

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 47, Number 5 - September/October, 2015

Local to Global Overview

By Steven Sondheim

There is a lot of buzz around the climate negotiations in Paris later this year, and for good reason -- all countries- including the US, China and India- have agreed to finalize a new global climate change deal. Paris will set the stage for long-term international cooperation on climate change, but it's the actions we take at the local, regional and national level that will ultimately move us beyond fossil fuels and toward climate stability.

Local and national momentum on key issues like transportation, energy efficiency, dirty fuels and protecting our forests and wild lands helped put the United States on the path to make strong climate commitments this year in Paris. The United States is in a better position to seek an ambitious climate outcome because of the countless local climate campaigns lead by Sierra Club and grassroots movement leaders across the United State.

As world leaders make their final plans for Paris, we can show our commitment to climate action with a drumbeat of local climate commitments. That's why we're launching Local to Global. L2G will highlight the bold and ambitious local climate victories from across the Sierra Club.

Local to Global

By showing that communities across the U.S. are not only ready to act, but already doing so, we can continue to demonstrate momentum and strong commitment for this international climate package. We can do this all while building a stronger Sierra Club. The buzz around Paris provides an exciting organizing moment to build chapter and group capacity, including new and deeper relationships with partner organizations, engagement with local officials, and recruiting new members and developing new leaders.

Take action with us:

1. Act Locally: Paris is a key moment for us



to push for a new climate victory and to highlight the existing commitments that local governments have already made. One great way to do this is to work with your mayor to send a letter to Obama. This letter can highlight new and existing commitments and show your mayor's support for a strong The Local to Global team will provide a sample letter that could be adapted for your local campaigns. These letters will be tracked and we will do media work to show strong support for Paris.

2. Take National Action: Join the National Day of Action on October 14. Following up on the success of the People's Climate March, where over 400,000 people marched in New York, the Sierra Club and our People's Climate Movement partners will take part in a National Day of Action Wednesday, October 14. The People's Climate Movement will show momentum for action on climate through volunteer-led distributed events across the country. Additionally, the Sierra Club will also support an additional 5 flagship events, with a goal of achieving additional media coverage and strengthening key partnerships.

3. Use the Hashtag: To bring together the exciting happening across the Sierra Club, we're launching the #ActInParis campaign. This campaign will compile all the amazing work happening across the Sierra Club in the lead up to Paris. We'll be using it when chapters take local action, when there are exciting new climate commitments, when the Pope comes to the US in September and when we head to Paris this winter. We'll have a special section highlight local leadership at actin-paris.com. As exciting new local commitments are made, we'll use this hashtag to tell the Local to Global story at the national and international level.

4. Learn More: The Local to Global team will keep volunteers apprised of the developments leading to Paris through regular calls so they can share this information with others. These calls can also be linked to existing training programs, such as media training and HELEN training, for new volunteers recruited through the Paris outreach.

Background on the Climate Negotiations

In December 2015, the 195 member countries of the UNFCCC are expected to adopt a new agreement in Paris that will set forth the objectives, rules and country contributions for the global effort to address climate change beginning in 2020. For years, the climate movement has been demanding international action on climate, and this year it looks like we're going to get it. Paris is a turning point for the global community- every country is committing to cooperate in a global climate package for the first time. This is a moment to celebrate.

The Sierra Club is working hard with our global partners in civil society to achieve a deal that is fair and effective. But one thing is already clear- while this is a pivotal moment for action on climate, the need for grassroots power and local victories on climate is just getting started.

Some Quotes from John Muir

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.

Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.

The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.

The mountains are calling and I must go.

A few minutes ago every tree was excited, bowing to the roaring storm, waving, swirling, tossing their branches in glorious enthusiasm like worship. But though to the outer ear these trees are now silent, their songs never cease.

Take a course in good water and air; and in the eternal youth of Nature you may renew your own. Go quietly, alone; no harm will befall you.

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.

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 ease you will be saving trees, and freeing Tennessee Chapter club funding to work for other conservation efforts. A double whammy win situation!

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

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

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

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: gvanhorn26@gmail.com

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

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Target Date for
November-December is
September 25, 2015.**

**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.

Add your voice to protect the planet.

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

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
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**Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed**

Become Volunteer Editor of the Tennes-Sierran

To everything, there is a season..... Our editor, Gene Van Horn, has indicated that he wishes to step down as Editor at the end of 2015, his fourth year of editing the *Tennes-Sierran*. We will miss his gracious and discerning work with all our contributors!

This is a volunteer position. As editor you would be responsible for checking the spelling, grammar and punctuation of material submitted to the bimonthly newsletter. You need to be able to use a computer and do email. The editor needs to work well with *Tennes-Sierran* contributors and be able to handle deadlines.

If you're interested in being a volunteer editor, contact TN Chapter Communications Chair Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com or 423-718-5009.

Beyond-the-Grid Is Not Just About Light, It's About Resiliency

At times when the grid fails, distributed generation offers a way to keep the lights on -- not only in areas beyond the reach of the grid but in cities as well.

People often highlight the cost-effectiveness and rapidity of deploying beyond-the-grid solar solutions. As the story goes, beyond-the-grid solar companies are providing power to rural places in developing countries where the grid hasn't yet reached and at a lower cost than other available options. But distributed generation has other important benefits: it can offer more reliability than a centralized grid, too.

Following Superstorm Sandy, which pummeled the eastern seaboard of the United States and the Caribbean and left 8.1 million homes without power, the term "grid resiliency" gained new popularity as utilities and regulators scrambled to think about how to modernize the grid to avoid blackouts in places following superstorms of the future. Modernizing the grid wasn't the only lesson from Superstorm Sandy, though; the reliability of distributed generation solutions was revealed as well. As Stephen Lacey wrote about in Greentech Media's e-book, "Resiliency: How Superstorm Sandy Changed America's Grid:"

Letter: Ozone-standards vote disappointing

June 17, 2015

U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander betrayed Knox County's 32,000 asthma sufferers, their parents, the old and the sick in recently co-sponsoring a bill to block new Environmental Protection Agency ozone (smog) standards medical science says are crucial to public health in high-ozone regions like the Tennessee Valley. Smog kills 200,000 Americans a year. We cannot allow Alexander to sacrifice the health and the lives of Tennesseans because of polluters' economic scare tactics. Their argument is a scam. Safer ozone standards would classify several more East Tennessee counties as regulated non-attainment counties, but there's no evidence they would lag economically. In fact, non-attainment counties like Knox have thrived. The two states with the highest economic growth, California and Texas, have the worst non-attainment areas. Since 1970, the US economy has grown 240 percent as air pollution dropped 68 percent.

My friend's smog-induced asthma so crippled him in Knoxville he had to move to Florida, where he now bicycles for hours in Gainesville's clean air. However, smog harms everyone. A Hong Kong study found subjects regularly exercising in polluted air couldn't increase their aerobic capacity over time. If your child's aerobic capacity is even slightly compromised, they're in trouble if they're racing someone to the finish line. If you're a Vols receiver racing a guy who trains in Gainesville to the end zone at the end of a physical game, you're in trouble.

Alexander courageously stood up to the fossil fuel industry's billions in voting to say that human activity significantly contributes to climate change, but we need real action. The EPA is not the enemy, the polluters are. Their lies declare war on our health, our wealth, our children, our very world. We, our children, and our grandchildren need Alexander to become the hero we know he can be.

Todd Waterman, Clinton

"But the [centralized electricity] system didn't fail for everyone. Scattered throughout the ruin, tiny pockets of resiliency formed -- proving that smaller, cleaner, distributed technologies can be a powerful defense against crises on the grid."

As Lacey's report shows, existing hybrid-solar storage systems provided power in some devastated areas of New York and New Jersey, and off-grid solar generators provided relief to many people without power as part of relief efforts.

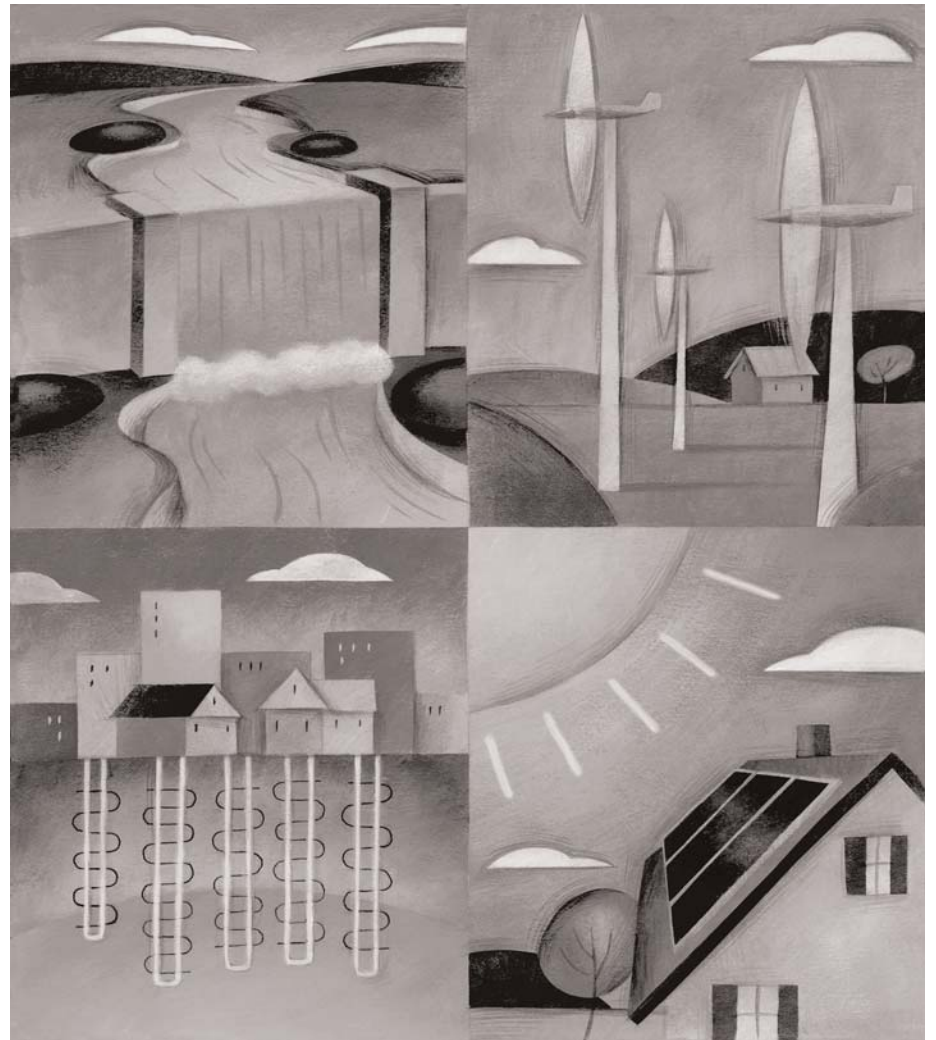
The resiliency of communities using distributed generation has been proven after other storms as well.

This is true both in major cities and in rural areas beyond the reach of the grid.

A recent example of this was highlighted by Kalluri Bhanumathi, whose coastal city of Visakhapatnam in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh was hit hard by last month's tropical Cyclone Hudhud. As Bhanumathi explained, the cyclone brought down trees, telephone poles, and buildings in her city, and left the city without power for a week. This affected other basic services such

as water supply and communications as well. However, Bhanumathi's family has a 5-kilowatt solar power generation system which continued providing power during and after Cyclone Hudhud. The fact that Bhanumathi's solar system remained intact meant that her household could maintain their own supply of clean water and cooked food. They had greater resilience to the storm than the rest of the city.

November 17, 2014 in Energy Solutions, India, International



Join TN Chapter First 2016 Retreat

Winter at Cedars of Lebanon State Park
Hike the Red Cedar Forest and Glades

Mark your 2016 calendar for January 29-31

Watauga Group hosting @ Group Lodge
Watch for more details in next issue of the *Tennes-Sierran*

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: September 14 and October 12 (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].

Come add your ideas and share your concerns. We'll be planning our actions on several fronts: clean energy, forest watch/protection, mining/fracking issues, and energizing our Outings program. All are welcome!

Program: September 28, Monday, 7:00 P.M. at greenspaces, 63 E. Main St., Chattanooga. Bats and White-Nose Syndrome

Cory Holliday is the Cave and Karst Program Manager for the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. His presentation will focus on the life history of North American cave bats, with special attention to local species. It will explore the roles bats play in our environment, with some interesting species highlights. He will discuss the emerging disease white-nose syndrome and how it is impacting our bats, especially in TN, and will conclude with an overview of white-nose syndrome research attempting to mitigate the effects of the disease.

The public is very welcome, healthy snacks are served.

Program: October 26, Monday, 7 P.M. greenspaces 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Frogs and Toads!

Lisa Powers of Froghaven Farm, is a Biologist/Herpetologist. While there is a real place called Froghaven Farm, Froghaven Farm is more a collection of the diverse ideas and talents of Lisa. This presentation will be about Frogs and Toads of Tennessee, with maybe some comments on our local snakes. Like other native animals, frogs are at risk. Lisa will inform us about some of the local issues with frog populations.

The public is very welcome, healthy snacks are served.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

September 8, 7:00 P.M. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville Seven Islands State Birding Park: From Cows to Cormorants

Justine Cucchiara, Park Manager Seven Islands State Birding Park, Tennessee State Parks.

How did Seven Islands State Birding Park come to be? What do they do out there? What the heck is a 'state birding park' anyhow?! Join Park Manager, Justine Cucchiara, as she answers these questions, and details the journey of this special property from its early days as dairy farm, to Tennessee's first state park dedicated to the management and conservation of birds.

Justine Cucchiara came to work at Seven Islands in 2010, and served there for two consecutive terms as an AmeriCorp volunteer. After completing her Bachelors of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Management with a Forestry minor at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Justine

was given the opportunity to apply her education directly to her position as Lands Manager at Seven Islands. Justine's passion for habitat restoration and conservation and everything that blooms, slithers, flaps or sings has found a happy home at Seven Islands State Birding Park, where she is free to let her inner 'bird nerd' fly!

October 13, 7:00PM Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Transformative Places: What makes a place worth returning to, worth setting aside and protecting? What makes it sacred?

Kim Trevathan, Professor, Maryville College
A native of Murray, Ky., Kim Trevathan likes to use his kayak and canoe as tools for meditation and writing. When he wants to add a little more excitement to his adventures, he takes along his 90-pound German shepherd, Norm, who hates swimming but likes to sit in the bow of a canoe. His books are "Paddling the Tennessee River: A Voyage on Easy Water" (2001), "Coldhearted River: A Canoe Odyssey down the Cumberland (2006), and "Liminal Zones: Where Lakes End and Rivers Begin" (2013). All three books were published by the University of Tennessee Press. He has been on the board of the Little River Watershed Association for the past two and a half years. His outdoor columns have appeared in the Daily Times, the Metro Pulse, and the Knoxville Mercury. Trevathan has been teaching writing (journalism, creative nonfiction, and fiction) at Maryville College for 15 years.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

ICO MEETING: September 7, 2015 (Monday) – 6:15 P.M. – Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet at the Mad Platter restaurant at 1239 6th Ave. North, Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids and senior citizens, and training. Contact Craig Jervis at cmjervis@comcast.net to make sure the meeting is still on. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

PROGRAM: September 10, 2015 (Thursday) - "Wildlife Viewing in Tennessee"— 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center.

We are excited to welcome Bill Reeves, Chief of Biodiversity with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), who will talk about wildlife viewing and Tennessee's programs, funding, and opportunities. He will also discuss the Biodiversity Division, as well as the critical issue of climate change and how it might impact wildlife and habitats in Tennessee. Warming temperatures have the potential for having serious consequences for our wildlife, forests, and waters.

Bill is a Certified Fisheries Scientist, co-founder and co-chair of the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP), a member of the Tennessee Tech University Advisory Board for the Center for the Management, Utilization, and Protection of Water Resources, and other related organizations. He is also an alternate on the USGS Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science. He has received a number of awards for his work and is the TWRA climate change coordinator, presenting information on "Climate Change Impacts to Tennessee Forests" to the visiting Chinese forestry delegation during their recent visit to Tennessee. You must enter the park from Granny White Pike to reach the visitor center (which may require ignoring your GPS). Free and open to the public.

LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: September 15, 2015 (Tuesday) - at 6:30 P.M. Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Meetings are usually held at

the Lucky Bamboo Restaurant, 5855 Charlotte Avenue, but there may be times we meet elsewhere. *If you are not a regular attendee*, please contact Betsy at (615) 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com in case the meeting location has changed. Come a bit early if you want to order dinner because we start the meeting at 6:30. We meet in a private room towards the back of the restaurant. Tell them you're looking for the Sierra Club. We look forward to seeing you.

ICO MEETING: October 5, 2015 (Monday) – 6:15 P.M. – Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet at the Mad Platter restaurant at 1239 6th Ave. North, Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids and senior citizens, and training. Contact Craig Jervis at cmjervis@comcast.net to make sure the meeting is still on. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

PROGRAM: October 8, 2015 (Thursday) 7:00 P.M. "Bats" at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. As Halloween approaches, what better time to join us for a presentation by Pandy English on bats! If you saw Robert English's presentation on owls, you'll know that any program by the Englishes is a treat of remarkable photography, intriguing sounds, interesting facts, and really good stories. You must enter the park from Granny White Pike to reach the visitor center (which may require ignoring your GPS). Free and open to the public.

LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: October 20, 2015 (Tuesday) - at 6:30 P.M. Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Meetings are usually held at the Lucky Bamboo Restaurant, 5855 Charlotte Avenue, but there may be times we meet elsewhere. *If you are not a regular attendee*, please contact Betsy at (615) 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com in case the meeting location has changed. Come a bit early if you want to order dinner because we start the meeting at 6:30. We meet in a private room towards the back of the restaurant. Tell them you're looking for the Sierra Club. We look forward to seeing you.

FALL FAMILY RETREAT – October 23-25, 2015. Join us at Pickett State Park. Joel and Cindy will be cooking, Randy will be leading hikes, and there may even be a bonfire with s'mores. See ad in this newsletter for details. Everyone is welcome!

ICO MEETING: November 2, 2015 (Monday) – 6:15 P.M. – Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet at the Mad Platter restaurant at 1239 6th Ave. North, Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids and senior citizens, and training. Contact Craig Jervis at cmjervis@comcast.net to make sure the meeting is still on. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

PROGRAM: November 12, 2015 (Thursday) 7:00 P.M. "Metro Nashville's Outdoor Recreation Program" at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Neel Deshpande, Metro Nashville's Outdoor Recreation Coordinator, will fill up in on what is available and what is happening in Nashville in the way of nature-related recreation. You must enter the park from Granny White Pike to reach the visitor center (which may require ignoring your GPS). Free and open to the public.

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

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

Outings

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

John Doyal is our Outings Chair, and point-person for outings information for our Group. Our activities are always open to the public and members of the Club from across the state! For more information, contact John at baldie052@yahoo.com. Also check our Meetup - Green Events page for the latest on our outings.

19 September (Sat) Etowah and Tellico Plains Historic/Cultural Tour. We will go on a historic tour of the Etowah Depot at 10 A.M. led by a local historian, followed by lunch in Tellico Plains. We will then travel to the Webb Brothers store in Reliance, and the Savannah Oaks Winery and Amish vegetable stand in Delano. Preregister with John Doyal, 423-596-8171, baldie052@yahoo.com

7 November (Sat) Cherohala Skyway. We are headed to the High Mountain Balds along the Cherohala Skyway for walks on the balds of Hooper Bald and Huckleberry Knob. Please bring your camera for the spectacular views of the Smoky Mountains and Snowbird Mountains. For details and to pre-register, contact John Doyal, 423-596-8171 or baldie052@yahoo.com.

Cherokee News

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CHICKASAW GROUP (MEMPHIS)

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

5 Sept (Sat.) Take-a-Hike, Bob's Bald, Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness. Enjoy great views from this high elevation destination in the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness. We access the bald by way of Beech Gap from the Cherohala Skyway. Six miles round trip, but by starting at Beech Gap there is only an 800 foot elevation gain on the hike to a magnificent bald at 5,420 feet elevation. Rated moderate. Driving distance/time 90 miles/2 hours. Preregister with Mac Post: 865-806-0980; mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred).

12-13 Sept (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Panthertown Valley, Nantahala National Forest. We will explore several waterfalls and granite domes of this 6,700-acre section of the Nantahala NF. The 3,600' valley is unusual in that it is relatively flat by southern

Appalachian standards and the mountain walls surrounding it are quite steep. Be prepared for adventure as the route has not been scouted by the leader. Hiking distance is expected to total about 15 miles; driving distance is about 160 miles each way. Pre-register with Rob Davis: 865-202-6661; hikinrob@charter.net (email preferred).

19-20 Sept (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Benton MacKaye Trail: Cherohala Skyway and Wigg Meadows to Sycamore Creek and Tellico River Backpack. This is one of the better sections of the almost 300 mile Benton MacKaye Trail that starts near Springer Mtn., Georgia, and continues to the Smokies. We'll start hiking at Mud Gap on the Cherohala Skyway (Tellico Plains to Robbinsville scenic highway), will pass Wigg Meadows, a nice grassy bald, and then hike downward to Sycamore Creek, a lovely mountain stream, and a great camp right above the creek on an old railroad grade. Then on Sunday we'll hike out to the Tellico River Road at the Fish Hatchery area. Total hiking distance is around 9 miles and it is rated easy since most of the hike is downhill. One-way drive: 77 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; C 742-2327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

27 Sept (Sun). Canoe/Kayak Float, French Broad River. This go-with-the-current float covers 10.5 miles from the TN 66 bridge to the Seven Islands public access point on the French Broad. Though far from pristine, this river does have some interesting sights and a bit of wildlife (and some not-so-wild life). There may be some shoal water, but no whitewater. Basic canoe/kayak skills are required. Adverse wind conditions are another possible "hazard." Sorry but we cannot provide boats, so you will have to contact a local outfitter and make your own arrangements for boats, paddles, and pfd. One-way drive: 25 miles. Preregister with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

17 Oct (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity Tour, Lead Cove, Bote Mountain, Finley Cane loop, GSMNP. A great recap for our biodiversity tour since we will be visiting many of the lower elevation forest types on this trip with fall colors. Distance, 7 miles. Rated Moderate. One-way Drive: 45 miles. Preregister with Mac Post: 865-806-0980; mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred).

24 Oct 24 (Sat). Paddle the Tellico Blueway. We will paddle the 11-mile Tellico Blueway from the put-in at the Big Creek Ramp on the Tellico River to the take-out at the Ballplay boat launch ramp on Tellico Lake. This is entirely a flatwater paddle with very little noticeable current. The first half of the Blueway is along the Tellico River channel or backwaters of Tellico Lake. At about the halfway point, the Blueway gradually widens into Tellico Lake. The entire Blueway is for the most part scenic and undeveloped with very little motorized boat traffic. The paddle is rated moderate. Because of the distance it is not suitable for novice paddlers. The HBG does not provide boats. Each participant will be responsible for their own kayak or canoe and pfd. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 229-5027.

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!

31 Oct (Sat). Dayhike, Meigs Creek, Meigs Mountain and Curry Mountain Trails, GSMNP. We'll day hike several trails that will lead to the top of Meigs Mountain, starting on the Curry Mountain Trail, following it to Meigs Mountain, and after traversing Meigs Mountain a way we'll descend on the Meigs Creek Trail to the infamous "Sinks" area. The fall colors should be at their peak on at least part of the trail and views of the high peaks of the Smokies will be an added attraction. Hiking distance will be 8.1 miles total. Rated Moderate because of the elevation change. One-way drive: 60 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 72-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

7 Nov (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Old Settlers Trail, GSMNP. Traveling the Old Settlers Trail, a hiker can see more traces of 19th and early 20th century mountain community life than any place else in the park. This trail illustrates the powerful force of forest succession after settlement. One-way drive: 55 miles. Contact Mac Post: 938-3116, mpost3116@aol.com.

14 Nov (Sat). Dayhike. Honey Creek (Big South Fork NRR). This is a rather challenging 5.6 mile loop trail. Originally, it was one of the ten Bowater 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 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. The hike is 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.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

We have an active outings schedule and want you to come along! Many times our outings are planned too late to be included in this newsletter. 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 Live Dangerously or Not to Live Dangerously? It's Our Choice

For everyone out there who has been having conversations about climate activism, here are some recent events. Around the nation, we keep on winning. Just last week, we announced coal plant retirement #165, when we won our campaign to retire the Reid Gardner plant in Nevada. Even better, the utility announced it will replace much of the power from the plant with a massive solar project.

In Asheville, the campaign featured in the *Years* episode, Duke Energy has announced for the first time that they're considering retiring the Asheville coal plant. The announcement comes in the wake of a horrific spill of toxic coal ash from a retired power plant that devastated over 70 miles of the Dan River flowing through North Carolina and Virginia. The public outcry that followed has sent shockwaves all the way to the governor's mansion. I helped lead a protest outside Duke headquarters a few weeks ago, and last week activists rallied at Duke's annual shareholder meeting, calling for the retirement of the Asheville plant and the cleanup of not only the Dan River spill, but all of Duke's coal ash sites in the state.

Meanwhile, Ian Somerhalder and his Ian Somerhalder Foundation have rallied people around the world through their #coalsucks social media campaign. The intentionally edgy and provocative hashtag is opening the eyes of millions to the threat of coal pollution and the urgency of moving to clean energy. All this momentum comes just as more climate alarm bells

are ringing.

Today, a national committee of experts in agriculture, climate science, commerce, and disaster relief released the National Climate Assessment. The report is the nation's foremost comprehensive, peer-reviewed analysis of the impacts of climate disruption, showing us the effects of climate disruption across the country. The headline - the U.S. is already being seriously affected by climate change. As you might guess, the assessment shows the significant toll on our health and wallets that extreme weather is already exacting across the U.S. Here are just a few findings from the report that stood out to me:

- The most recent decade was the nation's and the world's hottest on record, and 2012 was the hottest year on record in the continental United States.

- U.S. average temperature has increased by 1.3°F to 1.9°F since 1895, and most of this increase has occurred since 1970. Temperatures are projected to rise another 2°F to 4°F in most areas of the United States over the next few decades.

- Evidence indicates that the human influence on climate has already roughly doubled the probability of extreme heat events such as the record-breaking summer heat experienced in 2011 in Texas and Oklahoma. The incidence of record-breaking high temperatures is projected to rise.

- The stakes are high, as nearly five million Americans and hundreds of billions of dollars of

property are located in areas that are less than four feet above the local high-tide level.

- Climate change affects human health in many ways. For example, increasingly frequent and intense heat events lead to more heat-related illnesses and deaths and, over time, worsen drought and wildfire risks, and intensify air pollution.

- Certain groups of people are more vulnerable to the range of climate change related health impacts, including the elderly, children, the poor, and the sick.

More than 240 authors from across the country with diverse expertise helped create the National Climate Assessment, and this is especially disturbing – the findings are considered conservative estimates of the effects of climate disruption. The report is also very clear about this – the effects will only grow worse if we fail to curb carbon pollution, the main culprit behind climate disruption. **The assessment lets us know that it's not too late to act, but we must do it now if we want to stop the worst of the expected climate disruption.** You can weigh in right now and support EPA's efforts to tackle our biggest source of climate pollution – coal-fired power plants. We can choose to stop living dangerously by moving beyond coal, doubling down on clean energy, and holding our leaders accountable. We need your help. Join us.

--the foregoing is an excerpt from an article written by *Mary Anne Hitt, Beyond Coal Campaign Director* **May 06, 2014 in Coal**

Pipelines, Train Bombs and Oil Barges Part 1

The hot topic this very hot summer has been a wave of oil and gas pipeline projects across the State of Tennessee. The pipeline industry is rapidly consolidating and positioning itself to reap the rewards of the oil and gas fracking booms—for natural gas in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, and tight sweet oil in North Dakota and Montana. This new trend also includes the rapid development of oil by train and barge schemes.

PIPELINES EVERYWHERE

Tennessee is crisscrossed by dozens of large diameter—30-36" diameter pipelines—running parallel to the Mississippi River through West Tennessee, southwest to northeast through Middle Tennessee just west of Nashville, and southwest to northeast through Chattanooga and Knoxville. All of these pipelines were sited using federal powers of eminent domain for the purpose of delivering natural gas from Texas and the Gulf of Mexico to public utilities and industries in Tennessee and other Southern and Mid Atlantic states.

Using eminent domain to provide a public "necessity or convenience" is never popular but was deemed necessary by Congress to overcome the objections of farmers and other property owners opposed to the disturbance of their land, and with the Natural Gas Act of 1938 Congress granted the Federal Power Commission (reorganized as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 1977) the power to condemn unwilling landowners property. In addition, the Natural Gas Act claimed the legal field for what would become FERC, and gave them the power to preempt state and local safety and zoning laws.

Among other powers and responsibilities, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 gave FERC the authority to approve the siting of and abandonment of interstate natural gas facilities, including pipelines, storage and liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities. This is the same law that exempted fracking from the Safe Drinking Water Act and provisions of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. Coincidentally it was the next year, 2006, that the fracking boom really took off across the country.

Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking" has been used on conventional, vertical wells to stimulate production since the Sixties, but advancement in horizontal drilling in the late '90s opened up the production of oil and gas from shale formations and unlocked vast reserves of oil and natural gas that had previously been economical to extract. In particular, the Marcellus and Utica shales in PA, WV and OH and the Bakken shale in ND and WY became profitable and speculation ran rampant, drilling companies borrowed and invested huge sums in production, and the President and other elected officials gleefully declared

"100 years" of clean(er) energy. Over speculation, over development and over supply, however, quickly created an enormous glut, drove down prices and profits, and now producers are desperate to reach more lucrative markets abroad.

There are 5 Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals on the Gulf Coast currently being permitted or under construction, 3 in Louisiana and 2 in Texas. To reach these more lucrative markets, natural gas producers want to turn our infrastructure around, and use the same pipes that were built to bring us energy to export our natural resources to other countries. They are using the same laws that were passed to serve the needs of our communities to force new dirty infrastructure on our communities for their profit. Pipelines engineered to bring natural gas to our utilities and industries are being repurposed to carry Natural Gas Liquids (NGLs) and volatile crudes and diluted tar sands across our country for export to other nations.

TENNESSEE GAS PIPELINE PART 1

In late April, 2015, residents in the farming community of Joelton, just north of Nashville, received letters saying that Tennessee Gas Pipeline (now a subsidiary of pipeline mogul Kinder Morgan) intended to increase the pressure in the pipe running through their community to, in turn, increase the volume of the gas that the pipeline could deliver. This would require the installation of a 60,000 horse power compressor station in the midst of their community on an 86 acre wooded parcel that has been serving as roosting habitat for the bats upon which they are increasingly reliant upon in light of the decline of bees as a result of colony collapse disorder.

Alarmed that they were to become neighbors to a huge industrial facility that would belch "blow downs" of thousands of cubic feet of methane and other volatile organics, subject to the sound of the equivalent of 4 or more locomotives operating day and night, and inconvenienced my increases in truck traffic on their 2 lane rural road, the good citizens of Joelton started to fight back. They wrote letters to FERC asking that their livelihoods be considered—Joelton is home to numerous Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) gardens, aspiring certified organic farms and grass fed beef producers that support the growing Eat Local movement in Nashville. Other impacted neighbors included Paradise ridge Park and Walden's Puddle, a US Fish and Wildlife Service licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility.

On May 15 I was tipped off to this issue by a friend in Nashville (Charles White). I reached out to Lori Birkhead, an immediate neighbor to the proposed compressor station and found that she had enlisted the help of some dedicated neighbors, includ-

ing past State Representative and Metro Councilman Gary Moore and current District 7 Councilman Lonnel Matthews. They had a community meeting planned for the next day with US Representative Jim Cooper where dozens of residents that would be impacted addressed their concerns. I researched and/or acquired the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act permits required (the only permits not preempted by the Natural Gas Act) and on Monday, May 17 and Tuesday, May 18, we held public meetings to inform residents of their rights and the process of expressing their concerns through the FERC process, dictated by the National Environmental Policy Act.

I went up Monday morning to pick up what had been determined by the Davidson County Metro Health Department to be an "incomplete" application for a Title V Air Quality Permit and found out that the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) had just issued a General Permit for Utility Line Crossings Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit (ARAP) to Kinder Morgan to move on with their project. Due to provisions of Dick Cheney's Energy Policy Act of 2005, fugitive emissions from the compressor facility were exempt from the Clean Air Act and Kinder Morgan was also exempt from the Clean Water Act in terms of its ARAP.

Brian Paddock, the Tennessee Sierra Club Legal Chair, immediately consulted with Nick Leonardos, a candidate for the District 7 Metro race, to draft and submit an appeal to TDEC's issuance of a general permit. Metro Air Pollution assured us that they would not issue an Title V air permit without extensive consultation with the US EPA and other experts since this was the first compressor station they had been approached with. Title V public permit hearings will be coming up in August or September.

In the mean time, Metro Councilman Lonnel Matthews drafted a zoning ordinance, BL2015-1210, that would restrict interstate gas compressors to industrial zoning. The Davidson Metro Planning Commission unanimously recommended this ordinance for passage on June 25. On July 21, numerous elected officials including State Senator Steve Dickerson and Representative Brenda Gilmore, and 15 speakers from the impacted community, backed by hundreds of "no compressor" T-shirts asked the Metro Council to support Councilman Matthews ordinance. On August 4, the ordinance became law on third reading with 30 AYES, 3, NAES and 1 abstention. Next up, Air Permit, Water Quality permit appeal, and public hearings on FERC's Draft Environmental Assessment.

See <https://www.sierraclub.org/.../davidson-county-pipeline-compr...> for more info.

To be continued.

Drive Electric Week: Nationally and in Tennessee, September 12-20

Thousands of electric vehicle (EV) drivers and enthusiasts will parade along Main Streets, give ride-and-drives, visit elected officials, read city proclamations, answer hundreds of questions, boast the total number of miles driven oil-free by participants, all to highlight the fun, clean-air benefits, and cost-savings of electric cars during the week of September 12-20. This event is part of the fifth annual National Drive Electric Week, organized by Sierra Club, Plug In America and the Electric Auto Association

The Sierra Club's Beyond Oil campaign advocates for a switch to Electric Vehicles as one important way to reduce emissions and cut our addiction to oil. "Electric cars are a key part of our country's clean energy future, and they're a lot of fun to drive, said Gina Coplton-Newfield, Director of the Sierra Club's Electric Vehicles Initiative. "We're revved up for National Drive Electric Week 2015, which will offer the public, the media, and policymakers a great opportunity to come check out many of the 20-plus plug-in vehicles on the market."

"For 2015 the BMW i3 will be on the road

for the first full year, we expect deliveries of the Tesla Model X, an updated Chevy Volt, and a greater overall sales growth than we saw last year," said Tom Saxton, Plug In America's chief science officer. "We'll have lots to celebrate and share with new EV audiences."

Here in Tennessee events are set in Memphis, Chattanooga and Knoxville. In Memphis, at the Poplar Avenue Whole Foods, cars will be on display with presentations inside at the Salud Cooking classroom Monday, September 14, 4-7 PM.

Knoxville is set to display a variety of electric vehicles, with experts on hand to talk to passers-by, at the UT vs. the Western Carolina Catamounts game.

Chattanooga's Cherokee Group will again host its famous Electric Tail-gate Party Q & A at Whole Foods Northshore, under the Level 2 charging station, on Saturday, September 12th, 9 to 3. They welcome people to talk with owners and dealers about the pleasure of driving electric cars and see them up close, offering Ride-and-Drives of zero-emission and very-low emission vehi-

cles - cars and trucks. "Come get answers to all your questions on the newer generation more affordable cars, costs of operation, savings, available cars, area charging locations, home-charging options, rebates and tax incentives," invites Sierran Bill Reynolds, who is coordinating the *Drive Electric Chattanooga* event.

The Mayor of Chattanooga has proclaimed September 12-20, 2015 Chattanooga Drive Electric Week.

To locate an event near you, use this link: <https://driveelectricweek.org/events.php>. You can also register to help as a volunteer, and if you are the proud owner of an electric vehicle, please consider registering to bring your car-truck-bicycle to show it off!

National Drive Electric Week™



Quiz: Is an Electric Car Right for You?

A lot of people have heard the buzz around electric vehicles (EVs), but they don't know if an EV would be right for them. In fact, many don't even know what would be the right questions to ask themselves to figure out whether cars like the Tesla Model S, Nissan Leaf, Chevy Volt, or Ford C-Max Energi would fit their lifestyles -- not to mention their budgets.

I'm happy to report that we at the Sierra Club have launched a 'pick-a-plug-in' web tool to help people figure out which electric cars, if any, are right for them. I hope you'll check it out and share it with your friends. A poll last year found that nearly half of American households could purchase an EV for their next car; it would be a great fit for their driving needs, and they would have a place to charge it with electricity.

We're talking about many millions of people. Are you one of them. There are a lot of compelling reasons why more than a quarter million Americans have already bought EVs since they first came on the mass market a few years ago. They are cool high-tech wonders (imagine driving an iPhone!), there is

little or no need to ever visit a gas station (depending on whether you purchase a full battery electric or a plug-in hybrid car), they are much cheaper to fuel (the equivalent of about \$1 a gallon), and they are much better for the environment (even when considering the emissions from the electricity to charge them up). Also, there is a \$2,500-7,500 federal tax credit that comes with the purchase of an EV.

Many people live in cities and states where they can take advantage of additional incentives, like a purchase/lease rebate (in some places get a check in the mail for thousands of dollars -- I am not kidding!), carpool lane access, and special utility rates for EV drivers. Linked to our new 'pick-a-plug-in' web tool is our online EV Guide that has all of this information if you enter your zip

code. If you click on a specific EV, we'll even tell you how much you'll avoid in carbon emissions and fueling costs compared to the average conventional car.

But are EVs currently the right fit for everyone? No. For example, some people don't have a place to charge them with electricity. For many, though, it's simpler than they think. I had a basic 110 volt outlet installed on the side of my house, so I can charge up my car in our driveway.

Many people ask me, "What's the best electric car to get?" My answer is always, "it depends." How many miles do you drive in a typical day? Do you take a lot of long-distance trips? How much money are you willing to spend? There are nearly 20 great models available in the U.S. and more coming out every year. So, what are you waiting for? Check out 'pick-a-plug-in,' and start your EV journey.

-- Gina Coplton-Newfield, Sierra Club's Director of Future Fleet & Electric Vehicles Initiative. October 23, 2014 in Electric Vehicles

Citizen Science Project Seeks Tennessee Climate-Forestry Volunteers

By **Connie Barlow**

I am the founder, chief networker, and webmaster of TorreyaGuardians.org. We are the first organization to have performed "assisted migration" of a tree in the eastern USA already suffering from climate change. We've got lots of field experiments going on in the mountains of North Carolina -- but very few thus far in Tennessee.

Our actions were controversial when we began: in 2008 we planted seedlings in western North Carolina of the Florida *Torreya*, a yew-like conifer that is officially endangered in its historically native habitat (a tiny refuge in northern Florida). Audubon Magazine reported on our action in 2010 (see link below).

Assisted migration of *Torreya taxifolia* is rarely controversial today, and our efforts are now cited in scholarly papers. Importantly, everything we do is legal. There is a loophole in the Endangered Species Act for plants already established in botanical and private gardens and forests well outside the "native range" where the species grows in the wild.

Our volunteer "citizen science" project is already yielding results -- results well beyond the scope of projects undertaken by scientists working in accordance with the official ESA recovery plan (which does not yet include an "assisted migration" component). There are now videos you can watch of experiments underway in NC, OH, MI, and one in TN.

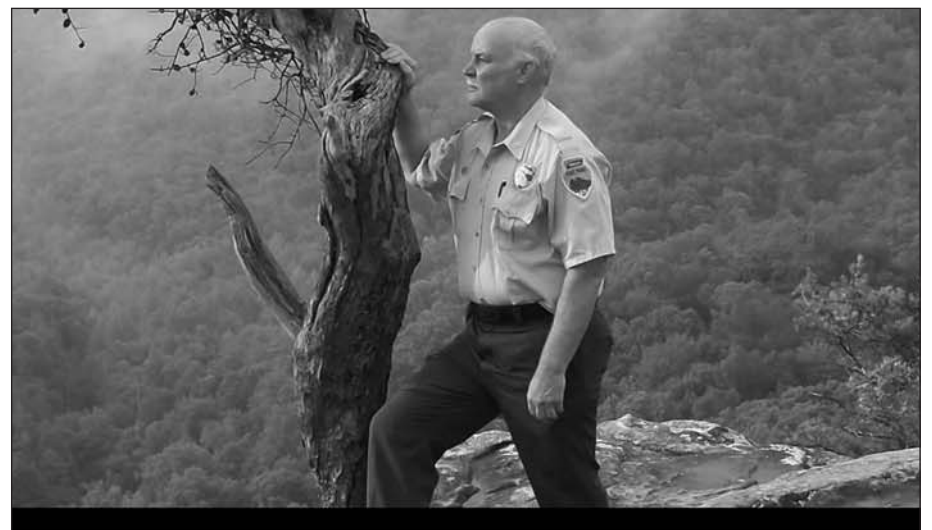
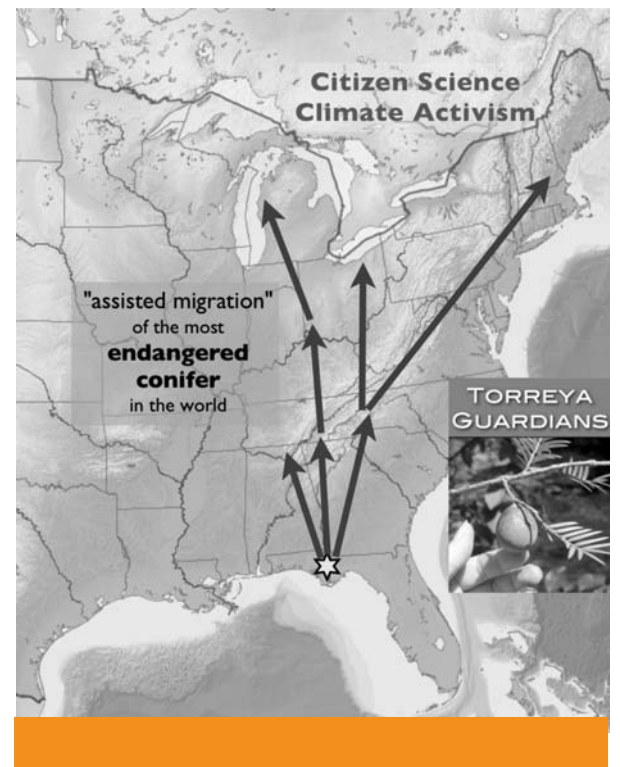
So if you or a friend owns forested property in Tennessee (particularly in mountainous terrain or on the Cumberland Plateau), please offer to plant some seeds and thereby help us (a) save this ancient endangered conifer and (b) further this first demonstration project of how citizens can actively engage in forestry climate action, using the best science available -- but requiring no taxpayer funds.

Learn about our project online: <http://www.torreyaguardsians.org>. From the

homepage, click on "What We Have Learned", and also visit the state-by-state pages to read about the actual projects and to meet the volunteers. Click on "Video Reports" for a fun way to see some of those projects in action. To access what Audubon Magazine wrote about us in 2010, google "Guardian Angels" Audubon.

For those uncertain about the legality of our project, see a pdf of excerpts of key passages from a 2013 paper published in the journal *Conservation Letters*. Link: <http://www.torreyaguardsians.org/shirey-2013-excerpts.pdf>.

If you want to learn about how scholars and journalists have been writing about "assisted migration" as a new conservation tool, access "Scholarly Articles and News" linked from our homepage. My "Contact" email is also linked there for those who volunteer to plant seeds (either "orchard" or "rewilded" style; visit our "Propagate" link to learn about planting and monitoring).



Register Today Sierra Fall Family Retreat October 23 thru 25

- Join us for a wonderful weekend of spectacular Fall colors, warm afternoons, and cool crisp nights in the great outdoors of Pickett State Park
- Pickett is located near Jamestown and is adjacent to the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area
- Meet old friends and make new ones while experiencing nature at its finest
- Bring the family – everyone is welcome
- Weekend activities abound
 - o Hikes both days with State Naturalist
 - o Silent auction
 - o Saturday evening program on Iceland
 - o Saturday evening campfire with s'mores
 - o Gourmet Saturday evening meal prepared by the Gearhardt's
 - o Saturday committee meetings (only if you are interested)
 - o Sunday morning business meeting (again, only if you choose to attend)
 - o Or, just take off on your own and explore
- **Meals**
 - o Saturday and Sunday breakfast, Saturday evening meals – included in weekend price
 - o Saturday and Sunday lunch – bring your own for the trail or the activity you choose
- **Lodging**
 - o Dorm-style lodging with separate buildings for men, women, and mixed company
 - o Be sure to bring your own bedding, towels, and toiletries (towels are the most often forgotten item)
- **Saturday evening program**
 - o Iceland as experienced by Meg Robertson and Adelle Wood
 - o "Meg and Adelle's Excellent Adventure" includes beautiful photos, travel stories, and more

• State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath is true educator of the flora and fauna. Join him on one or more of the following hikes. Don't miss out.

Lake and Island Trails - Saturday 9 A.M. to Noon

Part 1 of a 3-part tour of the day trails of Pickett State Park. This includes the heart of the park and is the best way to understand why State Forester Hazard was so enamored with this area in the 1920's. Part 1 will feature the lake and the natural bridge that leads to the Island. You will see how it is possible to canoe around the Island and have a dry walk to the island at the same time. This is an easy 2 miles and we should be done in time to get back to camp for lunch.

Hazard Cave and Natural Bridge Trails - Saturday 2 P.M. till 5 P.M.

Part 2 consists of two loop trails totaling 3 miles of moderate difficulty, and will take us to some of the most extraordinary rock formations in the park, and will feature some interesting flora along the way.

Ridge Trail - Sunday at 10 A.M.

On Sunday morning we will complete the tour with a very pleasant walk through the woods with beautiful scenery that is not as popular with the casual visitor. There will interesting rock formations and lovely forest on this 3-mile easy stroll.

Weekend pricing structure

- o Adult Early Bird Pricing - \$40. Email received by Friday, October 16
- o Adult Standard Pricing - \$50. Email received after Friday, October 16
- o College students - \$15
- o Children 15 and under are free
- o Day registration fee (No meals or lodging) - \$5 per day

Registration

- o Email Charlie High at cahigh1722@aol.com or telephone at 615 500-5499 for early bird reservation
- o Voicemail is available
- o Reservations will be confirmed in same form made, if received by October 16, 2015
- o Be sure to specify Vegetarian or Omnivore
- Payment due upon arrival

Moving?



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

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Member ID# _____

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

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