A Word on Meetings

By Dennis Shekinah

Honesty, I have to tell you I’m not a big fan of meetings. In the old days friends and neighbors would meet in store fronts, libraries, restaurants, conference rooms, churches and anywhere else people would let us meet to plan strategies for protecting our local watershed. When litigation was imminent we would often meet weekly, every day, in venues that felt impersonal and sterile.

When we incorporated as the Watauga Group of the Tennessee Sierra Club in 2006, we decided to try on some new ideas to see what fits. Do things a little differently. A little more friendly. A little more inviting.

We began meeting in member’s homes. Come as you are. No more fluorescent lights, no more distractions in public places, no more odd looks from others.

The comfort of a home allows us to indulge in friendship and laughter that is difficult in public venues. Along with this personal touch, we began meetings at dinner time and conducting business around a potluck feast. We continue to eat first and conduct business before dessert. Watauga Group dubbed this monthly tradition a ‘Meal and Meeting’ and has evolved into a ‘gathering’ of like-minded new and longtime friends.

Twelve years later, we still stick to a schedule as best we can, beginning the meeting after the dinner hour with a whistle. The Chair usually introduces or recognizes new people and begins with a few antidotes and updates from committee teams. This always seems to focus folks’ attention and makes them more willing to pitch in to help active committee work, consider attending vital county commission meetings or take flash actions, such as letter writing or petition signing.

Kinks, you ask? Sure we’ve had a few logistical challenges to overcome or to attend constraints to accommodate. Active listening for opportunities to adjust ensures what continues to fit.

Dean Whitworth, in character as Theodore Roosevelt, presents Teddy’s vision to preserve public lands as National Forests for future generations to enjoy. Photo credit Dennis Shekinah

Looking Ahead: Tennessee Chapter Spring Retreat

April 27-29 N.B. Forest State Park

Join us in this beautiful setting in late Spring and enjoy the splendors of Mother Nature as she awakens. Environmentalists and nature lovers from across the State of Tennessee will be there. Will you?

Nathan Bedford Forest State Park, located on the western shore of Kentucky Lake, began as a local park constructed by the Works Progress Administration, a Depression Era work recovery program. Established in 1929, the park consists of 2,587 acres managed by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The area was designated a state park in 1963. The park contains more than 25 miles of hiking trails. It is home to the Tennessee River Folklife Interpretive Center and Museum situated on one of the highest points in West Tennessee, Pilot Knob. The center features the life ways and customs of folks on the Tennessee River including mussel hunting, crafts, commercial fishing and more.

Arrival Details & Reservations

Check in begins Friday after 4 PM at the Group Lodge. Early bird pricing of $50 for the weekend is available thru Friday, April 13th. First time attendees are half price. Youth under 16 are free. Registration after the 13th is $60. This includes dorm style lodging, Saturday and Sunday breakfasts, Saturday dinner. Specify vegetarian or omnivore when registering. Pay with cash or check upon arrival. Special event pricing and for partial attendance is available: students $15, Saturday meals $ 30, Sunday breakfast $10, attendance only $5. Scholarships are available with advance arrangement. Camping is available at an additional cost. Register on line at http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4019609/April-27-29-2018-Sierra-Club-Retreat or contact Charlie High for information and reservations at ca4722@aol.com or by text at 615.500.5499.

What to Bring

Attendees should bring a sleeping bag or mattress, pillow, towel, toiletries, sturdy shoes or hiking boots, appropriate clothing, snacks, beverages, reusable water bottle, Friday evening and midday lunches, items for the silent auction.

Liability Waiver

All retreat attendees will be required to sign a liability waiver. See Chapter Retreat Schedule on page 2 for details.

Tennessee Chapter Summer Retreat

Cedars of Lebanon State Park

August 3rd thru 5th

Mark your calendars! Come explore a part of middle Tennessee’s wild side and Civilian Conservation Corp history for a great weekend this coming August while you meet others from across the state that share your same concerns. Bike with State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath on Saturday and/or Sunday morning in the Red Cedar Forest and Glades at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

Watauga Group is hosting and reservations may be confirmed by contacting Gloria Griffin at Gla4797@embarqmail.com or call 423-727-4797 or register online here http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4124392/August-3-5-2018-Sierra-Club-Retreat.

• Early Bird Registration Fee until July 27: $50/adult
• Regular Registration Fee: $60/adult
• Students: $15 for the whole weekend
• Single day only price with meals: Sat - $30; Sun - $10
• Day only, no meals: $5
• Children 15 and under attend free
• Special: ½ off registration fee for the first time adventurers!

Chapter Retreats are considered by National as an activity that requires people to sign the waiver we use for people going on Sierra Club outings. So, when first arrive at the Retreat, we will have these handy and make sure that it is a part of registering each of you.

If someone under 18 is attending with their parent/guardian, they should be listed and signed in by the parent/guardian. If youths are coming separately, there is a Minor Waiver, which needs to be signed by the parent/guardian and brought to the Retreat.

The Chapter retreat will begin at 4 PM on Friday and end at 2 PM on Sunday. All TN Chapter Retreat participants will be required to sign the standard Sierra Club outings liability waiver when checking in at the retreat location. To review this waiver, please visit http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual_waiver.pdf.

Any attendee under the age of 18 not accompanied by parent will need to have a signed liability waiver and medical authorization form with them when they arrive. To review and print these waivers, please visit http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual_waiver.pdf AND http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual_waiver.pdf.

Gloria Griffith at Gla4797@embarqmail.com or call 423-727-4797 or register online here http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4124392/August-3-5-2018-Sierra-Club-Retreat.

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**Tennes-Sierran**

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

**SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:**
- Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
- Mail: clip the “Moving?” coupon on page 8 and mail
- Address changes are processed much faster if you include your Sierra Club membership number. To find your membership number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

**SEND ARTICLES TO:**
- Email: c.demetreon@mchsi.com

**ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**
Submission Target Date is March 31st for the May/June 2018 issue.
1. Email and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to c.demetreon@mchsi.com either with embedded text messages or attached files. Text files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in Pages.
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 ROM. Images include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.
3. Hand-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.
5. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Tennessee Chapter Ombudsman, Joel Gearhardt at 5. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to:

**TN LOCAL GROUPS:**

TN LOCAL GROUPS:  
Cherokee Group  
https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/cherokee  
Chair: Barbara Kelly  423-718-5009  
Vice Chair: Kate Anthony  513-365-7899  
Secretary: Jocelyn Datisch 423-365-7899  
Conservation: Barbara Hurt 423-886-9503  
Outings: Denise Bivers 865-384-5138  
Treasurer: Joel Gearhardt  615-598-0268  
CCL Delegate: Marc Post  865-806-0980  
Public Address: matthew@sierraclub.org

Chickasaw Group - Memphis  
https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/chickasaw  
Chair: Dennis Lynch 901-363-8029  
Vice Chair: Joe Ozegovich 901-363-8029  
Secretary: Dawn Nelson 901-283-5887  
Conservation: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
Outings: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
Treasurer: Sue Williams 901-274-0524  
Vice Chair: Joe Ozegovich 901-363-8029  
Chair: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
CCL Delegate: Sue Williams 901-274-0524  
Public Address: smWilliams@gmail.com  

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville  
https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/middle-tennessee  
Chair: Grace Stranich 615-646-1102  
Vice Chair: Charles High 615-500-5499  
Secretary: Mary High 615-999-7731  
Conservation: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
Outings: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
Treasurer: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
Vice Chair: Joe Ozegovich 901-363-8029  
Chair: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
CCL Delegate: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
Public Address: ccha1722@aol.com

Watauga Group - Northeast Tennessee  
https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/watauga  
Chair: Gina Davis 423-727-4797  
Vice Chair: Sandi Cranford 423-727-5044  
Secretary: Dennis Shekiah 423-534-4804  
Conservation: Cindy Johnson 423-895-1687  
Outings: Denise Bivers 865-384-5138  
Treasurer: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
CCL Delegate: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
Public Address: cchang1722@aol.com

Chapter Staff:  
Scott Barbour  
Conservation Program Coordinator  
901-619-8567  
Editor:  
Chris Demetreon  
http://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee

**Cut-Off Date for the May/June Issue is March 31, 2018.**

All meetings and outings notices, articles, and photographs should be in by then.

Send material to Chris Demetreon at c.demetreon@mchsi.com

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**MEETING SCHEDULE**

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<tr>
<th>Chapter Meeting</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>NB Forrest State</td>
<td>April 27-29</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Aug 3-5</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
<td>Cades of Lebanon</td>
<td>October 19-21</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Park</td>
<td>January 26-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Pickle Creek State Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Cades of Lebanon</td>
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**Sierra Club Officers**

**TENNESSEE CHAPTER:**
- Chair: Mac Post  865-806-0980  
  mpost35119@gmail.com
- Vice Chair: Bill Mol  423-702-5779  
  whitmold@aol.com
- Secretary: John McIntosh 931-338-2530  
  mcjoanm@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Larry Davis 228-325-3328  
  bmclarry06@hotmail.com
- Conservation: Axel Ringe 865-387-7398  
  onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
- Outings: Denise Bivers 865-384-5138  
  denisebivers@gmail.com
- CCL Delegate: Mac Post  865-806-0980  
  mpost35119@gmail.com

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  Chris Demetreon  
  http://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee

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**All Creatures Great and Small**

“Every good thing, great and small, needs defense”  
- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

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**CUTOFF DATE FOR THE MAY/JUNE ISSUE IS MARCH 31, 2018.**

All meetings and outings notices, articles, and photographs should be in by then.

Send material to Chris Demetreon at c.demetreon@mchsi.com
Lessons from the Trail, Remember the Monarchs

by Joan Tomlinson, trail name Blue Jay

I’ve spent some time out hiking over the last few years. Long hikes. Long enough to call my hikes journeys. I think of my time out hiking as times of discovery. I’ve learned lessons out there, in the natural world. And I’ve brought the knowledge and wisdom of those lessons back home with me. Many of the things I’ve learned were taught to me by the very simple things that I took the time to study, to contemplate. I want to talk here about unusually deep connections to Earth that I discovered as a result of thru hiking the Appalachian Trail in 2014.

Let me back up a bit. I am an over sixty, female, often solo hiker. I started my thru hike (a hike from end to end in one fell swoop) of the Appalachian Trail (AT) in March of 2014 and completed my hike in September of that year. It took me 6 months and 8 days to complete my journey. I started my AT hike because I “wasn’t done yet.” I wasn’t done learning, I wasn’t done growing. I wasn’t done living closer to the edge of my comfort zone or, indeed, living outside my comfort zone. I knew the trail would change me, although I wasn’t specifically looking for change. I was open to what the trail would teach me. Little did I know in March of 2014 the sea change, the tidal wave, the tsunami that would occur in me. My AT journey prompted me to start hiking the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in 2016. I needed to return to the trail to try to recapture or re-live what I had discovered on the AT, although what I had discovered on the AT was still an elusive, fuzzy thing that was poorly defined yet deeply felt. What I have discovered and what draws me back to the trail is a visceral connection to this planet we call home.

There are many things from my AT hike that I can talk about that might explain why I feel so deeply connected to Earth. There was the night early in my hike when the 2 barred owls counted each other all night in the tree above my tent. There was the most amazing and incredible unfolding of spring, millimeter by millimeter, before my very eyes. There was the wildflower growing from a rotting tree, with one melded completely into the other so they were as one. There was the night of a loud and constant howling of the wind high in the mountains, one at all the level of my tent. There was the realization that I had to let go of my dislike for stopping to collect water and the subsequent discovery of the majesty and beauty that water brings forth. There were beautiful lichens, lovely salamanders, a hillside of Dutchman’s Bittches, birds and birdsong, sunsets, and moons so lovely that my heart would weep for joy. Even the hard parts, like days and days of rain and an eight degree night, held special places in the tapestry of my journey. All that, ALL THAT, though, could not explain to me why I had such a deeply felt connection to Earth. Let me just say that getting into the backcountry for a long period of time felt like returning home. It felt like an ancient connection that had been passed down to me through eons and had been awakened by my time on the AT. Simply put, it felt like I had fallen in love with Earth.

When I return from my long hikes, I “process” my experience; I let my journey work itself through me. After my AT hike, I was exhausted in every way; I had no reserves to call upon until I had a rest of time. One thing I did during that period of rest was to go to the Smokies to tag Monarch butterflies. I had seen Monarchs while I was on the trail. I think I was in Virginia when I first started seeing them. I didn’t know about the full life cycle of Monarchs when I was on the AT; I learned about this most amazing butterfly during the tagging event in the Smokies. I’m not a scientist so I hope I can get this life cycle correct. A specific Monarch mates in Mexico and flies to the United States. I heard that the Monarch butterfly had awakened in me a deep love and reverence for our beautiful planet. It is said that we protect what we love. The Monarch butterfly has shown me that it is the most natural thing in the world to be connected to Earth. And I feel compelled to do whatever I can to protect her. For me, it has started with my own personal journey to remove things in my life that harm the Earth. I am on a journey (and I have a long way to go) to zero waste and to a plastic free life. I feel a personal responsibility for this. I feel a deep connection in that, great freedom and momentum. I am motivated and I am taking actions. Some actions seem small, yet they feel like progress to me. I am encouraged by people like Joanna Macy who see a “Great Turning” in the things we hold dear and the positive Earth-saving action that results. I am grateful for my connection with the Sierra Club - I am impressed by my own local Harvey Broome Group. Together, we as Sierra Club members can make a difference. We can. We can love and protect the Earth. Because we want to. Because it is important. Because it is hard-wired in us. Perhaps you have had your own awakening to your connections to Earth. Perhaps you’ve had your deep connections to Earth in your own life. The important thing is that we acknowledge and honor the connections. And then actions come easily.

I, like many people, often feel overwhelmed by the toxic coal ash flowing into the rivers near me, Zinke’s and Pruitt’s and Trump’s latest assaults on the Earth, by alarming climate news, by mountaintop removal, and more. When I do, I take a deep breath, I find a Sierra Club conservation event to stand with, I make phone calls to my Congressmen, I march, I seek the company of other Earth-lovers, and I find new ways to reduce my own personal impact on the Earth. Then I joyfully remember the Monarch and go dig my fingers in the dirt.

Blue Jay may be contacted at BlueJayAT@gmail.com
Members
Take Note...

Seeking Nominating Committee Members for Tennessee Chapter 2019 Board Election

Each spring, new appointments are made to TN Chapter Nominating Committee (NomCom), which plays the vital role of identifying candidates for election to the Executive Committee (ExCom). This is an invitation for qualified volunteers to volunteer to serve on this very important committee, and for recommendations of volunteer leaders who you believe would contribute importantly to this work. Serving on the NomCom involves a substantial commitment of time and attention, but it is also gratifying and enlightening work. The appointments are made by the Chair and confirmed by the Executive Committee. If you are interested please respond to Mac Post (mpost3116@gmail.com, 865-938-3116) by the end of March 2018.

Key responsibilities of the committee include:
(1) Plan and conduct outreach to volunteer leaders through multiple channels to cultivate interest in service on the ExCom, and encourage qualified candidates to apply. Much of the work is delegated amongst committee members and managed through email and conference calls. The bulk of the activity occurs from May through September.
(2) Become familiar with the functioning of the ExCom and the roles and responsibilities performed by Delegates and Officers. Identify particular strengths and skills to look for in ExCom candidates.
(3) Conduct discrete but thorough checks of every applicant.
(4) Work as a team to select the best slate of candidates for nomination.

Essential skills, knowledge, and abilities for committee members:
(1) Have a basic understanding of, and a readiness to learn more about, Sierra Club structure and internal dynamics, tradition, and general organizational operation. Additionally, familiarity with current and recent issues before the Board is desirable;
(2) Be, or become, knowledgeable about the applicable election By-laws, Standing Rules and Guidelines that govern the responsibilities of the NomCom;
(3) Work with a high level of confidentiality and engender trust within the committee – due to the sensitive nature of evaluating candidates, this quality is of paramount importance;
(4) Be knowledgeable about the NomCom schedule and be willing to spend extra hours at the critical times, responding quickly and efficiently and completing assigned tasks promptly.

NomCom members cannot be Board candidates for 2019.

Contact: Mac Post at mpost3116@gmail.com - please use the subject line “NomCom Application”

Group Business Meetings

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Group</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cherokee (Chattanooga)</td>
<td>Mon 3/6, 4/2, 5/7</td>
<td>Pilgrim Congregational Church, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chattanooga</td>
<td>6:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickasaw (Memphis)</td>
<td>Wed 3/7, 4/4, 5/2</td>
<td>Cheffie’s Cafe, 483 High Point Terrace, Memphis</td>
<td>6:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey Broome (Knoxville)</td>
<td>Tue 3/27, 4/24, 5/22</td>
<td>The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd., Knoxville</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle TN (Nashville)</td>
<td>Tue 3/19, 4/16, 5/14</td>
<td>House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville</td>
<td>6:30 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watauga (Mountain City)</td>
<td>Tue 3/13, 4/10, 5/8</td>
<td>R&amp;D Campground 900 Mining Town Rd., Mt. City, TN 37683</td>
<td>5:00 P.M.</td>
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Group Program Meetings

<table>
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<th>Group</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee (Chattanooga)</td>
<td>Mon 3/26, 4/23, 5/28</td>
<td>Unitarian Universalist Church, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga</td>
<td>7:00 P.M. N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickasaw (Memphis)</td>
<td>Thu 3/29, 4/19, 5/17</td>
<td>Benjamin Hooks Public Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., Memphis</td>
<td>5:55 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey Broome (Knoxville)</td>
<td>Tue 3/13, 4/10, 5/8</td>
<td>Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalists Church, 2931 Kingston Pike</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle TN (Nashville)</td>
<td>Thu 3/8, 4/12, 5/10</td>
<td>Radnor Lake Nature Center, 1160 Otter Creek Rd., Nashville, TN</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watauga (Mountain City)</td>
<td>Tue 3/13, 4/10, 5/8</td>
<td>R&amp;D Campground 900 Mining Town Rd., Mt. City, TN 37683</td>
<td>6:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Cherokee Group

March 26, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - March Program: at Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga, TN 37411; off I-24, just east of the Missionary Ridge cut. Take the Germantown Road Exit, turn north onto Ger- mantown Road, take the 2nd left onto Navajo, go about 1/2 mile, UCC will be on your left, up the hill! We meet downstairs, in the Forum Room.

Wetlands: Water is just the beginning," a presentation by naturalist Rick Foster on wetland ecology. Rick will be giving a general overview of wetlands, starting with the most fertile periodic ones (tidal, estuary and flood plains) through vernal pools, swamps and marsh to fen and bogs. We'll learn how nutrient and oxygen levels affect conditions, and the uses and biological potentials. Rick will bring representative samples of wetland biology as examples.

With degrees in resource ecology and management, Rick has made most of his living, besides teaching and managing labs, doing habitat assessment for National Forests and The Nature Conservancy, with habitat restoration, especially wetlands, through in, You'll meet him on the trail, and volunteering in community gardens, along the South Chickamauga Creek Greenway and at the Polk Point Garden.

Letter-writing materials on current issues with talking points will be available for those interested. Hand-written letters do count! Phone calls and e-mails too.

Bring a friend. The public is very welcome! FREE as always.

April 23, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - April Program: Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navaej Dr., Chattanooga, TN 37411; off I-24, just east of the Missionary Ridge cut. Take the Germantown Road Exit, turn north onto Ger- mantown Road, take the 2nd left onto Navajo, go about 1/2 mile, UCC will be on your left, up the hill! We meet downstairs, in the Forum Room.

John McGirk will present “Green, Responsible and Impact Investing.” John will focus on different ways to approach investing for the good of Earth, including how fund companies identify and rate the holdings in their funds, and a comparison of fund fact sheets that can be used for research. You will leave with new insights as well as a do-it-yourself program and a portfolio (if you choose) you can build with your broker or advisor. An independent investment advisor with wide experience serving individuals and institutions for many years, John will bring to the table the personal and professional experiences of a long-term investor.

Looking Ahead: We will not hold a Program Meeting in May, on Memorial Day. Use that time to venture outdoors into nature. “It was in the forest that I found ‘the peace that passeth understanding.’” -- Jane Goodall

Chickasaw Group (Memphis)

Our monthly programs are normally held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:35pm at the Memphis Main Library, 3030 Poplar Ave, Memphis.

Our business meetings are normally held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6pm, at Cheffe’s Cafe, 483 High Point Ter, Memphis.

Program and business meetings are free and open to the public. For additional information see: http://www.facebook.com/ChickasawGroup.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Our monthly programs are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. For additional information see: http://www.sierra-club.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs

Our business meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarter Rd, Knoxville, TN 37909 at 7pm. Everyone is invited. These meetings are free and open to the public. See our web page (sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs) for details.

Middle Tennessee Group (Nashville)

No Submissions
Meet Your New Chapter Executive Committee Members

By Mac Post, Tennessee Chapter Chair
The last weekend in January 2018, the Tennessee Chapter greeted the new members of its Executive Committee in the meeting room of the Cedars Of Lebanon State Park Group Lodge. Many were familiar faces of people that have served the Chapter and its 5 Groups for many years. In addition, there are two people elected by Chapter members as at-Large members of the Chapter Executive Committee that are brand new members to the Chapter leadership team. Let’s get to know something about these two amazing people in their own words.

Erica Davis
Mac: Tell us about yourself.
Erica: I am a 23-year-old law student at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Born and raised in Tennessee, I became involved in environmental activism when I moved to Knoxville for college and fell in love with the mountains.

Mac: How did you get interested working on environmental issues?
Erica: I started by getting involved with campus organizing groups, through which I took on a variety of projects including petition drives, public hearings on a number of environmental issues, and starting a food pantry to reduce food waste and hunger in the campus community. I’ve also advocated for a responsible TVA and researched organizations that were educating and lobbying our state representatives on global sustainable development.

Mac: What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the Tennessee Chapter executive committee?
Erica: I am interested in resource extraction issues, sustainable agriculture, and combatting climate change, as well as other areas of social justice. I hope to bring my skills in coalition building, campaigning, educating, and mobilizing to the great State of Tennessee and beyond. I would also love to see more young people involved, and I plan to devote a lot of time and energy to making that happen. We have a great group, and I want to make sure we keep it going for many, many years to come.

JoAnn McIntosh
Mac: Tell us about yourself.
JoAnn: I have been an advocate for active environmental stewardship since the first Earth Day in 1970, and became a member of the Sierra Club shortly thereafter. I spent much of my life since then living the green life on our small farm near Clarksville, TN and supporting the many environmental organizations that were educating and lobbying for environmental protections.

Mac: How did you get interested working on environmental issues?
JoAnn: Over the years, environmental issues increasingly took a backseat to economic issues in the eyes of the public and the government, and with little acknowledgement of the connection between the environment and the economy, we are now facing the consequences. In January 2017, I joined many others who realize the importance of grassroots activism, and started connecting with individuals and organizations to spread our message. I’ve engaged with local Indivisible and Resist chapters, met government of officials at town halls and in their of offices, proposed and led an environmental stewardship class and a Creation Care committee at my church, and attended Climate Reality Leadership training with Al Gore.

Mac: What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the Tennessee Chapter executive committee?
JoAnn: I have worked to establish a local Sierra Club “team” in my community, now officially recognized by the Chapter as a conservation committee: Sierra Club Clarksville-Montgomery County. I look forward to helping Tennessee’s 5th-largest city become a leader on sustainability initiatives. I also volunteered to be the Chapter Secretary and started serving this role at the recent executive committee meeting at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

New Conservation Committee in Clarksville-Montgomery County
“Sierra Club Clarksville-Montgomery County” held its organizational meeting January 9, 2018. The group was recently recognized as a conservation committee by the Tennessee Chapter, and is on task to address local issues including landfill non-compliances, consideration of a gasification plant, follow-up of the county’s 2017 Sustainability Report, and initiation of a local Ready for 100% campaign. Meetings are scheduled the second Tuesday of each month; next meeting is 6:00pm March 16th at the Clarksville-Montgomery County Library. For more information, contact JoAnn McIntosh at mcijoann@gmail.com.
Sierra Chapter Retreats are Interesting, Fun with Great Food

Each quarter the Tennessee Chapter holds a retreat in some part of our state, most often at a state park group camp/lodge. It’s dorm-style, you bring your sleeping bag, and you pitch in to help with cooking and clean-up. People come from all over the state to hear interesting speakers, go on nature walks and hikes, get updated on conservation issues, and have time to make new friends, and eat great food.

This last retreat, held at Cedars of Lebanon State Park, featured Will Skelton’s Fantastic 3 Bean Vegetarian Chili for Saturday supper. You will enjoy his recipe:

**THREE BEAN VEGETARIAN CHILI**

In large saucepan sauté in olive oil until golden and soft:
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 2 cloves garlic, minced very fine or pressed through garlic press

Then add these items and continue to sauté briefly:
- 1 medium chipotle pepper in adobo sauce, minced (these are available, canned at numerous grocery stores in the Mexican section); important as they give the chili a lot of its unique flavor; you can add a bit more of the adobo sauce to blend the chili more spicily)
- 1 TBS ground ancho chili pepper (also available at many groceries)
- 1 TBS ground cumin

Meanwhile, steam these vegetables (do not separate from peppers as they take different times) until soft:
- 1 cup chopped green bell peppers
- 1 cup chopped red/yellow bell peppers

Add:
- 1 cup chopped peeled carrots
- 12-ounce can red kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 16-ounce can cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 16-ounce can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 TBS ground cumin

Serve with toppings that can include shredded cheese (vegan or dairy), sour cream (vegan or dairy), salsa, chopped fresh cilantro, chopped scallions. Serves 8.

Recipe adapted by Will Skelton from Joy of Cooking, 1997 edition

"Chickasaw Group Programs Highlight Energy & Climate Change"

From previous articles, you already know that the Chickasaw Group has highlighted energy & climate change in many of its programs in 2017. That trend continues in 2018.

The February 15 program, which will happen after this article is written but before it gets published, will have speakers from the city of Memphis, Shelby County, the Office of Sustainability, and Memphis Light Gas and Water (MLGW- our local utility). The focus will be on energy efficiency strategies in buildings, HVAC, and vehicles that the city and county are using to reduce their use of energy. We will also be looking for any plans for rooftop solar on city and county buildings, as well as plans for conversion of over 100,000 streetlights to LED’s.

The March 29 program, at the Main Library, 3030 Poplar, 5:55pm, will focus on household strategies for energy efficiency and renewable energy. Three members of the CKG Excom have solar panels on their roofs, and will describe their experience. A local installer will also describe the process that a new install will go through. MLGW will also describe various energy efficiency programs that they support to help students.

A future program will focus on the specifics of climate change, and what we can do about it.

Poem: Those Underwater

by Jan Keldt

I sat on my porch tonight and heard the frogs stirring in the last night,
then chased out by the bankers still collecting their bonuses.

I pray for the fishermen run off their farms, condemned by the economists as dead.

I prayed for the stolen holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas,
thrown out by the bankers still collecting their bonuses.

I prayed for the people underwater, lured into their homes, pouring out of trucks.

I pray for the children who cannot imagine better lives than their parents had, and for the people whose beaches and oceans have been stolen by developers building the mansions that no one else will ever see.

And I pray for the old sheep, the humans distracted by their likes and notifications,
their tests and pills, pressured into ever longer lives and surgeries they can’t pay for, and then blamed for not having the money to pay for it or for wealthy children to sacrifice themselves.

They are underwater too, pray hard for them.

I pray for the congress that protects us from people marrying freely, but makes sure the angry and the disturbed can buy machine guns to shoot our children.

We don’t build monuments or statues any longer, but garbage dumps and strip malls and we rape and insult the Mother Earth while our carbon seals the sky.

We abandon higher purpose or spiritual consciousness to a world driven by machines, our new priests and rulers, our real representatives.

I care about you, but can no longer speak with you.

Please call customer service or leave a message. You mean a lot to us.

Brother, can you spare a "like" for peace? Or maybe declare war on the rest of the world, they are not like us, they cannot be human.

Perhaps we can "share" what it is that people are really for? And "tweet" a short prayer for Mother Earth, you can hear her weeping and see her tears from my porch.

Bombs are not the only way to kill people and steal their land and farms and work. You can do it every day and never see blood, or hear a siren, or get on TV, or arouse the wrath of a congressman, or get chased through the streets by armies in black helmets, pouring out of trucks.

On my porch, I pledge allegiance to the people underwater, wherever they are, wherever they are. Your government is for sale. There are lots of ways to kill people. The tub is overflowing.
Antoinette Olesen & Buddy Farler

Following the evening program sit back and take in the easy listening of music by Antoinette and Buddy, always a favorite at our Chapter retreats. Antoinette Olesen is a member of the Sierra Club and is an award-winning song-writer who has traveled internationally and performed with numerous world class artists from The Doobie Brothers to Bonnie Raitt. Her most recent success has been songs released by Canadian artist Alessia Cohl. Olesen’s songs feature positive messages celebrating nature, life beauty, relationships and living peacefully in concert with the world. Antoinette will be unveiling her new song “We All Live Off The Land” inspired by the Sierra Club!

Antoinette is an avid supporter of preserving and protecting wildlife, clean air, water, recycling and preserving natural habitats. She also works locally in Nashville with her neighborhood organization “The West Meade Conservancy” in protecting the wildlife habitats and fighting off irresponsible development. Antoinette is honored to be included and is looking forward to seeing you at this event!

Buddy Farler is Nashville native who as a young boy sold paper fans to the Ryman Theatre goers when Broadway was a seedy, peep show neon strip. We’re not sure why he turned the Country Music Hall of Fame down when they wanted to place his rock band in the Nashville Archives... fast forward to the present where his unique voice, colorful stories and memorable melodies stand out in the crowd. This actor/singer-songwriter will captivate your heart. Buddy is currently in the studio recording his latest project.

Join the NB Forest Park Ranger for a Hike

April 28 - 9:00 am Pafford Wilson Trail – This trail is approximately 1 mile and follows a ridge running along Happy Hollow Road. It is a moderately difficult trail due to steep hills in some areas. We will be able to see many birds along the trail, so it is a great trail to bring a camera. We will meet at the group lodge and start the hike there.

1:00 pm - 3 Mile Trail – This trail will start at the Pilot Knob Folk Life Museum and is a 3 mile, relatively easy hike. There is a large hill at the end of the hike that can be a bit strenuous. We will be in between hills during most of this hike, so we will see some beautiful creeks along the way. We will hopefully be able to find some reptiles and amphibians along the way.

April 29 - 9:00 am Girl Scout Interpretive Trail – This trail is approximately 1 mile long and should be an easy hike. We will start the hike at the group lodge and hike around the Happy Hollow campground. This is our newest trail and has signs along the way pointing out different things found in nature.

Tennessee Chapter Spring Retreat Sneak Peak April 27 thru 29

By Todd Waterman

Mother Nature seemingly bypassed fall altogether - by the time we headed home it was snowing - but neither rain nor snow stopped hikers, meeting fans, or socializers from non-virtually enjoying the Fall Retreat and Business Meeting, warmly hosted by the Chattanooga-area Cherokee Group. Chair Cliff Cockerham overcame agonizing family concerns to lead not only Sunday morning’s Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) quarterly meeting but also a Saturday morning discussion of his Chapter Chair Cliff Cockerham’s PowerPoint on local war hero Ser.

Day on the 21st. Next Gary Bowers led a discussion with the Chapter’s Tennes-Sierran/E-Newsletter (cat) “wranglers,” who solicit articles for both newsletters (current Editor Sinclaire Sparkman is departing). On Saturday evening we unwound with a fine conversation warmed by a blazing fireplace.

At Sunday Morning’s Fall ExCom Meeting Tennessee Chapter and At-Large Delegates shared their sometimes-conflicting perspectives and also a transcendent responsibility to the Chapter to find common ground and solutions to the Chapter’s challenges. Revitalization Coordinator Gary Bowers filled us in on why Revitalization for the Tennessee Chapter was necessary, where it’s been going well, and where we might do better. Gary had posted all of the groups’ survey results on the surrounding windows beside us and elsewhere. Motions passed, with colors flying, to promptly share group ExCom meeting minutes; to appoint Chapter (and Group) ExCom Nominating Committees beginning in January and publish the call for nominees early in the year; and to research e-voting possibilities for Chapter and Group ExCom elections well ahead of next year’s voting.

Thanks to the leadership and commitment of Cliff and all concerned, the Fall Chapter ExCom Meeting was commendably smooth and productive - proof that while for the Tennessee Chapter being blessed with strong leaders with strong and diverse opinions can be a challenge, we can also make it a vital strength.

Tennessee Chapter Fall Retreat at Pickett State Park

By Todd Waterman

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Moving?

By Todd Waterman

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