attended Sierra Club's student leadership training program (SPROG) and am working on environmental campaigns at UTM. I was part of Climate Action in Atlanta, and marched in the Citizen's Climate March in NYC.

Growing up in a bilingual family, traveling the United States, Europe, Mexico, and Asia at a young age, I was the kid who watched nature shows 'til bedtime and couldn't keep my nose out of National Geographic magazines. I roamed Memphis, riding my bike for miles, climbed trees and scraped my knees: always outdoors.

Because of that, I'm very passionate about preserving and conserving our world's environment, believing the only way for us to make progress is to have a major cultural shift in how we treat other living beings, and our direct and indirect effects on the earth.

I am eager to help the Tennessee Chapter continue its conservation work.

CHEROKEE GROUP EXCOM BALLOT

Election Ballot for CHEROKEE GROUP Executive Committee Candidates

Please vote for the election of five (5) members of the Cherokee Group Executive Committee, each to hold a 2-year term beginning in January, 2015. They will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group's actions.

Your ballot must be postmarked no later than Monday, December 15, 2014 to be valid. Only current members may vote. Joint members use the same ballot.

Cherokee Group (Vote for no more than 5)	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
John Doyal	_____	_____
Barbara Kelly	_____	_____
Sandy Kurtz	_____	_____
Taylor Lyon	_____	_____
Bill Moll	_____	_____

Submit your Ballot: Only current members may vote. Place your ballot in an envelope, seal and write "ballot on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, writing your Sierra Club membership number - found on the label of your Tennes-Sierran -- and your return address in the upper left hand corner. If you receive your newsletter electronically, you may contact Alice Demetreon for your number -- e-mail her (put "membership number" in subject line) at demetreon1981@gmail.com or call 660-247-2288.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number cannot be counted.
Ballots must be postmarked by , December 15, 2014.**

Mail ballots to: Barbara Hurst
1506 Sunset Drive
Signal Mtn., TN 37377

Candidate Biographies:

John Doyal

Long-time advocate for wilderness protection for the Cherokee Forest, he's been a Sierra member since 1981. He has served on Sierra's National Wildlife and Endangered Species Committee and continues to work for the protection of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. He is currently serving as Co-Chair of the Group.

Barbara Kelly

Barbara is active in our Climate Action work with Climate Chattanooga - Healthy Energy for Everyone (CCHEE) - advancing the belief in a 100% clean energy future in Chattanooga. She's willing to work behind the scenes on things like mailing lists and our Group newsletter. She currently serves as Co-Chair of our Group, and Communications Chair for the TN Chapter.

Sandy Kurtz

Sandy is known state-wide in environmental education circles. Here in Chattanooga she served as our Chattanooga organizer for the Beyond Coal Campaign in 2013, now grown into the Climate Chattanooga - Healthy Energy for Everyone (CCHEE) coalition where she is a key member, and works as an environmental consultant for the Urban Century Institute. She brings her skills in facilitating meetings to our ExCom, as well as her vast knowledge of local, state and national issues and contacts

Taylor Lyon

Taylor became interested in environmental issues through the late astronomer Carl Sagan. Carl Sagan's image of Earth as a fragile vessel — that we can only save from ourselves — motivated Taylor to do his part to protect the environment. He is now a junior environmental science major at UTC, a very active member of E.D.G.E., and just recently returned from the Citizens Climate March in NYC. He serves as our alternate delegate to the Chapter ExCom.

Bill Moll

Bill has been a Sierra Club member for many years – way back in 1973 he helped stop clear cutting in the Cherokee National Forest. He is active in bicycling advocacy, energy conservation, the promotion of native plants and 3D photography. An engineer, he keeps our Google calendar up to date and provides much practical advice to our group ExCom.

Cherokee Group News For Members

Welcome to our new members who come from the Upper Cumberland Group, which is now functioning as a Committee under our Group. We look forward to your boots and eyes on the ground in that part of the state!

Check out their website: <http://jharwood6.wix.com/uc-sierra-club>. Their next meeting will be the first or second Monday of November, with a theme of Wilderness. Contact John Harwood, Coordinator, for more information at jharwood@ntech.edu.

WE NEED YOUR EMAILS: The Cherokee Group sends an e-mail newsletter out monthly, but we only have e-mail addresses for about 1/3 of our members! You are missing vital information about our actions and events. And we are missing YOU! If you would like to be on our mailing list, please e-mail a note to Alice Demetreon, demetreon1981@gmail.com or text/call her at 660-247-2288.

What kind of things would draw you into action in

2015: Do you have ideas for outings, actions, classes, hikes, informative programs, educational activities, or conservation needs? What can you think of that you'd like to do? Please send your ideas to: Bill Moll at whmoll@aol.com. We'll be sending out a survey soon to assess ideas for planning **2015: Explore, Enjoy and Protect.**

Finally, start planning for training as an outing leader in January -- yes, you can do this! We will be holding a 1-day Saturday training in January that will cover Basic First Aid and Outings Leader 101, so you will leave ready to plan and execute your first outings for Sierra. We are open to all kinds of outings, so come get prepared to lead the kind of outing YOU always wished Sierra would have! Watch for more information coming soon, we're working on the exact date -- get on our mailing list!

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP ExCOM BALLOT

Election Ballot for Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee Candidates for the 2015-2017 term

You may vote for four (listed in random order):

Middle TN Group

	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Scott Heflinger	_____	_____
Joel Gearhardt	_____	_____
Dave Bordenkircher	_____	_____
Gary Duez	_____	_____
Cliff Cockerham	_____	_____
Lauren Wiggins	_____	_____

Submit your Ballot: Only current members may vote. Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write 'ballot' on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, write your Sierra membership number (found on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) in the upper left hand corner with your name and address. If you receive your Tennes-Sierran electronically and need your membership number, you may contact Betsy at garberb@hotmail.com or (615) 370-9454. You may print off your ballot, or simply write out the names of the four candidates that you are voting for on a piece of paper, and follow the instructions above.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number cannot be counted.
Mail by close of business on December 8, 2013.**

**Mail to: Betsy Garber
1327 Otter Creek Road
Nashville, TN 37215**

Candidate Statements: (In Random Order)

Scott Heflinger

Scott is our Group's Conservation Chair, which is the most important office in the Group. Scott is currently serving his second term on the Middle Tennessee Group Executive. Scott is a licensed professional engineer with a BS in Civil Engineering and an MS in Environmental Engineering. He started his career working for the State of Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control, which is now the Division of Water Resources under the TN Department of Environment and Conservation. He then moved to the consulting world assisting clients with pollution control projects involving water, wastewater, solid waste, air, wetlands, and storm water. He is a strong believer in wildlife protection, renewable energy, recycling and global sustainability. Scott and his wife have been members of the Sierra Club for over 15 years and have been long-time supporters of many wildlife, environmental and conservation organizations. A man of many talents, Scott not only drafts the Group's official comments to various agencies for pending environmental permits and licenses, he also helps Joel with the finances.

Joel Gearhardt

Joel is currently our Treasurer (which is a very difficult job) and also our Webmaster, which is critical to our success in community outreach. Joel took over the treasury position several years ago, and has successfully led our budgeting efforts through good times and bad. He has designed a very nice looking web page for us, and despite traveling often with his real job, manages to keep the web page current. (He could use an assistant web person. If you are interested, let us know!) A past member of the executive committee, Joel is knowledgeable about the environmental issues and brings many good organizational ideas to the table.

Dave Bordenkircher

Dave joined the Sierra Club in 1982 to be a part of the Club's effort to amend the US Clean Air Act. He was active in the Chattanooga area Cherokee Group before moving to Nashville. In 1988 he served as a delegate to the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee. Soon he got involved with the effort in Nashville to increase recycling of solid waste, and he helped several groups in Nashville that were advocating recycling. He has served on the board of directors of *Recycle! Nashville*, an organization that was formed to promote recycling. In 2003 he was appointed to be volunteer coordinator for the Recycle drop off site in Nashville that Sierra Club sponsored. He was active in the lobbying effort of the Sierra Club, to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from proposed oil exploration that would harm the wildlife that lives there. He was elected to the Middle Tennessee Group's Executive Committee and served on the committee in 2005 and 2006. From July 2005 to the end of 2006 he served as chairman of the Middle Tennessee Group. He was chairman again in 2010. He has been on the Executive Committee for the 2008-2009 term. In 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2014, he has been a delegate to the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee and served as secretary to the Middle Tennessee Group from 2007 to 2009. For the past seven years when the Tennessee General Assembly was in session, he has gone to the weekly meetings of the Tennessee Conservation Voters where he has helped decide which legislation was most important. He worked in the Local Planning Assistance office, a division of state government that advises planning commissions of small towns. He is a licensed attorney.

Gary Duez

Gary and his wife Brenda are retired and reside in Murfreesboro. Gary became active with our Group over two years ago, and has served on the Program Committee for over a year. In that capacity, Gary engages in the planning, arranging, and introduction of speakers for our monthly programs at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. Gary's knowledge of the issues, and love and concern for our planet, are evident as he and his wife Brenda greet and chat with newcomers to our programs.

Cliff Cockerham

Cliff serves as our Group Excom Chair, leading both strategy meetings and our conservation campaigns. As a scientist, he is knowledgeable about issues and the underlying factors specific to Middle Tennessee. He has been crucial to the growth of the Sierra Student Coalition across Tennessee, working at the Group and Chapter (statewide) level to promote the engagement of students and recent college graduates in the environmental movement. Cliff has received attention from the Sierra Club at the national level, being featured in Sierra magazine and most recently winning the Robbie Cox Award, which is annually presented to acknowledge leadership in engaging high school and college students. "But Middle TN Group most appreciates Cliff for his untiring work at the local level" explained Betsy Garber "...his great sense of humor, enthusiasm, and the ability to keep strategy meetings focused and short!"

Lauren Wiggins

Lauren's family now lives in Atlanta and she is a senior at Tennessee State University. Lauren will be living in Nashville the next two years, committed to completing additional, advanced studies in Environmental Studies and Environmental Health. Lauren has been working on environmental campaigns with Cliff, recently attended the People's Climate March in New York, and recently attended Sierra Club training in Washington, D.C. which focused on how to run a campaign on global population stabilization. She has committed to partnering with Jackie Carter to deliver both the Campus Clean Energy campaign and the Global Population & the Environment campaign at TSU, with outreach to Fisk and Meharry Medical College. "Lauren is a vital addition to Sierra Club efforts on college campuses in Middle TN," explained Cliff Cockerham, State Environmental Education Chair. "Her maturity in combination with her past summer job internships, in places like the Centers for Disease Control, will help her make environmental issues more visceral to her fellow students and the community at large. Her comfort level with lobbying in Congress was both natural and effective."

HARVEY BROOME GROUP ELECTION BALLOT

Election Ballot for HARVEY BROOME GROUP Executive Committee Candidates for the 2015-2016 term.

Please vote for five (5) candidates

Harvey Broome Group	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Barbara Allen	_____	_____
Denise Bivens	_____	_____
Lynne Davis	_____	_____
Robin Hill	_____	_____
Bob Perlack	_____	_____
Will Skelton	_____	_____
Rocky Swingle	_____	_____

Only current members may vote. Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write 'ballot' on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, write your Sierra membership number (found on the mailing label of your *Tennes-Sierran*) in the upper left hand corner with your name and address.? If you receive your Tennes-Sierran electronically and need your membership number, you may contact your group membership chairs David Reister at dreister@bellsouth.net or Ron Shrieves at ronaldshrieves@comcast.net. Print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number cannot be counted.
Mail by close of business on December 12, 2014.**

Mail by close of business on December 20, 2013 to: **Mac Post
3532 Cruze Road
Powell, TN 37849**

Candidate Statements:

Barbara Allen

I joined the Sierra Club in 1989 and have been active in the club since my first meeting that year. Of special interest to me is advocating for and protecting wilderness areas—the Cherokee National Forest and all other national forests and public lands. I serve on the Cherokee Forest Voices board. I am an avid backpacker and hiker and also enjoy canoeing and bicycling. I have served on the HBG ExCom for several years, as group secretary, treasurer, and chapter delegate; held the position of group chair for one term; and currently serve as a member of the Group ExCom. I have been an outings leader for the HBG as well as the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, where I also served as secretary. Interests are hiking, backpacking, riding my bike, canoeing and of course reading and enjoying Americana music. I recently completed a through-hike of the Appalachian Trail where I was able to do some environmental education along the way.

Denise Bivens

As a new member of the Sierra Club I am ready to step up and do my part for the Harvey Broome Group. I have had a strong love of nature my whole life. My desire is to impart that love into others and to continue to learn more and in turn pass my knowledge on. I have been a small business owner for over 11 years, served as a board member and as Secretary of North Knoxville Business and Professional Association and served on the Hollerpalooza Street Fair board. I have been leading hikes with the Knoxville Greenway Walking group since last autumn and recently became an Outings Leader for the Knoxville ICO.

Lynne Davis

Although I only recently became a Sierra Club member, I can trace my environmentalist feelings back to childhood. I have always enjoyed learning about and appreciating the animals, plants and natural features of every place I have lived. In my career, I worked as a computer programmer for Norfolk Southern Railway until I moved to Tennessee in 1987. I was fortunate to work in Great Smoky Mountains National Park for over 8 years, where I did cataloging work in the archives and helped with the production of books at Great Smoky Mountains Association, while developing a deep and abiding love for the National Park. I recently retired from The Trust Company of Knoxville, where I worked in operations and data management. I sing with the Knoxville Choral Society, raise numerous house plants, volunteer at Ijams Nature Center, and am active with Old Smoky Railroad Museum. I have been a glider pilot for over 35 years.

Robin Hill, P.E.

I have been a resident of Knoxville and Farragut for 58 years since moving here in January 1954. My wife and I joined the Sierra Club in 1987. I have taken an active interest in Executive Committee (ExCom) activities for the past 10 years. I was first elected to HBG ExCom in 2009. I am currently serving as Chair of HBG. I am running for re-election to the Harvey Broome Group ExCom for the term beginning Jan. 1, 2015. The Sierra Club is unique as the only national environmental organization with a local level (grassroots) focus. HBG has approximately 1,500 members in the its area and of those, not more than 30 members are active. I want to continue to work with the ExCom members to get more members active and interested in the many local environmental issues we face in the HBG area and in the state, particularly in combating the many pieces of proposed state legislation that have adverse environmental effects. I retired from active engineering work in CY 2000 but still put some of my engineering experience to use in volunteer work. My work experience consists of extensive work in project management at ORNL and Y12, on general construction projects, special research projects, environmental restoration projects and waste management projects. I served for 10 years (1970-1980) as a member of the Knox County Quarterly Court and the Knox County Commission as one of the two representatives for the West Knox County area. I have served since about 1982 on the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission and retired as Chairman of that organization in May 2010 after 17 years in that position. I also served for five years on the Farragut Storm Water Advisory Committee and retired from that committee in July 2010.

After serving as the Harvey Broome Group Chair for 5 years I am stepping down. However, I still wish to remain involved as an Executive Committee member and to pursue environmental issues related to transportation, parks and greenways, responsible development, and other issues where results are best achieved at the local level. It is important that we work to elect individuals at the local and state level that support environmental protection. I will work to increase the HBG activism, and to increase HBG's political influence on local and state elections.

Bob Perlack

I am recently retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Environmental Sciences Division) after 31 years where I worked as a natural resource economist and energy analyst. I have been a member of the Harvey Broome Group for several decades and served on as an outings leader and the Executive Committee in various capacities. I currently serve at the HBG Treasurer and as Assistant Treasurer for the Tennessee State Chapter of the Sierra Club. If re-elected to the Executive Committee I will continue to serve as the treasurer and participate in activities that promote the Sierra Club's mission to protect the environment of region, country and world.

(continued on page 8)

Candidate Statements: (continued from page 7)

Will Skelton

Retired Knoxville attorney with Bass, Berry & Sims, PLC. Prior Chair of Harvey Broome Group and Tennessee Chapter, and longtime Harvey Broome Group outings leader. Led wilderness campaigns of 1980's that resulted in existing wilderness areas in Cherokee National Forest and editor of Cherokee National Forest Hiking Guide published by UT Press. Served as Chair of Knoxville Greenways Commission 1992-2006 when most existing Knoxville greenways were built. Currently on Board of Legacy Parks Foundation, TN Parks & Greenways Foundation, Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, and Knoxville Track Club, and NPCA National Advisory Council. Personal Interests include world travel, backpacking, jogging, vegetarian cooking, reading, photography, theater and arts. Goals for Harvey Broome Group include passage of the Tennessee Wilderness Act to designate an additional 20,000 acres of Cherokee National Forest as Wilderness.

Rocky Swingle

I've been active with the HBG group since moving back to Knoxville in Nov. 2012. My main focus has been on the Tennova issue, which includes an important environmental aspect, namely the preservation of approximately 45 acres of wooded hillside in West Knoxville and the extension/development of a greenway in that area. There is also a social justice issue associated with the new hospital since Tennova plans to replace its current facility that serves many low income and senior citizens in North and East Knoxville with a new facility in the wealthier West side of town that already has adequate health care facilities.

Prior to moving back to Tennessee I was active with the Central Jersey Group of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club, mainly on land preservation, wildlife habitat protection and waterway protection issues, as well as working to ensure that development that occurred was done in a responsible and environmentally sound way. I formed a group called Save Hamilton Open Space as a community resource to support those goals.

I continue to support all of the above objectives as well as the general philosophy and goals of the Club. Specifically I support the Beyond Coal campaign and would like to see legislation passed to stop mountaintop removal. I support more hike/bike trails and greenways in Knoxville and Knox County. The local planning and zoning process needs to be improved. Currently land is rezoned and sector and 1-year plans etc. are changed to accommodate development so often that zoning and long range planning doesn't really exist. I support efforts to increase the HBG membership and activism, and the political influence of the Club on local, state and federal elections.

WATAUGA GROUP EXCOM BALLOT

**Election Ballot for WATAUGA GROUP
Executive Committee Candidates**

Please vote for no more than five (5) ballot candidates, each will serve a two-year term beginning January, 2015. Successful candidates will join returning Watauga ExCom members, Sandi Cranford, Mary Gale, Cindy Johnson and Lyn Walker in guiding our Group's Activities. Only current members may vote.

	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Bob Carlough - Butler	_____	_____
Gloria Griffith - Mt City	_____	_____
Becky Kinder - Hampton	_____	_____
Dennis Shekinah - Mt City	_____	_____
Gayle Riddervold - Hampton	_____	_____
Carol Walker - Mt City	_____	_____
Dean Whitworth - Butler	_____	_____

Vote Today! Election Ballots must be received no later than Monday, DEC. 8, 2014. Envelopes without a Sierra membership number cannot be counted.

How to Submit your ballot: Write your Sierra Club membership number on outside envelope with your return address. Your 8-digit number is located on the newsletter mailing label. Place the *Tennes-Sierran* newspaper ballot in a sealed envelope, within the outside envelope.

If you receive the *Tennes-Sierran* electronically you will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above. Need your membership number? You may contact Chapter Communications Chair Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com ("membership number " in the subject line) or call 423-718-5009.

Election Committee counts valid ballots and notifies candidates, WG ExCom, and other interested parties of election results on Tuesday, DEC 9, 2014.

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/Business Meetings: Nov. 10 and Dec. 8 (2nd Monday) 6:30 P.M. Held at Second Presbyterian Church, at the corner of E. 7th Street and Pine, 700 Pine Street [parking is free in their Pine Street lot, across the street from the church, next to the old Blue Cross (orange) building]. Want to be connected to the Environmental Buzz in/around Chattanooga -- this is where to be. Come add your ideas and share your concerns. We'll be planning our actions here. All are welcome!

November Program: 4th Monday, Nov. 24, 7:00 P.M. at Outdoor Chattanooga, Coolidge Park, 200 River St., Chattanooga. Learn: All About Green Trips, presented by staff of the Regional Planning Agency.

Green Trips (www.greentripscha.org) lets area residents and commuters know about alternatives -- healthy, cost-effective and fun -- to driving alone. With incentives, people are enjoying competing with friends walking, biking, carpooling, and transit. Ridesharing is also facilitated through Green Trips, and several of our large employers are ramping up to utilize that in a big way. Come find out how the program can work for you, and how it is serving our community in other ways: reducing air pollution, gas used and congestion -- all goals of the grant that was written for its funding!

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

December Program: No Meeting is held in December. Mark your calendars for our annual Welcome The New Year covered dish supper/mixer, on Jan. 4 at 5 P.M. See below!

Welcome The New Year - Sunday, Jan. 4, 5 - 8 P.M. - Our annual covered dish supper/mixer -- You are invited! Bring friends and a covered dish, we'll supply drinks, utensils, plates, etc. Come start the new year off right, with people who share the same interests and dreams for our environment as you. Location: Audubon Acres Visitor Center, 900 Sanctuary Road, Chattanooga, 37424 -- which is in East Brainerd, off Gunbarrel Road.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

November 11, 7:00 P.M. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Environmental

Activism by UTK Students, Sierra Student Coalition Students

College students are concerned about the future environment and manage to work hard at changing things at the local, regional, national and global scale. In addition to their busy class schedules and studies, there are many organizations formed and run by students while they are attending the University of Tennessee. Come and hear from student representatives some of what they are doing including their participating in the People's Climate March in New York City.

December 9, 7:00 P.M. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Harvey Broome Group Holiday Photograph Show

You and your friends and family are invited for an evening of fun, food, and sharing. Please feel free to contribute - bring a CD or USB flash drive with some pictures from your favorite trips of the year to share. For more information contact Ronald Shrieves, ronaldshrieves@comcast.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

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

Ice Climbing: Ronson Dykstra will present our first-ever program on Ice Climbing! Ronson has climbed in Canada and Northern Michigan. The program will include photographs from his climbs, tales of his adventures, and information on how it's done. Please join us for this unique opportunity. These programs are free and open to the public. You must enter the park from Granny White Pike.

PARTY: December 13, 6:00-9:00 P.M. at 4260 Jamesborough Place, Nashville 37215 (near Green Hills) - Clay and Suzanne Petrey are opening their home (and wonderful porch) to us again for a pot luck party! Bring a dish to share, and your beverage. Questions? Call Suzanne at (615) 202-2255 or email at svzp@aol.com. Please put Sierra

Club party in the subject line.

PROGRAM: January 8, Thursday, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center

Surprise Program: In September when this newsletter went to press, the program committee was just getting geared up for the 2015 programs schedule. We would love to have a few more members on our committee. Come join us for the new year -- call Betsy at 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: November 18, and December 16, and January 19 - Tuesday at 6:30 P.M.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: (contact Betsy at 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com)

1. We need someone to assist Joel making changes each month to our web page.
2. Joy would welcome folks to assist her in presentations to elementary school students.
3. We need more hike leaders and assistants.
4. We need more ICO (disadvantaged youth) hike leaders and assistants.
5. We need folks to distribute brochures to libraries, etc.

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.

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
Go Paperless Today!**



Outings

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

Nov. 2 (Sun) South Chickamauga Creek Afternoon Walk - bring your family, this trip is good for all ages. We'll be walking along the boardwalks that wind above the creek, through towering oak-hickory forests and rolling farmland. Dogs are welcome too, on leash. To register, and for more information, contact Barb Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com or 423-718-5009.

Outings Leader Training & Basic First Aid: Date TBA, but will be a Saturday in January. Contact Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com or 423-718-5009 for details.

CHICKASAW GROUP (MEMPHIS)

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

1 Nov (Sat). Dayhike, Graysville Mountain and Roaring Creek, Cumberland Trail. This is a brand-new section of trail on previously-closed land recently acquired by the State of Tennessee. It is being constructed by CTC volunteers and college students on their spring breaks and will eventually connect the Rock Creek Gorge Section with Laurel-Snow State Natural Area. We'll begin at the new trailhead off Brayton Road southwest of Dayton and hike not far from Roaring Creek to a series of three impressive overlooks. As of this writing the trail ends 3.85 miles from the trailhead, where we'll turn around. However, additional construction planned for March 2014 should extend the trail. Be among the first to see this new area! Not yet rated. One-way drive: 85 miles. Pre-register with Warren or Carol Devine, 483-7894 or warrendevine@comcast.net.

9 Nov (Sun). Dayhike, Little Greenbrier Gap and Laurel Falls Trails, GSMNP. We'll hike the 4.3 mile Little Greenbrier Trail from Wear Cove Gap to Chinquapin Ridge, with a possible detour for 0.4 mile down to the historic Walker Sisters Cabin. Then we will follow the 3.1 mile Laurel Falls Trail where we'll see the always-scenic Laurel Falls before continuing on to the trailhead on the Little River Road. Most people hike up to the falls from the trailhead but we'll be coming down from above. The fall colors should be at their peak and views of the high peaks of the Smokies will be an added attraction. Hiking distance will be 7.4 miles total. Rated

Moderate because of the elevation change. One-way drive: 35 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 72-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

15-16 Nov (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Middle Prong Wilderness, Pisgah National Forest, NC. Starting at Haywood Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway, this hike takes us along the Mountain-to-Sea trail, first by going north on the Buckeye Gap trail (#126), camping near junction of trails #126 and the Haywood Gap trail (#142), then completing a loop by returning on #142. There is a major stream crossing at north end of the route. Distance, approximately 10 miles. This hike is rated difficult. Driving distance is about 110 miles to the trailhead. Pre-register with Rob Davis at 865-202-6661 or hikinrob@charter.net (email preferred).

22 Nov (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity tour (Old-Growth Cove Hardwood), Albright Grove, GSMNP. 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. For the hike to this unique place we will use the Maddron Bald Trail to Albright Grove Loop trail and then return. For those that are interested we will study tree identification in winter. 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 (email preferred).

6 Dec (Sat). Dayhike, Honey Creek, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. This is a rather difficult 5.6 mile loop trail. Originally, it was one of the ten Bower Pocket Wilderness Areas and is now one of two state natural areas located within the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The trail is very rugged and requires crossing a number of small creeks, climbing a series of ladders up and down the bluff, scrambling through boulders, and hiking up the Honey Creek drainage. The trail includes a number of waterfalls, a spectacular rockhouse, and one of the best views from an overlook 250 feet above the South Fork of the Cumberland River. Quite simply it is one of the best trails on the Cumberland Plateau. The hike is difficult and requires about 5 to 7 hours to complete depending on how much time is spent enjoying the trail. Rated moderate to difficult. The driving distance is about 75 miles from West Knoxville. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 229-5027.

13 Dec (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Elkmont Section, GSMNP. This hike will take us to Blanket Mountain, and along the way we'll visit and learn about the history of the Aventura Cabin. The cabin, located just off the Jakes Creek Trail, was owned by an artist at the time the Park was formed. This cabin has been maintained as an historical structure, and provides a glimpse of life in the Smokies before the park, though probably of a lifestyle that was not typical of that experienced by the vast majority of mountain folk. The hike will

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!

continue past the cabin and up to the peak of Blanket Mountain, home to an old (now demolished) fire tower. Hiking distance about seven miles, rated moderate due to elevation gain. Drive: 50 mi each way. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

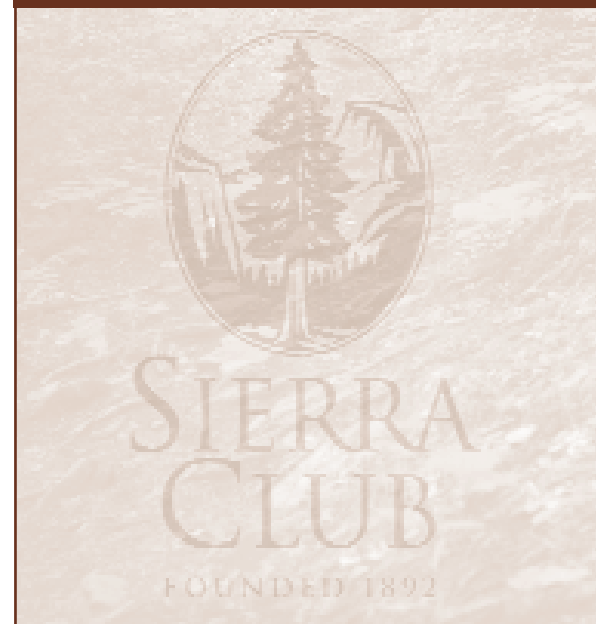
We have an active outings schedule program and want you to come along! To check out our outings, please click on the outing of choice at <http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures/events/calendar/>.

To subscribe to the Tennessee News Listserve, email the following text to

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Our Wild America

Throughout its century-plus history, the Sierra Club has been at the forefront of the movement to protect America's wild places, and the beauty, escape, clean water, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities they provide. The Our Wild America campaign will work to create a national network of connected wild lands and marine areas to preserve America's natural, cultural, and recreational heritage.

Protecting our Public Lands

Our Wild America carries on the Club's long legacy of protecting America's beautiful and diverse wild land. Since its founding by John Muir in 1892, the Sierra Club has helped protect millions of acres of wild places. From its early efforts to halt rampant logging and mining in the Sierra Nevada, the Club has been on the front lines in establishing hundreds of millions of acres of wilderness, national parks, and monuments, protecting wildlife and its habitat, gaining passage of the Wilderness Act, and saving California's redwoods from the saw, the Grand Canyon from being dammed, the Everglades from being drained, and the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling.

We believe that America's public lands, waters, air and wildlife are held in "public trust" for and by all Americans. These lands provide opportunities for Americans from all walks of life to enjoy the great outdoors, come together to share experiences, and learn the value of wild places -- and in so doing, become motivated to get involved in the fight to protect our wild legacy and expand upon it. The United States was the first country to identify and designate wilderness areas through law, and the idea of protecting wild places is at the core of the American experience. With the Our Wild America campaign, the Sierra Club is doubling down now in the fight to protect and preserve our wild heritage in the face of threats from mining, drilling, and climate disruption.

Monuments and Wilderness

Healthy land and healthy water are essential

for a healthy population. Our Wild America will seek to secure permanent protection for unprotected public lands with high wildlife, recreation, and cultural values. One way is to keep up the pressure on President Obama to designate new national monuments by executive order -- something presidents throughout history have done to create and expand America's conservation legacy. We will also focus on expanding the National Wilderness Preservation System by identifying and promoting new potential wilderness areas that are too special to be drilled, mined, or developed, and are essential for wildlife.

The vast majority of America's public lands do not have permanent protection and remain highly vulnerable to escalating threats from mining, drilling, logging, irresponsible off-road vehicle use, and other forms of development. These lands are necessary for wild animals -- many of which are already under stress from climate disruption -- that need undisturbed lands to survive. Public lands also provide an essential resource for millions of Americans for outdoor recreation and enjoyment, as a source of clean water, and increasingly as an essential economic contributor to nearby communities. Protecting land and water stimulates local economies and brings increased job growth as outdoor recreation replaces extractive industries as the biggest revenue producer on our public lands.

Beyond Drilling and Mining

Our public lands and waters are facing unprecedented threats from pollution, exploration, and drilling by coal, oil, and gas industries. One of Our Wild America's top priorities is to protect these lands from dirty fuel development by blocking mining and drilling, thus preventing more than 100 billion tons of climate-disrupting carbon pollution that could be released by development.

The Our Wild America campaign works to ensure that public lands and waters with important wilderness, habitat, recreational, and cultural values remain undeveloped -- and where development has already occurred, seeks to greatly reduce the impacts of energy

development to people and wildlife.

Protecting and Restoring Forests

National forests are some of America's wildest and most intact natural places. They are home to the headwaters of many major rivers and safeguard water supplies to be used for drinking water, agriculture, commerce, and recreation. They provide a safe haven for an array of wildlife and quiet recreation opportunities for people across the country. Over the years the importance of our forests has grown as they become increasingly isolated islands of wildlife: plants and animals.

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Spectacular, iconic wild places like the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, or the Boundary Waters get a lot of glory. But for most Americans, the bulk of our experience with nature is closer to home -- the state park where we go for a Saturday afternoon picnic and walk, or the beach where we taught our kids to swim.

Protecting natural places near cities and suburbs is crucial to ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to explore and enjoy the great outdoors. These are accessible places where we can unwind in nature and connect with our family, friends, and community -- and remember why it's so important to protect our forests, coasts, mountains, rivers, and other landscapes.



TVA's IRP Presents Opportunity for Clean Energy Future for Tennessee Valley

By Jonathan Levenshus
Campaign Representative, Sierra Club
Beyond Coal Campaign

TVA is currently engaged in a resource planning process that will shape how the company meets future energy needs in the Tennessee Valley over the next twenty years.

The Sierra Club's Tennessee Chapter and Beyond Coal Campaign are deeply involved in this process as members of TVA's formal Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Working Group, and other stakeholder groups focused on energy efficiency and renewable resources, like wind and solar. Thus far, we've been pleased by TVA's efforts to share information with stakeholders and the public about the various generation options available to TVA.

However, there is a lot of work to do in the coming months to ensure TVA takes an essential step forward by setting new, robust clean energy goals in the IRP for efficiency, wind power and solar energy.

Clean energy is not just the whim of some special interest group: there is a global scientific consensus that we must cut our use of fossil fuels in order to reduce dangerous carbon pollution. Clean energy is one of the keys to doing so because it's available now.

By aggressively pursuing clean energy in the IRP, TVA will be able to retire more of its aging coal-fired power plants while avoiding

the need to build costly and dangerous gas and nuclear plants. Investing in efficiency and renewable energy will also strengthen the region's economy, preserve our air and water quality, and protect public health.

Despite these well-established clean energy benefits, in the past TVA's been concerned about the reliability of wind power and solar energy during times of peak power needs. It's also been concerned about the cost of clean energy.

But clean energy is getting more reliable and it's now cheaper for utilities to promote efficiency and buy renewables than fossil fuels to generate electricity. For example, a recent U.S. Department of Energy study found that it costs between four and ten times more per kilowatt hour to build and use a power plant than it has been to implement efficiency programs that reduce the amount of energy we waste. That means efficiency could save TVA money because the company wouldn't have to spend its limited cash on other resources that are more expensive like coal or gas. Efficiency, of course, also saves money for the customers that participate in programs and pay lower bills as a result.

Getting TVA to provide more clean energy to its customers is possible, but it will take the collective voices of Sierra Club members to convince them that they must do it. Clean

energy is far cheaper than any alternative, including dirty fossil fuels, and it eliminates the risk for Valley ratepayers over the long-term.

We encourage you to stay as informed as possible on the status of the IRP by accessing the information provided on TVA's website (tva.gov/IRP) and by participating in future opportunities to provide input on the draft IRP, which will be issued later this year for review.

TVA's website links to several reports that were presented at past IRP meetings, providing details into TVA's current energy situation, the IRP process, and TVA's efforts at developing clean energy resources in the region. The website will also allow visitors to contact TVA to voice comments and concerns once the draft IRP is released.

While we await the release of TVA's draft IRP, the Sierra Club will continue sending TVA a clear message: clean energy can and should be a larger part of the plan to meet future energy demand in the Tennessee Valley.

If you would like to learn more about the Sierra Club's work on the IRP or participate in the upcoming comment period, please contact Jonathan Levenshus, Beyond Coal Campaign Representative, at jonathan.levenshus@sierraclub.org.

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Group Boundaries Changed!

Groups will be electing new Executive Committee members (see ballots in this issue.) Please take care to see if you now belong in a different Group. This April, 2014, having had several Groups go out of existence in the last years, the Chapter finally redrew Group boundaries.

The previous Upper Cumberland Group now functions as a Committee of the Cherokee Group. The Chickasaw Group is the only Group with no changes.

Moving west to east, here are the new Group territories:

Chickasaw: Benton; Carroll; Crockett; Chester; Decatur; Dyer; Fayette; Gibson; Hardeman; Haywood; Hardin; Henderson; Henry; Lake; Lauderdale; Madison; McNairy; Obion; Shelby; Tipton; and Weakley.

Middle Tennessee Group: Bedford; Cannon; Cheatham; Clay; Davidson; DeKalb; Dickson; Giles; Hickman; Houston; Humphreys; Lawrence; Lewis; Lincoln; Macon; Marshall; Maury; Montgomery; Moore; Perry; Robertson; Rutherford; Smith; Stewart; Sumner; Trousdale; Wayne; Williamson; and Wilson.

Cherokee Group: Bledsoe; Bradley; Coffee; Franklin; Grundy; Jackson; Hamilton; Marion; McMinn; Meigs; Monroe; Overton; Polk; Putnam; Rhea; Sequatchie; Van Buren; Warren; and White;

Harvey Broome Group: Anderson; Blount; Campbell; Claiborne; Cocke; Cumberland; Fentress; Grainger; Hamblen; Jefferson; Knox; Loudon; Morgan; Pickett; Roane; Scott; Sevier; and Union.

Watauga Group: Carter; Greene; Hancock; Hawkins; Johnson; Sullivan; Unicoi; and Washington