The Tennessee Chapter Summer Retreat

The Watauga Group hosted our Summer Retreat and quarterly Business Meeting at Cedars of Lebanon State Park on the weekend of August 3.

On Saturday many of us headed off down the park’s lovely trails, as others of us joined committee meetings. The morning’s meetings began with the auspicious inaugural convening of the Renewable Energy/Ready for 100/Climate Change Committee, called together by Transportation Chair Dennis Lynch. We all understood the transcendent danger of climate change, which fundamentally and inevitably threatens our hard-won environmental and social progress, entire ecosystems - and perhaps even our own existence. Still, no one has yet stepped forward to lead this vital committee. That could be you!

Bill Moll’s Political Committee Meeting followed, with ex-National Political Chair Ken Brame sharing his expertise and his excitement about the role we can play in the upcoming national elections - our opportunity to win back our future from the corporate interests general - our opportunity to win back the Chapter forward.

And then, it was time to dine and unwind in the convivial Watauga Restaurant and Lounge. When our evening plan for a pool party fell through for lack of a lifeguard, that became another opportunity to connect.

Sunday’s Executive Committee (ExCom) Meeting began with seating new Delegates: Paula Lennon for the Middle Tennessee Group, Jan Stone for the Chickamauga Group, and Lebanon’s Cris Corley, who was chosen to fill an open At-Large Delegate seat. Alice Demetreon was confirmed as Treasurer.

Environmental Chair Axel Ringe then reviewed a painful, challenging year for environmental protection. That led to a discussion of elevating our hard-working and deserving organizer and lobbyist Scott Banbury from half-time status to full-time, which would be an expensive and irreversible decision. That challenge inspired Grace Stranch and others of us to volunteer to help with fundraising.

The ExCom Nominating Committee’s Chair Russ Gillenwater and I asked for Nominees, ideally ones who would bring more diversity to ExCom. Grace Stranch volunteered to chair the Chapter Election Committee, and a decision was made to institute e-balloting for the first time providing we were assured it would work as desired. Yet recently we were to be disappointed to discover that, as much as we all wanted e-balloting and the wider voter participation it promised, technicalities in our Chapter bylaws would prevent it.

Political Chair Bill Moll recounted last year’s successful February 20th Conservation Education Day (CED) and February 21st Conservation Lobby Day (CLD) in Nashville, and invited us to the coming February 2019 CED and CLD. Bill closed with a discussion of the Sierra Club endorsement process, stressing its importance and the importance also of following proper procedures, submitting questionnaires, and interviewing candidates.

Come join us for our Winter Retreat. Find out how good it feels to “explore, enjoy, protect, and resist” in the company of fellow nature lovers and environmental champions.

By John Todd Waterman

Mark your calendars now for our Winter Retreat in the Group Camp of Cedars of Lebanon State Park, just north of Murfreesboro. Come for training, hiking, relaxing close to Nature, and the company of good friends, old and new. People from all across the state come to these gatherings!

Randy Hedgepath, our TN State Naturalist, will also be leading hikes and nature walks both days. Saturday there will be citizen lobbying training and well as a focus on passing the TennCan bottle bill in the upcoming legislative session, with workshops to prepare us to hit the ground running in February. Other committee meetings may be happening too. You can participate in as much or as little as you wish, walking a short trail or sitting by the fire may be what appeals to you the most and that’s ok!

Marge Davis will be our speaker Saturday evening; she’s been behind the Bottle Bill for decades and believes this is the year the 10% that Tennesseans recycle just 10% of the 4 billion-plus beverage containers we consume each container and generate millions of dollars for countless non-profits, schools, libraries, the homeless, etc. etc. etc. across the state through bottle drives and donation bins or redemption centers! Marge will also facilitate in our workshops on Saturday. We’ll be at the Group Lodge; prices low ($50/person with email or on-line reservation by January 18, after that price rises to $60/person; first-timers 1/2 off; kids 15 and under free.) For that price you get bunkhouse lodging ($50/person with email or on-line registration $50/person with email or on-line reservation $50/person with email or on-line registration)

Looking Ahead: Tennessee Chapter Winter Retreat
January 25 - 27 Cedars of Lebanon State Park

This is the Tennessee Sierra Club Election Issue – Please Vote

By Mac Post, Tennessee Chapter Chair

The Sierra Club is a democratically run, grassroots organization that depends on members like you to vote in club elections. Your vote determines who participates on the state and local executive committees. These committees guide how your Sierra Club operates and how your club allocates resources to local and regional environmental issues, legislation, and political endorsements.

Inside this newsletter, the only communication that reaches all our members in the state, are the election ballots for each of the 5 Tennessee Sierra Club Groups and for the State Chapter. With each ballot are the candidate statements. You do not have to know a candidate or be expert in the operation of the Groups or Chapter to vote. The fact that you vote is in itself crucial to the democratic nature of your Sierra Club. Your vote is very important.

Instructions are in the ballots for voting and mailing them in. Please consider completing 2 ballots – one for your local Group (you are a member of a group if you reside in the counties listed on the Group’s ballot) and a second one for the State Chapter Executive Committee candidates. The procedure is a bit cumbersome but needed to ensure fair and confidential voting. The ballots must be received no later than December 15 so allow ample time for them to make their way through the mail. We currently do not have an electronic voting capability but are working on providing electronic voting options for next year’s elections.

For additional information please email paulalennon615@gmail.com

The Bi-Monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 51, Number 6 - November/December 2018

Explore, Enjoy and Protect
Join the Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club for a Happy Hour Meet & Greet

Refresh after work while meeting our new members
Renew friendships with those that you haven’t seen for a while
Thursday, November 15, 5:00 to 7:00 PM
Tailgate Brewery in Bellevue, 7300 Charlotte Pike

For additional information please email paulalennon615@gmail.com
ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:
Submission Target Date is November 30th for the January/February issue.
1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to c.demetreon@mchsi.com either with embedded or attached files. Attached 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 email or mailed via U.S. Postal Service on a 3 1/2” diskette or CD RM.
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.
5. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Tennessee Chapter Ombudsman, Joel Gearhardt at jgearhardt@yahoo.com. The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter or the Sierra Club.

“Every good thing, great and small, needs defense”
- John Muir
Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

TENNESSEE CHAPTER:
Chair: Mac Post 865-806-0980 mpost3116@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Bill Mob 423-702-5779
Secretary: John Moir 613-338-2530 johnmoir47@gmail.com
Treasurer: Alex Demetreon 660-247-2288 demetreon1981@gmail.com
Conservation: Axl Ring 865-387-7398 anyfarmer@bellsouth.net
Outings: Denise Bivens 865-384-5138 demotreon@gmail.com
CCL Delegate: Mac Post 865-806-0980 mpost3116@gmail.com

TN LOCAL GROUPS:
Cherokee Group
https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/cherokee
Chair: Savannah Kirby 423-718-5026
Vice Chair: Katelyn 513-365-7899 rainbowgardener2@gmail.com
Secretary: Katelyn 513-365-7899 rainbowgardener2@gmail.com
Treasurer: Barbara Hurst 423-866-9003 barbarahurst@hotmail.com
Conservation: Katelyn 513-365-7899 rainbowgardener2@gmail.com
Outings: John Doyal 423-315-0965 2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com
Mary Brown 423-499-9691 marietommybrown@gmail.com
Chapter Delegate: Bill Mob 423-702-5779 whmoll@aol.com
Upper Cumberland
Committee: Josephine McQuail 931-520-0449 jmquill@kntech.edu

Chicksaw Group - Memphis
https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/chicksaw
Chair: Dennis Lynch 901-361-8029
Vice Chair: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399 jozegovich@yahoo.com
Secretary: Dawn Nielsen 901-283-5887 dawnwst@mac.com
Treasurer: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399 jozegovich@yahoo.com
Conservation: Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399 jozegovich@yahoo.com
Outings: Sue Williams 901-274-0524 SOMemphsisOutings@gmail.com

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge
https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey_broome
Chair: Ron Shrieves 865-922-3518 ronshrieves@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Joanne Logan 865-974-8903 loganj@bellsouth.net
Secretary: Kris Christen 865-292-8277.
Treasurer: Bob Perlack 865-598-5751
permack@aol.com
Conservation: Axl Ring 865-387-7398 anyfarmer@bellsouth.net
Outings: Ron Shrieves 865-922-3518 ronshrieves@gmail.com

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville
https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/middle-tennessee
Chair: Grace Stranich 615-646-1102 grace@bt.com
Vice Chair: Charles High 615-500-5499
Secretary: Mary High 615-500-5499
Treasurer: Joel Gearhardt 615-598-0268
Conservation: Kate Anthony 615-646-1102
Outings: Alex Shrieves 615-500-5499

Watauga Group - Northeast Tennesse
https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/watauga
Chair: Grace Griffin 423-727-4797 gia4797@embarqmail.com
Vice Chair: Sandi Cranford 423-727-6044
Secretary: Dennis Shekinah 615-534-4804
Treasurer: Cindy Johnson 423-895-1687
Conservation: Dean Whitworth 423-727-7124
treasurer@wataugaconservation.org
Outings: Webb Griffin 423-727-4797
dia4797@embarqmail.com
Chapter Staff: Scott Banbury
Conservation Program Coordinator 901-274-0524

Meeting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter Retreat</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Cedar State Park</td>
<td>January 25 - 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Fall Creek State Park</td>
<td>May 3 - 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Cedar State Park</td>
<td>July 26 - 28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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/forms/local-outings-sign-in_waiver.pdf.

Cut off Date for the January/February issue is November 30, 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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Any attendee under the age of 18 not accompanied by parent or legal guardian will need to have a signed liability waiver and medical authorization form with them when they arrive. To review these waivers, please visit http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org.outings/files/forms/local-outings-minor-release_waiver.pdf

The Tennessee-Sierran
Public meetings in Clarksville on proposed AtlasBX lead-acid battery plant

By JoAnn McIntosh

Hundreds of Clarksville residents attended two meetings September 26 to voice their concerns about pollutants expected from a new factory in Montgomery County. The AtlasBX lead-acid battery plant, sister company to recently-opened Hankook Tire, is planned to emit ~1000 lbs/year, in addition to other pollutants such as sulfuric acid and sulfur dioxide, for total particulate matter emissions of 100,000lbs/year. The proposed plant will be located within two miles of three schools, a hospital, a vineyard, and hundreds of homes.

Members of Sierra Club Clarksville-Montgomery County spoke at the 2pm meeting of the Regional Planning Commission, where final site approval for the plant was to be decided. The Commission was asked to defer a decision until after the public meeting with TDEC that evening, and informed that a petition with 1600 signatures had been sent to appropriate government officials, expressing concern over projected emissions and the plant’s proximity to residential areas. The Commission was also reminded that a decision they made previously to rezone the area adjacent to the industrial park as residential had been hotly contested at the time, and was now pertinent to the AtlasBX site approval. After some deliberation, the Commission decided in favor of site approval, stating they had no basis for deferral.

Dozens more citizens spoke at the 6pm TDEC meeting, citing statistics on lead-related health issues in other communities with similar plants, local Clean Air Act and OSHA violations from AtlasBX’s sister company Hankook in the past year, and questioning the benefits of 200 new jobs when weighed against the consequences of increased pollution in a city that is already rated 24th in a list of “Most Toxic Places” in the nation. TDEC responded that AtlasBX’s lead projections were within the limits set by the EPA; the air permit was issued the following morning.

Call to Action

Hello Chapter Leaders, Volunteers, and Staff,

Mike O’Brien and I are seeking your thoughts, comments and input on the draft Urban Infill Policy (https://go.gl/YHTD2C) . Today, October 1, 2018, marks the beginning of the formal 60 day review process which was approved by the Sierra Club Board of Directors this past weekend in Denver. This process is to allow chapters, volunteers and staff to provide comments, thoughts and suggestions on this draft policy. The Urban Infill Task Force will evaluate and review all comments collected during this comment period. We are looking forward to hearing your feedback.

Background

In many high-growth urban areas in the United States we are facing a climate crisis, habitat loss crisis; and all are impacted by housing crisis, transportation crisis, and climate change. Many of these crises are interrelated and exist within the context of a growing urban population. It is imperative to develop the right framework with which our volunteers and staff can engage with communities and effectively navigate the issues and advocate for alignment with our justice, equity, and climate goals.

The Urban Infill Task Force was convened to discuss urban infill development, and the task force worked over the past 5 months to develop a new policy that addresses these challenges in our urban environments. The task force has worked on the draft of this policy and we are eager to receive thoughts and comments on the language.

We have created a google form (https://go.gl/forms/SVdzueCPhTy2) for you to capture comments, edits and suggestions. There are more than 100 responses, and we will be completing comments until November 30, 2018. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas on this draft policy language.

-Mike O’Brien, Sierra Club Board of Directors and Morgan Ellis, Associate Director, Clean Transportation for All Campaign

Chapter E-Newsletter

Editor Wanted

The Tennessee Chapter is looking for an electronic newsletter editor.

The Chapter’s monthly E-Newsletter contains Tennessee relevant content that is time-sensitive and action oriented, including requests for members and other activists to take action on issues of concern to the Club. This tool promotes the quarterly Chapter Retreats and celebrates victories and successes.

Editor responsibilities include receiving/gathering proposed articles from Sierra Club members in the Tennessee Chapter and its Groups, editing as required, confirming that material does not have publication restrictions, and developing the E-Newsletter in Sierra’s implementation of Marketing Cloud software. Support for learning to use the software will be provided.

If you are interested, please email Gary Bowers at sierra@totheforest.net. Please use E-NEWSLETTER APPLICANT in the subject line of your email. Include any information that you would like that supports your desire to fill this vital role.

Tennes-Sierran

Editor Wanted

The Tennessee Chapter is looking for a new editor for the Tennes-Sierran.

The bi-monthly Tennes-Sierran contains Tennessee relevant content that is primarily educational and historical. This tool promotes the upcoming quarterly Chapter Retreats and celebrates Chapter and Group victories and successes. It is also used to announce Group business program meetings, Group business meetings, and special events.

Editor responsibilities include receiving/gathering proposed articles from Sierra Club members in the Tennessee Chapter and its Groups, editing as required, confirming that material does not have publication restrictions, formatting and retouching photographs and developing the Newsletter in Adobe InDesign. Guidance will be provided.

If you are interested, please email Gary Bowers at sierra@totheforest.net. Please use TENNES-SIERRAN APPLICANT in the subject line of your email. Include any information that you would like that supports your desire to fill this vital role.
**Candidate Biographies:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Experience and Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gloria Griffith</td>
<td>First Joint Member</td>
<td>At the chapter level, Gloria presents volunteers as a member of the Budget and Legislative Committees, and previously served several terms as Vice Chair. She currently serves as Watauga Group Chair and Delegate. Gloria’s environmental enthusiasm includes Cherokee National Forest wilderness designation plus grassroots activism for clean air and water quality. Gloria is a resident of Mountain City, TN since 1995 and a Sierra Club member since 2004. She received an Elementary Education B.S. degree from Jacksonville University. Gloria retired after teaching in New Jersey, Florida and Guam and being a retail shop owner and a wholesale garden center supply sales representative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Demetreon</td>
<td>First Joint Member</td>
<td>I have always loved nature. Growing up in Chicago, I walked the beaches every chance I got. A poor kid from the North Side does not have a lot of opportunities to be “in the wild.” I was fortunate to have a mother who took us to Chicago’s nature preserves where I wandered the woods, loving every minute. That is why I know the Sierra Club’s Inner City Outings program is so very important. In 2012 I watched Gasland. How many people can say a movie truly changed their life? In 2013 I attended an anti-fracking rally where I learned of the Sierra Club from Scott Bambury. I was inspired and immediately became a member. I became very active in my local group by organizing and attending marches, also joining the Executive and Political Committees. In January 2014 I became the TN Chapter Treasurer. I was an At-Large Delegate for 2 years and know the commitment and work it requires. As the TN Chapter Treasurer, I am ready to help continue fighting for the Environment. I know as an At-Large Delegate I can help members voice what direction they would like the Chapter to go. I seek to connect to the younger crowd out there who are ready to make noise and let legislators know we are watching and the Environment is not for sale to the highest bidder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Bowers</td>
<td>Joint Member</td>
<td>Gary is committed to ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to experience nature and the natural wonders of the world. He has lived that commitment for the past 30 plus years working diligently to protect our planet. He has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1984, and actively engaged in conservation work since the late 1980’s. Gary strives to be well informed about current threats to our environment. He strongly believes that we are at a critical crossroads in the areas of energy conservation/alternative energy generation and local/organic (non-GMO) food production and that these very important issues should continue to be key Chapter focus areas. An At-Large delegate represents the entire Chapter (State of Tennessee) and provides leadership. This means having a working knowledge, historical and current, of Sierra Club national initiatives, Tennessee Chapter initiatives, and how the two relate. Fifteen years as a previous Tennessee Chapter Conservation Chair provide an extensive knowledge of these areas. Experience includes: revising Chapter conservation committees, aligning with National Club priorities, establishing goals and mission statements, helping bring Sierra National’s Beyond Coal Campaign to Tennessee, obtaining Sierra’s first End Commercial Logging on Federal Public Lands Campaign in the country, and drafting forest protection legislation. Gary’s true passions are the hardwood forests of Tennessee and collecting mineral specimens.</td>
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**Submit your Ballot:** Only current members as of November 1, 2018 may vote. Place both Group and At Large ballots in the same envelope, seal and write “Ballot” on the envelope. Place this “Ballot” envelope in a second envelope for mailing.

Write your name, address, and Sierra Club membership number in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope. Your membership number is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran.

- Envelopes without name, address, and membership number cannot be counted.
- Mail promptly! Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2018 to be valid.

**Mail to:**
Grace Stranch
223 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37203

**Your vote would be appreciated.**
Election Ballot for Cherokee Group Executive Committee: 2019 - 2020 Term

You are in the Cherokee Group if you live in one of these southeast Tennessee counties: Blount, Bradley, Coffee, Franklin, Grundy, Jackson, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Overton, Polk, Putnam, Rhea, Sequatchie, Van Buren, Warren or White. Please vote for the election of five (5) members of the Cherokee Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group’s actions. Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2018 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2018 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group’s actions. Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2018 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2018 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot. Single Members or each Joint Member should vote for no more than five (5) candidates. The order of candidates on the ballot was determined by drawing names at random.

Cherokee Group
Candidate Biographies:
Barbara Hurst - A speech therapist. She’s a native of England, has travelled widely through 50+ countries, lived in 5, and been settled here in Chattanoogga for many years, though she is often still traveling around the world! She loves to hike, and is a frequent participant on Cherokee outings. A Cherokee Group member for many years, she helped reestablish the current Group and is serving as Group Treasurer.

Jenn Galler - Currently serving as Watauga Group Chair and TN Chapter ExCom delegate, Gloria’s efforts include conservation, promoting responsible use of ecosystems and resources, promotion of clean water issues. She has worked on outreach and marketing committees or NGOs which involve themselves with community development and/or Anti-Nuclear efforts. She is a retired attorney, has represented the Sierra Club and others in several lawsuits related to coal mine pollution and nuclear power plants.

Bob Pyle - A long-time advocate for wilderness protection for the Cherokee Forest, he’s been a member since 1981. He has served on Sierra’s National Wildlife and Endangered Species Committee, and continues to keep a watch on wildlife issues, especially our mountain lions in the South Cumberland. An outings leader for several area groups, in the current term serves as our Outings Chair.

Barbara Kelly - Has long been active in the environmental education field while dealing with environmental issues at local, state, and federal levels. She was the founder of the Tennessee Environmental Education Association in 1974, and went on to establish the first educational programs at the Chattanooga Nature Center and at the TVA Energy Conservation Museum. She went to Paris with Sierra Club for Climate Accord work. Lately she works primarily on nuclear, climate change, local water quality, energy justice, and sustainability issues. She participates with Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign.

John Doyal - Currently chair of the Tennessee Chapter’s Climate Committee.

How to Submit your Ballot:
- Place both Group and At Large ballots in the same envelope, seal and write “Ballot” on the envelope.
- Write your name, address, and membership number in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope.
- Place both Group and At Large ballots in an envelope, seal and write “Ballot” on the envelope. Place this “Ballot” envelope in a second envelope for mailing.
- Name promptly! Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2018 to be valid.

Election Ballot for Watauga Group Executive Committee: 2019 - 2020 Term

You are in the Watauga Group if you live in one of these northeast Tennessee counties: Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi or Washington. Please vote for the election of five (5) members of the Watauga Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group’s actions. Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2018 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2018 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group’s actions. Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2018 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2018 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot. Single Members or each Joint Member should vote for no more than five (5) candidates. The order of candidates on the ballot was determined by drawing names at random.

Watauga Group
Candidate Biographies:
Jay Piper - I have been a member of the Sierra Club for twenty years, I enjoy being an active participant in order to make a difference and spotlight conservation efforts in my community.

Bob Carlough - He serves on several Watauga Group Committees such as the Watauga Lake Cleanup, Watauga Lake Conservation Tour, and is an avid gardener and vintner. Retired as a Naturalist Tours Sea Captain in Cape May, NJ, Bob is now a resident of Butler, TN.

Gloria Griffith - Currently serving as Watauga Group Chair and TN Chapter ExCom delegate, Gloria’s efforts include conservation, promoting responsible use of ecosystems and resources, plus grassroots activism for clean air and water quality. She is a resident of Mountain City, TN since 1995. She received an Elementary Education BS degree from Jacksonville State University. After teaching in New Jersey, Florida and Guam, Gloria retired after being a retail shop owner and wholesale garden center supply sales representative.

Dennis Shekinah - I have been an active Sierra Club member since 2004. I have served on the Watauga ExCom as Secretary since its inception in 2006. Currently serve on 6 locally based committees or NGOs which involve themselves with community development and/or clean water issues.

Dottie Frim - I am a lifelong educator and because of my mostly rural teaching experience in both Arizona and Alaska, I have been a member of the Henry’s Knob Group of the SC Chapter serving there as an outings leader. He is an avid woodworker, fishing enthusiast and canoist. As an amateur chef/baker since retirement Webb advocates for family farms and locally sourced food at farmers markets.

How to Submit your Ballot:
- Place both Group and At Large ballots in the same envelope, seal and write “Ballot” on the envelope.
- Write your name, address, and Sierra Club membership number in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope.
- Place both Group and At Large ballots in an envelope, seal and write “Ballot” on the envelope. Place this “Ballot” envelope in a second envelope for mailing.
- Name promptly! Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2018 to be valid.
You are in the Chickasaw Group if you live in one of these west Tennessee counties: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Shelby, Tipton or Weakley.

Please vote for the election of seven (7) members of the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom). The four (4) candidates who receive the most votes will each hold a Chair term; the three (3) terms are 1 year each. Terms begin January 1, 2019. The elected ExCom Members will guide our Group’s actions.

Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2018 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2018 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.

Single Members or each Joint Member should vote for no more than seven (7) candidates. The order of candidates on the ballot was determined by drawing names at random.

**Chickasaw Group**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Single Member</th>
<th>Second Joint Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Susan Moresi</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramie Bell</td>
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<td>C. Lynn Strickland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claudia Meier</td>
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<td>Marquita Bradshaw</td>
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<td>Dennis Lynch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlie Bolenky</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan Stone</td>
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**How to Submit your Ballot:** Only current members as of November 1, 2018 may vote.

Place both Group and At Large ballots in the same envelope, seal and write “Ballot” on the envelope. Place this “Ballot” envelope in a second envelope for mailing.

Write your name, address, and Sierra Club membership number in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope. Your membership number is located to the left of your name on your membership card.

Mail promptly! Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2018 to be valid.

**Mail ballot to:**

Grace Stranch, Sierra Club Elections 223 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37203

**Candidate Biographies:**

**Susan Moresi**

Susan Moresi got involved with the Chickasaw Group after reading that the TVA planned to use 3,500,000 gallons of clean, drinkable water from the Memphs Superfund site to flush, and then recover, the 400-mile Aquafer every calendar day for the foreseeable future to cool equipment in its new, electricity-generating plant. Then she found out they are not the only ones! Since that time, when Susan tries to start a conversation about the aquifer, people typically respond by saying “What’s an aquifer?” Susan says that “Yes, I very much support the Sierra Club’s mission to inform and educate communities about their resources.”

Another issue that bothers Susan, while not at all local, is the decimation of the world’s elephant and rhinoceros populations for their tusks and horns. Susan says that “I very much support the Sierra Club’s mission to inform and educate communities about their resources.”

**Jan Stone**

Jan Stone spent a great deal of her early years outside: climbing trees, chasing butterflies and grasshoppers, building forts in bushes, and having picnicking in the woods. In more recent years, Jan has become increasingly aware of the problems that we humans create for the environment and the creatures that depend on it. Jan joined the Sierra Club 5 years ago, became an active member of the Tennessee Youth Environment Network (TennYEN) in 2014, and has served on its Executive Committee for three years. She was a founding member of Youth Terminating Pollution.

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**Please vote for the election of seven (7) members of the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom). The four (4) candidates who receive the most votes will each hold a Chair term; the three (3) terms are 1 year each. Terms begin January 1, 2019. The elected ExCom Members will guide our Group’s actions.**

**Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2018 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2018 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.**

- Single Members or each Joint Member should vote for no more than seven (7) candidates. The order of candidates on the ballot was determined by drawing names at random.

- You are in the Chickasaw Group if you live in one of these west Tennessee counties: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Shelby, Tipton or Weakley.

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- Single Members or each Joint Member should vote for no more than seven (7) candidates. The order of candidates on the ballot was determined by drawing names at random.
You are in the Harvey Broome Group if you live in one of these east Tennessee counties: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Cumber- land, Fentress, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Pickett, Roane, Scott, Sevier or Union.

Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2018 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2018 may vote. Joint members must vote separately on the same ballot.

Single Members or each Joint Member should vote for no more than six (6) candidates. The order of candidates on the ballot was determined by drawing names at random.

Harvey Broome Group

Joan Tomlinson
Jerry Thornton
Jim M. Hackworth, Jr.
Bob Perlack
Stan Johnson
Robin H.
Will Skelton
Todd Waterman

How to Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2018 may vote.

Place both Group and At Large ballots in the same envelope, seal and write “Ballot” on the envelope. Place this “Ballot” envelope in a second envelope and mail.

Write your name, address, and Sierra Club membership number in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope. Your membership number is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran.

Mail ballot to:
Grace Stranch, Sierra Club Elections
223 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37203

Election Ballot for Harvey Broome Group Executive Committee: 2019 - 2020 Term

1. “Green Collar” Job Development and Training for Youth from Disadvantaged/Socially Equal Energy Efficient Development (S.E.E.E.D.) pursues prosperity that is sustainable and respectful of the Earth, as well as job skills for our young people that are relevant to Knoxville’s emerging green econ

2. Youth Mentoring and Social, Cultural, and Spiritual Development through a Community Service Program

3. Advanced Mentoring for Green Entrepreneurship

In our short history of sustainability and prosperity in our community by placing three young people in “green collar” jobs in Knoxville, including at Knox Botanical Gardens, Bear Island Community Farm, and CAC Energy and Community Services. S.E.E.E.D. has a tremendous track record of success in engaging young people in green careers.

Robin Hill
Retired Knox County attorney with Bass, Bass & Sims, PLC. Prior Chair of Harvey Broome Group and Tennessee Chapter and longtime Harvey Broome Group outings leader. Will made pro-bono representations in the Tennessee Wilderness Act to designate an additional 20,000 acres of Cherokee National Forest as Wilderness.

Tod Waterman
Climate change is a slow, silent, for-profit slaughter. We can’t take it back, and it urgently, fundamentally threatens all our hard-won social and environmental progress. We thus are given an unprecedented opportunity to do profound, lasting good. If we can rapidly change not just our light bulbs but our government policy, we could still provide clean, affordable, and environmentally sustainable energy for all the children to come.

Bob Perlack
Bob recently retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Environmental Sciences Division) where he served as a senior political analyst. A member of the Harvey Broome Group for several decades, Bob served on an ad hoc subcommittee of the Executive Committee in various capacities. He currently serves as the HBG Treasurer and as Assistant Treasurer for the Tennessee State Chapter and also serves as the treasurer of the Sierra Club, Beyond Coal, and our partner organizations to create, publicize, and present effective, rewarding volunteer opportunities to testify before TVA, TDEC, BL, OSMRE, and the EPA; to attend rallies, trainings, conferences, and marches here and in distant cities; to lobby here, in Nashville, and D.C.; and to sign petitions, and inform ourselves through our Facebook page, email, our Chapter website, the Tennes-Sierran, the HBG Newsletter, and other websites, newsletters, and social media platforms. As a member for the HBG and Park Service, I would focus on building a stronger green economy.

Jerry Thornton
Jerry seeks to return a leadership position in the Sierra Club after a long absence. Jerry enjoys working with people in the face to face environment of the Sierra Club since the 1950s and was the Chairman of the Bluegrass Group in Kentucky in the mid-1970s. While in law school, he clerked for the Rock Creek Indian Reservation in the state of Montana. The planet’s air and water quality, and the quality of life for everyone on the planet are Jerry’s top priorities. Jerry has served in numerous capacities within the Tennessee Sierra Club. His articles are called “Lessons from the Trail.” Jerry has been a member of the HBG’s executive committee for 19 years. He serves on the communications and outreach committees. He occasionally helps with the ICO. Jerry participated in the Women’s March in Knoxville, DC in 2019 and the Climate March in DC in 2017. Jerry is an outliving leader with the HBG. He (Blue Jay) continued her love of long distance hiking in 2018 by taking a thru hike of the Pacific Crest Trail. Although her PCT hike did not end as a thru hike, she continued her PCT hike in 2017 and completed her incredible PCT journey in September of this year. Joan is committed to being active with the Sierra Club and other organizations that promote conservation of, love of, and connections to wild and natural places on our amazing planet.

Jim M. Hackworth, Jr.
Jim retired as a Senior Facility Engineer and Project Leader/Manager from UT-Battelle, LLC/ORNL in 2008 after 34 years. He joined Sierra Club in 2017. Jim earned his Bachelor’s and Masters Degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Virginia. He began employment at ORNL in the Mechanical Engineering Division doing reactor design. During his last several years at ORNL, he worked within the Facilities Revitalization and Energy Management Programs. Prior to that, he won awards for managing the wasteful and environmentally toxic programs for the Plant and Equipment Division. Jim also served as a Tennessee State Representative, District 33, from 2002 to 2010 and as an Anderson County Commissioner from 1998 to 1990. He now wants to put the experience he gained in those areas to good use.

Robin Hill
Robin has a background in community development, entrepreneurship and public service. As Director for the Community Development Board in Nashville, Tennessee, and later as Executive Director for Community Services in East Tennessee, he applied his skills and experience to build a strong community development organization SEEED.

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The Tennes-Sierran

Page 7 - November/December 2018
I grew up working also for mentors Frank and Josephine Duveneck owners of the 2500 acre Hidden Villa, a non-profit educational organization similar to Sierra’s IC0 bringing inner city kids into nature for week long hiking, camping and sustainable organic farming. I was the founding, first member of another non-profit built on unique ground-breaking programs seeking the inclusion of a more diverse membership of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds to effect meaningful change on local, national and international levels. Should I be elected, my goal with Sierra is utilizing this “think big”, out of the box visioning to raise awareness and interest, especially attracting new, young, enthusiastic Sierra Club members.

Gary Bowers

Following a six-year absence from the Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee, long term Sierra member since 1984 seeks the opportunity to support the efforts of the MTG ExCom in conservation initiatives, recruiting new members, and engaging and activating them using the Ladder of Engagement. Developing committee infrastructure and staffing those committees is key to the continued growth and success of the Group.

15 years as a former Tennessee Chapter Conservation Chair provide an extensive knowledge of and the ability to apply those principles to these areas. Chapter level experience includes: revising Chapter conservation committees, aligning with National Club priorities, establishing conservation committee goals and mission statements, helping bring Sierra National’s Beyond Coal Campaign to Tennessee, obtaining Sierra’s first End Commercial Logging on Federal Public Lands Campaign in the country, and drafting forest protection legislation.

Gary looks forward to the opportunity to serve the Middle TN Group. He asks for your support in the form of your vote.

Dan Joranko

Dan Joranko is a community organizer and educator currently focused on climate change. He was the original contract organizer with the Tennessee Sierra Group Beyond Coal Campaign; organizing teams in Nashville, Chattanooga, Memphis, Knoxville and Sewanee. He continues to bring the Middle Tennessee Group into partnership with other organizations in his role as convener of Climate Nashville. He is also co-leader of the Nashville Wastewater Hearing Authority since 1996.

He has been a Sierra Club member for quite some time and attended four years at Fisk University. He is a life long love for the outdoors. As a child, I spent many weekends in the fields and woods. I have many years of experience with non-profits began at the age of 15 when I was elected to the Board of Directors of The California State Horsemen’s Association (youngest ever) where I served with one of my early mentors, George Cadinet Jr., dubbed “the father of the California trails sys tem” (who passed legislation establishing a federal trails system in 1968).

 mailed ballot to: Grace Stranch, Sierra Club Elections 223 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Suite 200 Nashville, TN 37203

Election Ballot for Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee: 2019 - 2020 Term

You are in the Middle Tennessee Group if you live in one of these middle Tennessee counties: Bedford, Cannon, Cheatham, Clay, Davidson, DeKalb, Dickson, Giles, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Moore, Perry, Robertson, Rutherford, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Wayne, Williamson or Wilson.

Write your name, address, and Sierra Club membership number in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope. Your membership number is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran.

- Envelopes without name, address, and membership number cannot be counted.

- Mail promptly! Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2018 to be valid.

How to Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2018 may vote.

Place both Group and At Large ballots in the same envelope, seal and write “Ballot” on the envelope. Place this “Ballot” envelope in a second envelope for mailing.

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First Joint Member

Middle Tennessee Group

R.C. Wingfield Jr.

John Behn

Antoinette Olsen

Gary Bowers

Dan Joranko

Paula Lennon

Second Joint Member

Single Members or each Joint Member should vote for no more than five (5) candidates. The order of candidates on the ballot was determined by drawing names at random.

Middle Tennessee Group

R.C. Wingfield Jr.

John Behn

Antoinette Olsen

Gary Bowers

Dan Joranko

Paula Lennon

R.C. Wingfield Jr.

The candidate that received the most votes will be elected. If a tie occurs, the tie will be broken by lot. If no one vote is sufficient, a second ballot will be held.

Candidate Biographies (in random order):

R.C. Wingfield Jr.

Dr. Wingfield currently serves as an Associate Professor within the Discipline of Chemistry at Fisk University (where he has served since 1985). At Fisk he is currently also serving as the Director of the Fisk Community Environmental Toxics Awareness and Sustainability Program. In addition he serves as the Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator for Academic Affairs.

His continuing interests are in environmental justice and sustainability education, eliminating racial health disparities, fate and transport of pesticides, and other toxic substances in the environment, reducing the population’s exposure to toxic substances, middle school environmental education, and integration of environmental sustainability/health across the curriculum.

He is a 1982 B.S. graduate of Fisk University (1984), received his Ph. D. from the University of Cincinnati (1971) in Physical Bioorganic Chemistry. He has had over twelve years industrial experience in chemical process and product development. During the Fall of 2003, while on sabbatical, he worked as an EPA/NAFEO Fellow in the USEPA.

He served as External Process Leader and Co-Chair of a statewide Steering Committee to develop an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (1998-2000). He was named in 2005 by the Governor of the State of Tennessee to the Compliance Advisory Panel in June 2009 to support the TDEC Small Business Environmental Assistance Program.

From July 2003 to October 2004, he chaired the Nashville Health Disparities Coalition. During the period, 2003-2013, he served as a Mayor appointed to the Healthy Nashville Leadership Council to help lead the city in establishing strategic priorities and mobilizing community initiatives to achieve significant improvements in the city’s health. He has served as a Mayor appointed member of the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Wastewater Hearing Authority since 1996.

He served on the Committee on Science of the American Chemical Society from 2003 to 2012. In 2008 and 2014 he served as Awards Chair for the Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society. He currently serves as 2017 Chair-Elect, Nashville Section, American Chemical Society

John Behn

Sierra Club drew my interest because of my concerns for the environment including resources, open spaces, air quality, wetlands, and water supplies. Here in Middle Tennessee the rapid urban development of urban areas in rural areas seems to be done without regard to our environment. This is abundantly obvious in the Spring Hill area and most of Murfreesboro. Yet too few people are aware of the efforts by Sierra Club to address these issues. For the past one year I have served as Webmaster for the Middle Tennessee Group and as Chair of the Environment, Science, and Social Justice Committee as well as tech support for all the Groups in Tennessee. I am participating in implementing new web based membership systems for the Tennessee Chapter and for the Middle Tennessee Group. As an engineer and former consultant with IBM and SAP I feel my experience will help MTG to real, expand and drive stronger community involvement to protect our environment. I elected to the MTG Executive Committee in 2018 filling a position vacated by another member.

Antoinette Olsen

I have been a long time member of the Sierra club as were my parents, avid environmentalists where camping at every California State park and beyond was summer. My experience with non-profits began at the age of 15 when I was elected to the Board of Directors of The California State Horsemen’s Association (youngest ever) where I served with one of my early mentors, George Cadinet Jr., dubbed “the father of the California trails sys tem” (who passed legislation establishing a federal trails system in 1968).

Horsemen’s Association (youngest ever) where I served with one of my early involvements – the equine, where the value is the relationship to the horse.

Gary Bowers

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As a parent, I have passed the love of the outdoors on to my children. As a Girl Scout I learned to leave things in better condition than I found them and this includes the environment.

Paula Lennon

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The Tennessee Chapter’s Outings and activities are always open to the public and members of the Club from across the state! Sponsoring by our local Groups, pre-registration with the trip leader is a must for all outings.

No Program in December.

December 6, 2018 - 4:00 P.M. - Cherokee Group Annual Welcome 2019 Pot-luck/Mixer: Auditorium Center, Sunday, Jan. 7th starting at 4 pm. YOU are invited! Bring friends and a covered dish. We’ll supply drinks, utensils, plates, etc. Come start the new year off by joining people sharing the same interests, energy and dreams for our environment as you. Welcome all, don’t worry if you haven’t got a dish there’s always plenty of food and wine as well. Before dark we’ll take a short walk to the bridge over South Chickamauga Creek before dinner. Also, the Visitors Center, where we’ll be dining, is a mini-museum with interesting archeological artifacts to explore; Audubon Center is a registered site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Location: Audubon Center Visitor Center – 900 Sanctuary Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37424 – in East Brainerd, off Gunbarrel Road, just follow the signs. The Visitors Center is on the right, just inside the gate.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)
December 7, 2018 - 7:00 to 9:30 P.M. - Holiday Party, at the offices of Burch, Porter, Johnson law firm, at 130 N Court Ave, Memphis.
Check http://www.facebook.com/Chicka-sawGroup for more meeting information.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)
Our monthly programs are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 P.M., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. For additional information see: http://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs
Our business meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at The Church of the Sabbath 234 N. Weisgarder Rd. Knoxville, TN 37909 at 7pm. Everyone is invited. These meetings are free and open to the public. See your local Sierra Club website for more information.

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)
Program and business meetings begin at 6:00 PM on the second Tuesday near Doe Mountain Recreation Area from spring through fall at R&D Campground Pavilion at 900 Mining Town Rd., Mountain City, TN. During the winter time meet up at The Loft 5902 Hwy 421 south Mountain City, TN. Got questions, contact bmw@blucloud.com 423-534-4804. Gla4797@embarqmail.com 423-727-4717.
Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ WataugaGroup

We have e-mails for only about 1/3 of our members – so you are missing out on all our activities! We will not give your address away.

Meetings
The public is very welcome at all Siera Club Meetings and Activities! All members traveling across the state should feel free to drop in and attend another Group’s meetings. You will find yourself among friends and learning something interesting.

CHEROKEE GROUP
November 28, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - November Program: 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 Germantown Road, take the 2nd left onto Navajo, go about 1/2 mile, UUC will be on your left, up the hill! We meet downstairs, in the Forum Room.
David Lochrum, will be speaking about small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) and TVA’s plans for SMRs at its former Clinch River Breeder Reactor site in East Tennessee.
Dave received a bachelor of science degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Tennessee and worked in the nuclear power industry for over 17 years before joining the Union of Concerned Scientists in fall 1996. At UCS, Dave monitored safety levels at the nation’s operating nuclear power reactors and engaged the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Congress, and the media when risks were found to be unduly high. Dave left UCS in February 2009 to become an instructor at the NRC’s technical training center in Chattanooga. Dave returned to his old job at UCS in March 2010, but stayed in Chattanooga, retiring this year. Please come with your questions.
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.
5:30 Social Supper – before our meetings we invite our speaker, and all interested, to dine together prior to the meeting. Feel free to join us at 5:30 pm at Amigo’s Restaurant, 3805 Ringgold Rd., in East Ridge. (Mondays are always taco night!)

November 5 & December 3, 2018 - 6:00 P.M. - Strategy/Business Meetings - Location: Congregation Temple, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chattanooga, TN 37404. Come add your ideas, share your concerns. We’ve got your fingers in a number of issues (clean energy, climate, forestry, water quality, parks), and will be making plans for 2019. Come to the meeting – take the first step by learning more. Come in the front door, we’ll be in the second room on the right. All are welcome!

Tennes-Sierra E-News
Please Like Us on Facebook – our Organization Page: https://www.facebook.com/Cherokeesierra on Facebook – our Group Page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/6318596576/ Keep these e-mail addresses coming so you will get our E-News: send your e-mail address to Alice at demetreon1981@gmail.com so you get the News about our Programs and Outings!

Join our MeetUp – Green Events – Group: http://www.meetup.com/greenhome-107/ Keep those e-mail addresses coming so you will get our E-News: send your e-mail address to Alice at demetreon1981@gmail.com so you get the News about our Programs and Outings!

We have e-mails for only about 1/3 of our members – so you are missing out on all our activities! We will not give your address away.

Outings
The Tennessee Chapter's Outings and activities are always open to the public and members of the Club from across the state! Sponsored by our local Groups, pre-registration with the trip leader is a must for all outings.

November 10, 2018 - Nature Saunter: Lead Cove-Botie Mountain-Finley Cave Loop, GSNP. A great recap for our biodiversity tour since the trip leader is a must for all outings.
Number of pictures from outings including camping, hiking, canoeing, cave exploration and fishing. Learn how we partner with social service agencies and park rangers to safely introduce children to the great outdoors. Become a volunteer yourself!

December 1, 2018 - Dayhike: Point Lookout Loop hike, Panther Creek State Park. We will do a 5.1-mile hike on the Point Lookout Loop at Panther Creek State Park near Morristown, TN. This hike is a vista-laden trek with multiple views of Cherokee Lake from shoreline & hilltops, per, including the Smoky Mountain Overlook. Rated moderate for distance & 180 feet in elevation gain. The elevation is 1,290 feet at the trailhead to 1,470 feet at the high point. Panther Creek State Park is 1,435 acres located near Morristown in Hamblen County on Cherokee Drive (http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/panther-creek). Duration: 2.5 to 3 hours; distance, (Harvey Broome Group)

December 8, 2018 - Forks of the River Loop hike, Knoxville Unitarian Universalist Church parking lot, we’ll take the short connector out the north side of the lot to the paved Will Skelt on Greenway, thence along the Tennessee River to the end of the greenway where we’ll pick up the “natural surface” Whaley Trail, and take that to the West Perimeter Trail, thence back to the parking area. Decent hiking boots are a good idea, as the natural surface trails may be muddy in wet weather. Rated moderate. Hike distance, 6 miles, Drive is to South Knoxville. Pre-register with Ron Shieves: 922-3518; ronshieves@gmail.com (email preferred). (Harvey Broome Group)

Nashville Outings! - We have an active outings schedule! To check out our outings, please go to http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennes-see-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures

Spring will be here before we know it, and we’d like to add some outings leaders. If you’d like to become a Sierra Club certified outings leader, let us know. We’ll be looking at holding a Saturday training (first aid certification and Leader 101 training) in January or February. Please let Marie Brown know if you’re interested. Have your questions. Marybrown7@gmail.com (Cherokee Group)
By Todd Waterman
At last year’s Chapter Fall Retreat Jen Hensley, National Sierra Club’s State Lobbying and Advocacy Director, and Scott Banbury, our own Tennessee Conservation Programs Coordinator/state lobbyist/legislative watchdog, together led a lively lobbying discussion and invited us to Nashville for a February 20, 2018 Conservation Education Day lobby training - from which we would surely emerge expert lobbyists all, just in time for the next day’s Conservation Lobby Day.

At last January’s Chapter Winter Retreat, Tennessee Political Chair Bill Moll, having volunteered to organize both the training and Lobby Day, invited us all to discuss and choose our lobbying goals. We decided we would ask our lawmakers to address these four areas of primary concern, most of them raised by Americans for Prosperity pressure to deregulate:

1. “Open Government and Public Notice,” including the opportunity to see amendments in time to research and comment on them, to photograph public documents with cell phones, and to receive public notice on radioactive waste dumping, on application of pesticides applied to kill invasive aquatic plants in recreational waterways, and on lead levels exceeding the action level in drinking water supplies.

2. “Tennessee’s Solid Waste Issues,” including the dumping of low-level radioactive waste, toxic “special waste,” and energy-squandering food waste, and instituting TDEC training for municipal solid waste management boards.

3. “Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations [CAFOs]” and their freedom to contaminate waterways with excrement from factory farms, replacing fish and other aquatic life with algae, when it could be used as fertilizer. Public Chapter 293 would deregulate all but 15 Tennessee operations, putting us orders of magnitude behind surrounding states.

4. “Vehicle Emissions Testing,” in which municipalities’ health departments would be barred from the tailpipe exhaust testing programs that enabled their cities to meet federal air quality standards. Exceeding those standards again would require greater, more costly regulation in other areas and bar those cities from inviting new industry.

On the evening of Conservation Education Day twenty-seven of us from all over the state gathered at Scarritt Bennett Center, where Jen, Scott, and health, social welfare, equal justice and environmental nonprofit lobbyists’ Lee Clifton introduced us to the sometimes harsh realities of lobbying our Supermajority, and then role-played us through friendly, respectful, and effective lobbying.

The next morning, having accidentally set my watch back a half hour, I showed up late and panting, my suit hopelessly rain-rumpled, halfway through my first scheduled meeting - with my own Senator, Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally. Fortunately, Scott and the rest of our delegation had already made our case well.

Thanks to our brief but reasonably thorough training, now joined by more experienced lobbyists, our many scheduled visits with our state lawmakers would generally be satisfying, fun, and productive. Our elected officials were elected because they’re friendly, likeable folks. Most of their visitors are lobbying for special corporate interests, so they appreciate hearing from actual constituents who seek common ground, even if they don’t agree with us on much else. We were able to inform our lawmakers on the adverse effects of many bills. And, in a few cases, they told us they were going to change their votes thanks to our input. As we debriefed at our base camp in the Cordell Hull Building, there were many happy faces.

Bill Moll says we’ll be back in Nashville on Tuesday, February 12, 2018 for another training. And on February 13 we’ll be lobbying our state legislators once again. You’re invited! Bill, with the help of Barbara Kelly and many others, made this year’s Conservation Lobby Day - for years a joint effort of the Tennessee Environmental Council, Sierra Club, and Tennessee Conservation Voters - an unprecedented success. I’m looking forward to being there again for this coming one. We don’t get many opportunities to protect the world we love as satisfying as this one.

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**Group Business Meetings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee (Chattanooga)</td>
<td>Mon 11/5, 12/3</td>
<td>Pilgrim Congregational Church, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chattanooga</td>
<td>6:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sun 1/6</td>
<td>900 N. Sanctuary Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421</td>
<td>4:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chickasaw (Memphis)</td>
<td>Wed 11/7, 12/5</td>
<td>Cheffie’s Cafe, 483 High Point Terrace, Memphis</td>
<td>6:00 P.M.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>January TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvey Bloom (Knoxville)</td>
<td>Tue 11/27</td>
<td>The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd., Knoxville</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sat 1/12</td>
<td>January planning meeting location TBA</td>
<td>5:00 A.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle TN (Nashville)</td>
<td>Mon 11/19, 12/17, 1/21</td>
<td>House of Kolbo, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville</td>
<td>6:30 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watauga (Mountain City)</td>
<td>Tue 11/13 – Fundraiser</td>
<td>Harvest Dinner – Villa Nove Vineyard - 1877 Dry Hill Rd., Butler, TN</td>
<td>5:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tue 12/11 – Holiday Dinner</td>
<td>Prospect Hill B&amp;B, 801 W Main St., Mountain City</td>
<td>5:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tue 1/8</td>
<td>ExCom Annual Planning, 5902 Highway 421 South, Mountain City</td>
<td>5:00 P.M.</td>
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</table>

**Group Program Meetings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee (Chattanooga)</td>
<td>Mon 11/26, 12/8</td>
<td>Unitarian Universalist Church, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sun 1/6</td>
<td>900 N. Sanctuary Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421</td>
<td>5:00 A.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickasaw (Memphis)</td>
<td>Thu 11/15, 1/17 December Holiday Party - 12/7</td>
<td>Benjamin Hooks Public Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., Memphis</td>
<td>5:55 P.M.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Burch, Porter, Johnson, 130 N Court Ave, Memphis</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvey Bloom (Knoxville)</td>
<td>Tue 11/13, 12/11, 1/8</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 11/8</td>
<td>Radnor Lake Nature Center, 1160 Otter Creek Rd., Nashville, TN</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sat 12/8</td>
<td>Radnor Lake Nature Center, 1160 Otter Creek Rd., Nashville, TN</td>
<td>4:30 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu 1/10</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 11/13 – Fundraiser</td>
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A Cautionary Tale of John Sevier -- The Fossil Plant

By Nancy Bell

The ash spill into the Holston River was just one more insult to this beautiful river located in a broad, rural valley. It was in 1973 when the dike broke at the John Sevier Fossil Plant in Rogersville, located about 25 miles south of the industrial Tri-Cities area of upper east Tennessee, TVA and local industries, with regulatory prodding from the federal Clean Water and Clean Air Acts, have come a long way since 1973. Economics and local opposition forced the closure of a nuclear plant on the Holston in 1980. Whether using natural energy or coal to boil water for the steam to generate electricity, there are consequences when storing the waste.

The generators at the John Sevier Fossil Plant, built in 1957, were converted to natural gas in 2012, resulting in less carbon emissions. But the coal ash is still there. There were some improvements at the facility. In the mid 70s engineers changed the slope of the ash pond berms. Astonishingly, some berms had been made of coal ash. (Think how unstable a pile of ash from your fireplace would be!) Engineers rebuilt the berms using compacted clay. The integrity of the berms and validity of well sampling is crucial for all life in the river. The western edge of the coal ash ponds runs along the riverbank for thousands of feet.

John Sevier is investigated

Now old John Sevier is being thoroughly investigated under TVA’s Environmental Investigation Plan (EIP). It is part of a state-wide plan spurred by the disastrous coal ash flood in Harriman, Tennessee, after the failure at the Kingston Plant. In 2015 the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) ordered TVA to institute the plan that DTEC would devise “…a transparent, comprehensive process to investigate the failure at the John Sevier Fossil Plant and to develop a remedy under acceptable risks resulting from the management and disposal of coal combustion residuals at TVA coal-fired plants.”

In other words, as your mother would say, “Find out what’s happening and clean up that awful mess before someone gets hurt!”

(And, yes, “coal combustion residuals”, or “CCR”, is coal ash.) A TVA Environmental Investigation Plan (EIP) presentation will be coming soon (or has already been) to a town near you if any of the following plants are in your vicinity: Allen, Paradise, Johnsonville, Cumberland, Kingston, Bull Run, or Watts Bar.

Care NET volunteers take action

On July 13, 2018, after an email alert from the Tennesse Sierra Chapter Conservation Chair, two of the members of Care NET Conservation Committee (Hancock, Hawkins, and Grainger counties) attended a hearing for the Rogersville plant — in Knoxville (an hour and a half away). Since we were the only two folks there with the ten TVA and TDEC officials, we opined that a hearing in Rogersville would be more appropriate. A week or so later, TVA announced a hearing in Rogersville for August 9. TVA’s publicity resulted in articles in three area newspapers. We scrawled to get out publicity with emails and phone calls. We collaborated with the Cherokee Lake Users Association and other groups, which helped to get out a good crowd.

At the August hearing many technical details were presented in a poster exhibit, while an ample number of TDEC and TVA staffers and officials patiently explained to the attendees the geology, hydrology, biology, chemistry, and engineering factors under investigation. We wrote comment cards, even took part in a news interview. Our emphasis was that we cared; that we lived, shopped, and worked nearby; and that we were ready to bark like alert watchdogs.

Coal ash is toxic

Since the Holston Valley is not in an earthquake-prone area, and there is no honeycomb-like karst topography, geology is not the main concern. The problems are seepage into the river and groundwater and flooding because coal ash is toxic. Of all the chemicals on the “CCR constituents” list (as TVA terms the dangerous chemicals) arsenic, boron, cadmium, mercury, cobalt, manganese, and molybdenum top the list. It is important that these chemicals continue to be monitored several times a year for more than our own lifetimes.

Sadly, while more wells are proposed for monitoring for leaks, if leaks do occur, we face state regulations that have now been questioned due to the recent 6th Circuit Court of Appeals’ rulings. That three, Clinton appellate panel reversed the cleanup order for the Cumberland River, and stated that the Clean Water Act did not apply to the seepage into the groundwater draining into that river.

Another concern is the rigor of the testing and modeling for catastrophe. After the horror of the recent flooding in North Carolina, a hundred-year flood, or even a 500-year flood appears to be a dreadful possibility. The specter of the Holston River overflowing the detention reservoir dam, the banks of the dry ash stack, and the former and present bottom ash ponds; plus the failure of berms and possibly the pumps is a haunting idea indeed. The flooding in Harriman is on our minds. (And upriver in Kingsport the leaking Boone Dam is undergoing repairs.)

Get involved

The comment period for the Environmental Investigation Plan is over for several plants, but the following plants’ EIPs are still open for public comment: Bull Run (till Nov. 2), Johnsonville (till Nov. 9), and Allen (till Nov. 28). Read a little about the plant that produces your power; look at the TVA materials at each plant’s website; search online for details of a specific plant’s history, including at non-agency websites such as that of the regional office of Environmental Integrity Project. Pay attention to appendices with tables that show which chemicals threaten your water.

Get more by attending a public hearing, a TVA Community Information Session. Then comment. You don’t have to be an expert. But your comments will assure that you implement the safeguards for our waters and adequate TDEC staff to enforce those rules, and, that there are watchdogs ready to bark.

Next we wait for the Environmental Assessment Report next year.

Finally, what we all really need to be requesting (or demanding!) is the total removal of coal ash dumps from our riverbanks to drier, safer locations. Hey, we all live downstream!

Sierra Club Citizens Rise for Climate Action on September 8th

By Bonnie Swinford and Barbara Kelly

Four events in the Tennessee Chapter brought our concerns about the climate, forward as part of Citizens Rise for Climate Jobs and Justice on September 8th, joining people across the country. We had assistance from the National Interfaith Power and Light, which organized and coordinated actions, perhaps you received e-mails inviting you to these events and calling you to action.

In Nashville the Middle Tennessee Group partnered with Climate Nashville, March for Science and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy to hold a visibility event in the Public Square of Nashville with more than 500 people in attendance. The day featured a lineup of incredible musicians and speakers including Nashville’s Mayor Megan Barry, who shared this strong statement on the need for climate action along with picture of the event on twitter.

https://goo.gl/JyLVz

In Knoxville, the Harvey Broome Group Sierra supported two PCM events. The first was a faith based Climate Vigil hosted by Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light. Around 25 faith leaders from different backgrounds gathered in a park and delivered messages of caution and hope and participants were asked to make pledges to act on climate change. The second event was a PCM letter writing event held by a high school organizer at a local community center. There was an intergenerational crowd of around 75 people who gathered to share a meal, socialize and write letters to our Senators on the Clear Power Plan rollbacks, Clean Car Standard rollbacks and the Supreme Court Nomination. This was such an inspirational event in part because it was led by students, but also because it was such a pleasant environment to share a meal, share stories and get some important work done.
Remembering Dean Whitworth

By Catherine Murray and Gloria Griffith

Presley ‘Dean’ Whitworth was born October 17, 1937 in the mountains of Wise County Virginia to parents Presley James and Elizabeth. He passed away on September 1, 2018 at home on Stone Mountain, as was his wish. A gifted storyteller, Dean shared many sagas of childhood adventures hiking, camping and being paperboys with his brothers Jim and Gary. Dean graduated from Dobyns-Bennet High School in 1956 and Virginia Tech in 1962 with a Chemical Engineering degree.

A friend, learning Dean was looking for mountain property, gave him “country” directions. When he finally located the place Dean expounded, “I got out of my VW bus and walked to the brow of the hill. I looked at the cabin, listened to Morgan Branch, breathed the cool air sweet with scents of mature forest and realized ‘This is it, I’m home.’” In July Dean celebrated 33 years of owning his piece of the mountain which he aptly named Frog Hollow.

As quick as possible he rehabbed that stack of logs into a comfortable cabin by adding a floor, ceiling, windows, doors, and roof. He completed all construction projects on the property himself with the exception of the fireplace and chimney. Field rock for the chimney came from the property.

Next he built a sitting porch on the front of the cabin and a workshop on the side that was bigger than his living space. When questioned why, Dean would respond, “Well, you see what is important to me, building.”

“The mountain is good medicine,” Dean would say whether walking in the beauty of forests or crossing his spring fed headwater creek or hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Dean loved being a Papa to his daughter and a Papa Dean to his two grandsons. He loved seeing them explore the mountain or turning purple after jumping in the cold water of the half acre pond. Dean knew future generations would enjoy this mountain land.

Ansel Adams best described the way Dean felt about the world and his slice of Stone Mountain. “Let us leave a splendid legacy for our children...let us turn to them and say, this you inherit: guard it well, for it is far more precious than money...and once destroyed, nature’s beauty cannot be repurchased at any price.”

Dean worked as a chemical engineer to provide things he needed for his family but his true vocation was being an actor in movies and the theater. Dean performed at community theaters as actor and as a director. A natural teacher, he loved the opportunity to pass on knowledge and encouragement to young folks bitten by the acting bug.

He loved music and disc jockeyed a live late night radio program on WMMT in Whitesburg Kentucky called “All Vinyl All Night.” For almost three years, once a week he made the six-hour round trip, to do his show.

Dean was a Lifetime member of Sierra Club. He served on the Executive Committees of the Tennessee Chapter and the Watauga Group. He was employed by Sierra Club as a Regional Representative for 2 years during the End Commercial Logging campaign. While working for Sierra as an organizer he also used his acting talent to portray Teddy Roosevelt across the country at hearings and conferences that promoted protection for our wild forests.

Dean lived one of his favorite sayings: Do all the good you can For all people you can In all the ways you can As long as ever you can He met a lot of people fighting for the protection of water quality, forests and healthy communities. Dean served on Appalachian Voices board of directors from 2002 to 2009 and treasurer of Watauga Watershed Alliance and Cherokee Forest Voices since inception. Dean would say, “The best anyone can expect of a volunteer is one that says what they will do, and then does it.” A character trait Dean exemplified in all that he endeavored.

Remembering Dean Whitworth