

Tennesse-Sierran

The bi-monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 40, Number 1 - January/February, 2009

Tennessee Chapter Members Reflect on Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee

Compiled by Don Richardson

The Second Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee returned to Lipscomb University in Nashville on November 13-15 with standout speakers and an agenda designed to maximize networking on sustainability issues in Tennessee. Sponsored primarily by Tennessee Environmental Council, Tennessee Conservation Voters and Greener Tennessee, the event drew 175 attendees from across the state with over 20 from the Tennessee Chapter.

The unique structure of breakout groups brought people together through multiple overlapping categories of connection. Each day the sessions built stronger agreement as issues and concerns were identified, blended and prioritized, leading up to the final afternoon's summaries of each focus area and issue group. These reports, along with the detailed agenda and breakout groups are posted on www.SustainableTN.org and will be compiled into statewide "sustainability agendas" to be posted in the near future.

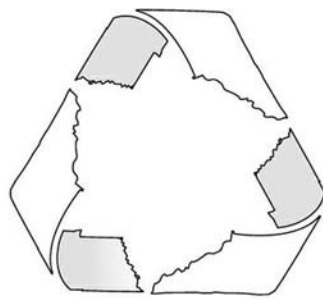
Tennessee Chapter members contributed their efforts starting earlier in the year on programming and session development, and during the summit they facilitated sessions and workshops. Follow-up forums on each focus area and issue group will be featured on a new website, www.GreenerTennessee.org. All Tennesse-Sierrans are encouraged to join others on the forums to create action networks for their personal issues and together build a more sustainable Tennessee.

Here are more specific highlights and reflections from attending Sierra members:

Diane Perschbacher, Nashville:

Nashville's Mayor Dean was the opening keynote speaker and kicked off the summit with encouraging news. Last June, he created a green ribbon committee on environmental sustainabil-

ity to further the goal of making Nashville a model of sustainability. He updated conference attendees on accomplishments to date: Curbside recycling has been expanded into new regions, a community park plan has been requested, and a new bus transfer station was just opened. In the future, Dean would like to see Nashville expand transportation options and complete a comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory.



SUSTAINABLE
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Steve Sondheim, Memphis:

Energy and Sustainable Energy: Transportation contributes 1/3 of our energy and 40% of our greenhouse gases. Solutions: Ask government to plan for more access with less vehicle miles traveled, reduce trips and use more efficient transportation, live closer to what you do and do what is closer to you, and encourage energy efficient buildings, energy efficiency/conservation and use of renewable energy.

Quality Growth: We discussed land use plans to move people closer to destinations and destinations closer to people for less energy use, closer community, and mixed-use re-development. Rick Bernhardt discussed Nashville's plan to implement these ideas.

Building The New Economy: How con-

sumers and businesses can cooperate for more green jobs, less energy use, less packaging, and more sustainability. We were impressed how the business community is progressing on sustainability, including such examples as the US Post Office, FedEx, and 3M.

Nuclear Issues: Three focus areas emerged: 1) Protecting radioactive waste processed and incinerated in Tennessee from imported sources such as Italy and other states, 2) reprocessing of nuclear fuel at Oak Ridge, and 3) new nuclear power plants in Tennessee.

Axel Ringe, New Market:

In the natural infrastructure session that I facilitated, Curt Garrison of Nashville's Parks Department illustrated Nashville's many efforts in creating a green, sustainable city.

I followed that with a presentation on defining green infrastructure, providing a 7-step implementation plan for developing a statewide green infrastructure network at multiple scales from the local community level to the entire state. Participating individuals and organizations were encouraged to go back to their communities and begin advocating for the establishment of this network.

Mary Mastin, Cookeville:

As chair of the summit government committee, I was quite pleased that we were able to agree on a draft agenda of short term and long-term legislative priorities.

During the water issues session, presentations were made by watershed associations and local water and utility districts. Also included was a PowerPoint by TDEC on the importance of protecting our headwater streams and the definitions of waters of the state.

The top priority action item was to work with the Water Quality Control Board, state regulators and the state legislature to maintain TDEC's authority to enforce the rules protecting waters of the state and to secure protection of water quality and quantity through maintaining the current definition of waters.

Mary Margaret Ware, Memphis:

The air quality sessions were the most meaningful for me. Mike Crosby from Knoxville described the steps taken to address problems and how to form a local air quality action group. Progressing to the state level, the Tennessee air quality standards were explained by a Tennessee State regulator.

The final session culminated with prioritizing objectives for air quality based on whether they were "doable" and their "degree of impact." I believe that all the participants of the air quality sessions felt that something had been achieved and felt hopeful about future action through a statewide network of interested persons.

(continued on page 3)



Photo by Mary Margaret Ware

Chapter attendees: Don Richardson, Gary Bowers, Diane Perschbacher and Penny Brooks

Tennes-Sierran

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

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SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: lbaker@usw.org
Snail Mail: Lynne Baker, Tennes-Sierran Editor
108 Pepper Ridge Circle, Antioch, TN 37013
(615) 831-6782

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 10th of the month preceding the new month's issue.

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to lbaker@usw.org either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Attached files are preferred. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. 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 cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

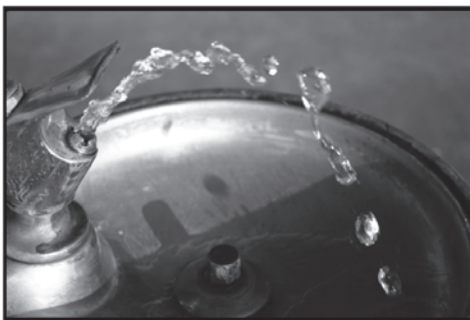
The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

Middle Tennessee Group Forming Program Committee

Programs are a huge part of MTG's environmental education and outreach to the community. The program chair invites you to join a new committee to plan programs for 2009. A small commitment of time is required with big rewards for you and the group. Please contact Adelle Wood for more info. 665-1010, adelleintn@juno.com.



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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
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zeblady@twlakes.net
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Treasurer: Ralph Bowden
Secretary: Peggy Evans
Conservation: Easton Evans
Outings: Vacant

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Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org
Bill McCabe, Central Appalachian EJ Organizer
office - 423-944-3220 fax - 423-944-3221 (call first)

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Tennessee Chapter Members Reflect on Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee

(continued from page 1)

Bill Terry, Nashville:

There was a considerable amount of interest in the subject of quality or smart growth as opposed to typical growth as we have come to know it. The real issue here concerns how citizens can affect the path that growth takes in their communities because although many want to change the course of the growth process, they don't always know how or where to make their input effective. Our challenge here is to provide education and strategy to those who need it.

Senator Bill Ketron presented us with something of a sleeper issue but one of great importance and grave consequences if we ignore it. This is the issue of water, specifically water supply. This is not just how many gallons per day a water supplier can treat and pump, but how much is actually available from the water resource base. Currently, there is a disconnect between growth, planning, economic development and a water supply that can support all of that. The issue is "Will we outgrow our available water resources?" as they have done in many parts of the arid west. The lingering drought will tell us.

Peggy Evans, Cookeville:

The thing that sticks in my mind is the session on solid waste/recycling. I was still on the fence regarding nuclear power—greenhouse gases from one nuclear facility as opposed to

10 coal-fired plants with no scrubbers, for example. Diane D'Arrigo, a national leader from D.C., shared a lot of facts, especially regarding the transportation of more nuclear waste to our state, i.e. to Oak Ridge. With so many new facts I am now dead set against nuclear power. Making the state radioactive is definitely not sustainable.

Penny Brooks, Ashland City:

I became more and more convinced that dozens of single simple acts by thousands of individuals can do more to save energy than any major government regulatory effort, and cost much less.

James H. Baker, Memphis:

Sustainability may be the new buzzword; however, one could more bluntly call it "survivability." Our increasing human population is slowly but surely destroying the life support systems of Planet Earth. Summit partners must show the rest of the United States and the world that sustainability is not just a word to throw out to make everyone feel good about themselves, but a series of actions designed to improve Tennessee's economy and environment, as well as be a model to improve Planet Earth's eco-systems. It will take sacrifice, but it will be worthwhile for future generations of Tennesseans. The summit is a productive step in the right direction.



FOR ONLY \$40, YOU CAN ENJOY: Hiking - good food - PLUS the Executive Committee meeting, which will meet Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

Lodging is in a modern group lodge that has a total sleeping capacity of 80 people. There are two dorms with 20 bunk-beds in each that provide private restrooms and showers.

Bring your own bedding, towels and lunches.

Breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday and Saturday night dinner are provided. You are on your own for Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. **Other rates apply for partial attendance.**

Directions: Cedars of Lebanon State Park is located approximately 31 miles east of Nashville in Wilson County. It is 6 miles south of I-40 on U.S. Highway 231 (State Route 10). The park sign is on the right side of the road and the entrance is on the left side. The park's office number is: 615-443-2769.

2009 Winter MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

To register, please clip out and mail this registration form by Saturday, January 10 to:
David Reister, 10366 Rather Road, Knoxville 37931

If you know you will attend but are unable to mail your registration by the deadline, please contact David at: David.DReister@BellSouth.net or 865-670-8991 by the deadline date in order to be assured of meals.

Name: _____

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Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Number of adults @ \$40: _____

Number of children under age 13 @ \$20 (what ages?): _____

Number of vegetarians _____ Number of omnivores _____

Total enclosed (Make check payable to Harvey Broome Group). \$ _____

The Chair's Corner

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

Greetings! I hope your holiday season was joyful and "green!" I enjoyed spending time with many of you last month during meetings including the Harvey Broome, Middle Tennessee, and Watauga groups. In January 2009 I will be visiting the Cherokee, Chickasaw, State of Franklin, and Upper Cumberland groups. Our chapter has dedicated activists making a difference all across our state.

The first week in December 2008 I attended a conference held by the Mississippi River Team. The focus of the meeting was on phosphate and nitrogen that contaminate water that makes its way to the Mississippi River. These substances contribute to the "dead zone" in the Gulf. Phosphate and nitrogen originate primarily from fertilizer and waste products excreted from animals raised in confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Another contributor of phosphate is household cleaning products such as dishwasher detergent. Storm water run-off from yards treated with fertilizers contributes to nitrogen and phosphate pollution.

CAFO issues in Tennessee have been isolated to mostly rural areas and generate attention when they become a "not in my back yard" concern. You may ask, "How do these issues affect me, and what can I do about them?" First of all, clean water is vital to us all. Whenever you see a water source that is being polluted, contact authorities and voice your concerns. An easy way that you can make a difference in adding phosphate to water sources is by changing your household cleaning products, such as dishwasher detergent, to those not containing phosphate. Collectively, through small changes in our lifestyles, we can make a difference in cleaning up our water.

Please go ahead and make your reservation for our Winter Chapter meeting at Cedars of Lebanon State Park January 30 to February 1, 2009.

I'm looking forward to a productive 2009 in the work of our chapter. If you haven't attended a meeting lately, I challenge you to make one of your New Year's resolutions to get involved with your group or with our chapter.

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet.

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

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Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PLEASE NOTE THAT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE OUR 2009 PROGRAMS WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 PM RATHER THAN 7:30 PM!

JANUARY 2009 PROGRAM: "Canoeing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area." Tuesday, January 13, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northern Minnesota and the contiguous Quetico Wilderness Park in Canada provide what most people agree is the world's best canoe country. Thousands of clean and scenic lakes are connected by land trails (portages). Hear the haunting sounds of loons, see bald eagles flying overhead and outcrops of granite rock, and experience perfect campsites. There is all this and more. Several members of the HBG have made repeated visits to canoe these areas over the years, including a trip this past summer. Will Skelton will show digital photos of this and past trips and will be joined by some of the other 2008 participants—Ray Payne, Barbara Allen, Kim Robinette, Lance McCold, and Carol Coffey—in talking about their experiences. Everyone is welcome.

FEBRUARY 2009 PROGRAM: Tuesday, February 10, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. Focusing on a little-known aspect of global biological change almost in our own "backyard," Dr. Arthur C. Echternacht, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Tennessee, will present "Endangered Iguanas in the West Indies: Trouble in Paradise?"

MARCH 2009 PROGRAM: Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. Our Annual Outings Meeting! Pictures, maps and discussions of all HBG day hikes, backpacks, canoe trips, etc. for the next year (through February 2010). This is your chance to make exciting outdoor plans and talk with trip leaders. Ron Shrieves, our outings chair, will preside. For further information, contact him at 865-922-3518 or ronaldshrieve@comcast.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, January 8, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Sierra Club will have a shared program with Audubon this month. Our speaker will be award-winning nature photographer, Alice Klingshirn. She will show slides from her October 2008 photo safari in Namibia. These superb slides range from red sand dunes more than 1,000 feet above the desert floor to endemic reptiles to Himba nomads, as well as the wildlife one would expect on such a safari, including elephants, lions, giraffes, and flamingos. You will learn about customs and culture of native peoples and will maybe feel a bit better about January's temperatures when you learn that Alice was in a climate where the thermometer ranged up to 123° F. Please plan to join us for this armchair adventure. Free and open to the public.

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, February 12, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Riverboat pilot Captain Vic Scoggin is known to many as the intrepid man who spent two months swimming the 696-

mile length of the Cumberland River in the summer of 1996 to draw attention to the pollution that beset it. He took a 2 ½ month leave from his job and used more than \$10,000 of his own money, plus donations, to finance the swim.

Fast forward to the present time, when Vic is battling to save the habitat of the federally endangered Nashville crayfish, which is found only in the Mill Creek watershed in Davidson and Williamson counties. Although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists water quality, stream bank clearing, stream modification, and development as the top threats to this critically endangered creature, the proposed Cumberland Yacht Harbor would most certainly entail each of the above threats. While a crayfish may not seem as "sexy" as some other endangered species, we need to remember John Muir's caution that "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." Please come to this important program to learn what is being done and what you can do. As Vic Scoggin has said, "Someone has to get out there and do something about the environment, about the water, the air and the land because this is what is going to keep us alive." Free and open to the public.

STRATEGY MEETING: LOOK! MTG has changed its meeting from the 4th Tuesday of each month to the 3rd Monday.

January 19 and February 16, 6:30 p.m. in the old St. Bernard's Academy Building, 2021 21st Avenue South, 4th floor. Conservation issues are first on the agenda, and all members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net or call 792-2590. If you come to the meeting and the building doors are locked, call Rachel's cell at 406-9204.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY/PROGRAM MONTHLY MEETING: 6:00 p.m. at the "The Acoustic Coffee House- Next Door" at 450 West Walnut in Ole Town Johnson City. Contact Tom Mozen at mozenetc@yahoo.com or 423-232-0827 for the date and more information.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

MONTHLY MEETING: Every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Putnam County Library. Alternating program meeting with planning meetings every other month. For more information, contact Mary Mastin at marymastin@twlakes.net or (931) 268-2938.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

NEW MEETING PLACE & DATE: We will be meeting from now on at the Chattanooga GreenSpaces offices, located at 63 E. Main Street. Located in the Main Street Arts district, it is kiddy-corner across the street from the fire hall, about a block from Market Street. (GreenSpaces provides resources on environmentally responsible building and design and gives incentive funding for LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] certification and other green building prac-

tices; the renovated building and offices serve as an outstanding example of green building practices and are well suited to our needs!) There is plenty of parking along the street.

Our new meeting date is the last Monday of each month. Expect a short STRATEGY (business) Meeting of the Executive Committee (and all other interested people welcome) from 6:00-6:30, with our PROGRAM Meeting at 7:00 pm. Our format will be an interesting educational program and discussion, followed by coffee/tea and some socializing! Put us on your calendars now!

(ORGANIZING) STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, January 12, 6:00 p.m. at "Good Dog" restaurant on Frazier Avenue in North Chattanooga. We'll open and count our Executive Committee ballots, elect officers and discuss which issues we want to be involved in. Come on and bring your interests and enthusiasm! Anyone to lead outings? And we hear the food is great at Good Dog!

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING: Monday, January 26 at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street. Come at 6:00 p.m. for STRATEGY session. PROGRAM at 7 p.m.: **Bruce Wood**, president of BURNT, will do a program on **efforts for reform in our state's solid waste regulations.** He will speak to the need of citizens' letters/emails to our legislators about bills coming before them to divert food waste, yard waste and paper/cardboard from landfills, as well as give a general overview of solid waste regulatory issues that keep our state burdened with unnecessary garbage (for more info - <http://www.burnt-tn.org>).

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING: Monday, February 23 at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Mail Street. Come at 6:00 p.m. for STRATEGY session. PROGRAM at 7 p.m.: "The True Cost of Food Campaign" and our Local Grower Networks. This program begins with the showing of The True Cost of Food, a 15-minute educational and entertaining DVD about sustainable food. Following it will be a discussion led by guests from local farmer networks. Come and meet our local growers!

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE: For up-to-date information, don't forget you can check our website, www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chokeee or contact Barbara Kelly, 423.718.5009 / rpyle@chattanooga.net

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Chickasaw Group Strategy Meeting, January 12 & February 9, 6:30pm, Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell—This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Nancy Ream by January 9 (January meeting) or February 6 (February meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 759-9416 or njream@aol.com.

Public Issues Forum, the League of Women Voters and Chickasaw Group "MLGW Environmental Discussion," Thursday, January 15, 6:30 pm. University of Memphis Law School main campus, room number to be posted on Chickasaw website and yahoo group, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierraclub-chickasaw/>—This will be a joint program with Public Issues Forum and the League of Women Voters.

Outings

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignWaiver.pdf>, or call 415-977-5630 for a printed version. Transportation to the outing,

Meetings (continued from page 8)

Representatives from MLGW will discuss the recent huge environmental fine that was levied against them as well as what will be involved in the clean up and the projected timetable. For more information, contact Nancy Ream at njream@aol.com.

Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Program Meeting -- "Financial Permaculture: The Transition Toward Post-Petroleum Economies," Thursday, January 22, 7:00-9:30pm., Cordova Branch Library, 8457 Trinity Road—Learn tools and skills to address the economic and environmental challenges of 21st century America as we explore creating forward looking sustainable businesses, money cycling, local investments, and optimizing the local natural and human resources to implement models of regenerative business and local sustainability. Program starts at 7:00pm. Come at 6:30 for social time! For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at bus@thecave.com

Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Program Meeting -- "The Future of the Greenline," Wednesday, February 25, 7:00-9:30pm., Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue.—Program starts at 7:00pm. Come at 6:30 for social time! For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at bus@thecave.com

TELEVISION PROGRAM:

WYPL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee, - Mondays at 1:30am, 8:30am, 3:00pm, Tuesdays at 3:30am and 10:00pm, Wednesdays at 8:00pm, Thursdays at 5:30am and noon, Fridays at 11:30pm, and Saturdays at 12:30pm and 7:30pm. "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program on cable channel 18. For complete schedule listings on cable channel 18, please see the website: www.memphis-library.org/tlc18/schedule. For more information about "The Nature of Conservation," or if any groups or individuals in the community have a special concern and would like to see a program on it, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu

A Yahoo Group for the Sierra Club

Sierra Club-Chickasaw Group and Friends is a Yahoo group for members and friends of the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club (Memphis/West TN). It is an announcement-only email list to send notices of upcoming events and other "green" information of local interest. All announcements are accessible to the public, so you can look up the latest posts anytime! To view and/or join the Yahoo group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierraclub-chickasaw/>

WATAUGA GROUP (North Eastern 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.

including carpooling, ride-sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

January 1 (Thursday), 2009—New Year's Day hike at UT Arboretum (on the way to Oak Ridge). We'll do 3 - 4 miles around the grounds in the forest and on the sunny hills. UT is studying the effects of weather, bugs, fertilizer, etc. on various plants at this location. Meet at the arboretum at 10:00 AM (so you can sleep in a little bit). Rated easy. Call to preregister with Linda Smithyman at 865-335-3559 or lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com.

January 24-25, 2009—Winter Backpack, Bob's Bald. Our starting point is at Beech Gap on the Cherahala Skyway, a drive of about 1 hour 45 minutes from Knoxville. The hike is about 3 miles, with an 800 foot elevation gain. Bob's Bald is a large open grassy area with a good spring nearby. This hike is rated moderate to difficult depending on weather. The views are excellent, and the campsite is superb. With any luck, we'll get some great late winter views. While the hiking distance is relatively easy, the weather can be extreme at this high elevation (5,400 feet). High winds, some ice and snow are possible, so good winter gear is critical. Please speak with the hike leader if you have not previously backpacked in the winter. Rated difficult. Destination will be changed if there is a problem with road access to Beech Gap. Preregister with Ron Shrieves: 922-3518; ronaldshrieves@comcast.net.

February 28-March 1, 2009—Winter Breakout Backpack, Gregory Bald, GSMNP. We'll hike up the Gregory Ridge and Gregory Bald Trails to campsite #13 at Sheep Pen Gap, passing through the beautiful Gregory Bald about one-half mile before we get to the campsite. This is a large campsite, probably one of the best in the park. The hike out will be down the remainder of the Gregory Bald Trail to Parson's Branch Road (closed in winter), and north along the road to complete our loop. Distances are 6.5 miles on the first day, and about 8 miles on the second day. Rated difficult. High winds, some ice and snow are possible, so good winter gear is critical. Please speak with the hike leader if you have not previously backpacked in the winter.

Destination will be changed, perhaps to the Porters Flat campsite, if there is a problem with road access or likelihood of heavy snow. Preregister with Ron Shrieves: 922-3518; ronaldshrieves@comcast.net.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

Contact Tom Mozen, SOF Group chair, at (423) 232-0827 or mozenetc@yahoo.com about any outings.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

February 28-March 7, 2009: 3rd Annual Clair Tappaan Lodge Ski Trip Make your reservation now to go with the Tennessee Chapter to Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge for a week that you will never forget! This is the third year for the Tennessee Chapter to host a ski trip for its members. Clair Tappaan Lodge is located 7,000 feet in California's Sierra Nevada, 45 minutes west of Reno, Nevada. Activities planned for our week at Clair Tappaan include cross-country skiing and exploring the Lake Tahoe area. Skiing classes are available at the lodge.

Accommodations are in bunk beds equipped with mattresses. Bring your own bedding and towel. Restroom and shower facilities are shared

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!

with two men's and two women's bathrooms. Meals are served family style.

Price for the trip is \$600 per person and includes lodging, all meals from supper on February 28 thru breakfast on March 7 and transportation from airport to lodge and back to airport. Trip price does not include airfare, ski rental, ski lessons, ski fees, incidentals, breakfast and lunch on February 28 and supper on March 7.

Reservations are limited to six participants. **Non-refundable \$100 deposit due by January 1, 2009** made to TN Chapter Sierra Club Outings, P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229. Remainder of fees due January 26, 2009.

Complete information regarding equipment rental rates, cross-country skiing activities planned, accommodations and any other inquiries may be directed to Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org. Payment by credit card is available. (Educational, Conservation)

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Sierra Club Film Night - Movie to be determined. January 2009, Power House, 45 G.E. Patterson (between Main and Front)—The date and movie for the January Film Night are being determined. Check the group website at <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/> for updated information. Sierra Club film night is hosted by Power House Memphis. Admission is free (with donations accepted), and refreshments will be available. Come early to get a good seat. For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at bus@thecave.com

Sierra Club Film Night - Movie to be determined. Wednesday, February 18, 7:30pm, Power House, 45 G.E. Patterson (between Main and Front)—The movie for the February Film Night is being determined. Check the group website at <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/> for updated information. Sierra Club film night is hosted by Power House Memphis. Admission is free (with donations accepted), and refreshments will be available. Come early to get a good seat. For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at bus@thecave.com

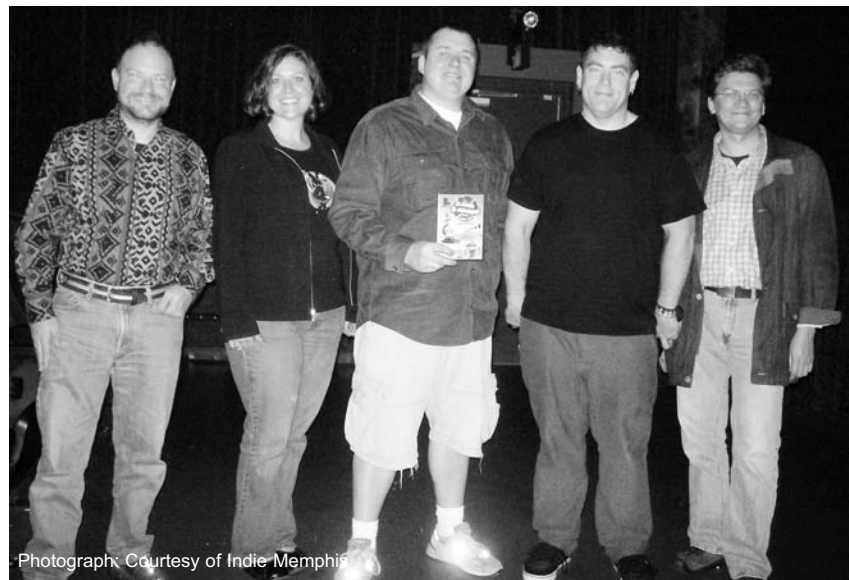


Chickasaw Group News

(Contributed by Various Members)

Environmental Film in November

Next door to the opulence and ritz of Palm Springs, California there is an amazing, horrifying, and almost unbelievable place, the Salton Sea. Close to being there was the realism of the special one night showing on November 12 of, *Plagues and Pleasures on the Salton Sea*.



Photograph Courtesy of Indie Memphis
A Showing of "Salton Sea." Left to Right: Chickasaw Group's Tom Lawrence, Power House's J'Laine Henderson, filmmaker Chris Metzler, Power House's George Henderson, Indie Memphis' Eric Jambor.

The independent film was hosted by the Sierra Club, Indie Memphis and Power House Memphis at The Studio on the Square in Memphis. Chris Metzler, the film's co-creator was on hand to discuss the film with the audience and to give an in depth dialogue of his experience making the film.

The film is part history and part cautionary tale of this place once known as the "California Riviera." Created by an engineering error in 1905, reworked in the 1950s as a world class vacation destination for the rich and famous, suddenly abandoned after a series of hurricanes, floods, and fish die-offs, and finally almost saved by Congressman Sonny Bono, the Salton Sea is now a fetid, stagnant, salty lake with an undetermined future.

Chickasaw Group November Program Meeting

Judge Larry Potter of the Shelby County Environmental Court spoke to Chickasaw Group members on November 19 at the Benjamin Hooks Central Library. Judge Potter's court was, at its founding in 1983, one of the few courts in the nation that dealt with environmental issues.

Since those early years, there has been a dramatic increase in caseload: Judge Potter said that about 40,000 infractions are disposed of each year. He hears cases about municipal codes, state law, and county ordinances. Suspected violations of the health code, housing code, fire code, and building code all come before him.

He gave some examples of successes to the gathered Sierra Club members. Judge Potter took questions from concerned members before, during, and after his informal talk. Visit the environmental court online at the Shelby County government's website, <http://www.shelbycountyttn.gov> or to report littering (with time of day, and, if from a car, license number) call (901) 522-5326 (52-CLEAN).

Chickasaw Group Successfully Fights Super Wal-Mart

By Sue A. Williams

The Chickasaw Group objected to the new development of a Super Wal-Mart at Houston Levy and Macon Road before the Shelby County Commission. Our objections included the detrimental effect on water quality and that the proposal would have led to unsustainable development at a time when the county was undertaking the "Sustainable Shelby" initiative.

Voting in support of our position were Commissioners Avery, Flinn, Carpenter, Brooks, Harvey, Ford, Bunker, Lillard, Mulroy, and Malone. Those who will need further education about sustainability issues are Ritz, Gibson, and Chism.

The proposed Wal-Mart was in the Gray's Creek watershed. Gray's Creek, which feeds into the Wolf River, is not as clean as it needs to be under the law. The Clean Water Act requires rivers to be classified for swimming, fishing, and for domestic water use. The State of Tennessee's Department of Environment & Conservation/Division of Water Pollution Control (TDEC/DWPC) is responsible for enforcement of the Clean Water Act under an agreement with EPA.

Gray's Creek is listed by TDEC/DWPC as not conforming to the Clean Water Act's requirements for 2008 because it has lost biological integrity. It suffers from silt—frequently from development—alterations for developments—such as long sections of culverts and rip rap—and other pollutants (arsenic, copper, lead, phosphate). It has been on every non-conforming list since at least 2004; this means that Gray's Creek is still not meeting legal standards for all its designated uses.

Runoff rain during construction from the proposed Wal-Mart would have flowed into Gray's Creek. After construction, storm water runoff from the parking lots and the roof

would also have gone to Gray's Creek. The grading and drainage plan depicted three storm water detention ponds, but those were only designed to hold excess water when there was a lot of rain. They would have done nothing to improve water quality.

TDEC/DWPC has not defined any level of acceptable pollutants or processes to address the above listed pollutants for this creek [called the "Total Maximum Daily Load" (TMDL)].

The group's position was that any further land development activities in the Gray's Creek Watershed, including approving the proposed Wal-Mart, should not be allowed until the state's TMDL program restores Gray's Creek to all of its designated uses.

Additionally, "Sustainable Shelby" just concluded the proposal was not in keeping with a number of the top 52 Sustainable Shelby principles as presented in its final report dated July 8, 2008.

Sustainable Shelby recommendations include taking steps to "...decrease emissions of toxic and greenhouse gases." This Wal-Mart would have led to additional driving, causing an increase in the output of the

greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is one of the main gasses implicated in global climate change. The proposal failed to "...demonstrate to the public the benefits of sustainable growth and development" because it would have drastically changed when the surrounding streets were widened for a high volume of traffic.

The City/County Office of Planning and Development noted that Wal-Mart has a history of closing stores once it builds a new store. The Wal-Mart at Germantown Parkway and Wolf River Parkway, now torn down, was not too far from the proposed location.

Wal-Mart watch called this "[o]ne of the nation's most visible site fights..." For more information, see <http://walmartwatch.com>

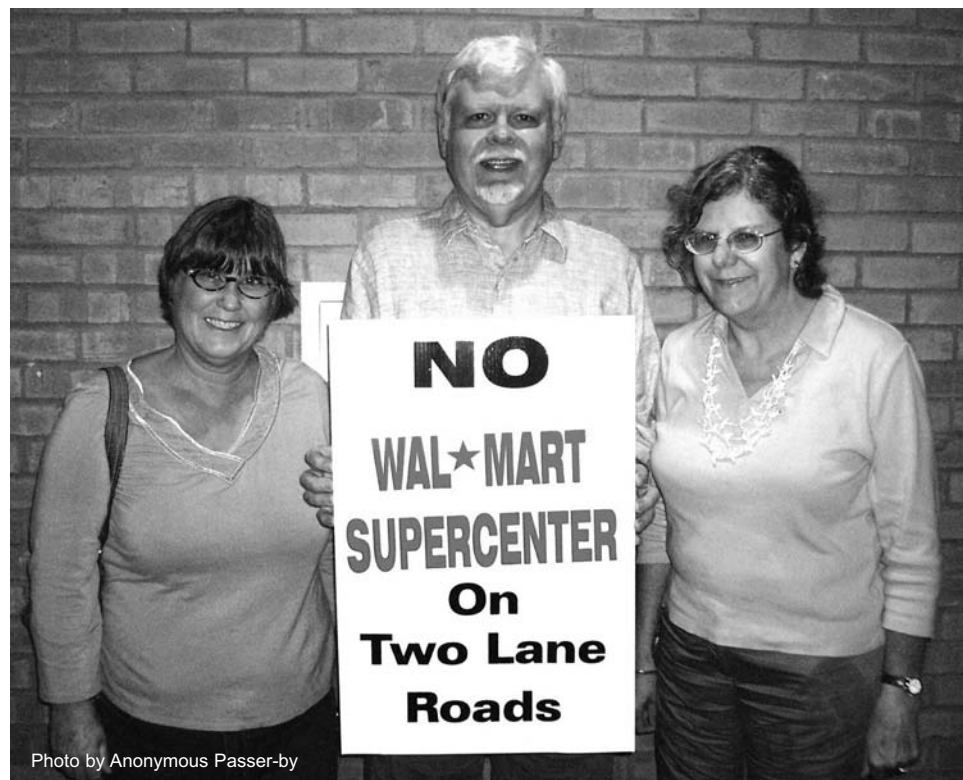


Photo by Anonymous Passer-by

Chickasaw Group Chair Nancy Ream, Chapter Sustainability Chair Don Richardson, and Chickasaw Political Committee Chair Sue A. Williams.

Carl Wolfe Honored at Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards



Johnson County, Tennessee volunteer Carl Wolfe received one of the First Annual Governor's Volunteer Stars awards at a Volunteer Tennessee reception in Nashville on October 27, 2008.

The awards honored outstanding volunteers from across Tennessee who strive to improve their communities through outstanding service.

Carl Wolfe is an active member of the Watauga Group Sierra Club, Watauga Watershed Alliance, and Sierra Water Sentinels, as well as church and community service organizations.

A Volunteer Stars advisory panel made their selection last summer. Criteria for their selection included: 1) The community's need of the volunteer service performed, 2) the initiative taken to perform the service, and 3) the impact of the volunteer service on the community.

Volunteer Tennessee is the 25-member citizen board appointed by Governor Bredesen to oversee AmeriCorps and service-learning programs and to advance volunteerism and citizen service to solve community problems in the Volunteer State.

Carl Wolfe and granddaughter Mariah are featured on the national Sierra Club's Scrapbook website. To see that article please go to:

<http://sierraclub.typepad.com/scrapbook/2008/10/tennessee-grandfather-cleans-up-creek-wins-volunteer-award.html>

More Reasons Why I'm Against Nuclear Power

By Ross McCluney, Ph.D.

Nuclear power plants use a lot of water, as do fossil fuel-fired ones. They suck water from a lake, river, stream, or wherever they can get it, and heat it up in order to cool the steam coming out of the power plant's generator. This is often done with natural evaporation in an open-air body of water or by forced evaporation using cooling towers.

The evaporated water injected into the atmosphere is carried away by air currents, eventually being condensed into rain again, so power plant operators may say that the water is not lost. However, the evaporated water can travel many miles, or thousands of miles, away from the local watershed before it condenses into rain again, and this can cause the net removal of copious quantities of fresh water from the region. Most of the Tennessee Valley region is in the middle of a prolonged drought, so it is problematic when power plants make matters worse by taking billions of gallons of this water away.

There are much better, safer, and less expensive alternatives to nuclear power. These are based on a combination of reducing the need for electricity through conservation and improved efficiency in energy-using-equipment and making the electricity we need from clean renewable sources such as direct solar conversion to electricity, wind power, and hydroelectric power. These technologies are faster, cheaper, safer and cleaner strategies for reducing greenhouse emissions. The jobs created here in the valley by conservation, efficiency, and a renewable energy industry will be more numerous, longer-lasting, and less dangerous than those which might be created by a dramat-

ic expansion of nuclear power here.

Nuclear Power is Costly

The costs of nuclear power are huge. In addition to the \$14 billion, and more, likely to be spent in building the Bellefonte nuclear power plant, the U.S. government, using our taxpayer dollars, spends fortunes:

- Insuring power plant operators from excessive costs in the event of a disastrous nuclear accident (no private insurance company will insure a nuclear reactor for the full costs of a terrible accident)
- Providing security and protection against possible terrorist attacks
- Historically pouring more than 65% of all research funds on energy into the development and protection of nuclear reactors
- Researching and otherwise trying to figure out what to do with radioactive wastes and spent fuel, which can remain radioactive for tens of thousands of years

There are high costs to secure all this radioactive material, in storage and in transport between sites, as well as to guard the power plants themselves. When stored outside the containment structure and when transported around the country, radioactive fuel and wastes are susceptible to accidental or

terrorist-induced release.

Operations of the nuclear industry and all the nuclear power plants use copious quantities of fossil fuel for a variety of purposes, and the combustion of fossil fuels releases global warming gases into the atmosphere, so nuclear power is not free of global warming contributions. Repetition by nuclear proponents of the false claim that nuclear energy could be a solution to the climate crisis and the assertion that nuclear is emissions-free are troubling indicators that propaganda is still driving nuclear waste policy in the US.

If you search the web for information on nuclear problems, you will discover the large number of accidents, accidental releases, and other difficulties nuclear reactors are facing all over the world on a regular basis. These incidents are not in the past. Many are current. None of this gives me any comfort that nuclear energy is safe.

McCluney resides in Chattanooga, Tennessee and works as a technical consultant. rmcluney@comcast.net



Defenders of Tennessee Campaign Needs Your Help

The Sierra Club's Defenders of Tennessee campaign began 13 years ago as a means of funding our legislative program. Since the Sierra Club is a volunteer organization with no paid staff in Tennessee, we rely on our Defenders program to give us a strong voice in the state legislature.

This year, because of the economy and normal attrition, our donor list has shrunk along with the number of contributions. Please consider becoming a Defender to help us continue with this critical work.

Regardless of the validity of our cause, we know that you have many demands on your resources. We can only ask that you give as generously as you can. If you haven't contributed to the Defenders campaign before, this would be an especially important year for you to give, even if just a little.

Why should you become a Defender?

- The Sierra Club Defenders program has been very effective in demonstrating a Sierra Club presence at the state legislature and promoting environmental legislation.

- The Defenders campaign is a grassroots volunteer effort, with 100% of the proceeds dedicated to program purposes. Furthermore, these funds stay in Tennessee.

- The Sierra Club must continue to actively participate in the legislative process so that we can maintain our position and reputation as the "go to" group when environmental issues are being considered. While volunteers are crucial in this regard, we need our own lobbyist, Mike Murphy, on the ground to keep us informed and to represent us.

Last legislative session we:

- Helped get three energy efficiency bills passed;
- Helped defeat a bill that would have exempted thousands of miles of headwater streams from the protection of the Water Quality Act;
- Created a resolution (later stopped in the Budget Committee, unfortunately) that would encourage locally-grown foods and support local farming.

As always, we must continue to be vigilant to identify and work against bills that damage or restrict the application of our state's environmental regulations. We can't do this alone. We need your help! Each contribution, large or small, is very important to us. The Defenders campaign brings in only a part of the funds that we need for our legislative/lobbying activities, and we must make up the balance out of our diminishing reserves.

Please join or renew your Defenders support by donating to this campaign. Your contribution is not tax-deductible, but it is critical in enabling us to continue to have an advocate on "the hill." Please fill out the form below and send it with a check made out to Sierra Club Defenders, to Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill Terry and Penny Brooks, Legislative Co-Chairs

Please enclose the following with your contribution

Amount of donation: \$75 \$150 \$250 \$500 Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

May we publish your name in the Sierra Club newsletter as a donor?
Yes No

(OPTIONAL) Your e-mail address. Sending our letter of appreciation to you electronically will allow us to conserve paper and save money. We will not divulge the address nor use it for other purposes.

Please save Defenders funds for legislative activities. Send no acknowledgement letter.

Remember: The donation of money to this fund is not a tax-deductible contribution for federal income tax purposes.

Now you can receive your

Tennes-Sierran

via email



Subscribe simply by going to

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

So Join the Crowd and Go Paperless Today!

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE OUR DEFENDERS.

Thanks to the following 2008 (through 12/7/08) contributors:

- | | |
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The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group

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