Sunset Picnic Promotes Effort to Save Randolph Bluff

By Keith Hoover and Don Richardson

Tennessee Chapter’s State Parks Committee hosted a public gathering on June 20 to promote state conservation partner Tennessee Parks and Greenways’ efforts to create a new Tennessee state park.

Locally organized and funded by Chickasaw Group and community partner, Friends for Our Riverfront, the “Save Randolph Bluff Sunset Picnic” drew over 60 people to this beautiful bluff top property in Tipton County, approximately 32 miles north of Memphis.

The site is situated on the second Chickasaw Bluff, and features unique geology, history, archeology, ecology, and natural beauty. The last non-privately owned bluff along the Mississippi riverfront, it offers a spectacular view of one of the most scenic long bends on the Mississippi River. From the top of the bluff one can view the big turn called “The Devil’s Elbow,” known for having the deepest pool along the entire Mississippi and once proposed as a national monument before World War II preempted the effort.

From a grassy natural viewing area, the bluff descends over three terraces to the edge of Old Man River. Until the mid-1830’s this shoreline hosted the busy river town of Randolph Landing, which rivaled Memphis for supremacy as the primary port of the middle Mississippi region until the river changed course and submerged the landing’s location and adjacent saloons, stores, and warehouses. South of the terraces is a wood-ed natural area and a spring once used by neighboring Native American tribes. Trails are now maintained that lead to these areas.

The 18.9 acre property has a 4-bedroom dwelling that could serve as a future museum, and on this day provided attendees with a comfortable place to eat and discuss the many period maps and artwork displayed featuring the site and adjoining area. Tipton County historian David Gwinn conducted two tours of a rare, preserved, underground Civil War powder magazine used during the Bluff’s tenure as Fort Wright, and shared stories about early river commerce and the bluff top town of Randolph’s final demise in 1865.

“To realize this is the only publicly accessible location to enjoy this unobstructed viewscape in a non-urban area along the entire west coast of Tennessee drives home how important this site is to all Tennesseans to be preserved as parkland,” said co-organizer Keith Hoover.

Due to popular demand, an encore event will be held on Saturday, October 17 (see details on the Chickasaw Group web page). For more information about the Randolph Bluff effort and other land protection projects across the state by Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, please visit http://tenngreen.org/currentprojects.htm

Take Incremental Steps to Home Energy Efficiency

By Steven Tyree

Wouldn’t it be great if we could buy a car that got 100 mpg? Think of the money we’d save, not to mention saving the earth!

It’s so hard to make a more efficient car that there is an X-prize with a $10 million-dollar not to mention saving the earth!

Got 100 mpg? Think of the money we’d save, double or triple automobile efficiency.

Can save the equivalent of a 100 mpg car, a 1,000 ple to save energy. In fact, people like you and I can save the equivalent of a 100 mpg car, a 1,000

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Volume 40, Number 5 - September/October, 2009
ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:
Submission DEADLINE is the 10th of the month preceding the new month’s issue.

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to lbaker@usw.org either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Attached files are preferred. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 ½ 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 submitted via USPS mail; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required. Hard-copy articles and attached files are pre-processed at the time of receipt.
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

Nominations Wanted: Cherokee Group Executive Committee

If you are interested in serving on the Cherokee Group’s executive committee, our nominating committee will soon be forming to present nominees for election at the end of the year for several 2-year terms. The committee is the decision-making body for our group and meets monthly. Contact Chairman Elizabeth Tallman at 423-619-0379, elizabethjamestallman@hotmail.com, if you are interested or for more information.

Tennes-Sierran
The monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:
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Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.
Volunteer for Economic Stimulus Tracking Project

By Don Scharf

In late March the Tennessee chapter joined 12 other Sierra Club chapters around the country on a project to track and influence how federal economic stimulus funds are spent.

One of the details of the economic stimulus bill, or American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), is a block grant program to fund energy efficiency and conservation projects at the state and local levels. As a result of this program Tennessee will receive over $42 million from the US Department of Energy (DOE). Our goal is to evaluate the block grants made in Tennessee for how much energy is saved, how much money is saved, and how many green jobs are created.

About $28 million is available to 17 cities and 10 counties in Tennessee which have submitted grant applications to the DOE. The cities are Bartlett, Brentwood, Chattanooga, Clarksville, Cleveland, Collierville, Franklin, Germantown, Hendersonville, Jackson, Johnson City, Kingsport, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville, Murfreesboro, and Smyrna. The counties are Blount, Hamilton, Knox, Maury, Rutherford, Sevier, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner, and Wilson. All other local governments in Tennessee can submit grant applications to the Tennessee Energy Office for a share of almost $14 million.

If anyone in the Tennessee Sierra Club would like to join us on this project, please contact Don Scharf at 615-896-8338 or d.scharf@comcast.net. Volunteers are still needed to contact their local government and find out how their block grant will be spent. Each month we have a conference call with all the volunteers in Tennessee to share updates from the DOE and local communities all over the state.

This is an exciting chance to help your community do what’s best for both the environment and the economy.

Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee
November 13-14, 2009

The Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee is a two-day conference for citizens, conservation groups, environmental policy experts, elected officials and local business leaders.

- Attend seminars focusing on the economics of rural forests, farms & fun (recreation).
- Meet local green businesses and organizations and learn about their successes and solutions.
- Collaborate with conservation leaders to develop and implement a statewide Sustainability Agenda.
- Summit will take place at Ward Agricultural Center, Lebanon, TN.

November 13
- Seminars on the economics of rural forests, farms & fun
- Green exhibits
- Seminars on water issues and watersheds
- Celebration and tour of high performing green home

November 14
- Seminars focusing on the economics of forests, farms & fun
- Green exhibits
- Conservation groups work on Sustainability Agenda
- Proposed Gubernatorial Debate

www.sustainabletn.org

Corner

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

Many thanks to everyone who attended the summer chapter meeting at DuBose Conference Center in Monticello, Tenn. Special thanks to Randy Hedgepath, Tennessee state naturalist, for leading nature interpretive hikes during the weekend. Thanks also to Steve Tyree for his energy efficiency seminar.

Mark your calendar for our fall chapter meeting at Pickett State Park, October 23-25, with Watauga Group hosting. You won’t want to miss the good eats provided by Webb Griffith and his culinary team!

My travels this summer took me to Sierra Club’s Clair Tappaan Lodge in the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Truckee, Calif. I was there for the 75th anniversary celebration of the lodge. Allison Chin, Sierra Club president, attended the celebration and was the keynote speaker during the festivities. Check out photos taken during the anniversary gala at http://sierrachabadonner-summit.shutterfly.com/. Clair Tappaan Lodge is an affordable vacation destination for year-round activities. I encourage you to consider making a trip to the lodge at least once in your lifetime. It is a place where the heritage of the Sierra Club comes to life!

There are two upcoming retreats that I am planning on attending on behalf of our chapter. Everyone is also encouraged to attend. I am heading to Pocahontas State Park, south of Richmond, Va., on Sept. 18-20 for the Virginia chapter’s annual retreat. Allison Chin will be there and delivering the keynote speech during the Saturday night dinner. Many outings are planned for this weekend. I’ll be traveling to south Georgia on Oct. 30-Nov. 1 for the Georgia chapter’s annual fall retreat at Okefenokee State Park. If you are interested in attending either retreat, please contact me at katibug1959@aol.com.

It is that time of year again when the groups and chapter nominating committees are searching for members to run for group executive committee members and chapter-at-large delegates. If you are contacted to run for either type of position or if you are interested in running for one of these positions, please do so. Our groups and chapter need more involvement by non-active members. If you do not know who to contact in your area, please contact me and I will direct you to the appropriate contact person.

Thanks for all you are doing to keep up the work of protecting our planet.

Best wishes for an enjoyable autumn.
Katherine Pendleton, Chair
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

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northern Central America has been done in collaboration with the Warbler both on the breeding grounds in Tennessee and in the Coast Bird Observatory. Her work with the Cerulean Warbler includes simultaneous surveys in Belize, Honduras, and other countries. Ed has remained an active consultant since his retirement from UT and is currently a staff member of the Foothills Land Trust. It is most evident in his long-time association with the Gatlinburg Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage, founded in 1951.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 p.m., Nashville Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. Carol Evans, executive director of the Legacy Parks Project, will discuss the significance of the project, especially concerning the 1,000 acre Urban Wilderness and Historic Corridor parallelizing the South Knoxville Waterfront Development. That site will contain three Civil War forts, historic settlement sites, and diverse ecological features and recreational amenities.1

Founded in 2005, Legacy Parks is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to saving and protecting green spaces in the greater Metropolitan Nashville area.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY/PROGRAM MONTHLY MEETING: 6:00 p.m. at the “The Audubon Coffee House” in the historic district downtown. Conservation issues and political topics facing our group are up for discussion before our program meeting each month. Come early before the program to talk with our conservation committee and members of our group. Come and bring a friend!

CONSERVATION DISCUSSION MEETINGS: First Monday of each month, September 7, 6:00-6:45 p.m. at Greentrees, E. M. Main St., Chattanooga, Conservation, legislation and political topics facing our group are up for discussion before our program meeting each month.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

PROGRAM MEETING: Monday, September 28, 7:00 p.m. at Greentrees, E. M. Main St., Chattanooga. Tennessee Clean Water Network Executive Director Victoria Rene Hoyos will talk about important upcoming water legislation and give an update on the Kingston Ash Spill. Originally scheduled to talk to us in March, she was called to testify before several congressional committees at that time and had to reschedule. Come with your questions about issues and water issues and the spill! Free and open to the public; refreshments served after the program.

PROGRAM MEETING: Monday, October 26, 7:00 p.m. at Greentrees, E. M. Main Street, Chattanooga. October is for outings -- local, chapter and national. We'll view slides of outings near and far, of members' trips on national outings and of the fantastic nature close by. There will be a special feature of the upcoming outings planned by our group for the fall/winter months and our plans on how we can help with the outings served after the program. Bring your friends!

STRATEGY MEETINGS: Second Wednesday of each month, September 9 and October 14, 6:00 p.m. at Greentrees, E. M. Main Street, Chattanooga. All members are invited to get the news on what's happening in our Cherokee Group. We welcome you to participate in setting the conservation priorities and activities of our group. Come and bring a friend!

CHICKASAW GROUP

Chickasaw Group and Friends is a Yahoo group for members and friends of the Chickasaw Group (Memphis/West TN). It is an announcement-only email list to send notices of upcoming events and other “green” information of local interest. All announce-

WATAUGA GROUP (North Eastern TN)

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffin at glais4797@earth- link.net or 423-727-4797 for more information.
September 12-13 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Elkmont Section, GSMNP. We’ll hike the Little River Trail to Campadia. The planned day hike is about 12 miles with 4,000 feet of elevation gain/loss. We’ll leave from the airport of the LLC tent S of the Smokies in the early morning (8:00 a.m.) and return to the JDK in the afternoon (4:00 p.m.). Pre-register with Will Skelton: phone 922-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

September 18-20 (Fri-Sun). Car camp, Cataloochee Section, GSMNP. We’ll drive up on Friday afternoon for a two-night camp in a hilly meadow in Cataloochee. This is prime elk viewing season, but there are other sights to see, including a view of the Smoky Mountain scene. “Cataloochee Valley is nestled among some of the most rugged mountains in the southeastern United States. In the 17th and 18th centuries, peaks and valleys were home to several families. The highest valley was the largest and most prosperous settlement in what is now the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.” Today, Cataloochee is one of the most picturesque areas of the park. You may want to bring your binoculars for the bike ride later on, or enjoy driving/walking along the valley floor to see as many elk as possible, perhaps even the great Smoky Mountain elk. Pre-register with Priscilla Watts. 966-4142; email sigmtngirl@earthlink.net.

September 19 (Sat). Day hike, Cataloochee Section, GSMNP. Whether you can make it for the car camp (previous listing) or not, consider joining us on this 6.6-mile loop hike in Cataloochee. We start at the Cataloochee road end of the Caldwell Fork trail and hike up to its junction with the Boogerman trail and hike up to its junction with the Caldwell Fork trail before heading back to the Caldwell Fork trail. Starting time is 8:00 a.m. Fossil hunters should leave from Knoxville on Saturday morning to join us on the hike. Bring plenty of water, bug spray, food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. We’ll hike 1,300 feet of elevation gain/loss. Pre-register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithyman@yahoo.com or 865-937-4552.

September 26 (Sat). Public Lands Day. Volunteer work. Location to be decided. Pre-register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithyman@yahoo.com or 865-335-3559.

October 3 (Sat). Full moon hike, the location of this hike is to be yet decided, but will likely be on a local greenway. Rated easy. Pre-rate with Linda Smithyman at lsmithyman@yahoo.com or 865-335-3559.

October 10-11 (Sat-Sun). Gourmet Backpack, Picket State Park. This fall trip has become a Harvey Broome Group tradition, with everyone trying to make the most outrageous, non-backpacking type camp meal they can. If you can’t think of anything, you can cook it in the backcountry. Frozen mar- garitas, Caesar salad, roasted Cornish game hens, seafood, and mostly cream soup like cheesecake, blueberry pancakes. The venue for the gastronomic experience is the Hidden Passage Trail in the Picket State Park. Arrive at the cook site after 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, hike to the cook site and set up your tents. We’ll be in the cook site for the night, and cook up in the morning and leave the campground just before dark. Total miles: 13.2 Rated moderate. Drive: 100 mi one-way. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: email shar-conditions@earthlink.net.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities) Contact Tom Mozen, SOF Group chair, at (423) 232-0827 or mozemenetc@yahoo.com about any outings.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville) September 11-13, Fossils Falls Backpack. MTG with Tim Chong. We’ll hike for a weekend of boulder searching, backpacking and hiking at Fossils Falls TVA area near Tracy City, Tennessee. We will backpack a 2.5 mile hike from a small parking area in a gated area from Fossils Falls to the Appalachian Campsite in the evening. Saturday and Sunday we will explore the area with some hiking. If you are interested in mammal, amphibian, reptile, and plant responses to floods, we’ll also talk about their responses to their own gear and food. No dogs please. For additional information contact Katherine Pendleton at kathbug1959@aol.com or 615-943-6877.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga) For details and to register for these outings, contact Outings Co-Chair Jeremy Gazaway at 423-619-6548 or via e-mail at bigi@@yahoo.com.

September 12 -13, Overnight at Fossils Falls. The Cherokee Group will be having its first overnighter, and it is expected to be a blast. We will meet at Fossils Falls around 4:00-4:30 under the gazebo. There are free camping sites along the way. We will join Cherokee Group for a weekend of Beginning backpacking and hiking at Fossils Falls TVA area near Tracy City, Tennessee. We will backpack a 2.5 mile hike from a small parking area in a gated area to Fossils Falls. We will camp in a designated campsite. Total miles: 13.2 Rated moderate. Drive: 100 mi one-way. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: email shar-966@aol.com; phone 865-271-7227.

Ten Essentials for Hiking

Brown’s Ferry Road (Exit 175) and make a left at the traffic light (toward Lookout Mountain). At the next traffic light, (Cummings Highway) turn left. Proceed a little less than a mile and take the first right, following signs for Fossils Falls (Federal Road). Continue about 2/3 mile to the park entrance. This is a fairly remote area that will make you feel like you’re way off the beaten path! Continue forward another 1/2 mile to the parking area. Continue straight to a rough trail head and you will come to a very small parking area for the trailhead (which is also a dead-end road). From here, you will hike a total of 1.5 miles to the main trailhead. We will arrange for a shuttle, or carpool, to transport you back to your vehicles after the hike. For more information, contact Keith Hoover at hooverkw@yahoo.com or (901) 363-8299.

**Hummingbird Migration Celebration, Chattanooga**

Join the Sierra Club Chattanooga Group for a guided hike on Saturday, September 26, Reflection Riding @ 3:00 p.m. This fun and educational hike will give you the opportunity to see the spectacular fall migration of the ruby-throated hummingbird, thousands of which move daily through the fields and woods of Strawberry Plains Audubon Center, Audubon Mississippi’s flagship educational facility near Holly Springs.

Expert naturalists from the Hummer-Bird Study Group will be on hand to interpret the life of the ruby-throated hummingbird. Look close and learn while these tiny birds are caught and banded right before your eyes! Be sure to bring plenty of water and a little extra food, water, and you will be able to feed the hummingbirds at the specific water and sugar mixture that these birds require. For more information, contact Keith Hoover at hooverkw@yahoo.com or (901) 363-8299.

Hummingbird Migration Celebration, Chattanooga Group will lead this event! The event also features lectures and demonstrations at the nature center and will be a great way to learn more about these fascinating birds. For more information, contact Keith Hoover at hooverkw@yahoo.com or (901) 363-8299.
Cookeville Rain Barrel Festival a Success

By Mary Mastin
The Upper Cumberland Group sponsored the successful Rain Barrel Festival in Cookeville April 25. We had wonderful April weather, fun music by Warren Gently, a welcome by Mayor Sam Sallee of a large crowd, and folks assembled in the city’s Dogwood Park. The highlight was viewing/bidding on 85 very varied, creative barrels painted by local artists ranging from professional ArtProwl artists, Tennessee Tech art majors, Pacesetters artists and county middle and high schoolers.

There were water conservation educational materials and an informative presentation by our festival partner, Tracy Meggs, a UCG member and engineer with the city’s storm water program. Another festival co-sponsor, the Caney Fork Watershed Association, held a popular rain barrel workshop. Other sponsoring organizations were the City Leisure Services and the Rotary Club. Coca-Cola donated the 55-gallon syrup drums that UCG members cleaned and plumbed for rain barrels. Several local churches and civic organizations contributed with donations to help with the cost of art supplies, or painted their own barrels and had display tables at the festival.

For a week before the festival, the painted barrels were on display at the Art Upstairs Gallery on the Courthouse Square in Cookeville, thanks to the work of UCG members Ralph Bowden and Merritt Ireland. The idea for the festival came from former UCG chair, John Hartwood, after he visited a similar festival in Berea, Ky., last year.

Below: Here’s the model rain barrel, with gutter set-up, we had on display at the festival. This barrel was painted by the Cookeville Friends Meeting. Photo by Brian Paddock.

Tell TVA: Improve the Integrated Resource Plan

By Brian Paddock and Steven Sondheim
Tell the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to:
Redo power projections based on less usage due to the economy, energy costs, climate change and efficiency; consider all supply options (large power plants and distributed power generation); consider all demand options (energy efficiency, cogeneration, peak load reduction, renewable energy); and lower overall costs and environmental impacts that might result from considering only the supply side.

Tell the TVA to consider all power and energy efficiency options on a level playing field; TVA has a large commitment to coal and nuclear power, offering only token energy efficiency programs despite earlier promises. TVA and its distributors have not embraced energy efficiency because reduced power sales means reduced revenue.

Ask TVA to stop building nuclear plants, gradually shut down the dirtiest coal plants, reduce energy consumption, and develop local renewable sources.

Costs should be minimized for all stakeholders. Energy efficiency programs reduce how much electricity we use (reducing our costs) rather than just having utility programs to reduce peak use (reducing the costs for TVA). TVA’s failure to account for the environmental costs and life-cycle costs of its power production activities places the burden on future generations to pay for them. TVA in the past had a lifetime rate, a reduced rate for low consuming ratepayers, which rewarded the energy efficient and assisted lower income customers.

TVA should address uncertainties and risks, including environmental costs, reliability concerns, and financial risks. It should consider full life cycle costs of supply and demand side options, true cost accounting of the environmental impacts, and financial risks incurred. TVA does not have a track record in assessing costs of environmental protection as demonstrated by its continuing resistance to reduce its air pollution or to repair the coal ash dikes that eventually collapsed. TVA should allow for open-decision making processes and involvement of all stakeholders.

The Integrated Resource Plan itself will be conducted largely in-house with the engagement of a group of handpicked “stakeholders.” The public should have had the opportunity to weigh in on the model design and the inputs into that model. All data and studies upon which decisions are made should be made publicly available. The current TVA scoping process is inadequate for true stakeholder involvement. TVA intends to have the draft plan ready for public comment in early 2010, a too short time frame for true public deliberation.

Hold TVA and the utilities accountable for implementation. Unlike other utilities, TVA currently does not have accountability for the implementation of the Integrated Resource Plan. TVA has a long track record of setting goals and then ignoring them. The TVA board has unfettered discretion to disregard the Integrated Resource Plan in future resource decisions. We need some way to require TVA to keep its promises. President Obama will soon nominate four new TVA board members. Tell TVA to wait until it has its new members so they can participate.

Congress will pass new climate protection legislation this year. Tell TVA to wait until it knows what it must do to reduce greenhouse emissions.

EPA will determine whether to designate coal ash as a hazardous waste. Tell TVA to wait until it knows its responsibilities for managing its coal ash.

TVA has handpicked individuals to fill environmental slots on an Integrated Resource Plan stakeholder group without asking for recommendations from the environmental communities (air, water, land), the energy communities (coal, nuclear, energy efficiency, demand side management, and renewables), and consumer advocates.

Tell TVA to ask public interest communities to select their own representatives.

Send comments to IRP@tva.gov.
Middle Tennessee Group’s Garden Pilot Project

Gary Bowers and Katherine Pendleton have coordinated an organic garden pilot project on land owned by Beth and Eric Lewis in west Nashville. They supplied their own seeds, plants, and organic fertilizers. The garden plot was made ready and planting began April 25.

Vegetables grown have included several varieties of tomatoes, bell peppers, jalapeno peppers, banana peppers, cayenne peppers, corn, beets, radishes, cucumbers, squash, cantaloupes, carrots, okra, winter squash, and sunflowers.

A planning meeting for next year’s garden took place on August 10. If you are interested in participating in the garden project next year, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481.

Tennessee Water Sentinels Outreach to Outdoor Enthusiasts

By James H. Baker

The Tennessee Water Sentinels conducted hunter-angler outreach at the Mid-South Hunting and Fishing Extravaganza in Memphis, which was organized by the Tennessee Wildlife Federation. Hosting an information table at the hunting show exposed Chickasaw Group volunteers to a different audience than the usual information table venues.

Occasionally, when discussing issues with visitors to our table, we had to work hard to overcome skepticism and distrust when we heard comments that the Sierra Club opposes hunting and fishing and supports gun control. We tried to counter those arguments with positive responses; however, some of those people still walked away skeptical of our organization.

For me, the highlight and most positive experience of the entire three days was when a wheelchair bound man asked me if I knew anything about “Project Healing Waters.” Tim Guilfoile of the Northern Kentucky Water Sentinels knew more and spoke with him. The man and I talked a bit, and when I thanked him for his service in the first Gulf War and shook his hand, he smiled wide, grew misty-eyed and spoke with a catch in his voice. This more than made up for some negative comments we heard during the weekend. For more on Project Healing Waters, see: http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/.

For more information on the Sierra Sportsmen Network and the Club’s outreach to hunters and anglers go to http://www.sierrasportsmen.org/sierrasportsmen/
Experience Fiery Gizzard Trail, Foster Falls

By Keven Routon

The Fiery Gizzard Trail is located just minutes from Tracy City, Tenn., atop the beautiful Cumberland Plateau. The origin of the creek’s name, which the trail shares, has been lost to time. Colorful tales abound and our guide, Tennessee state naturalist, ranger Randy Hedgepath, had several versions to share. Did Davy Crockett really bite into a hot gizzard here? No one knows for sure.

One certainty is that this area will exceed expectations for those desiring to trek some of the most beautiful trails in Tennessee, cool off in the clear pools, challenge the sheer bluffs, or camp out in the clean cool waters.

A short hike from Foster Falls provides some great opportunities for rock climbers to sharpen their skills.

I hope that others will share my excitement and explore the Fiery Gizzard Trail and other beautiful trails across Tennessee.

Additional information can be found at: http://www.friendsofscsra.org/aboutthepark.htm

Ranger Randy Hedgepath shares a story with hikers Mary Margaret Ware, Nancy Ream and others. Photo by: Keven Routon.

Energy Matters

By Steven Sondheim

State energy conference calls-First Wednesdays 7:30 pm CST. We'll familiarize and train you. Contact Gloria Griffith 423-727-4797 gla7970@embarqmail.com for instructions.

National Energy Campaign: Steven Sondheim 901/761-1793 stevensonsondheim@yahoo.com E-mail your legislators to strengthen clean energy and support climate legislation. http://action.sierrachub.org/aces

Sign up as climate leaders-Phone Bank. Write Op-Eds. www.sierrachub.org/climateleaders
Sign petitions regarding EPA rules on coal mining, missions, etc. www.sierrachub.org/bigpicture .

National Energy Activists: We have twice monthly calls/regular updates regarding federal climate and energy work. To sign up contact christina.yagjian@sierrachub.org

Nuclear- Bill Reynolds, 423-624 6821 billtreatmen4t@comcast.net
- First Wednesdays 7:30 pm CST.

Tennessee Again #1 Radioactive Waste Volunteer State

Several of

Speak Out and Let Your Voice Be Heard

Tennessee’s municipal landfill dumps have long been piling up so-called “low level radioactive wastes.”

ACTION: Let TDEC Directors Jim Fyke c/o askdcs@tn.gov Paul Sloan Paul.Sloan@state.tn.us and Gov Bredesen phil.bredesen@state.tn.gov know whether you support or oppose more radioactive incineration in TN. Demand a public hearing. Info: http://tbrd.state.tn.us/stopincineration/index.htm

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Radioactive Import and Export COMMENTS DUE by Sept 8

At least 2 Department of Energy (DOE) contractor proposals have Comment Deadlines in September 2009

1. Processing mixed hazardous and radioactive waste from the nuclear weapons complex. ACTION: COMMENT by Sept 28, 2009 mlw@energy.sandia.gov CC: comments to Inés Triay ines.triay@em.doe.gov

2. DOE Radioactive Waste Radioactive Metal Recycling COMMENTS DUE TO DOE by SEPT 15, 2009

Success on the Nuclear Power Front: The NRC licensing process has been put on hold apparently in response to our petitions filed through the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League. “In the summer of 2009, the NRC delayed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Units 3 and 4 until at least 2011, citing the need for TVA to decide if it will proceed with Units 1 and 2.” In the meantime, we will continue attempts to intervene as TVA seeks NRC permission to move forward with re-starting construction on the antiquated Bellefonte Units 1 & 2.

TVA and Solar Valley Coalition: Bimonthly calls regarding TVA, state energy plans and legislation.


Transportation:

Brian Paddock 931/268-2938 bpaddock@twlakes.net

Clean-TEA is a bill added on to the energy bill that holds the Dept of Transportation responsible for its contribution to energy use, greenhouse gas, and climate change. The focus concerns funding for lower vehicle miles traveled, better land use and transit. Join the ongoing work by the Sierra Club and its partners: www.t4america.org and www.smartgrowthamerica.org

See www.t4america.org/transcits and www.movingcoolerinfo.com

Global Warming, Energy, and Cool Cities http://coolcities.us

Contact Mary Mastin, 931-268-2938 marymastin@twlakes.net

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

ARRA is a block grant program to fund energy efficiency and conservation projects at the state and local levels.

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See up-to-date Energy Corner http://tennessee.sierrachub.org/