Tennessee Chapter Mines for Email Addresses!

Printed newsletters are becoming increasingly more expensive 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 outings schedules, so the Chapter has begun to mine for email addresses using electronic communication facilities!

One way to help us battle 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 alerts 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 Tennessee-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 Tennessee-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!

8th Annual Wilderness First Aid Training Scheduled for April 17-18, 2010

There are still some spots left for the eighth annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training (WFA) the weekend of April 17-18, 2010 at Landmark Learning, LLC, our training provider for the previous seven years, will perform the training again this year, teaching the National Outdoors Leadership School (NOLS) WFA curriculum. This educational weekend features top notch training in an outdoor setting by field experienced instructors.

Course: WFA – 16 hours / 2-yr certification. Fast paced and hands-on, this two-day course covers a wide range of wilderness medicine topics for people who travel in the outdoors or who spend time in the backcountry as either a passion or profession. In this course you will learn to prepare for the unexpected. You will acquire knowledge and skills that will help you make sound decisions in emergency situations. This course is ideal for trip leaders, camp staff, outdoor enthusiasts, and individuals in remote locations. This NOLS course is pre-approved by such organizations as the American Camping Association and the U.S. Forest Service. Visit the NOLS website http://www.nols.edu/wmi/courses/outlines/wildfirstaidoutline.shtml for course details.

When: April 17-18, 2010
Where: Fall Creek Falls State Park near Sparta, Tenn. Training will be held Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Picnic Pavilion #1. Please make arrangements to arrive on Friday night, April 16.

What is included: Training by highly qualified instructors.

Not included: Meals, lodging, Sierra membership, CPR certification

Lodging: We plan to camp in the Fall Creek Falls State Park Campground. There are walk-in campsites available at reduced charge. Participants are responsible for securing their own lodging.

Cost: $175, non-refundable – Sierra Club members commit to Sierra membership to support the training program. If you commit to Sierra membership you will receive a credit of $25 towards your training. If you do not commit to Sierra membership you will receive a $25 discount off your training cost.

Payment due: April 1, 2010

Other Info: 1 – Membership in Sierra is required. You can join online at https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/ or by mailing a check to the Fall Creek Falls State Park near Sparta, Tenn. Tenn. Training will be held Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Picnic Pavilion #1. Please make arrangements to arrive on Friday night, April 16. 2 – Participant must have health insurance coverage and complete a health form. 3 – Participant must sign Sierra liability waiver. 4 – Participant must sign NOLS/Landmark Learning liability waiver.

Enrollment: Complete participant form and send with check to Katherine Pendleton, P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229.

Questions: Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email kendleton1@aol.com.

Note: This course is not for Wilderness First Responder recertification.

Value: Wilderness first aid classes of this caliber often cost up to twice this amount. Sierra’s goal in providing this training is to help insure the safe enjoyment of the great outdoors, and we price this course accordingly for our members.

Membership: We require membership in return for the value pricing offered. By becoming a member, you will receive both the Chapter (state of Tennessee) newsletter and the national Sierra Club publication, Sierra magazine. Each of these publications will help keep you aware of challenges to the great outdoors and suggest actions that you can take to preserve the things about nature that we value.

8th Annual First Aid Wilderness Training

Enrollment Form

Name: ___________________________ Phone: _________
State: ________ Zip Code: ________ Email: _________

Previous 1st Aid Training: ________
A non-refundable payment of $175 is due by April 1, 2010
• to participate in this training you must be a Sierra Club member
• introductory Sierra Club memberships are $25
• I will go to https://www.aleracatalog.org/membership to join on line
• please send me a membership form

NOTE: Meals’ lodging, camping, and Sierra membership are not included in the course fee of $175

I am seeking recertification of a previous WFA certification
• YES NO
If yes, previous certification is NOLS, SOLO or Other:

Note: this is not a recertification class for Wilderness First Responders.

Please send check along with this form to: Katherine Pendleton
Make check to TN Chapter Sierra Club
P.O. Box 290306
Nashville, TN 37229
Sierra Club Officers

**TENNESSEE CHAPTER:**
- **Chair:** Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877  
  kathie1959@ad.com
- **Vice Chair:** Gloria Griffeth (423) 727-4797  
  glas79770@gmail.com
- **Secretary:** Bob Hill (865) 966-9435
- **Treasurer:** Scott Kramer
- **Conservation:** Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185  
  GBiNature@aol.com
- **Outings:** Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
- **CCL Delegate:** judithhammond@bellsouth.net
- **CCL Alternate:** Brian Padlock (931) 286-2938
- **Tabling:** bpaddock@k1ways.net

**TN LOCAL GROUPS:**
- **Cherokee Group**
  - **www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee**
  - **Chair:** Elizabeth Tallman (423) 619-0379
  - **Vice Chair:** Janie Brown (423) 575-9968
  - **Secretary:** Emily Schwimmer (901) 413-3888
  - **Treasurer:** Susan Routon (901) 413-3888
  - **Outings Co-Chair:** Jeremy Gazaway (423) 619-0379
  - **VistaPoint:** JERRYs@AOL.COM

- **Chickasaw Group - Memphis**
  - **www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw**
  - **Chair:** Nancy Brummon (901) 829-4360
  - **Vice Chair:** Keith Hoover (901) 363-8299
  - **Secretary:** Susan Routon (901) 413-3888
  - **Treasurer:** Matt Fann (901) 409-3067
  - **Outings:** Keith Hoover (901) 363-8299
  - **TV Program:** Judith Rutschman (901) 767-9196
  - **Website:** ChickasawGroupMemphis.com

- **Cherokee Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge**
  - **www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee**
  - **Chair:** Bob Hill (865) 966-9435
  - **Vice Chair:** John Fingar (865) 573-5908
  - **Secretary:** Kevin Routon (901) 409-3067
  - **Treasurer:** Matt Fann (901) 409-3067
  - **Outings:** Kevin Routon (901) 409-3067
  - **Website:** CherokeeGroupKnoxville.com

- **Harvey Brouse Group - Knoxvile/Oak Ridge**
  - **www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/brouse**
  - **Chair:** Bob Hill (865) 966-9435
  - **Vice Chair:** John Fingar (865) 573-5908
  - **Secretary:** Kevin Routon (901) 409-3067
  - **Treasurer:** Matt Fann (901) 409-3067
  - **Outings:** Kevin Routon (901) 409-3067
  - **Website:** HBGKnoxvilleOakRidge.org

- **Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville**
  - **www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/middle**
  - **Chair:** David Bordenkircher
  - **Vice Chair:** Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
  - **Secretary:** Barbara Duckhurst
  - **Treasurer:** Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185
  - **Outings:** David Bordenkircher
  - **Website:** DavidBordenkircher@Gmail.com

- **Watanga Group - Carter, Johnson, Unicoi and Washington Counties**
  - **www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watanga**
  - **Chair:** Gloria Griffeth (423) 727-4797
  - **Vice Chair:** Sandi Cranford (423) 727-4797
  - **Secretary:** Matt Fann (901) 409-3067
  - **Treasurer:** Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185
  - **Outings:** Gloria Griffeth
  - **Website:** WatangaGroupTn.com

- **Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville**
  - **www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg**
  - **Chair:** Mary Mastin (931) 283-2938
  - **Vice Chair:** Josie McQuail (931) 372-6207
  - **Secretary:** Barbara Duckhurst
  - **Treasurer:** Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185
  - **Outings:** Mary Mastin
  - **Website:** UpperCumberlandGroup.net

*Please notify the Editor when changes are needed*
National Club Election Coming This Spring

The annual election for the Club’s Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet for those who chose the electronic delivery option) a national Sierra Club ballot. This board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the executive director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Learn more about the candidates and their views on various issues facing the Club and the environment by visiting the Club’s election website: http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2010/election/default.aspx

The candidates are listed below in the order they will appear on the ballot:

- Katherine Pendleton (TN) P
- Phil Wheeler (CA) N
- Jared Duvall (CT) N
- Jim Dougherty (DC) N
- Allison Chin (VA) N
- Donna Buell (IA) N
- Robbee Cox (NC) N
- Jonathan Ela (WI) N

N = Nominating Committee candidate; P = Petition candidate

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

March is significant to the Sierra Club in two important ways. First, during March, chapters send out fundraising appeals to members and second, the board of directors ballots are distributed.

This month when you receive the March Window letter from me, please consider giving a little more this year. Due to the economy this past year, contributions to the Tennessee Chapter have plummeted. We will not be able to continue paying for our lobbyist if we are not able to raise more funds in 2010. Since many Tennessee Chapter members are not actively involved at the local or state level, having a lobbyist is vital to insuring that we have a voice in the Tennessee legislature.

We really must have every Sierra Club member in Tennessee send in a contribution to the Tennessee Chapter this year in order to continue our environmental campaigns and programs.

The Sierra Club elects five directors each year to serve on a 15-member board of directors. A large percentage of Sierra Club members do not vote! When you receive your ballot, please take a moment to vote. The Tennessee Chapter endorsed the 2010 candidates as follows: Donna Buell (IA); Allison Chin (VA); Phil Wheeler (CA); and Katherine Pendleton (TN).

In April, the Tennessee Chapter will be hosting its 8th Wilderness First Aid training at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Look for additional information and a registration form in this issue of the newsletter.

Several new people have assumed leadership roles in January at the Chapter level. Scott Kramer (Cherokee Group) is our newly elected Chapter treasurer. Brian Paddock (UCG) is our Council of Club Leaders (CCL) alternate delegate. Keven Routon (Chickasaw Group) is the lead volunteer for the NaP (Nitrogen and Phosphorus) Team. (The Tennessee NaP Team was organized during the winter Chapter meeting.) Thank you for your willingness to support our Chapter in these roles.

Rachel Floyd, our out-going Chapter treasurer, served in that role for the past three years. Rachel has recently become involved at the national level with the Sierra Club on the Finance Committee. Thank you, Rachel, for your service to the Tennessee Chapter.

The Chickasaw Group hosted our Winter Chapter meeting at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Our thanks go to the Chickasaw kitchen crew headed up by Susan Routon for great meals served during that weekend.

Our next Chapter meeting will be hosted by the Harvey Broome Group, May 14-16, 2010 at Wesley Woods in Townsend, Tenn.

The Tennessee Chapter needs your email address in order to keep you up to date with environmental news, notices, and events. Please forward your email address to me at kdpendleton1@aol.com.

Wishing you a glorious springtime and memorable Earth Day events!

Katherine Pendleton, Chair
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

100% of proceeds are dedicated to programs and stay in Tennessee!
HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

MARCH PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville.

Our Annual Outings Program! Outings Chair Ron Shrieves coordinates discussion and illustration of the various events. Our Annual Outings Program! Outings Chair Ron Shrieves coordinates discussion and illustration of the various events.

APRIL STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Join the Harley Broome Group as it discusses Group operations and initiatives. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, March 11, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville

Did you know that the Sierra Club nationally has a 26+ member group? Our Middle Tennessee Group is initiating an EJ program to-beyond.

APRIL STRATEGY MEETING: Thursday, March 4, 5:30 to 7:00 pm, Otherlands, 641 S. Main Street, Chattanooga.

Our Annual Outings Program! Outings Chair Ron Shrieves coordinates discussion and illustration of the various events. Our Annual Outings Program! Outings Chair Ron Shrieves coordinates discussion and illustration of the various events.

UPTOPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookville)

MONTHLY MEETING: Every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Putnam County Library, Alternating program meeting with incoming members or outside. More information, contact Mary Latin at marylatin@twlakes.net or (931) 268-2938.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Directions to Our Meeting Place: GreenSpaces is located at 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Going south on Market Street from downtown, take a left onto Main. After one and a half blocks and look for, and enter, a building that is at the corner of that first block—it’s a brick building with a glass store-front—and being environmentally conscious they don’t have a big billboard announcing themselves!! If you get to the fire hall on the right, you’re going way too far! GreenSpaces is kitchen—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 near-by on the street. If you get lost or can’t find it, call Barbara Kelly (423.718.5009)—we don’t anybody to miss out on the meetings. Don’t let fear of the neighborhood keep you away! It IS SAFE! many people are out and about in the block visiting the new art galleries, eateries, etc. in this new “art district!”

MARCH STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, March 10, 6:00 p.m., at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Our speaker, Jeff Hunter, coordinates discussion and illustration of the various events. Every member is invited to be a part of planning our conservation and community activities. The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. More information, contact Nancy Brannon at nancy.brannon@gmail.com or (901) 581-5031.

PROGRAM MEETING: Monday, April 26, 7:00 p.m., Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell Avenue, Memphis. Topic and speaker to be announced at a later date. Check our website for the latest details. For more information, contact Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or (901) 413-3888.

“Know To Earth Celebration,” Sunday, April 25, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Shelby Farms Park, Memphis. The Mid-south’s smallest Earth Day celebration, this event features environmental education, entertainment and fun for all ages. The festival will offer a variety of environmentally friendly exhibits, arts and crafts, live music and entertainment, an assortment of food and bev- erages, park tours, hiking and other outdoor demonstra- tion and activities. Free admission. The Chickasaw group will have a booth at this event. To volunteer to help at the booth, contact Keith Hoover at hooverkw@yahoo.com or (901) 363-8299.

“Nature of Conservation” Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Cable TV Show on WYPT-TV 18 (Chattanooga) Days and times vary — see http://www.mempislibrary.org/lfc18/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 jruschman@gmail.com or (423) 381-0510.

Yahoo Group “Sierra Club-Chickasaw Group & Friends”: This is a free announcement-only email list to share information, announce meetings, etc. To join, e-mail: mailto:chickasaw-group@gmail.com

To view and/or join the Yahoo group, go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierrachickasaw-

WATAUGA GROUP (Northen TN)

PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at 655 Plumtree Drive, Johnson City, giala4797@earthlink.net or 423-727-4797 for more infor-

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TheTennessean
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 see below.*

Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride-sharing and whatever similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risk associated with this travel.

**HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)**

March 6 (Sat), Day Hike, Virgin Falls Pocket Prelude. Walk through an area – a little under 1100 foot, waterfall although you have to a bit to get to it. The area is known for underground water seeps, indeed, the water that goes over Virgin Falls disappears into the earth. We’ll learn a bit about the “karst” formations that characterize the area. The trail winds along and down into a gorge for about 4 miles before reaching the waterfall, with a loss of 800 feet in elevation along the way. This trail has steep sections, and is rated moderate. Hiking boots are required. Drive 2 miles each way. Pre-register with Ron Shriver: phone 922-3518; ronaldshriver@comcast.net (email preferred).

March 14 (Sun), Day Hike, Nevis Islands Wildlife Refuge. An area just 15 miles east of Knoxville. This natural area is home to many native plants, wildlife and trees and is a demonstration area for land and habitat management activities. Participants will learn about the history of this area along the French Broad River. Drive 15 miles one way. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or call at 335-3559.

March 20-21 (Sat-Sun), Backpack, Cumberland Trail (LaFollette to Cove Lake State Park). The Cumberland Trail Association (www.cumberlandtrail.org) is a nonprofit group formed in 1997 to establish the Cumberland Trail from Virginia to Georgia, and one of the best sections is a short drive from Knoxville. This section is perhaps the most geologically varied trail in east Tennessee, which we’ll learn about as the trail follows the edge of the Cumberland Plateau. After a steep climb near LaFollette, hike along the edge of the Cumberland Plateau escarpment from LaFollette to I-75 and Cove Lake State Park, ranging from a “wall of China” to a stone arch and lookouts, with vistas of the Powell River valley and the Cumberland Mountains; at the south end is the Devil’s Racecourse visible from I-75. Hiking distances are about 1 miles total and it is rated moderate. Drive: 32 miles each way. Pre-register with Will Shelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; ewdevine@bellsouth.net.

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)**

March 20 (Sat), Day Hike, Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Nashville. There are a number of trails that can be used in the Nashville area with Radnor Lake center at 9 a.m., and we will choose a trail then. Please register with Dave Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com or call 615-333-3377.

April 9-11, MTG Retreat-Cumberland Mountain State Park at the Meadow, Middle Tennessee. Middle Tennessee will host a family friendly retreat at the Millhouse Group Lodge at Cumberland Mountain State Park. Plan on spending a relaxed weekend with fellow Sierrans. Activities will include hiking, eating good meals, and fellowship. Last year, we played cards till midnight! Saturday evening dinner and lodging provided by MTG. There is a state park lodge available for Friday night supper. They have a seafood buffet on Friday night. Pre-register please with Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or Kpendleton1@aol.com.

April 10, Middle Tennessee Water Sentinel Training. Sierra Club Water Sentinel Program is establishing a water sentinel group in Middle Tennessee. We will have a training session on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at the Millhouse Lodge in Cumberland Mountain State Park from 3-5 p.m. This training will be held simultaneously with the Middle Tennessee Group retreat. The training will focus on water sam- pling techniques on Lookout Mountain. Participants must bring a camera! This is a stunningly beautiful place which you will never forget (check out these images www.flickr.com/photos/moonwalkers/). We’ll teach you everything you need to know about making out of newspapers with kids sound?! For more information, and to volunteer, call/touch Tami Freedman [423.591.3354 or tami1fredman@aol.com].

April 14-25, Virgin Falls Backpack! Celebrate John Muir’s birthday, founder of the Sierra Club and join us on a wonderful camping trip to explore the beauty of the Cumberland Plateau at Virgin Falls. Everyone is invited. In Chattanooga we will be meeting at 9:30am Saturday at Coolidge Park’s parking lot (off Frazier Avenue in North Chattanooga). It is a 2-hour drive to our destination, so we plan to leave Thanksgiving day to avoid the holiday traffic. Plan on spending a relaxed weekend with fellow Sierrans. There’ll be outstanding displays; how-to demonstrations of gardening; presentations on solar, green building, and recycling; “green” vehicles; a fantastic collection of things going on—all promoting sustainability and the environment. Our Group needs volunteers to man our table, sell our potted native trees (black oak, catalpa, walnut and native persimmon) and help with a few “demonstrations” we’ll be doing. How does kite making out of newspapers with kids sound?? For more information, and to volunteer, call/touch Tami Freedman [423.591.3354 or tami1fredman@aol.com].

April 24-25, Virgin Falls Backpack! Celebrate John Muir’s birthday, founder of the Sierra Club and join us on a wonderful camping trip to explore the beauty of the Cumberland Plateau at Virgin Falls. Everyone is invited. In Chattanooga we will be meeting at 9:30am Saturday at Coolidge Park’s parking lot (off Frazier Avenue in North Chattanooga). It is a 2-hour drive to our destination, so we plan to leave Thanksgiving day to avoid the holiday traffic. Plan on spending a relaxed weekend with fellow Sierrans. There’ll be outstanding displays; how-to demonstrations of gardening; presentations on solar, green building, and recycling; “green” vehicles; a fantastic collection of things going on—all promoting sustainability and the environment. Our Group needs volunteers to man our table, sell our potted native trees (black oak, catalpa, walnut and native persimmon) and help with a few “demonstrations” we’ll be doing. How does kite making out of newspapers with kids sound?? For more information, and to volunteer, call/touch Tami Freedman [423.591.3354 or tami1fredman@aol.com].

April 10 (Sat), Day Event, River Rescue. We will provide assistance to Jams Nature Center in Knoxville. Come on out with your boots and gloves and help clean up a portion of a river or creek in the local area. This is an actual hands-on environmental conservation event where each one of us can learn how we can make a dif- ference in nature. Some refreshments provided. Drive 15 miles each way. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or call at 335-3559.

April 17 (Sat), Earth Day Tabling Event, Kendall homeless are needed to help (3-hour shifts) with handing out info on our club at the Knoxville Earth Day event at Pellissippi State on Hardin Valley Road between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. 5RIL. Lots of good things being handed out, and learn how you can save energy and be conservative in your own home/car including recycling and composting. Learn what a Zero Waste event actually is. Snacks and water will be provided for all volun- teers. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or call at 335-3559.

April 17-18 (Sat-Sun), Backpack, New River Segment, Cumberland Trail. The New River Segment is an approximate 38 miles between Frozen Head State Park and Cove Lake State Park through some of the wildest and least visited terrain in east Tennessee. Learn what a backcountry event actually is. Snacks and water will be provided for all volun- teers. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or call at 335-3559.

April 24-25, (Sat-Sun), Backpack, New River Segment, Cumberland Trail. The New River Segment is an approximate 38 miles between Frozen Head State Park and Cove Lake State Park through some of the wildest and least visited terrain in east Tennessee. Learn what a backcountry event actually is. Snacks and water will be provided for all volun- teers. Please register with Linda Smithyman at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or call at 335-3559.

**CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)**

Join the Green Building Tour during the week of March 15. This free tour is a partnership between the Sierra Club and the American Conservation Council (USBCG) aimed at helping cities nationwide make green building a key component of their economic and environmental sustainability strategies. This event highlights local economic and environmental benefits of energy-efficient, sustainable buildings. See firsthand the realities and potential of high-performing, green building strategies. Please mark your calendar at the web address www.siemerri.org/tour. Contact Chickasaw Group Outings Chair Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway [gazawaypainting@gmail.com / phone: 423.619.6548] for more information.

March 14, Lula Lake Land Trust Day Hike @ 10 a.m. Open to the public. Come enjoy a hike to Lula Lake Land Trust’s 8 acre preserve. Enjoy the scenery and natural beauty that is part of the 4,000 acres in the Rock City watershed the Land Trust (www.lulalake.org) now pro- tects. We’ll have a Lookout Mountain volunteer from the will of Robert Davenport in 1994, to works preserve this unique area for future generations, while advancing the Trust’s mission to establish a public preserve and restore the native plant and animal life in the watershed. Please contact Chickasaw Group Outings Chair Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway [gazawaypainting@gmail.com / phone: 423.619.6548] for meet- ing time and location information. Bring water and trail lunch; wear comfortable hiking shoes and attire.

March 27, Signal Point Day Hike @ 11 a.m. Open to the public. Come enjoy a hike on part of the trail is invited. In Chattanooga we will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Coolidge Park’s parking lot (off Frazier Avenue in North Chattanooga). It is a 2-hour drive to our destination, so we plan to leave Thanksgiving day to avoid the holiday traffic. Plan on spending a relaxed weekend with fellow Sierrans. There’ll be outstanding displays; how-to demonstrations of gardening; presentations on solar, green building, and recycling; “green” vehicles; a fantastic collection of things going on—all promoting sustainability and the environment. Our Group needs volunteers to man our table, sell our potted native trees (black oak, catalpa, walnut and native persimmon) and help with a few “demonstrations” we’ll be doing. How does kite making out of newspapers with kids sound?? For more information, and to volunteer, call/touch Tami Freedman [423.591.3354 or tami1fredman@aol.com].

**Ten Essentials for Hiking**

Sierra Club outings offer a variety of challenging and memorable experiences. It is important to realize that while all trips are guided by a leader, it is ulti- mately the responsibility of each participant to know what they are doing and 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.

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

**Chickasaw Group: You decide what is the most important thing to bring!**
Cherokee National Forest Wilderness Needs Your Help

By Will Skelton

In the mid-1980’s, the U.S. Congress designated over 66,000 acres of wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest. Wilderness is the highest form of protection for our federally owned public lands and protects forests “in perpetuity” from logging, mining and road building while allowing for traditional activities like hiking, hunting, horseback riding, fishing and camping.

That wonderful success happened only after a decade-long fight led by the Tennessee Chapter and the Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club. The fruits of that success have been enjoyed by many Tennessee Chapter members over the subsequent years as we hiked and backpacked in those wilderness areas.

Now we have an opportunity to again help make wilderness in the Cherokee a reality.

The U.S. Forest Service in its current management plan recommended several additional areas for wilderness protection, totaling 20,537 acres. These areas include a brand new stand-alone wilderness, the scenic Upper Bald River area, together with additions to several existing wilderness areas, as follows:

**Northern Cherokee:**
- Big Laurel Branch addition (near Hampton, TN) 5,589 acres
- Sampson Mountain additions (near Greenville, TN) 3,069 acres

**Southern Cherokee:**
- Upper Bald River Wilderness (near Tellico Plains, TN) 9,197 acres
- Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock additions (near Calderwood Lake) 1,973 acres
- Little Frog additions (near Ocoee River and Ducktown) 977 acres
- Big Frog additions (near Ocoee River and Ducktown) 365 acres

These are the very best of the remaining unprotected acres in the Cherokee National Forest, from the lofty peaks of Sampson Mountain, Big Laurel Branch, and Big Frog Mountain to the roaring waterfalls and huge protected upper basin of the Upper Bald River and to the quieter streams of Little Frog Mountain. However, they are at risk and will remain subject to road building and logging at the Forest Service’s discretion unless we act now.

Most Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club members should have recently received an action alert from Tennessee Wild—the coalition of environmental groups and businesses that is urging Congress to protect these areas—containing a letter, brochure, bumper sticker, and action alert.

Please respond to that mailing and write or email both our Senators and your House representative as soon as possible, urging them “to support the Forest Service’s recommendations for wilderness designation of 20,537 acres in the Cherokee National Forest.” The addresses are in the mailing you received; if you don’t have the mail or email addresses, you can look up (using your zip code) the exact mail and email addresses at this site: https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtm. Or you can simply write Senator Lamar Alexander and Senator Bob Corker at United States Senate, Washington DC 20510, and your local U.S. Representative at United States House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515.

If you care about the unprotected wild areas in our Cherokee National Forest, NOW is the time to help out! Please write your Representative and Senators soon.

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Urge TVA to Pursue Aggressive Energy Efficiency

By Louise Gorenflo

Beyond the energy efficiency savings derived from the Tennessee Valley Authority’s (TVA’s) 1200 megawatt peak reduction programs, the agency does not have an energy efficiency target. Indeed TVA’s entire analysis of energy efficiency in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Bellefonte nuclear plant consists of three sentences:

*Reducing peak demand and energy needs lowers the need for additional capacity in the future.*

The result is a long-term trend of shrinking, downward its need for additional capacity. TVA would have absolutely no difficulty exceeding a 1% annual energy savings.

Tennessee would need to reduce its electricity intensity by 66% to match the current intensity in California and New York, the national energy efficiency leaders. The state ranks 40th in population and 24th in per capita energy efficiency expenditures.

At least 10 states and the Northwest have targeted energy use reductions of 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent over the coming years. Others are in a resource planning process or have open public service commission dockets. The result is a long-term trend of shrinking, rather than growing, electricity demand.

In December 2009, the Dept. of Energy’s Energy Information Administration (EIA) released an updated projection of electricity generation. It shows that electricity use will continue to slow. From 2008-2035, the EIA projects an annual electricity growth of 1%. TVA’s base projection forecasts a 2% growth in the same time period. TVA needs to revise
Sierra Club Trails at http://trails.sierraclub.org/about/ is a searchable library of trails described by people just like you. The site is also a community of people who love to explore.

A visitor to this site might search for details about a particular trail before heading out the door, or they might settle in and create a profile, add trails, post events, lead a discussion, share photos, comment on the On Track blog, and create a group around a particular place or interest.

All are welcome to use this free resource, whether or not you’re a member of the Sierra Club (SC). If you are a SC member, chances are a profile has already been auto-generated for you.

Group Chairs and Outings leaders will find the SC Trails site useful for announcing a trip or event, inviting a larger community of participants, sharing trip memories, and allowing others to post feedback, updates, photos and comments.

Any SC Trails member can easily form an interactive “Group” website to reach out to a larger audience by establishing a “Trails Group” that employs many social networking functions. Multiple site administrators may share in keeping the site refreshed and current.

Here is an example of Trails Group use at http://connect.sierraclub.org/TrailGroups/Watauga_Group_Sierra_Club

As an example, below is a May outing posted on SC Trails that Watauga Outing Leaders are hosting on Memorial Day weekend. All the information including cost, camp details, location map and photos may be accessed on the SC Trails site by going to:

http://connect.sierraclub.org/Trails/South_Fork_of_the_New_River

South Fork of the New River outing brief

The “Canoe the New” Memorial weekend trip offers two days paddling and camping on the oldest North American river, Paddle 30 river miles, split into two days, in the North Carolina Highlands. Designated as a National Scenic River, this 30-mile stretch of the New River has it ALL: Bird watching, endangered plants, wildlife, moderate class 1 & 2 rapids and gentle water.

Holders of a North Carolina fishing license are welcomed to fish. Folks may also wish to hike along the New River or bike the low traffic country lane that accesses the camp along the river....

Now find out the “rest of the story” by going to http://connect.sierraclub.org/Trails/South_Fork_of_the_New_River

Folks without Internet access may get the rest of the “Canoe the New” outing details by contacting Webb Griffith at 1-423-727-4797.

Frequently Asked Questions about SC Trails are located at:

http://trails.sierraclub.org/about/
Kids Discover Nature on Inner City Outings

By Joy Mayfield

Jody Patterson and Mike Robinson met 12 people (six Big Brothers, Big Sisters matches) at the Murfreesboro Discovery Center for an Inner City Outing (ICO) last May. Threatening weather stalled and the group ended up taking a walk on a beautiful morning. They were able to enjoy the boardwalk meandering throughout the wetlands and learned about the history, as well as natural history, around Murfree Spring. They were fortunate to see a good deal of wildlife including wood ducks and mallards along with babies. Turtles were soaking up the sun, and they even saw some snakes mating.

Following the hike, everyone had the opportunity to spend time in the Discovery Center as it was a “free day.” What a gem! It’s small but very interactive.

Everyone commented what a great time they had and that they appreciated our efforts. Jody is not only an Inner City Outing leader but also works for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee. What a perfect marriage of agencies this is to introduce teens to healthy choices in recreation and relaxation—a perfect match for Sierra Club’s ICO.

Only one of these teens had been on a hike before. All three were excited to be in the woods and were eager to learn anything we could tell them about nature.

After we completed the loop trail, we waded in Little Harrowbone Creek to cool off our feet. Then it was time for a picnic lunch and head back to civilization.

If you think you’d like to become an ICO leader or even just a helper on hikes, please contact garber@hotmail.com for information. We need more hike leaders. There are so many young people in and around Davidson County who could benefit from this outreach program of the Sierra Club, but we cannot possibly accommodate them all unless we have more volunteers. I assure you, it is rewarding far beyond your greatest expectations.

Murfreesboro Discovery Center inter city outing. Photo by Betsy Garber

Join Sierra Club’s Green Building Tour Week of March 15

By Steven Sondheim

Join the Green Building Tour being organized by your local Sierra Club group during the week of March 15, highlighting local economic and environmental benefits of energy-efficient, sustainable buildings. See firsthand the realities and potential of high-performing, green building strategies. Check with your local group for specifics in Memphis, Cookeville, Johnson City, Crossville, Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Murfreesboro.

The national “Green Buildings for Cool Cities” partnership between the Sierra Club and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is aimed at helping cities nationwide make green building a key component of their economic and environmental sustainability efforts. The partnership leverages Sierra Club’s hundreds of local groups and USGBC’s national network of 78 chapters to encourage new and retrofitted energy-efficient buildings, a key solution to global warming and to achieving the transition to a clean energy economy.

In cities of all sizes and regions, we are working together to implement recommended green building policies ranging from basic to more advanced plans of action to address energy-efficiency and environmental sustainability through the built environment. These policies include leadership standards for government buildings that serve as models for the community; financial and no-cost incentives to build green for the commercial and residential sectors; and improved minimum efficiency standards through energy code adoption and enforcement. The Green Buildings for Cool Cities policy guidance is available online at www.coolecities.us and www.usgbc.org

Green Building Benefits

Green buildings efficiently use energy, water, and other natural resources, protect the health of occupants, improve employee productivity, and reduce pollution. Compared to new structures built to standard construction methods, green buildings reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Investments in green buildings pay dividends, on average resulting in 6.6% improvement on return on investment, 8% reduction in operating costs, and a 7.5% increase in building value. Improving the energy performance in existing buildings can reduce energy use by as much as 30% to 40%, with the ability to earn back those investments through lower utility bills over time. Green building will support 7.9 million U.S. jobs and pump $554 billion into the American economy—including $396 billion in wages—as the next four years (2009-2013), according to a 2009 study by Booz Allen Hamilton for USGBC.

Statewide Green Jobs Task Force: to join or create a local task force in your area, check the Tennessee Alliance for Progress http://tapt.org/ or Nell Levin 888 903-9576 Support the Tennessee Green Jobs Act http://tapt.org/TN_Green_Jobs_Act.htm

Middle Tennessee Group Seeks Conservation Chair

The Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) is seeking a volunteer to chair the very important conservation committee. The duties are to:

• Serve as a point of contact for the public and for Club leaders on conservation issues;
• Assist the MTG executive committee (ExCom) in conservation planning, budget decisions, training, and implementation of the conservation program;
• Act under the direction of the ExCom;
• Initiate and coordinate conservation activities that are in accordance with the goals of the Club and the ExCom.

The Conservation Chair would be expected to be a regular participant in the ExCom strategy (conservation and business) meetings held on the third Monday evening of each month. Mentoring will be provided.

If you have an interest in this opportunity, please send an e-mail, outlining your related background and interests, to Dave Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@manspring.com or Gary Bowers at GB1NATURE@aol.com. Include a resume, if applicable. We welcome your participation and contributions to the work of the Sierra Club.