Public Forum on Nuke Waste

By Rita Harris, Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program

Memphis’ campaign to STOP Nuclear Waste Going to Two Local Landfills kicked into high gear on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at a Public Forum we (Sierra Club) convinced the County Mayor and the County Commission to host for the Memphis area. The forum was well attended with an overflow crowd in the meeting room of the Main Library; head count estimates range between 168 and 180 attendees!

Attendees demanded answers to how and why the Bulk Storage for Release (BSFR) program for managing radioactive waste has been permitted for the past six years and no one, even elected officials knew about the arrange- ment. The State of TN gave time-killing pre- sentations that answered very few questions and we captured it all on videotape by Keven Routon. There was a strong showing from the media with reporters from WREG TV Channel 3 and Channel 24 TV news. Reporters from the Memphis Flyer, our progressive weekly, and also from the Commercial Appeal daily news were present.


Expert speakers supporting our side includ- ed, Diane D’Arrigo with Nuclear Information & Resource Service in Takoma Park, MD; Don Safer, President of the TN Environmental Council; and Kathy Ferris, community activist from Murfreesboro, TN. This forum was the FIRST ever to deal with this issue and many if not all of the participants were very concerned about the safety of this ‘secret program’. We now have a large group of people who want more info and are ready to fight to get this radioactive waste stream out of our County. The following day Diane D’Arrigo was inter- viewed by Rita Harris on the Nature of Conservation cable TV show. The show usually airs several times a week for a month and will give us added awareness-raising power!

Chickasaw Vice Chair Keith Hoover was moved to write a letter the following day, to County Mayor Mark Luttrell. Keith echoes the thoughts and feelings of many concerned about the protection of the Memphis Sands aquifer and the safety of local residents. As a huge concern, we all want to keep our drinking water supply pure and safe. An excerpt from Keith’s letter states, “...The criteria and measurement of LLRW (low-level radioactive waste) is ques- tionable. They use a hypothetical model… The state’s “experts” danced around the questions about politics and the influence of the nuclear industry in the state’s environmental decisions. They spent their half of the presentation trying to confuse the audience with technical informa-

tion about the regulations and natural sources of radiation. NO level of radiation is “safe” and a large population should not be exposed to it! EPA’s maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for radionuclides in drinking water is ZERO. How can that be obtained by allowing LLWR in landfills? The audience left with a lot more questions than answers. Another public forum or two is needed with shorter presenta-
tions and more time for questions.”

We feel an environmental assessment of this program needs to be done, especially after the past six years and the burial of over 17 million pounds of radioactive waste. This public forum raised even more questions than people had when they came, and is only the beginning of our campaig


The Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club presents:

2012-2013 Take-a-Hike Program

For people who have no wilderness hiking experience and are interested in the possibility of incorporating wilderness hiking into their lifestyle, the Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club is offering a year-long Take-a-Hike Program, comprised of a series of increasingly challenging hikes. You do not have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate. Leaders will talk about the beauty of the wilderness. There is no charge for participation, though participants lacking equipment may want to purchase a few necessary items of equipment and clothing.

For more info and are ready to fight to get this radioactive waste stream out of our County. The following day Diane D’Arrigo was inter-

* Hiker’s objective: over the year, to complete at least one hike from each of 6 levels of diffi-
culty. If you can do more, fantastic - we have over 30 hikes to choose from.

For information, contact Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net, or Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com.

On Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Harvey-Broome-Group-Outings/282757555156

Attendees at Nuclear Waste Forum; photo by Sue Williams

The Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club presents:

2012-2013 Take-a-Hike Program
ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is March 25 for the May-June issue. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to gvanhorn26@gmail.com or either attached to e-mail or mailed via U.S. Postal Service on a 3 1/2" diskette or CD-RM. Please include your Sierra Club membership number. To find out how to join, call 423-365-0692.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to gvanhorn26@gmail.com.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or a .tif file format then either attached to e-mail or mailed via U.S. Postal Service on a 3 1/2" diskette or CD-RM. Please include your Sierra Club membership number. To find out how to join, call 423-365-0692.
3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

Deadline for May-June 2012 Issue is March 25, 2012. All meetings and outings notices, articles and photographs must be in by then. Send material to Gene Van Horn at gvanhorn26@gmail.com.
Cool off at Natchez Trace State Park

The Tennessee Chapter 2012 Summer Retreat and Executive Committee Meeting will be held at Natchez Trace State Park on July 20-22.

Events are still being finalized, but we have confirmed that our sensational State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath (http://tn.gov/environment/parks/naturalist/) will lead a canoe float on Maple Creek Lake on Saturday at 4 PM. He’ll also lead a walk at 7 A.M. Sunday morning. These times are chosen to take advantage of the cooler parts of the day. There is also a possibility of a Pontoon Boat ride on Saturday afternoon.

Other events are yet to be finalized, but you can be assured that they will be engaging, informative, and most of all fun!

This location differs from other retreats in that lodging accommodations are air-conditioned and consist of four cottages and a bunkhouse, see http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/NatchezTrace/lodging/#grouplodge for more information. The cottages enable couples and/or families to lodge together. The bunkhouse provides lodging by gender. Note that this is the Group Lodge, not to be confused with the Pin Oak Lodge also located at Natchez Trace State Park.

The Natchez Trace State Park is located 97 miles west of downtown Nashville just off of I-40. After exiting the Interstate turn south and you’ll soon find yourself in the park. The Natchez Trace State Forest surrounds the park. Hiking trails, navigable lakes, and equestrian trails are all available within the park and forest. If you’re so inclined the park also has a shooting range.

Be sure to look for additional information the next Tennes-Sierran, where there will be registration information. (Early bird rates are in effect as long as you register at least 1 week before the meeting!)

The members of the Chickasaw Group hope to see you there!

On A Clear Day You Can See Forever

Tennessee Chapter 2012 Spring Retreat will be held April 27-29 at Sterchi Lodge, nestled between both Pogueh and Cherokee National Forests. Near the Lodge is Max Patch, a 3,306 foot tract of open land on a high knob with 360-degree views. What a splendid picnic spot and great for star gazing or enjoying wildflowers. On a clear day, you can see from Mt. Mitchell on the east to the Great Smoky Mountains on the south. Hiking is available on the Appalachian Trail, which is located ½ mile from the Lodge on Max Patch.

Hosted by Watauga Group Sierra Club, please confirm your reservation, and omnivore or vegetarian preference, with Gloria Griffith at Gla4797@embarqmail.com or 1-423-727-4797.

Early Registration Price until April 20: $40
Regular Registration Fee: $50
Single day only price with no lodging: Sat-$20; Sun-$10
(Children up to 15 attend free)

SPECIAL: ½ price for first-time attendees!

Note: A limited number of partial scholarships are available by request to the Chapter Treasurer, Michael Varnell at rmvarnell@bellsouth.net

Prices are low with bunk house accommodations for 40 people, including breakfasts and Saturday night dinner. Attendees need to bring their own linens or sleeping bag, towels plus Saturday & Sunday lunches and beverages.

Silent Auction: Plan to participate in the Defenders Auction and bring items to donate.

Directions FROM KNOXVILLE
Take Interstate 40 East through Newport and across the North Carolina state line. Take the first North Carolina exit, which is Exit 7 - Harmon Den. Turn left at the bottom of the exit ramp; the road turns to gravel almost immediately. Drive approximately 6.8 miles and make a sharp left turn just past a brown forestry sign. You will also see a sign pointing to Max Patch at this turn.

Drive approximately 2 more miles, passing the Max Patch Trailhead on the right and a large pond with a boardwalk, also on the right.

The driveway to Sterchi Lodge is on the left, approximately 2/10 of a mile past the pond.

Corner

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

One of our conservation focuses this year is encouraging Tennesseans to participate in home energy audits for the purpose of reducing consumption of energy that overall will impact the use of coal for TVA’s coal fired power plants. Educating the public regarding this initiative is crucial for positive outcomes and success. The first week of March you will be receiving our Tennessee Chapter fundraising appeal letter. I strongly encourage you to be as generous as possible in making your donation to our Tennessee Chapter to help achieve the goal of reducing the need for coal dependency in Tennessee for electricity. Your donations will be used solely in Tennessee to help make our communities cleaner and healthier.

I’d like to welcome our new Tennes-Sierran editor, Dr. Gene Van Horn, retired UTC biology professor, who lives in Spring City. Gene likes to hike and to travel. He and his wife (Ruth) have just returned from a trip to the upper Amazon and a trip to Machu Picchu; they have visited all seven continents. He looks forward to meeting Sierrans from all over the state.

The election for the Sierra Club board of directors is coming up. You will receive your ballot in March. Please take a moment to vote! Candidates include the following: Katherine Pendleton TN; Lane Boldman KY; Spencer Black WI; Chuck Frank IL; Arjun Makhijani MD; Liz Walsh TX; Chris Warshaw DE; Chip Wolfe TX and David Scott OH.

A special “thank you” goes to Joel and Cindy Gearhardt and Sherry Cummings for their cooking during the Winter TN Chapter meeting at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. The Cuban meal on Saturday night was fantastic! Mark your calendar now to attend the spring TN Chapter meeting at Sterchi Lodge near Max Patch April 27-29 with Watauga Group hosting.

Katherine Pendleton  
Chair  
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club
Committee Strategy Meeting, Contact Sue Williams for location information. The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. This is an open gathering where members are welcome to attend. Come and see exactly what we are planning. If you have an issue that you would like to see discussed, agenda items must be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to the Executive Committee Chair Sue Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524.

April 5 (Thurs.) 5:30 P.M., Monthly First Thursday Gathering at Outlanders Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN. Sierra Club members, activists, and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. First Thursday contact: Mark Plumlee at mark.chickasaw@gmail.com.

April 10 (Tues.) 6:00 P.M., Executive Committee Strategy Meeting, Contact Sue Williams for location information. The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. This is a business meeting where members are welcome to attend. Come and see exactly what we are planning. If you have an issue that you would like to see discussed, agenda items must be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to the Executive Committee Chair Sue Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524.

April 13, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Topic: Tennessee Youth Environmental Network (TYEN), Presenters: Laura Rigell and Alex Durand, Founders of TYEN. The Tennessee Youth Environmental Network (TYEN) is a newly established youth-led organization that supports young environmentalists in Tennessee through awareness-raising school visits, youth conferences, and an online network. TYEN encourages Tennessee youth to engage in a sustainable future for our state. In today’s predominantly adult-centric setting, they consider it vital that youth are engaged in the development of more sustainable communities.

In their presentation they will explain and demonstrate methods of helping friends and family cultivate skills and confidence in Tennessee youth for the purpose of enabling a transition in our homes, schools, and communities to an environmentally sustainable lifestyle. TYEN emphasizes practical ways that students can achieve change. For more information contact Mac Post mpost3116@aol.com.

Executive Committee (Strategy) Meetings: Four Tuesday meetings each year, beginning with the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN and will start at 7:00 P.M. Please contact Robin Hill, 865-966-9435, robin.hill@gmail.com. All members are invited to attend to get the news on what’s happening in our Harvey Broome Group.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM: March 8, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. TOPIC: Old Growth Forest of Warner Parks. Many of us who live in the Nashville area know the treasure that is Percy and Edwin Warner Parks. We have run, biked, and walked through it in spring glory and summer heat, always appreciating its quiet beauty. The Warner Park Nature Center, a special place for children and adults alike, offering programming including environmental education, school field trips, educate train workshops, outdoor recreation programs and other special activities for people of all ages.

Eleanor Willis, Executive Director of the Friends of Warner Parks, will bring us a slide presentation that focuses on the Hill Tract, an area of old growth forest set to be preserved. Join us for this presentation.

PROGRAM: May 10 Preview: Environmental Justice. Dr. Clifford Cockerham, AP Science Teacher at School of Community Health & Public Service at Whites Creek H.S. Campus, will bring us a presentation on environmental justice and his efforts to make school solutions. For more information contact Mac Post mpost3116@aol.com.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: March 13 and April 10, 6:30 P.M. at the United Steel Workers Union Building, 330 Poplar Ave. Please contact Harvey Broome Group. Follow the sign to the conference area. If you arrive late, please ring the bell at the side door on the left, and someone will come down to let you in. All members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what’s happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. We welcome you to bring us to learn about the group’s conservation initiatives and community activities. Please note that the meeting times may change depending upon the timing of the newly-elected Executive Committee.

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Thursday at 5 P.M. Please contact Gloria Griffith at gla.47767@earthlink.net or 423-727-4797 for more information.
Welcome to the Tennessee Chapter's master list of our outings, Members, and the public, are always very welcome at any of these events. Listed by the sponsoring Group, you are welcome at attend as many across the state as you wish. We believe that what you come to love, you will stand up to protect. Of course, you are welcome to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please send an e-mail to mark.chickasaw@gmail.com. For details call trip leaders Sheryl Campbell, 423-693-8867 or lesliejakobs@yahoo.com.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

The Cherokee Group sponsors outings and hikes at least 1 or 2 weekends a month. Leslie Jakobs serves as our outings chair and person-point for outings information for our Group. Our activities are always open to the public and to members of the Club from across the state! We explore interesting and unique parts of Tennessee, gaining an appreciation of how wonderful, and sometimes threatened, our area is — while having fun. Outings are planned at various levels of intensity, from easy to moderate. For more information, contact Leslie at 423-888-2645 or lesliejakobs@yahoo.com.

March 24 (Fri). — Day hike — “Sinking Creek” through the Bluffwalk in Butler Park. Contact: Sue Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 675-7668.

March 31 (Sat). — Day hike, Gee Creek Wilderness, Cherokee National Forest. Contact: Sue Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 675-7668.

Sierra Club outings offer a variety of walking and nature experiences. It is important to realize that while all trips are guided by a leader, it is ultimately the responsibility of the participant to know how to operate in a safe manner. To that end, the following is a list of essential items which the Sierra Club recommends for use according to the particular type of outing these are:

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

The Ten Essentials for Hiking:

1. Footwear
2. Boots or sturdy shoes
3. Hiking poles
4. Rain gear
5. Extra clothing (it is a good idea to always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Flashlight
8. Extra food, water
9. Maps
10. Navigation tools (compass and map)

March 10 (Sat). — Prentice Cooper Hiking. Contact: April 21 (Sat.) — DOWN TO EARTH FEST at Shelby Farms, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. $5 suggested donation for parking. Contact: for details call trip leaders Sheryl Campbell, 423-693-4729, or Dave Morgan, 423-877-4616.

March 20 (Fri). — Day “Sinking Creek” at Sinking Creek parking area, hike downstream crossing a couple rock houses, and wildflowers. The trail is noted for its narrow gauge railroad bed, waterfalls and cascades, old-growth preserves in the eastern U.S., North Carolina’s “hanging” valley cut into a Southern Appalachian ridge, through which flows the small but beautiful Gee Creek. It is located only a few miles from Etowah, TN, and the Hiwassee River at Etowah, TN, and the Hiwassee River. We’ll learn a bit about the history of Tennessee wilderness as we hike up Gee Creek on a dead end trail, and then will continue off-trail to an old road and then up the side of the Big South Fork Mountain Trail. Total mileage will be around 8 miles and rated easy. One-way distance will be 70 miles. Preregister with Ron Shreeves at 902-3518 or ronaldshreeves@comcast.net (e-mail preferred).

March 11 (Sun). — Spring Breakout Backpack, Leeward Ford to Bandy Creek, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. We will begin the backpack at the Leatherwood Ford Parking Area and go to the Sinking Creek trailhead. A short car shuttle will be required. These trails are flat or rolling with just a few steeper inclines. Construction of the East Lakeshore Trail probably starting at the East Lakeshore Trailhead and end at Bandy Creek. This route includes a number of bridges in Big and Little Possum Creek gorges, and arrive at the falls for a less easy stay. Then we'll hike out on a short flat trail generally yule to our shuttle. This results in a total hiking distance of about 6 miles instead of the usual 9 miles. Rating moderate. One-way distance: 100 miles. Contact Maria Mar. 12 way Warren or Carol Devine, 483-7894 or warrendevine@comcast.net.

March 24 (Sat). — Dayhike, Gee Creek Wilderness, Cherokee National Forest. Rating easy to moderate. Bring your camera, camping gear and water. A.M. Saturday, at the parking lot adjacent to Rock Creek parking area.

March 6 (Sun). — Evening Bonfire, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The Chickasaw Group needs an outings co-chair to help train new outings leaders. The Co-Chair will become a certified outings leader as a result of this process. We would also like another person who is able to teach first aid so we can do the outings training all in one day. For more information, contact Emily Marr: 901-679-4622 or Emily.mar.davies@gmail.com. Of course, you are welcome to use your own personal gear. Details will be on our Facebook page (Cherokee Sierra) and in our local news.

April 7 (Sat). — Take-a-Hike, Little Briar Trail (Walker Sisters Cabin) GSNP: We’ll do an up-and-back hike on a gently sloping trail in a historic area of the Smokies. Along the way, we’ll talk about hiking in the wilderness, what it takes, generally, in terms of fitness and equipment, and describe this year’s Take-a-Hike program. The high point is the Walker Sisters cabin and cabin buildings in the “old days” before the park. Total distance, 4 miles. Rated easy. One-way distance: 44 miles. Preregister with Ron Shreeves at 902-3518 or ronaldshreeves@comcast.net (e-mail preferred).

April 14 (Sat). — Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity Tour (Cove hardwood forest), Cucumber Gap/Jake Creek/Little River GSNP. This classic cove hardwood forest is over a century old. The gap was proba- bly a “hanging” valley cut into a Southern Appalachian ridge, through which flows the small but beautiful Gee Creek. It is located only a few miles from Etowah, TN, and the Hiwassee River at Etowah, TN, and the Hiwassee River. We’ll learn a bit about the history of Tennessee wilderness as we hike up Gee Creek on a dead end trail, and then will continue off-trail to an old road and then up the side of the Big South Fork Mountain Trail. Total mileage will be around 8 miles and rated easy. One-way distance will be 70 miles. Preregister with Ron Shreeves at 902-3518 or ronaldshreeves@comcast.net (e-mail preferred).

April 21-22 (Sat-Sun). — Backp-pack, Piney River segment of the Cumberland Trail. This segment of the Cumberland Trail is located near Spring City. The trail was one of the ten original Bowater Company Pocket Wilderness Areas. It is a linear trail alongside Dunkin Creek and the Piney River of about 10 or 8.5 miles depending on whether one starts at the Newby Branch or Dunkin Creek trailheads. The trail includes a number of interesting features, such as old growth mountain laurel, the old narrow gauge railroad bed, waterfalls and cascades, rock houses, and wildflowers. The trail is noted for its wildflowers and at this time of the year they should be incredible. We will begin the backpack at the Dunkin Creek parking area, hike downstream crossing a couple bridges and passing White Pine Cascades and Hemlock Falls, camp near Rockhouse Branch to allow exploration of the old lumber camp and the creek, hike out over a 100-foot suspension bridge to see lots of amazing wildflowers, and end the backpack at the Piney River trailhead (Shut In Gap Road). We will do a car shuttle. Rating moderate. One-way distance will be 90 miles. Preregister with Sue Perlack or Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 675-7688.

April 21-22 (Sat-Sun). — Backp-pack, Piney River segment of the Cumberland Trail. This segment of the Cumberland Trail is located near Spring City. The trail was one of the ten original Bowater Company Pocket Wilderness Areas. It is a linear trail alongside Dunkin Creek and the Piney River of about 10 or 8.5 miles depending on whether one starts at the Newby Branch or Dunkin Creek trailheads. The trail includes a number of interesting features, such as old growth mountain laurel, the old narrow gauge railroad bed, waterfalls and cascades, rock houses, and wildflowers. The trail is noted for its wildflowers and at this time of the year they should be incredible. We will begin the backpack at the Dunkin Creek parking area, hike downstream crossing a couple bridges and passing White Pine Cascades and Hemlock Falls, camp near Rockhouse Branch to allow exploration of the old lumber camp and the creek, hike out over a 100-foot suspension bridge to see lots of amazing wildflowers, and end the backpack at the Piney River trailhead (Shut In Gap Road). We will do a car shuttle. Rating moderate. One-way distance will be 90 miles. Preregister with Sue Perlack or Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 675-7688.
Fodderstack Mountain though a mature forest that was once dominated by chestnut. At 2.7 miles after gaining 600 feet in elevation we'll intersect the Bote Mountain Trail and descend 1.2 miles to the Laurel Creek Road. We'll have some training in basic topographic map reading skills and use of compass and GPS devices. Total distance 3.9 miles rated easy. Car shuttle involved. One-way drive: 46 miles. Contact Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (e-mail preferred).

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)**

**March 10 (Sat.) Beaman Park Day Hike, 1:00 P.M.** We will hike approximately 4 miles, rated strenuous in parts; wear green (optional). Hiking boots recommended and bring water. Meet at the visitor center. Please let us know you’re coming. Contact: John Pigg at j.t.pigg@comcast.net or 615-851-1192.

April 7 (Sat.) Sellars Farm State Archaeological Area tour and hike, 10:00 A.M. Join Mark Tolley of the Tennessee Ancient Sites Conservancy for a tour of the site of a Native American mound and village dating from 1000-1300 A.D. Two miles. Rated easy. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water. Meet in the parking lot. Sellars Farm is near Lebanon, TN. From Nashville take 1-40 to Exit 239A to merge onto TN-26 E/US 70 E/ Sparta Pike toward Watertown. Travel 1.9 miles and turn left on Poplar Ridge Road. Sellars Farm is approximately one-half mile on your left. Please let us know if you’re coming. Contact: John Pigg at j.t.pigg@comcast.net or 615-851-1192.


**Inner City Outings**

- April 3, Tuesday: Shelby Park with Coleman Community Center, 10:00.
- April 4, Wednesday: Owl’s Hill, Hadley Community Center, 10:30. Allow 2-3 hours for the hike and an owl program. Pack your own picnic lunch.
- April 5, Thursday: Radnor Lake, Easley Community Center, 10:30.

For more information contact: Clay Hardy, Inner City Outings, 720-204-0037, nclay.hardy@gmail.com.

To subscribe to the Tennessee News Listserve, email the following text to LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG:

SUBSCRIBE TENNESSEE-NEWS YourFirstName YourLastName

(Of course, substituting your actual first and last name in the places indicated.)

"You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you."

Dale Carnegie
The Sierra Club Defenders campaign, which funds our legislative and lobbying work, is in its 15th year and needs your support! We win battles but must continue the war to protect our natural heritage. Please support this grassroots campaign by sending the form below, with your check made out to Sierra Club, to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Dr., Nashville, TN 37215. These contributions are not tax-deductible.

Thank you!

Penny Brooks, Legislative Co-Chair Adelle Wood, Defenders of Tennessee

Amount of donation $75 $150 $250 $1,000 ___________ Other

Name:

Address:

City, state, zip:

E-mail:

Check here and include your e-mail address above if you want to receive updates during the legislative session. We will not divulge contact information.

Donations to this fund are not tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Your Support Is Needed to Defend Tennessee’s Environment

The Sierra Club Defenders campaign, which funds our legislative and lobbying work, is in its 15th year and needs your support! We win battles but must continue the war to protect our natural heritage. Please support this grassroots campaign by sending the form below, with your check made out to Sierra Club, to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Dr., Nashville, TN 37215. These contributions are not tax-deductible.

Thank you!

Penny Brooks, Legislative Co-Chair Adelle Wood, Defenders of Tennessee

Amount of donation $75 $150 $250 $1,000 ___________ Other

Name:

Address:

City, state, zip:

E-mail:

Check here and include your e-mail address above if you want to receive updates during the legislative session. We will not divulge contact information.

Donations to this fund are not tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Thank you to Defender contributors December and January.

Ken Brame and Judy Mattox
Dave and Eileen Brogan
Mary Buckner and Jack Lyle
Daniel F. Case
Tom Cullen and Wray Estes
William and Dorothy DeVan
Linda E. Dorton
Jennifer Ellis
Joe Feeman
Dennis Gregg and Louise Gorenflo
Zeke Graves
Dr. John Harwood
Jay & Marilyn Hiatt
J. Randolph Humble
Carol Katz
Robin Larrabee
Richard and Sherry Loller
Mary Mastin and Brian Paddock
Joe McCaleb
John and Chris McCarthy
Patricia Mixon
Ruth Neff
John and Chris Norris
B. Carter Pate
Eric B. Robinson
David H. Scanlon
Pat Schipani
Bonnie Seay
Shelley Shanaman
Marty Simmons
Barbara Sims and Vance Johnson
Will Skelton
Catherine Soudoplatoff and Joe Prochaska
Dennis Spis, Ph.D.
Helen Stewart
Mayo Taylor
Robert J. Thomas
Sue Williams
Adelle Wood and Bill Terry

Amend Citizens United: We the People, Not We the Corporations

The Tennessee Chapter meeting afforded a chance to voice an opinion about Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that allows corporations the right to spend unlimited amounts of money to elect candidates who will be politically beholden to them. It will take a constitutional amendment to overturn this decision, which was two years old on Sun. Jan 22. The Chapter was joined by representatives of Sierra Club Student Coalition and Tennyen, a statewide youth environmental organization who painted the signs.

We, the People of the United States of America, reject the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling, and move to amend our Constitution to firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights.

Knowing Corporations are Not People @ Winter TN Chapter Retreat --photo by Keven Routon
By Steven Sondheim, Sierra Club Delegate, UN Climate Conference

**Breaking News: World Matches U.S. Climate Change efforts 10 Fold!**

If only that were true. Actually if the U.S. were to aggressively deal with climate change, it would have a tremendous effect on the other countries, many of which are holding back waiting for US.

What Can You Do? The #1 most effective thing we can do is to join the effort to convince the public and our leaders to recognize the urgency and take climate change seriously by committing to aggressive actions. We are already expecting at least a 2°C rise. Some say that if we continue on our current course, worldwide temperatures could rise as much as 4 degrees (7.2°F).

In the last Energy Corner November/December issue of the Tennes-Sierran, I wrote about the Sierra Club’s activities in Durban.

What were the results?

First of we joined the hundreds of grassroots organizations who are not waiting on formal agreements, but instead are demonstrating progress and worldwide cooperation. There is world-wide recognition of both the seriousness and the urgency of the problem. I was personally struck by the plight of the peoples of many of the delegates I met from islands soon to be under water, to people suffering from drought, hunger and pollution, to the greed and insensitivity of many of the financial and energy corporations.

There were 4 potential breakthroughs in negotiations:

1. Green Climate Fund
2. Continuation of the Kyoto Protocol
3. Agreements to work towards legally binding carbon emission limits
4. Agreements that both developed and developing countries will contribute to lessening emissions,

Sooner or later we will transition into a Green Economy, with plenty of jobs that support sustainability. Contrary to the fears of deprivation, this economy will support an enriched, healthy existence.

The next 5 years are crucial, because what we build today commits us for decades to come.

Renewable is the answer. Consensus at the conference was that the world needs to stop wasting money on Coal, Oil, Gas, and Nuclear Power and transition with a crash program to renewables -- supported by conservation and efficiency. Fortunately many have already started.

What else can you do? Join a committee:

**TVA, Climate Action, Beyond Coal**
- contact Louise Gorenflo, lgorenflo@gmail.com or our TN_Climate_Action_Campaign Sites:
  - The Campaign http://www.tnclimateaction.net/
  - Activist Network http://connect.sierraclub.org/Team/TN_Climate_Action_Campaign

**Transportation Issues**
- contact Robin Hill, robin.hill8@gmail.com or BrianPaddock, bpaddock@twlakes.net or Steven Sondheim at stevensondheim@yahoo.com

**Renewable, Mountain Top Removal, Global Warming**
- contact Mary Mastin, marymastin@twlakes.net or Gloria Griffith, gla4797@embarqmail.com

**Additional links:**
- National Transportation http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/transportation/
- Carbon Calculator http://www.coolcalifornia.org/calculator

---

Breaking News: World Matches U.S. Climate Change efforts 10 Fold!

By Steven Sondheim, Sierra Club Delegate, UN Climate Conference

International Delegates, UN Climate Conference photo by Steven Sondheim

---

**Tennes-Sierran via email**

Subscribe simply by going to http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mgt/subscribe.htm

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