Tennessee Chapter Fall Retreat
October 19th thru 21st
Pickett CCC Memorial State Park

Mark your calendar! Come join the fellowship, and explore a little known part of Tennessee’s wilderness and history. It will be a great weekend this October. You will meet others from across the state that share your same interests and concerns! You can enjoy the beautiful fall colors while hiking on the great trails and exploring the geologic features of the scenic Cumberland Plateau.


The Weekend

Those who Arrive on Friday enjoy the "informal” conversations which sometimes go late into the night. Some play games or cards and compare notes about their plans and hopes for the future (perhaps discussing the upcoming election day- Will the Democrats take over control of the House?) On Saturday you can go hiking and you can participate in some committee discussions about strategies and programs.

Randy Hedgepath, State Naturalist, will lead hikes on Saturday and Sunday in the Park. Randy has led many hikes for the Sierra Club and he always makes them interesting, pointing out unique flora, fauna and topography along the way. The details of the hikes aren’t defined yet (as this article is written), but we know Randy will make them interesting and insightful. Read more about Randy at https://bit.ly/2spMeM6 and read his blog and see some of his photos at https://bit.ly/2i2sioN . Note two of his blog postings are about previous fall hikes to enjoy the fall colors, which are guaranteed to be amazing.

Some of the “sights” that might be seen are the home and mill of WWII hero Alvin C. York; large rock houses and natural stone bridges that are a special feature of Pickett; an English settlement in nearby Rugby; or the John Muir Trail along the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. There will be something for all skill levels!

Saturday will also include an update on the Tennessee Chapter’s state lobbying efforts, and plans for the upcoming state legislative season. The Sierra Club’s state lobbyist Scott Banbury will discuss the most effective how-to’s on impacting legislation the Club is working on and the important bills the Club has positions on before the TN General Assembly. Additionally, and our state Political Chair, Bill Moll will lead a strategy and planning session for the upcoming 2018 season, including further growth of our revamped Conservation Lobby Day. We’ll be planning the constituent mobilization effort needed to reach many of our legislators on that day. We hope to recruit leaders for many districts across the state. We need you—our environment needs you! (There will be appropriate training and guidance later this winter for all who get involved.)

Various Sierra Club committees will also meet (details on our website when the date gets closer)- feel free to sit in on any or all of interest to you. There will also be a small training session on the “Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing.” (See https://bit.ly/2PntGoT ) There’s also our annual Silent Auction, benefitting our chapter’s lobbying and legislative program – and a Saturday evening bonfire with S’mores, of course!

Sunday morning you will need to choose between another hike, observing the Tennessee Chapter’s Executive Committee’s (Excom) business meeting, or just relaxing until time to depart, which will be 1pm.

Procedural Details

Chickasaw Group is hosting and reservations may be made online at https://bit.ly/2H9P10v . If you have any questions, you can contact us at chickasawsierra@gmail.com or call Dennis Lynch at 901-361-8029 (Please make sure your name is in your caller-ID). Please specify vegetarian or omnivore as your food choice when you register.

- Early Bird Reservation Price until October 12: $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 regular fee for 1st-time attendees!
- Several scholarships are available with advance approval
- Bring your own bedding, towels and personal items
- Bring lunch for Saturday and Sunday
- The Group Camp includes male and female bunks
- Everybody helps with clean-up before Sunday departure

All attendees at our Chapter Retreats must sign our standard liability waiver. These can be signed online during the online registration or upon arrival at the Retreat. You can review the waiver at https://bit.ly/2kGfev0 . Any youth under 18 attending without their parent/guardian, must bring 2 forms signed by a parent/guardian- our waiver form (https://bit.ly/2kGfev0 ) and “Medical Treatment Authorization & Consent Form” (https://bit.ly/2svyC0c ). Youth attending with a parent/guardian, can be signed in by the parent/guardian when they arrive.

About the Park

Pickett State Park is Tennessee’s first park that was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Between 1934 and 1942, they constructed hiking trails, five rustic cabins, a recreation lodge, a ranger station and a 12-acre lake.

The park is located on the Kentucky border northeast of Jamestown, which is the most eastern part of Nashville, and lies within the 19,200-acre Pickett State Forest, not far from the massive 125,000-acre Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. In 2015, Pickett CCC Memorial State Park and Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area earned Silver-tier International Dark Sky Park designation. It became the first state park in the Southeast to gain this prestigious recognition. Visitors can enjoy sweeping, rich views of the night sky similar to those found in many of the Western states. So bring your binoculars!

More than 58 miles of hiking trails meander through the wilderness of Pickett State Park and the surrounding forest. They vary in length and difficulty, from short day-use trails suitable for families, to longer multi-day backpacking trails. A backcountry camping permit is required through the park office. The trails afford views of sandstone bluffs, natural bridges, waterfalls and diverse plant life.

Sierra Social Hour

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, September 20, 5:30 to 7:30
Tailgate Brewery in Bellevue, 7300 Charlotte Pike

For additional information please email paulalennon615@gmail.com

Event will be in the back barn.
**ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

Submission Deadline: September 30th for the November/December issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attachments are preferred.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or a .tif file format then either attached to e-mail or mailed via U.S. Postal Service on a 3 1/2” diskette or CD-RM.
3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may send articles in Pages.
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail will not be required.

Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.

For more information, contact the Tennessee Chapter Ombudsman, Joel Gearhardt at jgearhardt@yahoo.com.
Lessons from the Trail, A Mountain Meadow

By Joan Tomlinson, trail name Blue Jay.

By the time you read this article, I, with lots of good luck and good fortune, will be hiking in Washington state on the Pacific Crest Trail. It is my hope to complete my last 420 miles of this magnificent trail this year. I will have covered the distance from Mexico to Canada, through California, Oregon, and Washington, over a 3 year period. Long distance hiking is hard for me. Really hard. I’m not a young person. I have many more years behind me than in front of me. And, like I decided in 2014 before my Appalachian Trail thru hike, I’m not through yet. I’m not through exploring, I’m not through yearning, I’m not through learning. I long for connections to the natural world. I seek wisdom there, on the trail, where things are raw and real and the wisdom of the ages calls to me. I want to be open, with all my senses, to what is out there. That is why I hike long distances on these magnificent national scenic trails. I want to talk here about what I learned in a mountain meadow on the PCT in Oregon in 2016, the starting year of my PCT MYTH (multi year thru hike).

I’ve had many things that I would call teachable moments, or lessons, in my days, weeks, and months on the trail. Being “on the trail” is, for me, that time out and outside hiking long distances and deeply immersed in the natural world. These lessons come to me when I let go of self, of my self image, and become integrated - nothing held back - into the time and place I inhabit at that moment. These moments are so pure that the telling of them seems to diminish them. Language and words seem inadequate. We humans put so much emphasis on language, yet, in the instance of existence in that mountain, we were all equal. I own or deserve anything at the expense of another. Each was taking what it needed and nothing more. We were all one. One did not own or deserve anything at the expense of another. Each was taking what it needed and nothing more. We were all equal. I have had many things that have humbled me in my time on the trail. That evening of connecting, without separation, with every instance of existence in that mountain meadow in a mere blink of time stands out as nothing short of extraordinary. And extraordinarily humbling.

Experiences like those in the mountain meadow in Oregon have changed me. My senses are more alive and fully active. I am aware of the nuances of life around me, on and off the trail. I know in a real and vivid way the necessity of wild and natural places. I am grateful for the Sierra Club for helping, since 1892, to protect and preserve wilderness areas. I’m grateful for the national Sierra Club, for my TN Chapter, and for my local Harvey Broome Group in the Knoxville area. I continue to be thankful to the Sierra Club’s vigilance and attention to keeping wild places wild. And to reminding us - all of us - of our own personal responsibility to be the very best Earthlings that we can be. I help when and where I can with the Sierra Club. I need to do more. Everyone should have their own mountain meadow experience. The Sierra Club helps you and me to have those.

I want to close by telling you about my latest wild and unexpected moment. I support national scenic trails by occasionally spending time on trail maintenance crews. One afternoon near the PCT in Washington, I helped my fellow trail crew members dig a deep latrine for our week’s work. We added a novel sit-upon bench with a toilet seat. I may have been the first to use our latrine, and as I sat there the most beautiful frog I’ve ever seen jumped from our deep latrine right onto my lap. It was very startling, to say the least! I laughed so hard I hooted and hollered. My trail crew thought I might be hurt and wondered if they should go to my rescue. Frogs jumping out of latrines onto laps? The majesty of mountain meadows. You can’t make this stuff up. The frogs and meadows are worth saving. They have inherent and intrinsic value. It’s one world, one planet. Fail in love with Earth! Protect what you love!!

Blue Jay may be contacted at BlueJayATgmail.com

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 upcoming quarterly Chapter Retreats and celebrates Chapter and Group 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.
The public is very welcome at ALL Sierra 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 (Chattanooga)**

September 24, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - September Program: Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga, 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, UCC will be on your left up the hill! We meet downstairs, in the Forum Room.

Mary Beth Sutton will talk about the environmental work of TenneSEA, the local division of CaribbeaNSEA. TenneSEA (Student Environmental Alliance) works at the grassroots level with kids and their communities to protect and restore our water. Clean water starts with you and me! Right here in Tennessee, TenneSEA has projects ongoing with the Bear River Restoration Act, and is home to the Tennessee River Basin Water Coalition.

September 29, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - September Program: Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga, 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, UCC will be on your left up the hill! We meet downstairs, in the Forum Room.

Featuring The People's Campaign. The reality is that people and people are directly affected by environmental degradation from the water crisis in Flint to the increase in black lung cases in Kentucky. There is a new campaign to address methane, sympathetic views and the war economy without also fighting for the future of the very planet itself. Martin Hurley and Beth Foster, ch-ch-ch-ch-chainsaws, tri-chairs of the Tennessee People’s People’s Campaign. A National Call for Morale Revival, will discuss how the campaign seeks to organize the most marginalized to build power to address the ecological crisis of our time as it intersects with other forms of oppression.

Martin Hurley is a lifelong Memphian. As a longtime member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Martin is committed to justice and works with the denomination’s Public Presence ministry. Currently, Martin is serving on the committee to plan the first Disciples Public Presence conference. Martin’s home is New Orleans where he addresses racial and economic inequality, with a particular focus on gentrification and the war economy without also fighting for the future of the very planet itself. Martin Hurley and Beth Foster, co-founders of the People’s People’s Campaign. A National Call for Morale Revival, will discuss how the campaign seeks to organize the most marginalized to build power to address the ecological crisis of our time as it intersects with other forms of oppression.

Beth Foster is a resident of the Harriet Tubman House in Nashville and an organizer with No Exceptions Prison Collective, both devoted to the abolition of mass incarceration. She is co-founder and former director of the Mercy Junction & Peace Center in Chattanooga, Tenn., where she continues to serve on the council of elders. In addition to being an English second-language teacher and does work around animal rights and vegan education.

**CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)**

No Submissions

**HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)**

Our monthly programs are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7PM, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. For additional information contact Mac Post (mpost3116@aol.com) or see: http://www.sierracubl.org/tennessee/harvey-broome-programs

September 11, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Jennifer Aldrich, Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light, https://www.tipl.org

October 9, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Nick Stahlman, The Wonderful and Wacky World of Insects

**WATAUGA GROUP (Northeast TN)**

Program and meetings begin at 6:00 PM on the second Tuesday near Doe Mountain Recreation Area from spring through fall at R & P Campground on 900 Mining Town Rd., Mountain City, TN. During the wintertime meet up at The Loft, 5902 Hwy 421 South Mountain City, TN. For questions, contact bw@icloud.com 423-534-4804 or GL4797@bellsouth.net 423-727-4797. Join us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WataugaGroup

**NASHVILLE GROUP**

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

All outings require participants to sign a waiver. To review this waiver, please visit https://goo.gl/yN9Y78 and https://goo.gl/8Yio3d

Any attendee under the age of 18 not accompanied by parent or guardian will need to have a signed liability waiver and a medical authorization form with them when they arrive. To review and print these waivers, please visit https://gooloo.gl/y9f197 and https://goo.gl/511X0j
Thinking about going solar?

Actually, it is a pretty good time to invest in solar. Prices for installed residential solar have come down over 60% since 2010. While some incentives have expired, along with a new tariff, the overall price reductions are now greater, and with increased solar density! Currently, a Federal 30% tax credit towards hardware and labor is still in place. This credit can be carried over to the next year, if the full credit cannot be used. This credit will start to go down progressively in 2020 and is set to expire for systems put into service after 12/31/2021.

For my installation, without the incentive, I averaged about a 4.5-5% annual return on my investment, tax free, without risk, while investing in my home. Great selling point if you decide to sell. Hey, if the sun doesn’t shine, we have a lot more to worry about.

So, where to start?

First, face south. A sunny southern facing solar panel with a 25 degree pitch from vertical provides the best production for all seasons (Memphis). Any variation from that perspective cuts into production. For me, my first installation was a pole mount. This allowed for the best fixed position production return, without worrying about the roof condition. If there is no southern position opportunity? The next best position is west, then east.

Things to consider:

• Shade, which will reduce solar production
• Roof age, you may have to replace the roof before installing solar on the roof.
• Roof condition, if you have more than one roof, or have a weak roof installation, you might want to remove from the roof
• Home Owners Association/City Code Ordinances, which may restrict/prohibit some installations.
• Local utility and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) approval and interconnection processes, which should be obtained before you purchase any equipment.

To see if your roof top has good solar potential, check here: https://www.google.com/get/sunroofcheck here: https://www.google.com/get/sunroof

Simply add your address and look at your rooftop. The brighter the yellow, the better. NOTE: This webpage does not provide feedback for your yard if you want a pole or ground system.

Look good? Now, call your local utility company to be better informed when talking with installers about options, sizing, incentives and ballpark costs. Know your average monthly electricity consumption and cost. Use the TVA Solar Valley Calculator for localized estimates: https://edt.tva.gov/. The Advanced Options section allows you to adjust various factors. Adjust consumption offset percentages and enter various system costs per Watt, as prices will differ based on installer, generation capacity (kW) and other factors. As a guide, a TN installer’s system cost rate is $2.50 per watt for a 10kw system and $2.85 per watt for a 5kw system. Be sure to include this in the Advanced Options section.

Since you all are good Sierra Club conservationists, you are already conserving energy. So, move away from fossil fuels, plan for more electric consumption. Going solar enabled me to move away from fossil fuels by purchasing an electric car (no gasoline), a heat pump (cooling & heating with no natural gas), and a heat pump water heater (no natural gas). With an electric car and a heat pump, I’m halfway there!

You don’t have to have a 100% offset. You can build with whatever size you can handle, or afford. Remember, a solar installation is still a long-term investment.

Get multiple bids from reputable solar installers, who will provide you precise numbers and installation options. They can tell you over the phone the complete breakdown of the project, then email the project proposal. Ask for the price per watt installed. They usually provide “turnkey” service, covering all the aspects of the project. Although some require you to submit the applications to your local utility and TVA, others handle it for you. Once completed, you use this information to file your taxes for the 30% tax credit.

In the industry, renewable energy has become a market-based commodity, similar to the stock market. The renewable benefits of every 1000 kWh of renewable energy generated can be exchanged as credits, or Renewable Energy Certificates (REC), separate from the electricity.

In Tennessee, we fall under the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). They regulate all the electric power generated, so most of you will sell your solar power (including RECs) to TVA. This enables others, business and residential, to purchase enough RECs to “claim” they are using renewable energy. Only one entity can “claim” the REC. TVA certifies they are from clean sources.

In addition to providing green power to the TVA, I voluntarily purchase 2 blocks of 150 kWh of power generation for “claim” I use clean energy to power my electric car.

For 2018, your local utility has several options, including TVA programs:
• Green Power Switch
  • Does not require investment in onsite generation
  • Buy blocks of green power for $4 each, added to monthly utility bill
  • Each block represents 150 kWh of green power generation for participants to “claim”: TVA retires the RECs on behalf of participants
  • Approximately 12,000 participants Valley wide

Green Power Providers
• Invest in onsite generation (0.5 to 50 kW, with limits if above 10 kW)
• Sell 100% of power and green attributes (RECs) to TVA for utility bill credits
• Earn $0.09 per kWh for Residential or GTA-1 electric rate customers, provided 10 kW or smaller
• Earn $0.075 per kWh, for all other electric rates and for all systems greater than 10 kW
• Supplies the RECs claimed by Green Power Switch participants

Dispersed Power Production
• Invest in onsite generation (up to 80 MW)
• Sell up to 100% of power to TVA at long term avoided costs ($0.02-$0.03 per kWh)
• Retain RECs

Self-Generation
• Invest in onsite generation (no limit; important not to over-size)
• Use 100% onsite or sell excess through Distributed Power Production
• Retain RECs

The TVA is working with local utilities on other programs to enable more people to move towards solar. Below is a summary of new options in development:

Distributed Solar Solutions (pilot)
• Opportunity for Local Power Companies to support competitive proposals for innovative projects that deliver solar power, as well as lessons learned to share with other LPcs Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) products for commercial & industrial customers Businesses and organizations are increasingly setting sustainability goals that include green power

Community Solar for residential and small business
• Shared costs and returns from a larger solar array located offsite, but doesn’t always include the RECs
• Lower cost than rooftop solar
• Requires capital investment in construction
• Requires TVA to buy the generated electricity
• Requires utility billing system integration for on-bill credits based on each participant’s portion of generation

So, there are programs available (or in development) for most circumstances, even if you cannot obtain solar.

For more information on these solar options, contact your local utility or check here: https://www.tva.com/energy/Valley/Solar-Renewable Energy/https://www.tva.gov/energy/Vol-ay-RenewableEnergy Green-Power-providers/How-the-GPP-Prog-Award

Group Business Meetings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee</td>
<td>Tues 9/4, Mon 10/1, 11/5</td>
<td>Pilgrim Congregational Church, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chattanooga</td>
<td>6:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chickasaw</td>
<td>Wed 9/5, 10/3, 11/7</td>
<td>Cheffie’s Cafe, 483 High Point Terrace, Memphis</td>
<td>6:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvey Broome</td>
<td>Tue 9/25, 10/23, 11/27</td>
<td>The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Westgarber Rd., Knoxville</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle TN</td>
<td>Mon 9/17, 10/15, 11/19</td>
<td>House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville</td>
<td>6:30 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watauga</td>
<td>Tue 9/11</td>
<td>R&amp;D Campground 900 Mining Rd., Mt. City, TN 37683</td>
<td>5:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Mountain City)</td>
<td>Tue 9/9, 10/9, 11/13</td>
<td>Watauga Lake - Fish Springs Marina - Hampton, TN</td>
<td>5:00 P.M.</td>
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<td>Harvest Dinner - Watauga Lake Winery - Butler, TN</td>
<td>9:30 A.M.</td>
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Group Program Meetings

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<tr>
<td>Cherokee</td>
<td>Mon 9/24, 10/22, 11/26</td>
<td>Unitarian Universalist Church, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickasaw</td>
<td>Thu 9/27, 10/18, 11/15</td>
<td>Benjamin Hooks Public Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., Memphis</td>
<td>5:55 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvey Broome</td>
<td>Tue 9/11, 10/9, 11/13</td>
<td>Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Knoxville)</td>
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<td>Group picnic - time/place to be announced</td>
<td>5:30 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle TN</td>
<td>Tue 9/13, 10/11, 11/8</td>
<td>Rednor Lake Nature Center, 1160 Otter Creek Rd., Nashville, TN</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watauga</td>
<td>Tue 9/11</td>
<td>R&amp;D Campground 900 Mining Rd., Mt. City, TN 37683</td>
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Historically, environmental protection happens when it's recognized as economically preferable - and the economics of climate mitigation, dismissing fossil fuel industry propaganda, are compelling. 2006’s benchmark Stern Review, the British Treasury's thorough mitigation cost-benefit analysis, found, “Using the results from formal economic models, the Review estimates that if we don’t act, the overall costs and risks of climate change will be equivalent to losing at least 5% of global GDP each year, now and forever. If a wider range of risks and impacts is taken into account, the estimates of damage could rise to 20% of GDP or more” - versus an estimated 1% associated with climate sensitive energy to avoid that.

Now, a May 23 Nature study finds, “Relative to a world that did not warm beyond 2000-2010 levels, we project 15%-25% reductions in [GDP] per capita output by 2100 for the 2.5-3.0 °C [4.5-5.4 °F] of global warming implied by current national commitments, and reductions of more than 30% for a 4 °C [7.2 °F] warming.” The blameless poor would be hardest hit. Achieving the Paris Climate Accord's best-case 1.5 °C [2.7 °F] global warming target could save $20 trillion over allowing 2 °C [3.6 °F] warming - about 70 times its additional cost of $300 billion, The Guardian reports. That ratio suggests that even allowing for all its prognostic uncertainties the study, as Nature editorializes, “makes a strong financial case for urgent action on greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions. … Our burning of fossil fuel is writing cheques that our economy can’t afford to cash.”

The Nature study excludes huge factors like unforeseen adaptations and the possible flooding of coastal cities. “My gut feeling is that our numbers — as large as they are — could even be a lower bound on the overall damages,” co-author Marshall Burke says in the Nature editorial’s audio interview. And non-author Max Auffhammer adds, “How do we put a dollar value on things like the increased incidence of armed conflict? … on biodiversity?” Or, as UTK environmental ethicist John Nolt asked in a recent Harvey Broome program, on the readily avoidable future suffering and death of millions of fellow humans? In his Q&A I asked John, “So what’s the impact of my own average American’s carbon footprint?” He replied, “We’re each killing two future humans.”

All that means we and our Club have an unprecedented opportunity, both through conservation and advocacy, to bequeath to our children and their children a still-livable, diverse, and verdantly beautiful Earth.

ACTION opportunities: Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Tennessee effectively leverages our donations and our participation through lobbying, lawsuits climate marches, rallies, hearings and action links.

Tennessee Wilderness Act is Almost There

By Axel Ringe

On June 13, the Senate Agriculture Committee passed (20-1) their version of the farm bill (Agricultural Improvements Act of 2018), and it largely rejected anti-environmental attacks, including attacks on the Roadless Rule.

On June 28, the full Senate passed that bipartisan bill (86-11), which largely rejects controversial forest management policies, and includes the Tennessee Wilderness Act and the Virginia Wilderness Additions Act.

Senator Alexander, the original sponsor of the Tennessee Wilderness Act, said “The United States Senate today passed the Tennessee Wilderness Act, and it’s on its way to becoming law. My hope is that when the Senate and the House get together and reconcile their differences in the farm bill, they’ll send it to President Trump with the Tennessee Wilderness Act and then he will sign it. This is 20,000 acres in East Tennessee that’s already managed as wilderness, but not made a part of the wilderness law. This is wonderful land that Tennesseans can use to camp and hike in our beautiful East Tennessee mountains. I thank Senator Corker and Congressman Roe and the many Tennesseans who’ve gotten in touch with us about making the Tennessee Wilderness Act law.”

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives passed its version of the farm bill on Thursday, June 21. The House bill contains two attacks on the Roadless Rule: 1) a roadless loophole that would allow logging and roadbuilding in about 10 million acres of roadless areas, and 2) an exemption from the Rule for Alaska’s national forests. In addition, there are numerous attacks on bedrock environmental laws. The forestry title of the bill would essentially exempt everything the Forest Service does in the forest management space from environmental review and public input. And it does not contain any provisions for new wilderness, including in the Cherokee National Forest.

ACTION YOU CAN TAKE: Thank Senators Alexander (202-224-4944) and Corker (202-224-3344) but challenge them on the Roadless Rule and the exemption for Alaska’s national forest.

Suit voluntarily dismissed after timber sale cancelled by Cherokee National Forest

By Todd Waterman

On June 29, SELC, on behalf of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, with Knoxville attorney Shelby Ward, on behalf of Heartwood and Tennessee Heartwood, voluntarily dismissed a lawsuit previously filed in federal court alleging that the United States Forest Service has illegally endangered the soil, forests and waters of the Cherokee National Forest and hidden those risks from the public. The suit focused on the so-called Dinkey Project, a timber sale slated for an area along Tumbling Creek with steep slopes and fragile soils that made it a poor choice for commercial operations. For years, concerned citizens had flagged the project as an obvious failure, Last week, in response to the lawsuit, the Forest Service cancelled the sale.

“We take the Forest Service’s decision to withdraw the timber sale near Tumbling Creek as an important first step in rebuilding the trust that has been eroded between local citizens and the Forest Service,” said Sam Evans, leader of SELC's National Forest and Parks Program. “Our decision to dismiss the lawsuit is intended in the same spirit.”

The health of Tumbling Creek was a major factor in the lawsuit. A cold-water trout stream running through the mountains of southeast Tennessee, it feeds into the Ocoee River and is popular with local families for fishing, wading, and picnicking. Conservation groups were worried that, as larger harvests and steeper slopes, all commercial logging along the creek would lead to erosion, harming fish and other wildlife.

In 2015, monitoring of a recent logging project, known as the Hogback sale, revealed severe violations of the Forest Service’s requirement to protect soils, but this information was not acknowledged in the development of the Tumbling Creek project.

“There was no indication that the Forest Service learned anything from Hogback, and the Tumbling Creek project was even riskier, with more ground disturbances, larger harvests and steeper slopes, all concentrated on the banks of Tumbling Creek,” said Axel Ringe, Conservation Chair for the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club. "This is one of the healthiest watersheds and streams in the area. We couldn’t allow another disastrous timber sale to happen here.”

For nearly four years, conservation groups tried to dissuade the Forest Service from taking unnecessary risks on publicly-owned lands, using pictures, examples and monitoring data to show what could go wrong. The Forest Service did not respond to those concerns and so, in July 2017, these groups filed a formal administrative objection. That objection fell on deaf ears, and was dismissed without review. Local citizens felt they had no choice but to file suit.

“It’s extremely unfortunate that the Cherokee National Forest refused to take public comments seriously until a lawsuit was filed,” said Davis Mounger, co-founder of Tennessee Heartwood. “Cancelling the project is not exactly what we asked for, but it is a welcome development. It shows that the Forest Service is finally listening. However, that withdrawal of the project, by itself, isn’t enough. The only way to fix the problem going forward is for the Forest Service to learn from its mistakes. That means accepting responsibility and working transparently with the public. Ultimately, the Forest Service needs to adopt new protective measures that we can all be confident will protect soil and water conditions. We look forward to being a part of that process.”

Courtesy the Southern Environmental Law Center
VW Diesel Mitigation- One more Step

by Dennis Lynch

We last reported on the VW Diesel Mitigation process in the Jan-Feb 2018 edition of the Tennes-Sierran, and described how we recommended that the state spend its $45.8 million that would be received from the mitigation.

TDEC’s Office of Energy Programs has now (July 18, 2018) published the state’s “Proposed Beneficiary Mitigation Plan,” (go to https://bit.ly/2A9UbB) describing how they believe the $45.8 million should be spent. The public was given 30 days to comment, and we will be sending comments. As you read this, that time period will have expired, and comments submitted. We did send out a note encouraging your comments via the Tennees-See-NEWS-ListServ email list. We will also send out an Action Alert. In case you didn’t see one of those other messages, we’re telling you here what happened, “just so you know.”

The proposed Plan recommends that Tennes-Sierran’s share of the Mitigation Funds be spent by distributing it into categories very similar to our earlier recommendations. They recommended the following distribution:

1. “Open Government and Public Notice,” including the opportunity to see one of those other messages, we’re telling you here what happened, “just so you know.”

2. “Tennessee Solid Waste Issues,” including the dumping of low-level radioactive waste, toxic “special waste,” and energy-squandering food waste, and insinuating

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, and environmental nonprofit lobbyist Stewart 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-drenched, I produced us to the sometimes harsh realities of lobbying our Supermajority, and then role-played us through friendly, respectful, and effective lobbying.

The hope is that a can/bottle deposit bill can be passed during the 2019 session of the Tennessee legislature. Marge has been an advocate of car/bottle deposits in Tennessee for several years.

Marge discussed the benefits of contain-}

Chickasaw Group Program July 26th

Speaker Marge Davis on Tenn Can

The Chickasaw Group held its monthly group meeting at the Benjamin Hooks Public Library in Memphis on July 26.

The program speaker was Marge Davis, who outlined the plans for the campaign to support the proposed legislation for a can/bottle deposit program for the state of Tennessee. Marge has been an advocate of can/bottle deposits in Tennessee for several years.

Marge discussed the benefits of contain-
Visit to recycling sorting facility
by Sue A. Williams

We’ve forgotten how much recycling impacts global warming, but the gases from organic matter—especially paper products in a landfill—release carbon dioxide and methane, both greenhouse gases. “Materials in a landfill don’t really decompose, and sending plastics, steel and aluminum cans, paper products or glass to a landfill seems ridiculous when they can be recycled into new products,” says Dennis Lynch, chair of the Chickasaw Group.

Memphis’ Chickasaw Group recently conducted a different kind of outing to the BFI recycling plant, south of the interstate loop. BFI contracts with the City of Memphis and several other nearby areas for materials. Memphis has household city sanitation workers pick up plastics, glass, cans (any material), milk and juice cartons, and paper/cardboard while some areas such as Bartlett have drop off locations. Memphis now has single stream recycling—everything goes into one large recycling bin, but less sorting might improve participation. The disadvantage is that crushed glass is too contaminated by paper; it has to be shipped to Atlanta for further processing. Paper goes to International Paper and is mostly reprocessed into cardboard boxes. China no longer accepts materials from America; some is shipped to Asia, and the best way to continue having it recycled is to adequately clean containers.

Processing includes raising the material with a bulldozer and belts to a complex platform. Gravity and wind are used to separate some things, but people also have to sort others. When the belts run, they do so at a dizzying speed. “Not everyone can do this job,” said the manager. Cooled by fans, workers stand on foam rubber, but its got to be far from the most comfortable job no matter how great a contribution they make to our region.

Improper Materials:
Plastic shopping and newspaper wrappers cannot be recycled. They wrap around BFI’s equipment, and the line has to shut down for them to be removed. Better to use cloth shopping bags than plastic, in any case.

Lithium batteries—from computers or cell phones—cause about two fires per week. Private individuals can dispose of phones with lithium batteries at many big box stores (check with customer service for drop off box sites) or to the Shelby County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility, located at 6305 Haley Road, Memphis, TN 38134. The facility is open free to Shelby County residents on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 P.M.

Sierra Club Clarksville-Montgomery County Committee Progress
by Sue A. Williams

Sierra Club Clarksville-Montgomery County (SC CMC), one of the TN Chapter’s two new conservation committees, has been actively pursuing sustainability goals in our community. Since its formation in January, the committee has met with city and county mayors and their staffs to discuss issues studied in the county’s 2017 Sustainability Report, and to offer assistance in a community transition away from fossil fuels. Both mayoral offices were receptive to Sierra Club’s Ready for 100 campaign: city Mayor Kim McMillan had previously signed Clarksville on to the Alliance for a Sustainable Future, a joint effort by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions; Montgomery County was recently presented the Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award for Excellence in Energy and Renewable Resources; and both Mayor McMillan and county Mayor Jim Durrett helped establish the Green Certification Program for businesses, schools, and churches, as well as a Sustainability Task Force (STF) to follow up on the county’s 2017 Report. SC CMC is now participating in the STF on an Energy Conservation and Efficiency subcommittee that also includes2 representatives from our two local power companies, CDE Lightband and Cumberland Electric Membership Corp.

Other projects for SC CMC this year have included participation in:
  • the TN Chapter’s Conservation Education Day with state legislators
  • political meet-and-greets to discuss candidates’ conservation priorities

SC CMC meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library: Notice of meetings and other activities/actions can be found on our Facebook page: Sierra Club Clarksville-Montgomery County.