

# Tennes-Sierran

The bimonthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 41, Number 3 - May/June, 2010

## Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Kills Coal Ash Landfill Safety Bill

By Brian Paddock

On April 14 the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce blocked consideration of legislation to address the safe handling of eight million tons of coal ash that the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposes to put in landfills. The Chamber issued a last minute declaration of its opposition to a House bill to provide community notice and improved standards for the transportation and siting of coal ash dumps.

TVA is rolling out plans to put about 8 million tons of coal ash each year into landfills in Tennessee.

The first power plants to switch to dry ash in landfills will be those with high risk wet storage like Johnsonville and Kingston, where ash is stored in or along rivers in wet storage ponds.

To be ready for this large new stream of waste to landfills and demands to expand landfills and build new ones, Senator Charlotte Burks (D-Dist. 15) and Representative Eric Swafford (R - Dist 25) introduced bills updating the landfill law to require modern standards for coal ash landfills, including plastic liners, leachate collection—leachate is liquid generated from rainfall and the natural decomposition of waste that is filtered through the landfill to a leachate collection system—and ash dust control. (Senate Bill 2799 - House Bill 2828)

TVA said that moving ash from the Kingston

plant would require 90 trucks every working day. The bill would have required the specifics of coal ash transport to be part of the plans submitted to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) for a landfill permit.

The House bill died in the Local Government subcommittee because no member gave the sponsor the usual courtesy of seconding the motion to amend the bill so it could be heard. I'm a partially retired Jackson County lawyer and I helped draft the bill and its key amendments.

The bill was to be amended based upon lengthy negotiations with TDEC, which would have removed all cost to the taxpayers. This cut off a hearing on the bill. In my ten years of experience as an unpaid volunteer public interest lobbyist, killing a bill procedurally happens when a powerful lobby works behind the scenes. I think that the hidden hand with a knife was the state Chamber of Commerce.

I suspect that if you ask the Chamber the specific reason it opposed the bill, it couldn't tell you or point to a single specific provision of the amendment that was the rewritten bill. No one from the Chamber ever talked with those of us who wanted this legislation.

The Chamber never objected to the bill or notified the sponsors in the three months it was in print.

A last minute phone call to the House sponsor shows the Chamber's disdain for fair and

open lawmaking, including open and fact-based lobbying.

The subcommittee also failed to pass a bill to provide advance notice of proposed coal ash landfills to members of the legislature whose districts would be affected. Senate Bill 2050 had passed the Senate unanimously on consent. The identical House Bill 2829 was not even considered by the subcommittee.

"I was shocked," said Louise Gorenflo, a Crossville resident who said she spoke with almost every member of the Local Government subcommittee about the need for more notice and tougher requirements for coal ash transportation and disposal.

"Every member I spoke to in both the House and Senate said they were concerned and agreed that we need some modern rules on coal ash in landfills. Then these same members sat silent on a bill to give them advance notice so they can help assure voters they are protected when the coal ash is coming to a landfill near them.

"I went to the legislature almost every week for three months and gave all the members who would vote on these bills lots of detailed information on coal ash and what it takes to have coal ash landfills that do not poison our groundwater. TDEC was OK on the bills, but the Chamber jumped in from nowhere and with no reasons killed the bill," Gorenflo added.

## Tennessee Chapter Encourages Sierra Club Members to go Electronic

Printed newsletters are becoming increasingly a more expensive product to produce and mail. At the same time, our Tennessee Chapter's financial resources are being stretched to their limit! As a result the newsletter now is published only every other month, and we may unfortunately be forced to publish even less often in the future. Because we are publishing less often, print media is quickly becoming less and less feasible for communicating timely action alerts, announcing events, meetings and outing schedules, so the Chapter has begun to mine for email addresses using electronic communication facilities!

One way to help us battles the raising costs of print and postage, but keep our folks plugged into more timely alerts is to subscribe to one of our Chapter electronic communication services. Currently, we have two types of electronic communications services:

- **TENNESSEE-ALERTS listserv**
- **GO PAPERLESS Tennes-Sierran**

**The first type** of electronic communication is to join our **TENNESSEE-ALERTS** listserv. If you, as a Sierra Club member, are a concerned citizen, and want to receive an occasional alert in order to prompt yourself to take action on behalf of your environment, join this **TENNESSEE-ALERTS** listserv. To subscribe, simply provide us with your email address by –

**Sending an email to:**

**LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG**

and put in the message area:

**SUBSCRIBE TENNESSEE-ALERTS**

YourFirstName YourLastName

(Substitute your actual first and last name in the places indicated.)

**The second type** of electronic communication is to subscribe to our **GO PAPERLESS** Tennes-Sierran. With this service you will stop receiving a printed Tennes-Sierran, but you will receive a bi-monthly email notification corresponding with release of new Tennes-Sierran issues with a link for download of your electronic Tennes-Sierran PDF (FREE Adobe Acrobat Reader software installation required) from our website. **You must be a member to subscribe to the PAPERLESS Tennes-Sierran, so have your membership number handy (look into the address box of this issue for your number) and go to this link to subscribe**

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

Remember, email is de facto standard of communication in the world today. **We won't abuse your trust, and you would only receive a maximum of two alerts per month.**

If you want to receive electronic action alerts, save your Sierra Club chapter valuable financial resources and keep yourself informed in a timelier manner, subscribe to one – OR BOTH – of our electronic communication services today!

**It's that simple. Do it now for yourself, your family, your community, your Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club!**



Kids from the Metro East Community Center learn about the natural world during an Inner City Outing. Read more on page 3. Photo: Betsy Garber



# Tennes-Sierran

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

## SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

\*Email: [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto: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:

Email: [lbaker@usw.org](mailto:lbaker@usw.org)  
Snail Mail: Lynne Baker, Tennes-Sierran Editor  
PO Box 1504, Antioch, TN 37011  
(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](mailto: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.

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### Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

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Outings: Vacant

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office - 423-944-3220 fax - 423-944-3221 (call first)

Please notify the Editor when changes are needed



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.



## With your help, we can clean up our water.

Over the last 30 years, we've made great progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands.

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Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible unless they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$2.00 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,  
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80522-2968  
or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) F940 W 4300 T

## Middle Tennessee Group Conservation Chair Needed ASAP!

Interested? Send an email outlining  
your related background & interests to

Dave Bordenkircher,  
[dabordenkircher@mindspring.com](mailto:dabordenkircher@mindspring.com),  
or Gary Bowers,  
[GB1NATURE@aol.com](mailto:GB1NATURE@aol.com).

Include a resume, if applicable.

## New Design Footprints T-Shirts

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# Radnor Lake Hikes Exemplify Spirit of Inner City Outings

By Joy Mayfield

Members of the Inner City Outings (ICO) Group took children from the Metro East Community Center on a hike at Radnor Lake last summer.

What an introduction to the natural world these kids had on this hike. Check out the photo where you can barely see a fawn with its mother. Can you imagine the excitement for this young teen, this solitary moment she experienced between herself and this newborn fawn?

Remember when you were a kid and spotted something in the tall grass and were afraid to exhale? The kids also saw an owl perched in a low branch.

Quite a few deer were spotted along the way—one even followed behind the group on the trail for a bit.

The kids kept a tally of all the wildlife they saw including turtles, a snake, a green heron, and various birds, as well as evidence of beavers. This was just the perfect hike for exposing kids to the wonders of the natural

world.

Thanks to ICO hike leaders Betsy Garber and Helen Stewart this hike exemplified what ICO is all about. Thanks to Betsy, too, for taking the photographs.

## Autumn Radnor Lake Hike

Helen Stewart and Betsy Garber (the stalwarts of the Inner City Outings group) took nine youth and two adult participants from the Metro Coleman Community Center on a hike around Radnor Lake one day last September after school.

These kids had so many questions! Helen knew what kids liked best—the snake presentation. They were not disappointed when the ranger insisted this be a hands-on experience. That means these kids got to touch a snake.

Unfortunately we don't have photos to accompany this write-up since the chaperone did not give permission for this so we can't share the expressions on these kids' faces as they saw their first river otters out in the lake, nor their awe at spying the little green heron, nor their surprise at

*The Chair's Corner*

Look for the Chapter Chair Column in the next Tennes-Sierran issue.

seeing the deer, nor their reactions to seeing turtles sunning themselves on logs, squirrels chattering away from tree limbs and the myriad spiders along the trail.

You, too, could have a blast on a Nashville Inner City Outings hike. Help is especially needed on weekdays. If you'd like to join in as a helper or become an ICO hike leader, please contact Betsy Garber at garberb@hotmail.com. There is a whole movement, *No Child Left Inside*, a fire in the country right now. Wouldn't you like to be a part of it?

If you're interested in becoming an ICO hike leader or even just a helper, please contact Betsy Garber at garberb@hotmail.com. We'd love to have more leaders.

# Scholarships Available for Youth Education Program

By Olivia Diaz, Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee

The Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee is proud to announce a new scholarship fund in the Sierra Club Foundation. Its purpose is to supplement funds needed by youth groups, such as Inner City Outings, to participate in the environmental education program at Clair Tappaan Lodge.

Proceeds from the successful Gala Anniversary Celebration in August 2009 went into this special fund and are earmarked for exposing young people to the beauty, ecology, history and need for conservation of the Donner Summit area of the Sierra Nevada.

To qualify for the funds, call the lodge at 800-879-6775 to obtain an application. Fill it out and send it to the Scholarship Committee for review. The mailing address is on the application form. The funds must include at least one overnight stay for environmental education at Clair Tappaan Lodge (CTL.) A grant from the CTL fund at the Sierra Club Foundation can be used to augment funds raised by the school or group itself.

If you would like to help youth groups learn more about the environment, please share this information with local school teachers, boy or girl scout leaders or other youth groups, to inform them about the lodge and the wonderful program available there.

Another way to help is to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Clair Tappaan Lodge fund in the Sierra Club Foundation. Please make your check payable to Clair Tappaan Lodge – Sierra Club Foundation and send it to Peter Lehmkuhl at the Lodge at PO Box 36, Norden, CA 95724.

Imagine the excitement of a young teen seeing a fawn and its mother for the first time. Photo: Betsy Garber



Children from the Metro East Community Center pose with Inner City Outings hike leaders in front of Radnor Lake. Photo: Betsy Garber

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# Meetings

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

All programs except August 10, 2010 program will be held at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN and will start at 7:00PM.

### June 8, 2010 Program: "Sustainable Campus Initiative"

Mark Downing, a senior researcher and agricultural economist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) will speak on the "Sustainable Campus Initiative." This project touches every aspect of the ORNL operation and considers ways to apply "sustainable" principles to the facility and its employees. The initiative has broad application to other private and government facilities.

### July 13, 2010 Program: "Candidate Forum"

Ms. Judy Poulson will moderate a "Candidate Forum" for Knox County legislative candidates.

### August 10, 2010: Annual Picnic

Annual Harvey Broome Group picnic will be at the Farm of Axel and Jeane Ringe at 1840 LaFayette Rd, New Market Tennessee 37820. Phone 865 397 1840.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

### PROGRAM: Thursday, June 10, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville

Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary is a protected 160 acres of green space, a hidden jewel in Beech Creek Valley. In keeping with its mission, the sanctuary is a safe place for native plants, animals and children of all ages. It is an outdoor classroom dedicated to education, conservation, research, species protection, teaching about seasonal changes, sensory awareness, wildlife habitats and responsible human interaction with the natural world—all while encouraging the enjoyment of nature. Owl's Hill programs focus on nature and environmental appreciation with the owls as educators and wildflowers and birds as the subjects. New executive director, Margaret Cameron, will present a PowerPoint program about the many activities happening at Owl's Hill. This program is suitable for all ages, and the public is welcome.

### STRATEGY MEETING: Third Mondays, June 21, 6:30 p.m. at the United Steelworkers Union Building, 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211.

Follow the signs to the conference area. If you arrive late, please ring the bell at the side door on the left, and someone will come down to let you in. 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. If you have problems finding or accessing the building, call Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877.

## 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)

**Directions to New Meeting Place: GreenSpaces is located at 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Going south on Market Street from downtown, take a left onto Main. Go slow and look to your left -- 63 E. Main is at the end of that block -- and being environmentally conscious they don't have a big billboard announcing themselves!! It is a brick building with a glass storefront. If you get to the fire hall on the right -- you've gone too far!**

**GreenSpaces is kiddy-corner across the street from the fire hall. (If you get down to Central Blvd., you've gone way too far.) Turn around and find a place to park nearby on the street. If you get lost or can't find it, call Barbara Kelly (423.718.5009). We don't want anybody to miss out on the meetings!**

### JUNE PROGRAM: Monday, June 28, 7:00 p.m., at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga.

Bio-fuel Guru Doug Mizell, the founder of Agro\*Gas Industries, LLC, will talk about how, fed up with kudzu, his brainstorming and tinkering have led him into building a \$2 million refinery in Charleston, TN, which manufactures ethanol out of Kudzu, which he calls Kudzunol. (Kudzu, a non-native plant, has claimed an estimated 7 million acres in the Southeast!) In addition, a by-product of this process has been a secondary energy fuel: algae bio-fuel! Come learn more about these interesting developments in our own back yard! Bring your questions! Public is always very welcome; great refreshments will be served after the program. For directions, see above.

### JUNE STRATEGY: Wednesday, June 9, 6:00 p.m., at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga.

Pull up a chair to the big table just inside the door to the right as you come in! All interested members are invited to be a part of planning our conservation and community activities. This is where the business of the Club gets done! For directions, see above.

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

(Sign up for our monthly email events list on the calendar page <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/>)

### Thursday, June 3, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm Monthly First Thursday Gathering Otherlands, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN

Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Keith Hoover at [hooverkw@yahoo.com](mailto:hooverkw@yahoo.com) or (901) 363-8299.

### Monday, June 14, 6:30 pm Strategy Meeting Panera Bread, 4530 Poplar Avenue, Suite 101, Memphis, TN (NOTE: New Location!)

The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. For more information or to place items on the agenda, contact Nancy Brannon at [brannon.n@gmail.com](mailto:brannon.n@gmail.com) or (901) 829-4360. Agenda items must be submitted at least 3 days (preferably 5) before the meeting.

### Thursday, June 24, 6:30 pm Presentation: Reaching Out to Memphis'

## International Community—Shelby Farms Park Conservancy Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN

Matt Farr from Shelby Farms Park Conservancy will provide a presentation on his five years spent living and teaching overseas in Spain, Costa Rica, China, Philippines, Singapore and Indonesia. He will also touch on the opportunities for cross-cultural interaction provided by the various improvements and programming built into the Shelby Farms Park Master Plan.

**SPECIAL GUEST:** Manos de Madres will host an artisan table. Manos de Madres is a Fair Trade Federation member which supports women in Haiti and other regions by providing artisan jobs using completely recycled materials to create beautiful products made with love and joy.

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

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

### Sierra Club Chickasaw Group is now on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw-Group/>  
This is a forum for public discussion, so please feel free to post comments, raise issues, and express environmental concerns.

### Yahoo Group "Sierra Club-Chickasaw Group & Friends":

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierraclub-chickasaw/>  
This is a free 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!

## WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

**PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m.** Please contact Gloria Griffith at [gla4797@earthlink.net](mailto:gla4797@earthlink.net) or 423-727-4797 for more information.

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# 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/form/s/SignInWaiver> PDF, or call 415-977-5630 for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride-sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**June 5-6 (Sat-Sun). Beginner Backpack. Injun Creek, GSMNP.** This short backpack is designed for beginners. We have a relatively easy hike up Injun Creek to campsite 32. We'll take time for a side trip to the McCarter Cemetery and to view some ruins and rock walls in the area. Even so, we'll have plenty of time after reaching camp to sit around and discuss your questions about backpacking and demonstrate pros and cons of tents, sleeping bags, packs, stoves, GPSs, etc. We'll have the option of returning via a different, somewhat longer route. Limit 6, not counting the leaders. Beginners will be given preference. Drive: 46 miles each way. Trip leaders are Ron Shrieves and Steve Harvey. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

**June 5 (Sat). Volunteer event, National Trails Day, Oak Ridge.** This is the day when volunteers around the country perform tasks related to taking care of wilderness areas. We will learn about conservation techniques and perform volunteer work on the Northridge Trail in Oak Ridge with the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning group. Please register with Linda Smithyman at [lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com](mailto:lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com) or call 335-3559.

**June 20 (Sun). Day hike, Gregory Bald, Great Smoky Mountains National Park.** We will learn about the mixed hardwoods forest and over 25 variations in color of the flame azalea blooming at this time, up and back on the Gregory Ridge Trail in the Smokies. We'll meet very early for the 11 miles or so trek with almost a 3,000 foot elevation change. Bring lots of water and a lunch as it will be a long day. This will not be a fast hike! Rated Difficult. Drive 70 miles one way. Please register with Linda Smithyman at [lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com](mailto:lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com) or call at 335-3559.

**June 26-27 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, McAfee Knob (VA).** McAfee Knob is located just west of Roanoke, Virginia, and is one of the most photographed spots on the entire Appalachian Trail. Roanoke.com calls 3,197 foot McAfee Knob "the Appalachian Trail's poster and postcard image." The large rock juts out from the mountain and has an almost 270-degree panorama that we'll view and learn about, including the Catawba Valley and North Mountain to the West, Tinker Cliffs to the North and the Roanoke Valley to the East. Hiking distance is about 11.8 miles total and it is rated moderate. Drive: 260 miles each way. Pre-register with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; email [whshome@bellsouth.net](mailto:whshome@bellsouth.net).

**July 11 (Sun). Canoe Float, Clinch River.** Put in about 2 miles below Norris Dam; take out at Highway 61 near Clinton. Distance: 11 mi. This is a relaxing float, with good current but no whitewater. We'll start early so we can do most of the river at low flow, maximizing our chances of seeing wildlife. With luck we'll observe some waterfowl. So come along and learn about the ecology of a clear-flowing river. Bring a sack lunch and even a cooler if you want. Only very basic canoe skills are necessary for this trip. Sorry, but I cannot provide canoes. Check with local outfitters for rentals. Driving time from downtown Knoxville, about 40 minutes. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**June 5 (Sat.) Day Hike, Beaman Park, 10:00 a.m.** The plan is to meet around 10 a.m. at the upper trailhead in Beaman Park, and then walk out the Highland Trail. This upper trail is an easy to moderate hike of approximately 4.2 miles roundtrip. We will take time to stop and observe and identify wildflowers in bloom and listen for birdsongs. Bring water, snack lunch, and optionally bring your wildflower dictionaries & a pair of binoculars. For more venue information visit <http://www.nashville.gov/parks/locations/beaman.asp> Pre-registration is required by contacting Rachel Floyd at [rfloyd557@bellsouth.net](mailto:rfloyd557@bellsouth.net) or 615-406-9204.

**August 21 ( Sat.) Day Hike, Caney Fork River Float, 10:00 a.m.** Escape the heat with one of Middle Tennessee's coolest floats. We will put in just below the dam on the Caney Fork River around 10 a.m. and float down to Betty's Island in a leisurely sort of way. Naturally we will stop along the way to observe and learn the identity of wildflowers in bloom, count herons and kingfishers encountered for cookie rewards, and maybe take a quick swim in a cool pool or two along the way. Kayakers or canoeists with some basic experience are welcomed. No children please. Group size is limited and pre-registration is required by contacting Rachel Floyd at [rfloyd557@bellsouth.net](mailto:rfloyd557@bellsouth.net) or 615-406-9204.

**October 16 ( Sat.), Radnor Lake Sunrise Owl Prowl, 6:00 a.m.** This will be a sunrise hike in search of Barred, Eastern Screech or Great Horned Owls and other awakening fine furry friends that stand out against the autumn changing fauna. We'll meet in the Nature Center parking lot at 6:00 a.m. and stroll around the Lake Trail and up to the Ganier Ridge Trail identifying as many trees as we can. Once we reach the top of the hill we'll stop to enjoy hot coffee or chai tea and organic breakfast treats, which will be served by your trip leader. Hiking distance will be approximately 4.5 miles with some strenuous, but short climbs. For more venue information visit: <http://www.radnorlake.org/welcome.html>. Pre-registration is required by contacting Rachel Floyd at [rfloyd557@bellsouth.net](mailto:rfloyd557@bellsouth.net) or 615-406-9204.

## CHEROKEE GROUP

Jeremy Gazaway, Outings Chair for the local Cherokee Sierra group, leads outings and hikes at least one or two weekends per month. Our activities are always open to the public. To register, or for more information, **contact Jeremy** at 423.619.6548 or [gazaway-painting@gmail.com](mailto:gazaway-painting@gmail.com)

**June 5 (Sat.): River Gorge Trail, 3.2 miles, day hike of moderate difficulty.** This trail is very nice. It offers it all: a waterfall, mountain

## 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!

stream, interesting rock and tree formations, many rock ledges providing panoramic views of the Tennessee River Gorge. Call Jeremy in order to register and for more information.

**June 15 (Tue.) @ 8:00 PM: Urban campfire at Ceder Hill Meadow.** We have backed the establishment of this wonderful meadow over Chattanooga lawn mowing codes!! Now come and enjoy it! We'll have a great view of the sunset, roast marshmallows and do what people do at campfires!! Call Jeremy for directions.

**June 27 (Sun.) Pot Point Nature Hiking Trail day hike.** In the Tennessee River Gorge, the Pot Point Self-Guided Nature Trail is a 3.5-mile loop trail. It is a moderately strenuous trail with some steep climbs that reach over 1,000 feet in altitude around Azalea Point. It traverses examples of most of the habitats found in the Tennessee River Gorge, and contains many examples of native flora and fauna. (A charming guide is available at <http://74.125.113.132/search?q=cache%27000+acres+of+land+carved+through+the+Cumberland+Mountains+by+the+Tennessee+River%3D+one+of+the+most+unique+natural+treasures+in+the+Southeast.+Come+explore+with+us%21+For+meeting+place+and+time+contact+Jeremy>) The Tennessee River Gorge—27,000 acres of land carved through the Cumberland Mountains by the Tennessee River—is one of the most unique natural treasures in the Southeast. Come explore with us!! For meeting place and time contact Jeremy.

**Calling for Outings Leaders:** We want to add more certified Outings Leaders! It takes first aid certification and a short class in Sierra Club procedures and safety. Are you willing? If we get enough people, we are willing to set up a First Aid class to help get some more leaders certified. Please let us know you will help! Call Jeremy Gazaway to volunteer: 423.619.6548.

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

To find out about June outings, contact Outings Chair Matt Farr, (901) 409-3067, [matt.tennessierran@gmail.com](mailto:matt.tennessierran@gmail.com).





# Statewide Green Building Tours a Success

By Mary Mastin, Chair, Rebuild & Repower America Committee

Our Tennessee Chapter Cool Cities Committee, in conjunction with the US Green Building Council, organized four successful and well-attended green building tours in Memphis, Cookeville, Chattanooga and Knoxville.

In Memphis we had over 125 attend the tour of Big River Engineering and Manufacturing, a building modified for adaptive reuse that displayed many examples of both green offices and green manufacturing. This building received a \$10,000 award from our local utility, MLG&W. City council and county commission members and the county mayor were present at the ceremony.

Part of the Tennessee Chapter and Green Building Council's joint mission was to educate and advocate for building green. In Cookeville there was a green building tour of Freedom Plaza and the J & S Construction Company office; in Knoxville, a green home; and in Chattanooga, Green Spaces, a shared office and working space.

Both groups worked well together, developing relationships that will pay dividends over time. These tours were given during the week of March 15 in conjunction with other national green building tours and media events.



Johnny Stites (3rd from right) led a tour of his Gold Seal Green Building Council facility, the J & S Construction building, on Thursday, March 18. (Left to right) Alfred Ballinger, Councilwoman Alma Anderson, Ralph Bowden, Charlie & Jean German, in front Mary Mastin, Mr. Stites, Peggy & Eston Evans. Four more people showed up for the tour after this photo was taken. Photo: Peggy Evans.

A total of thirteen people toured the Gold Seal Green Building that is the headquarters of J & S Construction Company in Cookeville. The building is the first Gold Seal building for the company; it got the gold by using the following technologies:

- spray foam polyurethane insulation
- high efficiency water source heat pump
- a cool roof
- motion sensors on all office light switches.

The building reduces energy use by: 40% from wall insulation; 60% from water source heat pump; 20% from cool roof; 35% from natural light, LED & fluorescent fixtures; 20% from motion sensor lights; and 35% water savings from low-flow water fixtures. At this time there are no green building codes in Cookeville. We hope this will change, especially with the help of J & S Construction. This is the second green building they built in Cookeville; the first one was a Silver Seal strip office building. Photo Peggy Evans.



## Tennessee Valley Authority Must Set up Energy Efficiency Program

Louise Gorenflo, chair of the Chapter's TVA committee, spoke before the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) board on April 16, 2010. Here is her testimony:

In 2007, TVA was developing its strategic plan. Citizens across the Tennessee Valley voiced concerns that the words *energy efficiency* did not appear once in the draft document. Three years later, TVA still does not have an energy efficiency target.

In TVA's 2009 supplemental environmental impact statement for Bellefonte 1&2, the agency did not include any energy efficiency savings in its 2030 projections, claiming that it would take time to implement energy efficiency with uncertain results. The TVA board itself lumps energy efficiency with community relations that includes zoning and auction issues rather than placing energy efficiency on a level playing field with its other energy resources.

While TVA has an aggressive peak load reduction program, which we strongly support, it does not have an energy efficiency program to match. Tennessee homes use the most elec-

tricity in the nation, twice the national average. More families have to choose between buying food and paying their electric bill. People across the seven states need your sincere commitment to energy efficiency.

We need you to set a modest 1% annual energy efficiency target. Some states have a 2.5% target. A 1% annual target would avoid the need for new TVA generating capacity to meet projected demand growth. Saving a kilowatt hour through energy efficiency improvements is easily one-third less expensive than building a new energy supply and pays for itself in lower electric bills.

TVA deprives its service area the economic and environmental benefits provided by energy efficiency. Energy efficiency expands the ability of our market to deliver energy-efficient goods and services. Money saved from energy efficiency increases consumer purchasing power. Reducing the energy use per unit of production enhances the economic competitiveness of our businesses.

Energy efficiency is labor rather than capital

intensive. It creates jobs in our community—HVAC (Heating, ventilation & air conditioning), lighting, glazing, plumbing, masonry, roofers, carpentry, refrigeration, construction, auditors, building operations/management, educators, non-governmental organizations, trainers, innovators, consultants, policy makers, and more!

Energy efficiency aligns well with TVA's mission to provide reliable service at the lowest possible price. Yet, TVA marginalizes the power of energy efficiency, betraying its mandate to supply the least cost power to the Tennessee Valley.

Other states have public service commissions, which require utilities to have aggressive energy efficiency policies. Here, TVA board members act both as directors of a utility and regulators of that utility. We ask the TVA board to require of itself a 1% annual energy efficiency target. The agency must put public benefit before the private interests of the utility and its distributors. TVA must put the public back into TVA power.





Volunteers from the Sierra Club, Fredonia community and Memphis begin the process of cleaning up the historic Fredonia cemetery.

## Volunteers Participate in Honoring Our Ancestors Cemetery Cleanup

By Rita Harris

The Fredonia Cemetery Cleanup that was held March 27 was publicized widely in the Fredonia community via church announcements and barbershop connections.

We had men on three four-wheelers, all sorts of equipment, and the Sierra Club Environmental Justice office rented three chain saws, provided all the ice water folks could consume and offered sub sandwiches for lunch.

Three folks came from Memphis to help us out, including one lady who saw the blurb in the Memphis Commercial Appeal about a week before the cleanup.

We worked hard. (Some of us used muscles we didn't know we had!) We had a hardy group of 18 people largely from Fredonia to help clear brush and small trees and clean a large area, but much remained to be done.

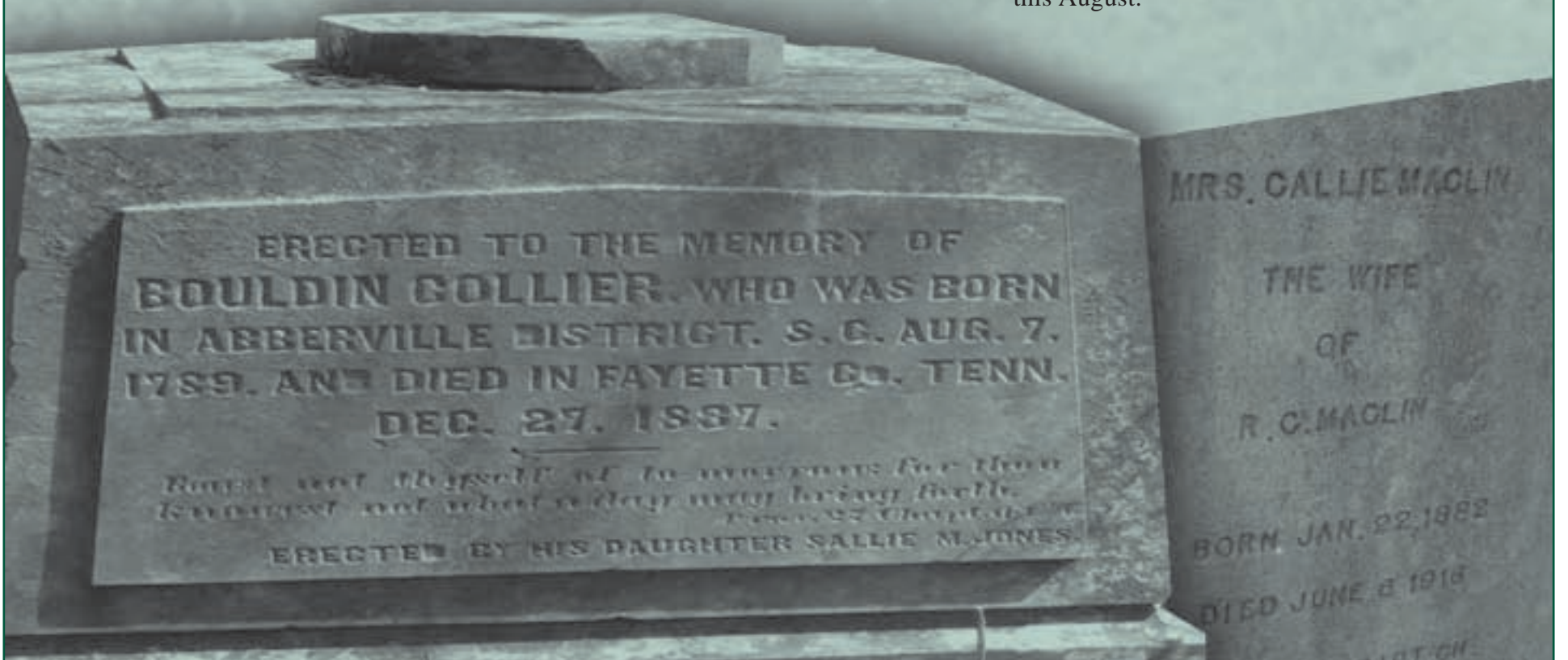
Photos were taken of every tombstone we could find, but many graves

were unmarked or the metal markers rusted long ago and were no longer legible. Since everything is greening up so fast, we may have to wait until the fall before more substantial work can be accomplished.

Our next order of business will be to take steps to finalize the application for the National Register for Historic Places. The Fredonia community, straddling both Haywood and Fayette counties, will try to fight off unwanted sprawl and the looming industrial megasite.

The Fredonia church and cemetery will celebrate its 141st anniversary this August.

Below: This photo is of the gravesite of Bouldin Collier, born in 1798 and died in 1887. He was the only white person buried in the Fredonia cemetery.





# Project Green Fork Transforms Memphis Restaurants Into Sustainable Enterprises

By Margot McNeeley

Memphis ... one hot city. And I don't just mean the heat. Memphis has long been known for its incredible restaurants and talented chefs. If you live here, you know these local jewels and will likely agree how food-fortunate Memphians are.

I'm proud to call Memphis my home. I'm proud of the local talent in music, art, film and especially food. There is never an occasion that we don't have a wide variety of great places to choose from. Sometimes the biggest dilemma is which of these local favorites we should go to next—there are so many. And we're not the only ones who think so. Memphis has quite a few national award-winning chefs and you don't have to look far to see who they are!

My husband and I like to eat out a lot and I've worked in restaurants —waiting tables, hosting and bartending. Over time, I started to pay attention to the amount of waste restaurants generate and wanted to do my part in helping eliminate



some of it. Or, rather, not eliminate it but put it to good use through composting, recycling, etc. I got sick of hearing myself complain and decided to do something about it, so I started Project Green Fork in 2008.

Project Green Fork is a non-profit initiative that helps Memphis restaurants become environmentally sustainable. We help connect chefs to local farmers to increase their usage of locally produced goods. We assist in setting up in-house composting and recycling programs to reduce solid waste, which ultimately ends up in our landfills. We part-

ner with Memphis Light, Gas and Water to perform free restaurant energy assessments. We also help source and replace toxic cleaning chemicals and non-biodegradable food and beverage containers with greener alternatives.

Project Green Fork certified restaurants are working hard to take care of their customers and the environment by following sustainable practices. They're also helping take care of the local economy by hosting fundraisers, sourcing local foods and shopping at Farmer's Markets.

The restaurant business is not an easy one. It's a labor of love and in this economy it sure takes a lot of love! Please support all of the great dining options available to you, especially those locally owned.

(Margot McNeeley is the founder of Project Green Fork.)

Website: [www.projectgreenfork.org](http://www.projectgreenfork.org)

Facebook: Project Green Fork

Twitter: [projgreenfork](https://twitter.com/projgreenfork)

# Mack Prichard Receives Tennessee Environmental Council Lifetime Achievement Award

By Don Richardson

On May 11, the Tennessee Environmental Council presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to Mack Prichard, former Tennessee State Archaeologist and State Naturalist Emeritus. Mack has been preserving the majestic places of this state from the time he was 16. From his work protecting Radnor Lake to the South Cumberland State Recreation area and the Forever Green Tennessee initiative, he has become a treasure among the Tennessee treasures he has worked so hard to protect.

(See more about this event at [http://www.tectn.org/display\\_event.php?id=628](http://www.tectn.org/display_event.php?id=628))

Mack joined the Sierra Club in 1967 and knew larger-than-life members such as David Brower and Ansel Adams.

After becoming Tennessee's first state naturalist, he was honored by

Chapter co-founder, Henry Hill, with special recognition at the fall Chapter meeting October 1984: "The Tennessee Chapter commends Mack Prichard, whose tireless dedication has taught our generation of Tennesseans a greater reverence for Mother Earth." Two generations and over 25 years later, these words still apply.

In 1985, the "Mack Prichard Award" was created to be awarded "to a Tennessean, not necessarily a Sierra Club member, for outstanding service to preserve our environment." Mack retired in 2008.

See more on Mack's lifetime contributions and current projects at <http://mackprichard.com/>.



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# WANTED

## Editor/Graphic Designer for Tennes-Sierran

Tennes-Sierran editor Lynne Baker and graphic designer Kenny Carlisle no longer have time to dedicate to the newsletter. We are seeking a person to edit the newsletter and lay it out. It's possible to have one person be the editor and another individual to be the graphic designer.

To be the editor, one must have good organizational abilities and communication skills, a firm grasp of the English language, be computer literate, have a nose for what is newsworthy, and be willing to follow Sierra Club policy and work with the Chapter's communication chair.

The editor doesn't rewrite copy, but edits for grammar, spelling, length and adherence to Sierra Club policy. Must be willing to work with contributors. The editor also tells the graphic designer what articles and graphics will be on each page.

The graphic designer must have knowledge of a desktop publishing program, digital photo editing, and preparation of a document for print. Good organizational and communication skills are needed.

Prior experience is preferred but not necessary. If interested in one or both positions, contact Katherine Pendleton, Tennessee Chapter chair, at [katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:katibug1959@aol.com).

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