Watershed Summit Focused on Key Environmental Issues for Tennessee

By Jennifer Thompson

The 2008 Watershed Summit, sponsored by the Stones River Watershed Association, was held September 19-21 at Short Mountain Bible Camp near Woodbury. This year the event included the Tennessee Blueways Summit in which ideas and information about creating river trails and blueways were shared.

Saturday’s session began with a presentation of the natural history of Short Mountain by Milo Pyne, the senior regional ecologist with NatureServe.

Summit topics included comprehensive planning for watershed protection, water quality monitoring initiatives, green infrastructure, fundraising strategies for Tennessee watershed groups, environmental stewardship for boaters and a presentation of the Tennessee Stream Mitigation Project. In addition, panel discussions on drinking water and updates from state and federal agencies were held.

Some of the key issues brought up during the Agency Roundtable discussion included the Limited Resource Waters Bill (“Ditch Bill”), the Tennessee Beverage Container Deposit Act (“Container Recycling Bill”) and contamination of streams by off-road vehicles.

The Bottle Bill is proposed to reduce litter from beverage containers, increase recycling efforts and inject money into Tennessee’s economy by creating jobs. This will be made possible because the five-cent deposit will motivate Tennesseans to return almost four billion containers each year.

The costs of collecting, sorting and recycling 200,000 tons of material each year will be covered by the unclaimed deposits, the value of scrap and a one-cent handling fee charged to the beverage distributors, according to Marge Davis, coordinator for Pride of Place, a project of Scenic Tennessee, and spokesperson for the bottle bill.

Paul Davis, director of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Division of Water Pollution Control, warned of the environmental consequences if the Limited Resource Waters bill is allowed to pass.

Limited resource waters include intermittent or ephemeral streams, which may only flow for short periods but are vital to the functioning of a healthy watershed. Davis compared these streams, the headwaters (which make up 40-60% of Tennessee’s streams) to capillaries of the vascular system—as important as arteries and veins and critical components to the whole system.

He said that Tennessee has the highest aquatic biodiversity in North America. It is important that we protect this esteemed record.

Another water quality concern he brought up was the degradation of Tennessee waters from driving off-the-road vehicles in streams—an increasingly popular sport. Allowing these vehicles in streams damages the structure of stream banks and beds and leads to excessive sedimentation, threatening aquatic life.

The Saturday session was brought to a close with a brainstorming session led by John McFadden, executive director of the Tennessee Environmental Council. Participants in this session worked together to determine which issues should be presented for conservation legislation at the 2009 General Assembly.

McFadden and others stressed how critical it is that we let the General Assembly hear from us, not just from large special interest groups.

Next year’s Watershed Summit will be hosted by the Duck River Watershed Association. For more information, http://watershedsummit.pbwiki.com.
Middle Tennessee Group Forming Program Committee

Programs are a huge part of MTG’s educational environment and outreach to the community. The program chair invites you to join a new committee to plan programs for 2009. Small commitment of time with big rewards for you and for the group. Please contact Adelle Wood for more info. 665-1010, adelleintn@juno.com
Tennessee Chapter Member Wins National Sierra Club Award

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Tennessee Chapter member Ann Harris is among those being honored with national awards from the Sierra Club this year.

Harris is receiving the Special Service Award, which recognizes strong and consistent commitment to conservation or the club over an extended period of time.

She has supported and worked to increase awareness of how nuclear issues can affect our lives regardless of where we live. The Radiation Committee (RadCom) is one of the newest issue committees in the Sierra Club. She helped to recruit the top nuclear activists across America.

Harris joined the club at a time when the Sierra Club had neither a focus on nuclear issues, nor activity that provided an awareness of the effects of nuclear issues in the United States and on how the U.S. is affected by international actions on those same nuclear issues.

Her expertise in dealing with state, regional, and national nuclear issues generated an appointment to the Environmental Quality Strategy Team and then as leader of the RadCom. As her Sierra Club work gained momentum, a regional meeting of club members around the nuclear issue convened – the first since the 70s. Another is set for this fall.

Beyond the club, Harris’s legendary accomplishments highlight the vast experience she brought to the organization. She prevailed in 11 legal complaints as a TVA employee – five Equal Employment Opportunity complaints and six nuclear whistleblower complaints.

In the 1990 agreement reached with TVA, TVA would send her to college to obtain a bachelor’s degree; she graduated with parallel Master of Science degrees. During that time, Harris developed and implemented actions to provide support to nuclear workers inside TVA and throughout the country. She would later become known as the most successful whistleblower in America with these actions against the federal agency while staying on the payroll.

During the fuel loading of the TVA’s Watts Bar nuclear plant, Harris discovered that TVA and the Department of Energy (DOE) had made an agreement to produce nuclear weapons materials at the site. The public never knew. She worked from 1998-2001 to stop this from happening. Unable to find legal help willing to tackle the Department of Defense, DOE, Department of Labor, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or the TVA, Harris began the intervening action herself. She was given standing but no safety issues would be heard.

The award was presented Sept. 20 during the Sierra Club’s Annual Dinner in San Francisco. For more information on the Sierra Club awards program, visit www.sierraclub.org/awards. The deadline to nominate club members for 2009 awards is June 1, 2009.

Nature Photographer Edward Schell Honored for Contribution

State of Franklin group member Edward Schell was honored Oct. 9 for his contribution to the culture of the region at East Tennessee State University’s Center for Appalachian Studies and Services and at a reception at the Centre in Millennium Park in Johnson City.

Schell is a recipient of the Sierra Club’s national conservation club Ansel Adams Photographer of the Year award. He published in 1979 the award-winning book “Tennessee,” and has his work on display at the Smithsonian Institution. National Geographic books have featured his photographs.

He collaborated for five years with premier composer, Kenton Coe, who is a native of Johnson City, on a DVD titled “Appalachia: A Visual Concert.” His photos of nature in the region in all seasons are set to Coe’s music. The DVD is $15 and can be ordered online at www.etsustore.com.

Schell is also known for leading nature walks.
Election Ballot for At-Large Delegates
For the 2009-2010 Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee

Please vote for four (4) of the following candidates.

**Membership**

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Only current members can vote. Please put your membership number (found on the mailing label of the Tennes-Sierran) on the outside of the envelope. Place that envelope inside another envelope and mail by close of business, Monday, December 1, 2008 to:

Robert M. Hill
Election Committee Chair
11504 Mountain View Road
Knoxville TN 37934

**Candidate Statements**
(Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

**Gary Bowers**
Gary has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1984, and has been actively engaged in conservation work since the mid 1980’s. He believes that everyone should have the ability to experience nature and the natural wonders of the world. To that end he has spent the last 20-plus years working to protect it.

Gary believes that we are truly at a critical crossroads in the areas of energy and local/organic (non-genetically engineered) food production, and that these should be two of the focus areas for the TN Chapter in the upcoming year.

Gary’s major accomplishments are recapped below:
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter Conservation Chair 1998 – 2008
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – At conservation chair, worked with the TN Chapter Escom in 2006 to align the chapter’s conservation committees with the national Sierra Club’s new priority campaigns: Energy, Wild Legacies, and Safe & Healthy Communities. Each group of committees was placed under a super committee chair. Each committee was tasked with developing annual mission statements, goals, and a year-end evaluation of the success of their efforts during the year.
- TN Chapter Site Coordinator – Environmental Public Education Campaign (EPEC) to End Commercial Logging (ECL) in the Cherokee National Forest 1999-2002 (wrote the campaign matrix that garnered the first EPEC ECL site in the country)
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – Sara Hines Award (for conservation) winner 1999
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – editor and moderator – One Thin Dollar Silent Auction held at the spring and fall chapter meetings – proceeds going to support TN Chapter lobbyist
- Sierra Club – Middle TN Group Executive Committee – late 1980’s to present
- Co-founder Friends of the Forest – the first assembly of environmental groups working to pass legislation to reform management practices of Tennessee’s state forests
- TN Forests Council (TFC) – steering committee charter member – a unification of environmental groups working to stop the destruction of Tennessee’s hardwood forests
- Co-author TN Sustainable Forest Management Act (TN Legislature)
- Author – TN Forest Landowner Boundary Protection Act (TN Legislature)
- TN Scenic Rivers (TSRA) – Board of Directors 2001-2003
- TN Scenic Rivers (TSRA) – Conservationist of the Year 2003

Gary would appreciate your vote so that he can continue his work on the TN Chapter Executive Committee.

**Brian Paddock**
I live on 40 acres of ridge top and sloped forest lands in Jackson County, TN about 15 minutes north of Cookeville, TN with my wife, Mary Martin (former chapter treasurer). I am an attorney licensed in Tennessee. Mary and I represented the chapter pro bono as amicus (“Friend of the Court”) in the Spencer wastewater discharge case, and we have represented the chapter in several administrative proceedings. I also assist the Solar Valley Coalition, the Alliance for the Cumberlands, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, the TN Environmental Law Center, and several local groups.

My current pro bono clients include the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) and Public Employers for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and with local water protection groups.

I am a volunteer legislative advocate of SOCM. Currently I am advisor to the Tennessee Forests Council and the Model Forests Policy Project.

I am former chair of the Forestry Committee, Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM, pronounced sock-em.). Currently I am an advisor to the Tennessee Forests Council and the Model Forests Policy Project. I chair the Transportation Committee of the chapter which is part of the Energy Super Committee. I chair the Transportation Reform Committee of the chapter. I chair the board of the Tennesseeans for Fair Taxation Action Fund which works to end the sales tax on food and to progressively reform our state tax system.

Our new 2-year-old, 4-kilowatt photovoltaic solar electricity system was featured on the front page of the Tennes-Sierran.

**Katherine Pendleton**
My name is Katherine Pendleton. I am asking you to elect me as a delegate-at-large to the Tennessee Chapter. As your chair the past two years, I have worked hard to effect positive change in our chapter. State of Franklin Group and Cherokee Group have been re-organized under my leadership. I have kept in close contact with our groups, making regular visits.


I became involved with the Sierra Club as an outings leader and have progressed through the “ranks,” serving in various positions at the group level before becoming active at the chapter level. I have attended numerous training sessions at the national club headquarters in San Francisco, and currently serve on three national committees. I am well versed in Sierra Club policies, procedures, and protocols.

My mission in being involved with our chapter is to promote teamwork. As an at-large delegate, I will consider the wishes of all members of the chapter. I will be sure that you are represented and I will strive to serve you well.

**Don Richardson**
Please vote for me to continue as your at-large delegate to the Chapter Executive Committee. This position is required for Tennessee’s participation in many regional and national conservation priority-setting entities as well as acquiring funding and other resources for our chapter and groups to work on Tennessee’s priority issues.

As at-large delegate the last few years, I served as a chapter officer and chapter representative at national and regional Sierra meetings, and initiated the chapter’s first strategic planning process. Currently I serve these objectives as your elected delegate to the national Council of Club Leaders (CCL) and Chapter Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee chair. I also serve as secretary for our state-wide Sustainability volunteer and co-organizer for the statewide Sustainable Tennessee Initiative and Summit, and have co-organized several regional and local sustainability coalition events.

The club is entering uncertain times and we must focus more on maintaining chapter and local effectiveness while the national structure is transformed by Project Renewal. Now, more than ever, experienced continuity will be essential for grassroots success at all club levels in the foreseeable future.

Please allow me the opportunity to continue to serve you to keep the Tennessee chapter engaged and sustainable. Thanks for your consideration.

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**State of Franklin Group Ballot**
For the 2009 Executive Committee. Please vote for four (4) people.

**Membership**

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Place your ballot in an envelope and mark the word “ballot” on it. Place the envelope with the ballot in it in another envelope and write your membership number in the upper left-hand corner with your address. Your ballot must be postmarked no later than December 12, 2008 and mailed to Tom Mozen, 10 Garden Way, Johnson City, TN 37604.
The deadline for submitting your ballot is December 1.

Candidate Statements

Jennifer Thompson - I originally joined the Sierra Club in 1993 but have been a member of the Middle Tennessee Group for almost two years. I have helped represent the Sierra Club at events such as the Sonnenschein Festival and the Lawn & Garden show. I have also attended and reported on the Watershed Summit on Short Mountain for the past two years.

I received a B.S. in Environmental Biology from the University of North Alabama in Florence in 1985 and an M.S. in Biology from MTSU in 2003. My thesis topic and concentration of study for my Master’s degree was in conservation botany. I have worked for the State of Tennessee for 22 years as an environmental specialist and biologist. One of my main responsibilities with the Nonpoint Source Program was environmental education. I organized and attended water quality education events and conferences, created and distributed educational materials for adults and children, and wrote articles for the Tennessee Conservationist.

My work with the state has brought me into contact with representatives from various federal, state, local and private organizations dealing with environmental issues. Because of my position with the state, I have access to information about and knowledge of state and federal regulations regarding environmental issues, particularly those dealing with wetlands, streams and endangered species. Environmental protection is not only a hobby or ideal for me, it is my job. If chosen for the executive committee, I will put my skills and resources to work to help the Middle Tennessee Group achieve its goals and promote environmental stewardship.

Gary Bowers - Gary has been a Sierra Club member since 1984. He has been active at both the group and chapter level since the mid-1980's. Gary is currently, and has been for several years, a member of the Middle Tennessee Group executive committee. He is currently an at-large member of the TN chapter executive, where he has served since 1998. Gary has been the TN chapter conservation chair from 1998 to present. He spent the period of 1999 through 2002 as the site coordinator of the TN chapter's Environmental Public Education Campaigns (EPEC) to End Commercial Logging (ECL) in the Cherokee National Forest; the first EPEC ECL site in the country. Gary has received the TN chapter's Sarah Hines Award for outstanding volunteer service. Gary is the co-founder of the Friends of the Forest; co-author of the TN Sustainable Forest Management Act, and author of the TN Forest Landowner Boundary Protection Act. He is a charter member of the steering committee for the TN Forests Council. He has also served on both the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA) board of directors (2000 - 2002) and the TSRA conservation committee (2000 - 2002). Gary was chosen as the TSRA Conservationist of the Year in 2003. Gary looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the Middle Tennessee Group and asks for your continued support in the form of your vote. Gary wrote a Local and Organic Agriculture Practices Act that was introduced in this years session of the TN General Assembly.

Rachel Floyd - Rachel became active in the Sierra Club in 1992 through listening and learning about issues important to our planet's environment. Over the past 15 years, she has served a number of terms on the MTG ExCom in positions such as secretary, treasurer, and group chair. Rachel has also served terms as a group delegate and at-large delegate at the chapter level, as well as editor of the state newsletter, the Tennes-Sierran, for 6.5 years. She is continually interested and active in conservation of wildlands, renewable energy, clean water, and environmental, economic and human sustainability. She currently serves as chapter treasurer, chapter PAC treasurer and communications chair. A vote for Rachel would assist election of a long-time committed conservationist who loves putting her administrative expertise to work for our environment.

Gary Bowers - Gary has been a Sierra Club member since 1984. He has been active at both the group and chapter level since the mid-1980's. Gary is currently, and has been for several years, a member of the Middle Tennessee Group executive committee. He is currently an at-large member of the TN chapter executive, where he has served since 1998. Gary has been the TN chapter conservation chair from 1998 to present. He spent the period of 1999 through 2002 as the site coordinator of the TN chapter's Environmental Public Education Campaigns (EPEC) to End Commercial Logging (ECL) in the Cherokee National Forest; the first EPEC ECL site in the country. Gary has received the TN chapter's Sarah Hines Award for outstanding volunteer service. Gary is the co-founder of the Friends of the Forest; co-author of the TN Sustainable Forest Management Act, and author of the TN Forest Landowner Boundary Protection Act. He is a charter member of the steering committee for the TN Forests Council. He has also served on both the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA) board of directors (2000 - 2002) and the TSRA conservation committee (2000 - 2002). Gary was chosen as the TSRA Conservationist of the Year in 2003. Gary looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the Middle Tennessee Group and asks for your continued support in the form of your vote. Gary wrote a Local and Organic Agriculture Practices Act that was introduced in this years session of the TN General Assembly.

Upper Cumberland Group Election

For the 2009 Executive Committee. Please vote for two (2) of the following candidates.

Membership

Single  Dual

Mary Mastin  Ralph Bowden

Eston Evans

Candidate Statements

Mary Mastin - Mary is a former conservation chair for the Upper Cumberland group and is currently legal chair for the chapter and a former treasurer of the TN chapter. As an environmental lawyer, Mary continues to defend the waters and land of Tennessee from environmental, judicial, having recently filed a federal court Clean Water Act lawsuit for the coblerium discharges at the Zeb Mountain mine. Mary is the current chair of the Upper Cumberland group and would like to continue in that position. She puts out a monthly electronic newsletter for the group and is currently working on organizing a Rain Barrel festival for Earth Day and helping some TTU students with a greenhouse gas inventory for the City of Cookeville as a part of Sierra's Cool cities program.

Eston Evans - Eston is a former Sierra Club member since 1994 and has always been willing to help in any way needed. He has helped plan most of the quarterly meetings hosted by the Upper Cumberland group. He has been the kitchen coordinator for meetings hosted by the UC group.

Ralph Bowden - Ralph has been a member of the group since the mid-90's. He has helped behind the scenes for years. Presently he is the treasurer for the UC group. He has also written excellent environmental articles published in local papers.
Candidate Statements

Barbara Allen
I joined the Sierra Club in 1989 and have been active in the club since my first meeting that year. Of special interest to me is advocating for and protecting wilderness areas. I have been an avid backpacker and hiker and also enjoy canoeing and bicycling.

Linda Smithyman
I became active in the Harvey Broome Group in 1997 when TDOT proposed to build the proposed Orange Route next to my house. In 1998 I joined the HBG ExCom. In 2000 I became chair and group chair. In 1974, I moved to Oak Ridge and worked at the Institute for Energy Analysis and ORNL.

David Reister
I have been a Sierra Club member since 1990. Current Watauga Group ExCom member serving as fundraising and outings chairs. Newly elected steering committee member of the Watauga Watershed Alliance.

Earl “Doc” Taylor
Served as a Sierra Club volunteer; employed in the medical field; nature photographer and graphic artist.

For the 2008 Executive Committee. Please vote for five (5) of the following candidates:

Membership

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Watauga Group Election Ballot

Watauga Group ballots must be received no later than Dec 8, 2008. Vote for five candidates, place ballot in a sealed envelope with only your Sierra Club membership number and mail enclosed in an outer envelope to:

Rita Cowan
WG Sierra Club
900 Miningtown Road
Mountain City, TN 37683

Candidate Statements

Wilbert “Webb” Griffith
Sierra member since 1990. Current Watauga Group ExCom member serving as fundraising and outings chairs. Newly elected steering committee member of the Watauga Watershed Alliance.

Gloria Griffith
Current Watauga Group chair and Sierra Club member since 2004.

Dennis Shekinah
Serves as Webmaster, ExCom member and secretary of Watauga Group. Sierra Club member since 2004. Watauga Watershed Alliance current president. Johnson County Humane Society volunteer; employed in the medical field; nature photographer and graphic artist.

Earl “Doc” Taylor
Sierra Club member since 2004. Current Watauga Group vice chair. DVM by profession and a veteran steering committee member of the Watauga Watershed Alliance.

Dean Whitworth
Sierra Club life member since 1992. Member of the Watauga Group ExCom and currently serving as conservation and membership chairs. Recently elected to the steering committee of the Watauga Watershed Alliance.
Single Candidate

Nancy Brannon
Keith Hoover
Deborah Mays

Single Dual

James Baker
Don Richardson
Judith Rutschman
Steven Sonheim
Mary Margaret Ware

Your vote for James Baker is an experienced and effective advocate dedicated to the environmental causes.

Nancy Brannon is a consultation/teaching assistant at the University of Memphis Water Resource Institute. She holds a doctorate in environmental sociology, and she specializes in the environmental issues of West Tennessee. She has served as the executive director of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club since 1974. She is an respected advocate for local sustainable agriculture because it touches every aspect of our lives—healthy eating, support for a local economy and a withdrawal from corporate agriculture which depends on heavy use of hydrocarbons. She is good at organizing, communicating and networking. She feels she is a positive advocate for our earth.

Her environmental focus is local sustainable agriculture because it touches every aspect of our lives—healthy eating, support for a local economy and a withdrawal from corporate agriculture which depends on heavy use of hydrocarbons. She is good at organizing, communicating and networking. She feels she is a positive advocate for our earth.

I work to build coalitions of Memphis environmental/community groups including Greater Memphis Greenline (rail to trail), GGM, Coalition for Livable Communities, etc. I’d like to work with others to increase volunteerism, activism, and citizenship in the region.

I am an environmental advocate who’s served as Chickasaw conservation chair and chapter vice-chair. Currently I am a chapter delegate and co-chair of the energy supercommittee. Interests: Parks/Greenways, Bike/Ped, Smart Growth, integrating transportation with land use, Smart Energy Solutions, and Climate Change.

I am a chapter delegate and co-chair of the energy supercommittee. I am interested in serving on the Cherokee Group ex com. I bring prior experience in conservation and a strong connection with this region, as well as a personal commitment to be a good steward of the land. I was raised in Coffee County, Tennessee, and I have been a member of the Cherokee Group since 1989. I have been actively involved in the group’s activities for the past 20 years, and I have been a member of the executive committee for the past 10 years.

Dr. Spratt is a tenured professor in the biological and environmental sciences department at UTC. He first became an environmental activist in 1989 (in Cape Girardeau, MO), where he served on the organizing committee for an environmental festival to celebrate Earth Day 2000. Dr. Spratt served as the chair of the Trail of Tears Sierra Club group for two years, helping to establish that group in Cape Girardeau.

Dr. Spratt serves as the executive committee for two years. She was formerly adjunct faculty in sociology at the U of M, where she taught environmental sociology and several other courses. She has been interested in ground water issues since the early 1990s and an environmental protection advocate since the first Earth Day 1970.

I enjoy direct actions and canvassing neighborhoods. I am currently employed as an environmental engineer. And in my spare time I am working toward a master's degree in environmental science at University of Tennessee Chattanooga.

I am interested in serving on the Cherokee Group ex com. I bring prior experience in Sierra Club governance and a strong connection with this region, as well as a personal commitment to be a good steward of the land. I was raised in Coffee County, Tennessee, and I have been a member of the Cherokee Group since 1989. I have been actively involved in the group’s activities for the past 20 years, and I have been a member of the executive committee for the past 10 years.

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From Canada to Mexico: Hiking the Continental Divide Trail, showcasing his recent trek of some 2,600 miles through varied terrain and challenging circumstances: snow and freezing rain in the Rocky Mountains, searing desert heat in New Mexico, logistical snafus, and just plain exhaustion. In the end the scenery, animals, solitude, and occasional socializing with humans made it all worthwhile. Bert has joined an exclusive club of fewer than 80 individuals who have traversed all of the “Triple Crown” trail routes: The Appalachian, Pacific Crest, and Continental Divide trails. (HBG guests may recall his excellent program of July 2006 on the AT and PCT.) Everyone is welcome. For information, call John Finger at (865) 573-5908.

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Ron Shrieves, our outings chair, will coordinate the outing. The environment, the outing, or other things of interest to our group. Please, no more than ten minutes per person, including your commentary.

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, November 15, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Ron Shrieves, our outings chair, will coordinate the presentations, so contact him regarding technical details, etc., at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net. You must get your photos to Ron one week in advance of the program, either by copying them to a CD or a flash drive (AKA, a jump drive). No Photos! No Problem! Come anyway and share the goodies and socializing. Everyone is welcome.

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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 would be recommended according to the particular type of outing. These are:

1. Adequate map
2. First aid kit
3. Compass
4. Rain gear
5. Clothing (it is a good idea to always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Knife
8. Flashlight
9. Extra food, water
10. Tent

The tenth essential: You decide what is the most important thing to bring!

Dress is holiday casual. You are welcome to come any time during the evening, but it is best to come close to 6:30 p.m. because the food usually goes fast! Please call 665-1010 if you need directions or more information. We will look forward to seeing you there.

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

Cost of 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@sierracclub.org. Payment by credit card is available. (Educational, Conservation)

CHEROKEE GROUP (CHATTANOOGA)

There are no outings scheduled at this time.

WATAUGA GROUP (North Eastern TN)

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith at gla3797@earthlink.net or 423-727-4797 for more information.
The zoo works to save the Mississippi gopher frog, whose breeding habitat is limited to one lake in Mississippi. There were plenty of printed materials available about goings-on at the zoo.

For more information about zoo programs, visit www.memphiszoo.org or call (901) 333-6765.

A Chickasaw Group Outing to Shiloh

Keith Hoover led three members of the Chickasaw Group on an outing to Shiloh National Military Park on October 4. The weather was perfect with a cloudless sky and near normal temperatures.

Marcus Johnson, the park’s resource management specialist, gave the group a brief history of the park, discussed its conservation mission, and took the group to the Shiloh Indian Mounds National Historic Landmark. The Indian Mounds have been closed to the public most of the year, but will reopen with a new interpretive trail in 2009. The group got a sneak peek of the Indian Mounds area, where we encountered a group of deer.

Marcus also pointed out an eagle’s nest where chicks were born earlier this year. The eagles have not been sighted recently, but there is evidence of recent nest building activity.

After an artillery demonstration by re-enactors, Keith led the group on a two-mile hike in the Shiloh Church area, which was known as “Camp Shiloh” before the battle. The beautiful settings around Rhea Springs made it quite evident why the Union troops chose this area to set up their camps. The group enjoyed a wonderful seafood lunch at nearby Hagy’s Catfish Hotel before returning to Memphis.

Tennessee Agency Offers Free Radon Test Kits

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is offering free single-use radon test kits and educational brochures on radon-resistant new construction techniques to Tennessee residents at their local Ground Water Protection Division offices, via email or a toll-free phone call.

According to US EPA estimates, radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States overall.

“Preventing exposure to radon is extremely important,” said Lori Munkeboe, director of Environment and Conservation’s Office of Environmental Assistance. “By utilizing new construction techniques that make homes resistant to this gas or by correcting high radon levels in existing homes, Tennesseans can protect themselves and their families.

“The only way to know if a home has elevated radon levels is to test,” said Amy Inabinet of the Tennessee Radon Program. “We encourage all Tennesseans to take action to identify and to fix radon problems in their homes.”

For information on how to order a free test kit and prevent radon exposure, contact the Tennessee Radon Program by phone at 1-800-232-1139 or e-mail at TDEC.Radon@state.tn.us.

Contest for Home Use Fossil Fuel Reduction

1) Finalize contest name — Maybe ExCom can select a formal name, but mentioned were: “bright green,” “greenest of green,” “lit-foot,” “shrinking footprint….”

2) Contest rules
- Two tracks would be available, both based on consumption per square foot: lowest annual kWh consumption and the greatest annual reduction year over year.
- Values expressed in kilowatt hours (kWh) with gas therm usage converted to kWh and included in total.
- All participants will enroll in the MLGW, My Account. The “My Account” will be used as the web based reporting tool. Hard copy forms will be available for those without Web access.
- Eligible contestants will be Sierra Club members that are MLGW customers, only. Vacant houses, moves, etc., will be checked by MLGW.
- Winners will be required to fill out a survey of changes made (we’ll develop a simple form to capture this data).
- Participants capture the annual “total” version of “How does my home compare?” bar chart and “How does my home use energy?” pie chart on the “Home Energy Center” tab, at the start and end of the competition. (A screenshot or print-out should be required, as entry and proof of “before” and “after.”)

3) Effective dates – Jan 1, 2008 thru Dec 31, 2008 compared to Jan 1, 2009 thru Dec 31, 2009

4) Categories and prizes – again, two tracks would be available: the lowest annual kWh consumption and the greatest annual reduction year over year, both measured by kWh per square foot. Framing it this way, we offer a track for those who are already doing good and can possibly do better, without allowing currently high energy users (possibly energy hogs) an unfair advantage of easy reduction.

We could have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes in each category with prizes coming from Sierra Club, possibly MLGW, possibly TVA (although gift bags will automatically be given just for participating in the MLGW, My Account, program), cowanhouse – free energy audit (only 1 available total), and other possible contributors.

5) Winners — along with their energy conservation measures— should be recognized on the Sierra Club website, via media, etc. Once we have all the contest details worked out, Beck Willamson will submit this idea for inclusion on MLGW’s Memphis Energized TV show, with follow-up at the end of the contest.
Outings (continued from page 9)
denly abandoned after a series of hurricanes, floods, and fish die-offs, and was finally almost saved by Congressman Sonny Bono.

While the film covers the historical, economic, political, and environmental issues that face the lake, it more importantly offers up an oft-forgotten portrait of the eccentric and individualistic people who populate its shores.

Hair-raising and hilarious—part history lesson, part cautionary tale, and part portrait of one of the strangest communities you’ve ever seen—this is the American Dream gone as stinker as a dead cat.

Sierra Club film night is hosted by Power House Memphis. Admission is free (with donations accepted), and refreshments will be available.

For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at tlawrence@the cave.com or (901) 237-4819.

Sunday, November 30, Outing to the Collierville Greenway, 1:00-3:00 pm, Collierville, TN - Meeting place to be announced.

Saturday, December 6, Outing to Tunica River Park and Museum. Meet at museum parking lot at 2:00 pm. Hike through the riverside forest on 1.9 mile round-trip trail/boardwalk and visit the outstanding displays on Mississippi cultural history.

To reach the museum: From the North: Highway 61 north to Hwy 304 (Casiola Strip Drive). Turn right and drive 2.3 miles, then turn left on Casio. Turn right on Fitzgerald’s Boulevard, then left on RiverPark Drive. From the South: Highway 61 north to Hwy 304 (Casio Strip Drive). Turn left and drive 1.8 miles, then turn right on Fitzgerald's Boulevard, then left on RiverPark Drive.

For assistance with directions, please call the museum at 662-357-0500 or 866-517-4873 (866-SI RIVER). Museum cost: $5, $4 for 65 and older, $4 for under 12. $4 for groups of 20 or more.

RIDE SHARING: In Midtown, arrive by 1:00 pm at the Center City Shopping Center sign, Avalon & Poplar Ave. (1625 Poplar Ave.). Possible second location.

For more information, contact Sue A. Williams, suan@uuno.com or (901) 274-0524.

Chickasaw Holiday party, Friday, December 12, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., at Burch, Porter, Johnson, 130 North Court Avenue, Memphis. Bring an appetizer or dessert. Please come and join the festivities at our holiday party!

The Tennessee Graceland is most likely to end up in a landfill with other household garbage. However, many local governments organize electronics recycling drives or have drop-off centers for electronics, but many simply collect these items with other household trash.

Indeed, discarded electronics now constitutes the fastest growing category of household solid waste in the state of Tennessee. Much of this material is fully recyclable and has real commodity value, but the infrastructure to promote electronics recycling has been slow to grow in Tennessee.

While a handful of states, including Arkansas, have passed laws regulating the disposal of electronics equipment and banning them from landfills, Tennessee has no such law currently. A few local municipal governments organize electronics recycling drives or have drop-off centers for electronics, but many simply collect these items with other household trash.

For those individual citizens who are concerned, there are electronics recyclers across the state who will accept televisions and other discarded household items for a modest fee, usually on a graduated scale based on weight.

Companies like 5R Processors Ltd., which has two facilities in Tennessee and processes the electronics recyclables for a number of municipal governments in the Mid-South, disassemble electronics to reclaim valuable metals and dispose of hazardous materials, with very little waste in the process.

In some states where electronics recycling mandates have been implemented, electronics waste often ends up shipped to countries like India or China where labor costs are cheaper and regulation of hazardous materials lax.

But the next few years should see a significant expansion of efficient and profitable domestic electronics recycling efforts. The digital transition and analog shutoff has brought public attention to the issue of technological obsolescence in household electronics, and may prove to be a useful turning point for electronics recycling as well.

For more information about the digital transition and about the federal program to supply coupons to help citizens purchase converter boxes to extend the life of current analog television sets, please visit http://www.dtv2009.gov. For information on electronics recycling, visit http://www.mygreenelectronics.com/.

(Thanks to Karin Birkenstock at 5R Processors Ltd for information on the hazards of television sets in landfills.)

Beanman Park to Bells Bend Conservation Effort Continues

By Kathleen Wolfe

First, we want to thank Sierra Club members who provided support and encouragement during the July 24 and August 14 Metro Planning Commission hearings. It was a time of uncertainty and anxiety for us as we awaited the outcome of these two hearings.

Thankfully, the Metro Planning Commission voted to approve our Scottsboro-Bells Bend Community Plan and to defer indefinitely the May Town Center development area. This represented a huge and most welcome win for us. We will continue to keep you posted when the May development comes before the commission again.

Buoyed by our success in August, a group traveled to Adirondack Park in New York for a fact-finding mission to learn from their over 100-year experience in natural resource conservation and over 30-year experience in a private public land use planning model.

We met with park officials and area residents to discuss how the park came to be, how they met challenges, and how those lessons might be applied to our goal of establishing a model conservation community. We left there inspired, rejuvenated, and with new strategies for applying what we had learned in New York to our own situation in Nashville. Joining us was Christine Keyling, who wrote a City Paper article which chronicles some of what we learned.


We are currently in the midst of planning Beanman Park to Bells Bend – A Park2Park Celebration! This spring and summer will be held all day November 1, 2008 to showcase the many resources of these two areas.

The Third Vision refers to a heritage and conservation district with endless possibilities for appropriate land use such as equestrian trails; sustainable agriculture; a retreat center for artists, musicians and others; opportunities for fishing, kayaking, biking, hiking and other outdoor recreation. This is a place to learn about Nashville’s historical, agricultural and archeological heritage; a place to learn about where our food comes from and to purchase sustainably grown local food; a place to reconnect with nature and the natural world.

Bringing the Third Vision to reality requires the passion and commitment of not only Beanman Park to Bells Bend Community members, but all Nashvillians who treasure the varied experiences and opportunities that this treasured corner of Nashville offers.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of the Sierra Club. For more information on these activities, please contact Alicia Batsos at crackerlake@comcast.net. And don’t forget to check out our website at bellsbend.org.
Harvey Broome Fundraiser

Buy one of these Sierra Club Calendars for the discount price of $9.95 for either calendar.

To order, go online to:
www.dicsexchange.com
and click on the Sierra Club calendar.

To order by phone, call (865) 573-5710

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Tennessee Governor’s Summit on Clean Energy Technology

People can enter the conference at any stage and still have an effect on legislation and action items. Task forces span all areas of conservation on three different levels:

- Tennessee Sustainability Conference. Email Steven Sondheim steven sondheim@yahoo.com or Duane Perschbacher Phifer diane@propson.com for call-in information.
- Home Raffle: Tom Mozen is working on a raffle of an energy efficient, aesthetic, solar assisted house. We are looking for co-sponsors such as TVA.
- 2008 Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee, November 13th-15th, in Nashville www.tectn.org

Download the Summit Brochure
Download the Summit Itinerary.

REGISTER

Task forces span all areas of conservation on three different levels:

- Air, Water, Land, Agriculture, Waste, and Energy—Friday morning
- Natural Infrastructure, Healthy Community, Sustainable Energy, Quality Growth—Friday afternoon
- Growing the New Economy, Government, Networking and Education Saturday

People can enter the conference at any stage and still have an effect on legislation and action items.

Tennessee Governor’s Summit on Clean Energy Technology: Louise Gorenflo attended a meeting for all mayors or representatives interested in the US Mayoral Climate Protection Agreement. (Oak Ridge and Cookeville mayors did attend.) They discussed the feasibility of achieving an agreement goal of CO2 reduction below 1990 levels. Regular meetings might pull in on-the-fence mayors. They also discussed the plusses and minuses of developing a full ICLEI community inventory or using city government operations-only inventory as a starting point.

Chattanooga Green Committee Plan: Brian Paddock met with the Green Team regarding green plan development. (This is the third iteration already!) They are in the process of working through nine different topics, including land use, water, air quality, etc., for problems and responses they want to consider. A draft of the plan is on the Internet, and will be presented to the city council at the end of the year. The city joined ICLEI and finished inventory draft last week. They took “global warming / cool cities” issues and moved over to sustainability as well. Link to draft plan: www.chattanooga.gov/Chatt_Green_Inventory_Report.pdf

Knoxville: The city of Knoxville kicked off its Solar Cities Project on Oct. 24. It is an effort to encourage the creation of a sustainable solar energy infrastructure. The city was selected as one of 12 Solar American Cities earlier this year by the Department of Energy which, along with TVA, will provide financial support. The city was selected as one of 12 Solar American Cities earlier this year by the Department of Energy which, along with TVA, will provide financial support. The city was selected as one of 12 Solar American Cities earlier this year by the Department of Energy which, along with TVA, will provide financial support. The city was selected as one of 12 Solar American Cities earlier this year by the Department of Energy which, along with TVA, will provide financial support. The city was selected as one of 12 Solar American Cities earlier this year by the Department of Energy which, along with TVA, will provide financial support. The city was selected as one of 12 Solar American Cities earlier this year by the Department of Energy which, along with TVA, will provide financial support. The city was selected as one of 12 Solar American Cities earlier this year by the Department of Energy which, along with TVA, will provide financial support...