by Dennis Lynch and Steve Sondheim

With Memphis’ Mayor and City Council positions up for election this Fall, the Chick-asaw Group organized Candidate Environmental Fora (“Forums”) to support the key public about how the candidates expect to protect and restore our natural and human environment.” The Fora were held Sept 14 for City Council Candidates (in Districts 4, 5, and 7) and Sept 21 for Mayoral Candidates.

These Fora, co-sponsored with The League of Women Voters, included an environmental questionnaire sent to all candidates in advance, and then follow up questions to be asked “live” at each Forum. Our Political Committee developed question suggestions, and also reached out to local parks, environmental and community organizations. The toughest job was combining, filtering and whittling down the 70 questions to a more manageable number, including a bunch of Yes/No questions. Steve Sondheim and Dennis Lynch bounced the questionnaire back and forth numerous times as they whittled it down. Candidates were required to complete the Questionnaire in order to qualify to participate in our Fora.

The issues in the questionnaire ranged from local to global, and fell into a range of categories- clean air, clear water, clean energy and conservation, transportation, parks and open spaces, environmental justice, organization/budget, and public participation. Follow up questions at the Fora helped to reveal the depth of candidates’ understanding, perspectives and plans, in contrast to their written responses to the advance questionnaire. Five of the registered ten Mayoral Candidates qualified and participated in the Mayoral Forum that was moderated by Rita Harris (of the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign, and formerly of the Environmental Justice Program). Ten City Council Candidates participated in the three City Council Fora that were moderated by Scott Banbury (the Chapter’s Conservation Projects Coordinator).

Questions Asked

Organization & Budget - How will you balance environmental and community interests vs. pro-development interests?

Energy Efficiency - How will you enforce compliance with the City Council’s Ordinance requiring that all rental property follow the MLG&W / TVA eScore program for energy efficiency?

Environmental Justice - Some neighborhoods in Memphis have flooding problems. Will you support robust programs to address these issues? Provide some details.

Clean Air - Improved air quality has been shown to reduce instances like asthma and COPD. Will you sign a letter supporting the new EPA Smog Rule (link to be provided)? What resources would you use to implement this policy?

Clean Water - What are your plans to protect the Memphis Aquifer from industries wanting to use excessive amounts of our valuable water?

Transportation - Public transit needs a reliable funding source in order to develop and implement effective plans that meet the needs of all riders. How would you strengthen and grow MATA? Why is this important?

Public Participation - How would you encourage the City’s departments to work with the conservation community? Would you be in favor of having quarterly “coffee table talks” or meetings with locals concerned about environmental issues?

Parks and Greenways - What is your view on the importance of parks and greenways in our community? What programs will you fund, and how?
**ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

Submission Target Date is November 25 for the January - February issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to gla4797@embarqmail.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files. Attached files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in .rtf format.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format then either attached to e-mail or mailed via U.S. Postal Service on a 3 1/2” diskette or CD ROM. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.

3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted: however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.

4. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Barbara Kelly, Communications Committee, bk1rivers@gmail.com

Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Barbara Kelly, Communications Committee, bk1rivers@gmail.com. The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

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**Sierra Club Officers**

**TENNESSEE CHAPTER:**

Chair: Cliff Cockerham 615-336-3905 clifford.cockerham@comcast.net

Vice Chair: Ron Shrieves 865-922-3518 onyxfarm@bellsouth.net

Secretary: Judy Perlack 865-898-5751 perlack@aol.com

Treasurer: Bob Perlack 865-898-5751 perlack@aol.com

Conservation: Mary Runyan

Outings: Dennis Lynch

CCL Delegate: Dennis Lynch

SciC Liaison: Dennis Lynch

**TN LOCAL GROUPS:**

Cherokees Group

https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/cherokees

Chair: Dennis Lynch 901-374-0582 dmlynch1@hotmail.com

Vice Chair: Mark Pemberton 901-679-4622 mark.chickasaw@gmail.com

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Ed Jones 901-374-0582 edjones035@comcast.net

Conservation: vacant

Outings: Jacob Sauls 901-210-1934 jacobsauls95@gmail.com

**Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge**

https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome

Chair: Rocky Swingle 865-436-0397 rocky3512@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Robin Hill 865-966-9435 robin.hill8@gmail.com

Secretary: Kris Christen 865-539-9876 christen@aaws.org

Treasurer: Bob Perlack 865-898-5751 perlack@aol.com

Conservation: Scott Heflinger 865-850-0255 sheffling@att.net

Outings: Dennis Lynch

**Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville**

https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/middle-tennessee

Chair: Penny Brooks 615-792-5306 penny.brooks@uanderbks.com

Secretary: Charles High 615-383-6856 cahigh7223@att.com

Treasurer: Joel Gearhardt 502-598-0268 jgearhardt@yahoo.com

Conservation: Scott Heflinger 615-859-3553 sheffling@att.net

Outings: Craig Jervis 615-254-5301 cjjervis@gmail.com

**Watauga Group - Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington Counties**

https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/watauga

Chair: Gloria Griffith 423-727-4797 glaton797@embarqmail.com

Vice Chair: Sandy Cranford 423-727-5043 sunshine@highcountryonline.net

Secretary: Dennis Shelton 423-534-4804 dshelton@centurylink.net

Treasurer: Cindy Johnson 423-895-1687 sheflinger@aol.com

Conservation: Adam Whitworth 423-727-7214

Outings: Webb Griffith 423-727-4797

Chapter Staff: Scott Banbury

Conservation Program Coordinator 901-619-8567

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed
By Aaron Mair

This week, Senator Ted Cruz held a hearing to attack the clean air and clean water safeguards that protect millions of families all across America. Sierra Club President Aaron Mair was there to talk about how communities of color, which are disproportionately affected by pollution and climate disruption, rely on these safeguards to protect them.

A friend to big polluters, Cruz unsurprisingly tried to cover all their talking points. His game? To attack the climate science that shows how carbon pollution from burning fossil fuels is causing climate disruption in the first place while assailing the Clean Power Plan, which would allow us to act on climate disruption and protect people’s health.

Well, Sierra Club President Aaron Mair has a few things to share with Senator Cruz. Check out his response.

Senator Cruz,

There’s an old lawyerly adage that “if you don’t have the law on your side, argue the facts. If you don’t have the facts on your side, pound the table.” You did a very good job pounding the table this week.

This week, you held a hearing on the clean air and clean water safeguards that protect millions of American families. I testified because I wanted to talk about how these safeguards are especially critical for people of color and low-income communities, who are disproportionately affected by pollution and climate disruption.

But, as a friend to big polluters, you derailed the whole hearing with misinformation, claiming there was a “pause” in rising global temperatures -- misinformation already debunked by scientists and the non-partisan PolitiFact.com. You wanted to talk numbers, so here you go:

0: The number of accurate data points you shared when attempting to claim that the climate wasn’t changing. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, average global temperatures have been steadily rising for the last three decades.

97%: The percentage of scientists who agree that the climate is changing and that human activity is the cause.

2015: expected to be the hottest ever recorded.

60 and 30: 60% of African Americans and Latinos reside in communities with a toxic waste site and within 30 miles of a power plant.

7: 7 out of 10 African Americans live in areas with air that is unsafe to breathe.

48217: that’s the zip code of the neighborhood in Detroit I just visited – one of the dirtiest zip codes in the nation. There, massive mounds of petroleum coke waste and coal incinerators are within blocks of schools – further evidence that the lack of protections has turned Detroit from the epicenter of opportunity into the epicenter of the Asthma epidemic. Schools and smokestacks do not mix.

90,000: The Clean Power Plan can help us prevent 90,000 asthma attacks in children, save consumers $155 billion on energy in the next decade and create 360,000 new jobs. Energy savings, more jobs, healthy families, and safer communities? I think 100% of the American people would go for that.
Please vote below in the election of four (4) At-Large members to the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee, each having a two-year term of office begin-
ing January 1, 2016. They will join our three other At-Large Delegates and Group Delegates in managing the fiscal, legislative, environmental, outings and other responsibilities for our Chapter.

“Paperless Subscribers” may vote, as well as those receiving the Tennes-Sierran ballot by mail, but membership must be current; follow the directions as given below.

Only members (as of November 15, 2015) may vote. Joint Members use the same ballot. Ballots must be postmarked by Monday, December 21, 2015.

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2015 Tennessee Chapter At-Large Election for 2016-2017
You may vote for Four (4) candidates (listed in random order):

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<th>Vote for 4</th>
<th>Single Member or First Joint Member</th>
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<td>Dennis Lynch</td>
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<td>Axel Ringe</td>
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<td>Cliff Cockerham</td>
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Submit your Ballot: Only current members may vote.
Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write “ballot” on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, write your Sierra membership number (found on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) in the upper left hand corner with your name and address.

As you receive your Tennes-Sierran electronically and need your membership number, you may contact Barbara Kelly, Nominating Committee Chair at bk1rivers@gmail.com (put “membership number” in the subject line) or 423-718-5009. You will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than Monday, December 21, 2015.

Mail to: Sierra Club
Tennessee Chapter Elections
3712 Ringgold Rd, #156
Chattanooga, TN 37412-1638

Candidate Biographies (in random order):

**Dennis Lynch:**
I am a career professional in transportation, and member of the Sierra Club since becoming Chickasaw Group’s Transportation Chair 2012. Since then—Chapters’ Transporta-
tion Chair, Chickasaw’s ExCom, then Chapter ExCom. Then Group Chair, At-Large delegate to Chapter ExCom, then Chapter Council of Club Leaders (CCL) Delegate. I don’t care about “hats,” just helping.
I would like to remain At-Large delegate because I am good at organizing, have good ideas, and am good at discussing/sharing with other Sierra Club leaders. I would also like to remain CCL Delegate.
At the recent Sierra Club National CCL meeting, I shared many ideas with CCL Reps from around the country. At “open mic” during joint CCL/Board-Of-Directors meeting, I stepped up and mentioned 2 things which received substantial, unexpected applause. 1) I said that if term limits (an issue being discussed) is a difficult issue and the pro/con impacts should be carefully considered, and if implemented it should be with heartful thanks to the leaders impacted including appointment to a position as a Mentor, or Emeritus member showing recognition of their past contribution and valuable role as an information and training resource for new leaders.
2) I recommended that the Sierra Club pay more attention to transportation and its impacts – 28% of USA energy use, and 34% of greenhouse gases. Some CCL reps came to me with support, and we met briefly with a board member and added their voices to current transportation conference calls and listserv.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Axel Ringe:**
I would like to be re-elected to the Chapter ExCom as an At-Large delegate. I have served on the ExCom continuously since 2001, have served as Conservation Vice-Chair, Wild Legacy SuperChair Committee, Water Quality Chair Committee Chair, Population Committee Chair, and Biodiversity Committee Chair. I have also chaired the Chapter Litigation Committee, and consider myself to be a committed activist. I currently serve as the Chapter’s Conservation Chair, Water Quality Committee Chair, and Biodiversity Committee Chair. I am active in the TN Beyond Coal Campaign, and supervise our MTR contract噪aner. I also serve as the overseer of the Chapter’s Conservation Program Coordinator.
If elected, I will continue to work for the protection of Tennessee’s environment on behalf of the Tennessee Chapter.

**Dave Bordenkircher:**
I joined the Sierra Club in 1982 to be part of the Club's effort to amend the U.S. Clean Air Act, being active in the Cherokee Group (Chattanooga.) Moving to Nashville, I got involved in efforts to increase recycling of solid waste, helping several groups advocating recycling, including Sierra, bring about the recycling Nashville has today, including ser-
vice on the board of Recycle! Nashville. In 2003 I was appointed volunteer coordinator for the Recycle drop off site the Middle Tennessee Group sponsors. I’ve held many terms on the MTG ExCom, serving as secretary, and as chair twice, often representing the MTG at the Chapter level as Group delegate to the Chapter ExCom over the years.
I’ve been active in the lobbying efforts of the Sierra Club, nationally to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from proposed oil exploration. And at the state level, for the past 7 years, while the Tennessee General Assembly has been in session, I’ve attended the weekly meetings of the Tennessee Conservation Voters, helping decide which legislation to focus on, and regularly attend and speak to Sierra Club concerns before a variety of state boards (air pollution, water, and solid waste) in Nashville, reporting to our Conserva-
tion and Legal Chairs. Now retired, I worked for the Local Planning Assistance Office, a division of state government advising planning commissions of small towns. A licensed attorney, I’d like to continue to serve at the Chapter level, as an At-Large Delegate if you so choose. Thanks for your vote!

**Mac Post:**
I became a Sierra Club member while a graduate student in Ecology at the University of Tennessee about 40 years ago. I am a lifetime Sierra Club member. The Sierra Club continues to be the most significant conservation organization in the U.S. The Harvey Broome Group is an important voice in Tennessee for wilderness protection, environmentally sound land-use, environmental protection regulations, and promotion of education and enjoyment of natural resources, especially wilderness.
I have been an active Harvey Broome Group volunteer. I am an outings leader, leading 10 hikes each year with a focus on understanding the importance of the rich biodiver-
sity of East Tennessee. I am the HBIG Program Chair coordinating monthly program meetings. My favorite involvement is leading a group of dedicated Sierra Club volunteers in forming the Knoxville Inspiring Connections Outdoors (Knoxville ICO) group. In our first year we partnered with 5 agencies that serve inner-city youth and conducted over 30 outings.

**Cliff Cockerham:**
1973 appointment to NY’s Environmental Management Council initiated Cliff’s public advocacy, followed by work on diverse environmental education/conservation/ecology programs at Cornell, Georgetown, Emory, Brookhaven Lab, and Ponaue A&T. At UN conferences Cliff was: NGO observer at UNCTAD (Trade & Development, Manila-1979); NGO policy consultation organizer on Energy (Nairobi-1981); invited speaker (environmental issues) at Vodadatra-2014 evaluating progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

2008 Cliff shifted focus on revived TN's Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee while pushing student engagement. Dozens of students were awarded scholarships to attend Sierra Club national trainings/conferences and activist events/ rails. He received SC national’s 2011-Robbie Cox Award (acknowledging work accomplishment on behalf of the Harvey Broome Group) and was elected TN’s 2015-Chapter Chair. Taking early retirement, Cliff became a full-time volunteer activist dedicating 6 weeks to the Peoples Climate March [PCM] staff, focusing the Northeast corridor specifically assigned to facilitate turnout from 27 campuses. PCM’s college team is credited with bringing 40,000 students to Manhattan-Sep 2014.

“Early retirement facilitated focused on making a real difference, explained Cliff. “On 30 November, a group of college students and I begin hour-long webcasts from COP-21 (Paris), building deeper bonds between international negotiations and activists meeting throughout TN and the nation. Through the voices of empowered young people, we can make the phrase ‘think global, act local’ a visceral reality. Moving beyond COP-21, I hope to learn that you have grown me with a second-at-large term so that I may continue this work. Either way: protect the planet!”
Election Ballot for CHEROKEE GROUP
Executive Committee Candidates

You are in the Cherokee Group if you live in one of these counties: Bledsoe, Bradley, Coffee, Franklin, Grundy, Jackson; Hamilton; Marion; McMinn; Meigs; Monroe; Overton; Polk; Putnam; Rhea; Sequatchie; Van Buren; Warren; and White.

Please vote for the election of four (4) members of the Cherokee Group Executive Committee (ExCom,) each to hold a 2-year term beginning in January 1, 2016. They will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group’s actions.

Your ballot must be postmarked no later than Monday, December 21, 2015 to be valid. Only current members may vote. Joint members use the same ballot.

Cherokee Group
(Vote for no more than 5)

<table>
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<th>Candidate Biographies:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alice Demetreon: Alice and her husband Jim live in Whitwell, when they aren’t out exploring trails, hiking to waterfalls and other adventures across Tennessee. Her main environmental concern is Fracking and she was sparked into activism after watching Gasland. A main organizer of the Knoxville Fractivist Conference, she’s helping the Cherokee Group become more visible in recent campaigns such as our Global Frack Down Day and XL Pipeline marches, and Cool Down Chatt Town. She also serves our Chapter as Treasurer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Grant: Kelly is a Master’s graduate in environmental science and policy from John’s Hopkins. She is active in promoting the use of clean energy in the Tennessee Valley and building on sustainability efforts in the Chattanooga area. She enjoys gardening and spending time outdoors hiking and exploring new places with her girls, 6 and 9, and her husband Neil, a local sculptor. From New Zealand, they have lived here almost 5 years. Right from the start, she jumped into our local Climate Action Team, and is now helping with our communications work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Hurst: Barbara is a speech therapist. She’s a native of England, has travelled widely through 50+ countries, lived in 5, and been settled here in Chattanooga 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. She and her husband Bill are mainstays at our tabling events around town, and at our booths selling beer at Riverbend!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Robbins: Cindy’s first involvement with Cherokee Sierra was a weekend camping with us, and then selling beer at Riverbed. Now she’s a Climate Reality Leader, just back from Florida and Al Gore’s training for the Climate Reality Leadership Corps. Last year she marched and testified at the EPA hearings in Atlanta, and she’s working at both our Cool Down Chatt Town events. A retired Field Program Advisor and Special Investigator for GA Ty Leader, just back from Florida and Al Gore’s training for the Climate Reality Leadership Corps.</td>
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Submit your ballot: Only current members may vote. Place your ballot in an envelope, seal and write “ballot” on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, writing your Sierra Club membership number - found on the label of your Tenne-Sierran -- and your return address in the upper left hand corner. If you receive your newsletter electronically, you may contact Barbara Kelly for your number -- e-mail her (put “membership number” in subject line) at blrivers@gmail.com or call 423-718-5009.

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

Ballots must be postmarked by December 21, 2015.

Mail ballot to: Sierra Club
Cherokee Group Elections
3712 Ringgold Rd, #156
Chattanooga, TN 37412-1638

Candidate Biographies:

Alice Demetreon: Alice and her husband Jim live in Whitwell, when they aren’t out exploring trails, hiking to waterfalls and other adventures across Tennessee. Her main environmental concern is Fracking and she was sparked into activism after watching Gasland. A main organizer of the Knoxville Fractivist Conference, she’s helping the Cherokee Group become more visible in recent campaigns such as our Global Frack Down Day and XL Pipeline marches, and Cool Down Chatt Town. She also serves our Chapter as Treasurer.  

Kelly Grant: Kelly is a Master’s graduate in environmental science and policy from John’s Hopkins. She is active in promoting the use of clean energy in the Tennessee Valley and building on sustainability efforts in the Chattanooga area. She enjoys gardening and spending time outdoors hiking and exploring new places with her girls, 6 and 9, and her husband Neil, a local sculptor. From New Zealand, they have lived here almost 5 years. Right from the start, she jumped into our local Climate Action Team, and is now helping with our communications work. 

Barbara Hurst: Barbara is a speech therapist. She’s a native of England, has travelled widely through 50+ countries, lived in 5, and been settled here in Chattanooga 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. She and her husband Bill are mainstays at our tabling events around town, and at our booths selling beer at Riverbend! 

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Recent Environmental News Summaries

Oakland Residents Turn Out in Force Against Proposed Coal Export Terminal
September 24, 2015 — Earlier this week the Oakland, California, city council hosted a public hearing on the health and safety impacts of a proposed plan to bring coal through the city for export at the Oakland Global Trade and Logistics Center currently under development. More than 450 people turned out to say “no coal in Oakland.”

70 Mayors to President Obama: We Support Strong Clean Air Protections Against Smog Pollution!
September 25, 2015 — If it’s possible to love something else as much as the Pope’s statements on climate this week, it’s this: On Tuesday, 70 mayors from across the U.S. sent a letter to President Obama signaling their support for a strong clean air protections against smog pollution.

Biggest Mass Mobilization for Clean Energy Solutions in 2015 Has Been for Electric Vehicles
September 29, 2015 — In mid-September, more than 1 million people in 187 cities attended 196 National Drive Electric Week events featuring more than a dozen plug-in vehicle models for sale on the mass market today. This means the fifth annual National Drive Electric Week arguably constitutes the largest mass mobilization for clean energy in the U.S. to date.

More Than A Dozen Environmental Organizations Warn of Trans-Pacific Partnership Risks
October 6, 2015 — On October 5, after more than 5 years of closed-door negotiations, the United States and 11 other Pacific Rim nations finally reached an agreement on the increasingly controversial and unpopular Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal. Here is what some environmental organizations had to say about a deal on the Trans-Pacific Partnership.
The Tennes-Sierran

The election process for the Chickasaw Group is similar to that of the Tennessee State Federation, except that only current members may vote. Members may vote electronically and need your number, email Barb Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com or call 423-718-5009 (put “membership number” in subject line). For your voting convenience, please follow the procedure below:

Mail your ballot by Dec. 8 to: Sierra Club, Chickasaw Group, P.O. Box 111094, Memphis, TN 38111.

Election Ballot for CHICKASAW GROUP

Executive Committee Candidates

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

Please vote for the election of six members to the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom.) The four with the most votes will hold a 2-year term beginning in January 1, 2016. The two with the next most votes will hold a 1-year term beginning in January 1, 2016. (They will be eligible to run for a 2-year term the following year). All elected and nominated candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding the Chickasaw Group’s actions.

Your ballot must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, December 8, 2015 to be valid.

Only current members may vote. Joint members use the same ballot.

(Max 6 votes per member) (Max 6 votes) (Max 6 votes)

Candidates Single Member or First Joint Member Second Joint Member

Ed Jones
Spencer Kaaz
Harry Oppenheimer
Lynn Strickland
Karen Thornton
Tod Underhill
Mondell Williams
Lance Willinger

NOTE: Only current members may vote. Ballots must be postmarked by December 8, 2015, and must contain your Sierra Club membership number, name and address on the outside envelope.

Submit your ballot: To ensure secrecy of voting, all ballots must be submitted in the following way: Place your ballot in an envelope, seal and write “ballot” on the outside. Place your ballot in another envelope, write your Sierra Club membership number (found on the label of your Tennes-Sierran) and your name and return address in the upper left hand corner of the outer envelope.

If you receive your Tennes-Sierran newsletter electronically and need your number, email Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com or call 423-718-5009 (put “membership number” in subject line). Print the ballot page from the electronic newsletter, and mark your choices, or just write down your choices on a piece of paper; joint members must vote on the same piece of paper. Then, follow the procedure above.

Candidates Statements

Ed Jones

Ed Jones is a resident of MEMPHIS and is retired from practice of pharmacy. He is a member of Sierra Club and Chickasaw Group since about 2004, he served on Chickasaw ExCom in the mid-2000’s. He has served in the vital job of Chickasaw Group Treasurer for the last 4 years. Ed is currently serving on Chickasaw Group ExCom, and is actively involved in group events and activities. He has served as Group representative to Chapter meetings on many occasions. “My wife, Julie and I try to consider the environment and nature in our day to day living,” says Ed.

Spencer Kaaz

Spencer Kaaz is involved in Sierra Club on a city and state level. Spencer has been on the Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Executive Committee and has served as at-large delegate to the state chapter. Spencer got his start in environmentalism as a high-schooler where he restocked his state’s Green Club and became the club’s president where he helped to organize a campus garden, community and campus clean ups, as well as implement energy efficiency technologies on campus. In college Spencer has been involved in starting a food waste reduction operation at the University of Memphis; where food scraps from the dining halls are composted in the campus garden, where he volunteers. Spencer has been involved in organizing and activism since the age of 16. Among Spencer’s most memorable moments are when he took place in a banner drop from a skyscraper during the People’s Climate March in New York City, when he went to Atlanta to take part in testimonies given to the EPA concerning the Clean Power Plan, as well as attending many other trainings, events, marches, rallies, meetings, and hearings. Spencer’s hobby’s and passions include regenerative agriculture, waste reduction, and alternative medicine.

Hunter Oppenheimer

Hunter Oppenheimer is a lifelong outdoors-woman and naturalist with a passion for environmental protection. She first became interested in environmental activism in the 1970s when she began speaking out against nuclear power. After decades as a professional horse trainer and field guide, Hunter has returned to activism to help preserve and safeguard the beautiful and vulnerable ecosystems of the mid-south that she knows and loves. Hunter is determined to combat climate change and pass on a healthy, beautiful world to the next generation. Hunter also wants to work with the Excom on increasing membership involvement and inclusion.

Lynn Strickland

Lynn Strickland has long been a time advocate for better TVA energy Policy, particularly in the area of renewable solar energy. Very knowledgeable about implementing solar, Lynn is active in MEMPHIS, advocating City efforts toward more effective renewable and solar energy. He leads efforts toward better cooperation between TVA, MLGW, Bioworks, local manufacturers, local renewable service providers, and City and County Governments.

Karen Thornton

Karen Thornton is the Public Outreach/ Education Coordinator for the Mississippi River Corridor-TN (MRCT) and the national Mississippi River Network (MRN) - 1 Mississippi campaign. For the past four years she has worked to raise River Citizen awareness in the areas of water quality, outdoor recreation/education and conservation initiatives in West Tennessee and Ken-Ten. Her public outreach skills will be a valuable asset for the Sierra Club Chickasaw Group. As the Education Coordinator for MRCT’s environmental education program (MORE), Mid-South Outdoor Recreation and Education, she understands how critical it is for our youth to learn about environmental issues so they can grow into dedicated stewards for our planet.

When students have educational opportunities to actually experience the great outdoors, they begin to make more intelligent and informed decisions on how to protect it. Karen believes that one of the most important ways to encourage stewardship and adoption of healthier water quality laws is to share innovative ways to explore, enjoy and protect our natural, cultural, and historic resources.

Tod Underhill

Tod Underhill was born and raised in Memphis and MidSouth. His life’s experiences have been focused on the outdoors. He has worked as a Law Enforcement Ranger for the National Park Service and Shelby Farms Park. While working as a Project Assistant for Keep TN Beautiful, he coordinated the very first Great Tennessee Cleanup in all 95 counties. Tod has been teaching for many years now as both full-time and adjunct faculty at the University of Memphis in Health and Sport Sciences. An advocate for our National Parks, he served on the Executive Board of the Association of National Park Rangers. When not teaching, Tod works as a beekeeper with his family business, Peace Bee Farm. He has trained beekeepers in the Mid-South and in Ethiopia for the Winrock Foundation. He volunteers with the American Red Cross where he has serves as Government Liaison. He holds a MS degree from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania in Parks and Natural Resource Management.

Mondell Williams

Mondell Williams has been involved in environmental and environmental justice (EJ) issues for over 20 years, fighting a hazardous waste blending & recycling plant in S. Memphis, including groundwater contamination issues. He has also been involved in civic affairs for years, has run for City Council, and served as Co-Chair of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the Memphis Defense Depot.

He lobbied local officials about Martin Luther King Park in the early 1990’s and got it cleaned up and restored. Then he was involved in the fight to “Save MLK Park” when the Mapco oil refinery wanted to lease parts of the park and privatize it.

Mondell has worked with Sierra Club Chickasaw members since the 1990’s, including Dick Mosch, Rita Harris, and Sue Williams to fight for EJ in his neighborhood. He served on the ExCom in 2007 with James Baker, and worked with Dick Mosch on the Political Committee.

Recently, Mondell attended Good Jobs Green Jobs conferences in Washington, DC, as a representative of Sierra Club’s Memphis EJ Program. He has never missed the annual Memphis EJ Conference, helping wherever needed, and was presented with the “Long Haul EJ Award” at the 2010 Conference. Mondell is a fixture at our Chickasaw Group Holiday Parties.

Lance Willinger

Lance Willinger is a senior at the University of Memphis, majoring in Sustainable Development and Revitalization. He has worked at the University of Memphis and Shelby Farms Park. While working as a Project Assistant for Keep TN Beautiful, he coordinated the very first Great Tennessee Cleanup in all 95 counties. Lance has been involved in composting campus’ leftovers. Lance has also gotten a public bike repair station on campus in an attempt to get more people to live a more active, healthy and environmentally friendly lifestyle.

Over the past two years Lance has been working more with the Sierra Club, attending the People’s Climate March in N.Y. Climate Action in Atlanta, Katrina 10-year Commemoration in New Orleans, winter retreat in Lebanon, TN, and multiple other meetings.

Lance grew up in a very large and poor family in the ghettos of Memphis - He knows the struggle and the passion of everyday people. Lance says that “The fight for a good life has turned me into a passionate and hardworking individual who gets results. I would be thrilled to help out the Tennessee Chapter in any way possible.”
The Tennes-Sierran

Executive Committee (ExCom) Candidates

Term: January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017

You are in the Harvey Broome Group if you live in one of these counties: Anderson; Blount; Campbell; Claiborne; Cocke; Cumberland; Fentress; Grainger; Hamblen; Jefferson; Knox; Loudon; Morgan; Pickett; Roane; Scott; Sevier; and Union.

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<th>Vote for 6 Candidates</th>
<th>Single Member or First Joint Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Headrick</td>
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<td>JoAnne Logan</td>
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<td>Ron Shrieves</td>
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Prepare your ballot: Only current members may vote.

Please put your ballot in an envelope and seal, making that envelope BALLOT. Place that in another envelope, on which you write your membership number (found on the mailing label of the Tennes-Sierran or your membership card) and your name and return address. Ballots must be received by close of business on Monday, December 21, 2015.

If you receive your Tennes-Sierran electronically and need your membership number, you may contact Ron Shrieves at ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (put “membership number” in the subject line.) You will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

Ballots must be received by close of business on December 21, 2015

Mail to: Kris Christin, Harvey Broome Group Secretary
Attention: Election Committee
1317 Candlewick Rd
Knoxville, TN 37932-3602

Candidate Biographies (in random order):

Dr. Mary Headrick
I am a 66-year old retired physician (Internal Medicine) living in Union County, north of Knox, with my husband Dretlf Matt, a retired environmental physicist. I have been a long time member of Sierra Club over the past 45 years, hiking often with the Harvey Broome chapter back in my twenties. I’ve sent I on boards of League of Women Voters, TN and locals, American College of Physicians-TN and, remotely; Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning and SOCM. I am a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility. I’ve worked with local Sierra Club members to call on Nashville for fracking regulations and bans. I view Man-made Climate Change as one of two critical issues to be addressed. Dretlf and I have hosted a reading retreat for Pope Francis’s encyclical on the Care of our Common Home.
Because of my belief that climate change and campaign finance are critical issues, I ran twice for 3rd District Congress, though I was defeated.

Dr. JoAnne (JoAnne) Logan
A faculty member in the Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science at the University of Tennessee since 1987, I teach classes in Climate Change, Waters & Civilizations, Geographic Information Systems, and Professional Development. In addition, I supervise the undergraduate program in Environmental and Soil Sciences, with about 200 students, and am the faculty mentor to The Greenhouse Living and Learning Community and the Students Promoting Environmental Action in Knoxville student club. I was a member of the mayor’s committee for the Tennessee River Rescue from 2014-2015; currently serving as treasurer and board member of the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair; and have held several officer positions in the Smoky Mountain Chapter of the American Meteorological Society. I’m an active presenter about climate change through both the Climate Voices, NOAA Climate Stewards, and Climate Reality projects. I’m a member of the Sierra Club and the Union of Concerned Scientists as well. I’m an avid gardener and regularly volunteer at both the Beardsley and Pond Gap Community Gardens. I’m very committed to the protection of our natural world and constantly promote sustainability with my students.

Dr. Wilfred (Mac) Post
I became a Sierra Club member while a graduate student in Ecology at the University of Tennessee about 40 years ago. I am a lifetime Sierra Club member. The Sierra Club continues to be the most significant conservation organization in the U.S. The Harvey Broome Group is an important voice in East Tennessee for wilderness protection, environmentally sound land-use, environmental protection regulations, and promotion of education and enjoyment of natural resources especially wilderness.
I have become very active in the Harvey Broome Group. I am an outings leader, leading 10 hikes each year with a focus on understanding the importance of the rich biodiversity of East Tennessee. I am the Program Chair coordinating monthly program meetings. My favorite involvement is leading a group of dedicated Sierra Club volunteers in forming the Knoxville Inspiring Connections Outdoors (Knoxville ICO) group. In our first year we partnered with 5 agencies that serve inner-city youth and conducted nearly 30 outings including bike rides, day hikes, overnight camping and whitewater rafting. If elected I will continue to serve the Harvey Broome Group in multiple capacities as the Executive Committee decides is appropriate.

Axel C. Ringe
I would like to be re-elected to the Harvey Broome Group ExCom. I have served on the ExCom continuously since 2001 and have held the position of Group Chair (for four years) and currently serve as Conservation Chair. In addition I hold several positions in the TN Chapter ExCom, including Conservation Chair, Water Quality Committee Chair, and Biodiversity Committee Chair.
I consider myself to be a committed activist, and believe I can continue to be an asset to the Harvey Broome Group.

Mark Shipley
A member of Sierra Club and originally from Greenville, Tennessee. I received my Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and Geography from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Master’s Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Tech. I’m employed as a land use planner for the Town of Farragut since 1998 and a certified planner (AICP) since July 1999. I now serve as the Community Development Director. I’m a past president of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club and am an Appalachian Trail Maintainer. My hobbies include long distance trail running, road cycling, poetry, hiking (on and off trail.) historic preservation, and traveling. I’m married with two cats (an animal lover).

Dr. Ron Shrieves
I have lived in Knoxville for 43 years, and am a retired professor from the University of Tennessee. I am married (Ginger), with two grown children. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1988. Recently I have also been active in our local Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) group. I am also a member of the Nature Conservancy and the Wilderness Society. I have been involved in the outtings since, joining the Harvey Broome Group and served as HBG Outings Chair or Co-chair and as a member of the Executive Committee for almost 11 years. I feel very strongly about preserving the remaining wilderness areas in our national and state forests, and about promoting wildlife refuges, parks and greenways in our urban settings. I feel that I can continue to contribute to the critical work of the Executive Committee.

The Tennes-Sierran

Page 7 / November/December 2015
Election Ballot for Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee Candidates for the 2016-2017 term

You are in the Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) if you live in one of these 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; and Wilson.

You may vote for five:

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<th>Middle TN Group</th>
<th>Single Member or First Joint Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>Penny Brooks</td>
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<td>Charlie High</td>
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<td>Craig Jervis</td>
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<td>Jim Redwine</td>
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<td>Grace Stranch</td>
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Submit your Ballot: Only current members may vote.
Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write "ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, write your Sierra membership number (found on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) in the upper left hand corner or your name and address (so we can verify your number). Alternatively, simply write out the names of the five candidates that you are voting for on a piece of paper, and follow the instructions above.

If you receive your newsletter electronically, you may contact Betsy Garber for your number - email her (put “membership number” in subject line) at garber@hotmail.com or call 615-370-9454.

Envelopes without a Sierra membership number, Name & Address cannot be counted.
Mail by close of business on December 8, 2013.

Mail to:  Betsy Garber
1327 Otter Creek Road
Nashville, TN 37215

Candidate Biographies (in random order):

Penny Brooks
Penny has a long history of political and legislative activity with the Sierra Club at both the statewide and group level. She has also consistently helped our Group with the less prestigious tasks of working our prior recycling center, tabling, and giving educational presentations at kid-centered environmental events. Recently, Penny spearheaded the endorsement of candidates in the Metro Nashville election for Mayor and at large council members, and volunteered for the candidates that we endorsed.

Charles High
Charlie has been a real workhorse for the Group, spending hours representing our Group at Earth Day, registering folks for chapter meetings, and helping with hikes for our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group (ICO) which leads hikes for disadvantaged youth and children. Charlie has also been active in the Beyond Coal Campaign, helping to get our website updated, and increased our Group’s participation in meetings before the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Metro Nashville Council, and other environmentally related events. At the statewide level, he is helping the Tennessee Chapter on various issues, including legislative and administrative work. Jim’s background includes overseeing all of the environmental aspects of the General Motors bankruptcy case; Jim was awarded the 2011 American Bar Association “Award for Excellence in Environmental, Energy, and Resources Stewardship.” His background in environmental-related bankruptcy law brings a helpful knowledge of the issues and law to our Group.

Craig Jervis
Craig has served on the Executive Committee, and serves as Chair of our outings program (initiating a meet-up page), while also chairing the Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group (ICO). His knowledge of reptiles, waterways, critters, and plants is a great asset to the Group.

Jim Redwine
Jim recently moved back to Nashville, and has become an active member in our group. Over the last year, Jim has been active in the Beyond Coal Campaign, helping get our website updated, and increased our Group’s participation in meetings before the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Metro Nashville Council, and other environmentally related events. At the statewide level, he is helping the Tennessee Chapter on various issues, including legislative and administrative work. Jim’s background includes overseeing all of the environmental aspects of the General Motors bankruptcy case; Jim was awarded the 2011 American Bar Association “Award for Excellence in Environmental, Energy, and Resources Stewardship.” His background in environmental-related bankruptcy law brings a helpful knowledge of the issues and law to our Group. Jim currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Group’s Conservation Committee.

Grace Stranch
Grace is an attorney and an experienced environmental activist who has organized the Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law (APIEL) conference, which brings together hundreds of eco-minded and socially conscious activists, attorneys, students, scientists, and citizens in the interest of achieving environmental and social justice throughout Appalachia and surrounding areas.

WATAUGA GROUP EXCOM BALLOT

Election Ballot for Watauga Group Executive Committee Candidates for 2016-2017

You are in the Watauga Group if you live in one of these counties: Carter; Greene; Hancock; Hawkins; Johnson; Sullivan; Unicoi; and Washington.

Four successful candidates will serve 2-year terms beginning January 2016, joining returning members Bob Carlough, Dennis Shekinah, Gayle Riddervold, Gloria Griffith and Dean Witworth in guiding our Group’s Activities. Only current members may vote.

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<th>Vote for 4 Candidates</th>
<th>Single Member or First Joint Member</th>
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<td>Linda Carlough - Butler, TN</td>
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<td>Becky Kimer - Hampton, TN</td>
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<td>Jay Piper - Butler, TN</td>
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<td>Dan Reese - Johnson City, TN</td>
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<td>Lyn Walker - Mountain City, TN</td>
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How to Submit your ballot: Write your Sierra Club membership number on outside envelope with your name and return address. Your 8-digit number is located on the newsletter mailing label. Place the Tennes-Sierran newspaper ballot in a sealed envelope, within the outside envelope.

If you receive the Tennes-Sierran electronically you will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above. Need your membership number? You may contact Chair Communications Chair Barbara Kelly at bk@livers@gmail.com (“membership number” in the subject line) or call 423-718-5009.

Vote Today! Election Ballots must be mailed no later than Monday, December 21, 2015. Envelopes without a Sierra membership number, name and address cannot be counted.

Mail to:  Rita Cowan
900 Mining Town Rd
Mountain City, TN 37683
The public is very welcome at ALL. Sierra Club Meetings and Activities! All members traveling across the state should feel free to drop by and attend another Group's meetings. You will find yourself among friends and learning something interesting.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Strategy/Business Meetings: November 16 and December 14 (2nd Monday) 6:30 P.M. Held at Second Presbyterian Church, at the corner of E. 7th Street and Pine, 700 Pine Street [parking is free in their Pine Street lot, across the street from the church]. Come add your ideas and share your concerns. We'll be planning our actions on several fronts: clean energy, forest watch/protect- tion, mining/tracking issues, and energizing our Outings program. All are welcome!

Program: November 23, Monday, 7:00 P.M. at green spaces, 63 E. Main St., Chattanooga. Residential Solar Power Panel - Clean Energy for YOU: Residential solar power has an important role to achieve the national goal of 80% renewable “clean” energy by 2025. But adding solar panels to your residence isn’t as simple as bolting a panel to your roof and plugging it in.

The cost of your system is going to depend on:
A) Whether your system is going to be on-grid, off-grid or on-grid with backup and whether you want to generate 50%, 100% or more of your elec- trical usage. B) There are potential state, federal, and utility company in- criteria. C) If you are on- grid, you may be able to sell your extra electricity through utility buyback, but that may be subject to renewable resource capacity caps. D) The price you receive may include avoided-energy cost pricing, peak times pricing, and/or variable pricing/ fixed pricing.

Once you figure all that out, you may still have to contend with zoning laws, deed covenants or community association regulations. If this sounds too complicated, or if you are renting instead of owning, you can lease, buy a community share or go green.

With a panel of knowledgeable people, we will try to explain all of this in a single meeting so you can decide how to achieve clean energy for your home. Come with your questions.

Spread the word: The public is very welcome, healthy snacks are served. Look for our banner out front.

December - No Program Meeting in December, instead mark your calendars for our annual January Covered Dish Supper/Mixer Welcome 2016 Covered Dish Supper/Mixer - Saturday, January 10, 5-8 P.M.

Our annual covered dish supper/mixer -- You are invited! Bring friends and a covered dish. We'll supply drinks, utensils, plates, etc. Come start 2016 off right, with people who share the same interests and dreams for our environment as you. All are welcome, and don't worry if you haven't got a covered dish, there's always plenty! We'll share a quick walk to the bridge over the Creek before dinner starts. We’ll be in the Visitors Center, which is a mini-museum with interesting artifacts to explore! Location: Audubon Acres Visitor Center, 900 Sanctuary Road, Chattanooga, 37424 -- in East Brainerd, off Guntar Road, just follow the signs. Mark your calendar now.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Check http://www.facebook.com/chickasaw_group/ for meeting information.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Harvey Broome Group monthly programs are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. Our business meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd. Knoxville, TN 37909. Both start at 7 P.M. Both are free and open to the public.

November 10, 7:00 P.M. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. The Energy of the Earth. Joan Tomnianson (Blue Jay), Appalachian Trail Through Hiker.

My presentation is “The Energy of the Earth,” and it is a non-linear look at the AT through 10 topics, including Trees, Nature Up Close, and Letters & Numbers in the Natural World. I have sprinkled my presentation with post-hike thoughts about things I learned from the Trail.

December 8, 7:00PM Valley Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Harvey Broome Group Holiday Photographic Show You and your friends and family are invited for an evening of fun, food, and sharing. Please feel free to contribute - bring a USB flash drive or CD with some pictures from your favorite trips of the year to share. For more information contact Ronald Shreives, ronald-shreives@comcast.net

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

November 2, 2015 (Monday) – 6:15 P.M. – I CO MEETING: Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet at the Mad Platter restaurant at 1239 6th Ave. North, Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids and senior citizens, and training. Contact Daniel Shaykevich at dan- iel.a.shaykevich@vanderbilt.edu to make sure the meeting is still on. Put “ICO” in the subject line of your email.

December 15, 2015: 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. - HOLIDAY PARTY! – Wray and Tom have gra- ciously offered to host our holiday party! Bring a dish to share, and your beverage of choice for a potluck feast at 1116 Arrowhead Drive, Brent- wood, TN 37027. New folks are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Betsy at garberb@hotmail.com.

December 15, 2015 (Tuesday) - 6:30 P.M. LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is wel- come at this local issues and business meeting. Meetings are usually held at the Lucky Bamboo Restaurant, 5855 Charlotte Avenue, but there may be times we meet elsewhere. If you are not a regular attendee, please contact Betsy at (615) 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com in case the meeting location has changed. Come a bit early if you want to order dinner because we start the meeting at 6:30. We meet in a private room to- wards the back of the restaurant. Tell them you’re looking for the Sierra Club. We look forward to seeing you.

January 4, 2016 (Monday) – 6:15 P.M. – I CO MEETING: Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet at the Mad Platter restaurant at 1239 6th Ave. North, Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disad- vantaged kids and senior citizens, and training. Contact Daniel Shaykevich at daniel.a.shaykev- ich@vanderbilt.edu to make sure the meeting is still on. Put “ICO” in the subject line of your email.

January 14, 2016 (Tuesday) - 7:00 PM. "Vene- rable Trees” - PROGRAM: at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Tom Kimmerer, PhD, botanist, forester/ tree physiologist, and author of Vendores Trees, His- tory, Biology, and Conservation in the Bluegrass, will present this program on the five-hundred- year ongoing story of our historic trees in middle Tennessee and Kentucky. When the first settlers arrived in this region, they found an astonishing landscape of open woodland grazed by vast herds of bison. Farmers quickly replaced the bison with cash crops, and thereafter began to drive livestock to shade their pastures. Today, central Kentucky and central Tennessee boast one of the largest populations of Pre-European settlement trees in the world. These historic “Venerable Trees,” including the native trees in the Bluegrass, the reasons they are now in danger, and the efforts of those fighting to conserve these remarkable three-hundred to five-hundred-year- old plants. You must enter from the park from Granny White Pike to reach the visitor center (which may require ignoring your GPS). Free and open to the public.

January 19, 2016 (Tuesday) – at 6:30 P.M. LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is wel- come at this local issues and business meeting. Meetings are usually held at the Lucky Bamboo Restaurant, 5855 Charlotte Avenue, but there may be times we meet elsewhere. If you are not a regular attendee, please contact Betsy at (615) 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com in case the meeting location has changed. Come a bit early if you want to order dinner because we start the meeting at 6:30. We meet in a private room to- wards the back of the restaurant. Tell them you’re looking for the Sierra Club. We look forward to seeing you.

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Sun- day at 7 P.M. Please contact Gloria Griffith at gla4797@earthlink.net or 423-727-4797 for more information.

The Times-Sentinel Page 9 - November/December 2015
Outings

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

John Doyal is our Outings Chair, and point-person for outings information for our Group. Our activities are always open to the public and members of the Club from across the state! For more information, contact John at baldie052@yahoo.com. Also check our Meetup - Green Events page for the latest on our outings.

7 November (Sat) Cherohala Skyway: We are headed to the High Mountain Balds along the Cherohala Skyway for walks on the balds of Hooper Bald and Huckleberry Knob. Please bring your camera for the spectacular views of the Smoky Mountains and Snowbird Mountains. For details and to pre-reg, contact John Doyal, 423-596-8171 or baldie052@yahoo.com.

5 December (Sat) Hike - Back Way into Point Park: Civilian Conservation Corps relics & Civil War sites, and invasive land-scaping species as indicators of settlement will be viewed. Hike will be about 6 miles and 3+ hours, with 4 flights of steps, moderate pace. (Bathrooms in front of Point Park where there is an entry fee.) Hike leaves at noon from the far W end of the parking lot in the lower truck trail area. Please contact Mac Post: 938-3116, mpost3116@aol.com.

CHEROKEE News

With postal rates what they are, we are reduced to reaching out to you through the internet! We have an e-newsletter that goes out 1-2 times a month, and several social me-dia outlets. We’d like you to take advantage of these! Did you know that only about 1/3 of Sierra members share their e-mail address? If that’s you, you probably have little idea of what the Cherokee Group is doing, and you’re missing a lot of fun and satisfaction in help- ing locally. So please reach out and connect with us:

Please Like Us: on Facebook -- our Organization Page: https://www.facebook.com/CherokeeSierra

CHICKASAW GROUP (MEMPHIS)

Time and dates of outings are to be determined. Check http://www.facebook.com/ChickasawGroup/

10 Essentials for Hiking

Sierra Club outings offer a variety of wilderness and near-wilderness experiences. It is important to realize that while all trips are guided by a leader, it is ultimately the responsibility of the individual to operate in a safe manner. To this end, the following is a list of essential items which should be carried according to the particular type of outing. These are:

1. Adequate map
2. First aid kit
3. Compass
4. Rain gear
5. Extra clothing (it is a good idea to always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Knife
8. Flashlight
9. Extra food, water
10. The tenth essential: You decide what is the most important thing to bring!

MIDDELE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

We have an active outings schedule and want you to come along! Many times our outings are planned too late to be included in this newsletter. To check out our outings, please click on the outing of choice at http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures/events/calendar/
The Chickasaw Group’s 2015 Political “Program”

by Dennis Lynch & Steve Sondheim

The Chickasaw Group Excom began discussing whether or not they wanted to become active in the 2015 “political season” in Memphis — October would have a Memphis Mayor up for re-election, with many challengers, and all 13 seats on the City Council also up for a vote.

We discussed in February and March Excoms, but didn’t really get started until April, when a long time core Sierra Club member, Don Richardson, helped us along and made sure we knew we’d better get started. Our discussion included thoughts such as: “What do we want to do? Will we endorse anyone? How will we learn about the candidates? What activities did we want to organize and manage? - A questionnaire, a debate, personal interviews, endorsements,” but no plans set in place yet.

In May, Steve Sondheim and Dennis Lynch decided to kick things into gear. Dennis created a “Chickasaw Group Political Committee of the Whole”- the Excom plus other key local Club members. All were invited to participate, and ideas were floated by email.

A list of important environmental questions to ask of candidates was created and refined.

Steve is also on the League of Women Voters of Memphis and Shelby County (LWV) Environmental Committee, along with Rita Harris. We decided to co-sponsor a “Mayoral Candidates Environmental Forum” with the LWV. A small joint committee met to officially confirm the plan, go over details, and set the plans into operation. It was the middle of June and Chickasaw already had a large meeting room reserved at the Main Library for July 23. We felt we could do it by that date, but we needed to sprint!

As it turned out, we were overly optimistic. Some details took longer than expected to resolve. Plus, the very long preliminary list of candidates made it very difficult to design fair Forum procedures. We decided to delay the Forum, and replace it with an “Open House” for all candidates for Mayor and City Council. This was much simpler— “just invite ‘everyone’ and make the event comfortable, and encourage attendees to talk with the candidates (only a little bit of an over-simplification).” One way we encouraged the conversation was by giving each attendee from the public a copy our “Sample Environmental Questions”.

With 3 weeks remaining, we promoted the heck out of the Open House event, and were able to make it a very successful event. More than fifty of the candidates were there, and 120+ members of the public were there. In an informal survey of candidates and the public, the universal answer was “Yes, it was a valuable event.” Members of the public also said, “We appreciated the opportunity to be here at this open house and meet numerous candidates and ask them questions.”

Our suggestions for future political Open Houses are: 1) Definitely do it again, 2) Have a dedicated Sierra Club photographer there, 3) Have a small survey for attendees (candidates and public) to fill out as they depart, 4) Give each candidate a moment to introduce themselves, and 5) Work harder to encourage the attendees to use the sample environmental questions.

Environmental Fora (“Forums”) were held in September. A separate article describes those events.

The World’s First Rural Feed-In Tariff?

How do we move clean energy access beyond just a light bulb? With millions of dollars in new investment, capping a record year for beyond the grid solar markets, that’s the question many are now asking. This record investment is building markets, starting with pico solar products like lanterns, from the bottom up. But just over the horizon lies much larger solar home systems and the next big opportunity capable of powering whole communities -- mini-grids.

One way to get us from here to mini-grids is a novel new concept: rural feed-in tariffs, or RFITs for short.

What an RFIT does is adapt the principles that made feed-in tariffs (FITs) wildly successful in Germany and other parts of the world -- including certainty for investors and early stage support for nascent clean energy markets -- to a radically different operating environment. That’s because policy making beyond the grid requires a whole new approach steeped in the realities of the communities it’s attempting to serve. That’s how you tame the wild west of beyond the grid policy making.

So what exactly is an RFIT? Here’s a checklist:

**Guaranteed Minimum Revenue:** An RFIT provides a targeted payment per household ‘connected’ to either a large solar home system or a village power/micro-grid installation. This guaranteed revenue will make projects bankable and investable, triggering much needed capital investment without the need for capital cost subsidies.

**Target Energy Services, Not Kilowatts:** An RFIT guarantees a minimum level of energy service delivery -- one set by policymakers above what the private market is currently delivering. That means an RFIT adheres to the number one rule in beyond the grid markets: energy efficiency unlocks clean energy for low-income populations by prioritizing service delivery, not kilowatt hours.

**Sunset Payments Over Time:** An RFIT sunsets over time with volumetric reductions (as did the much ballyhooed California Solar Initiative).

All of which is well and good, but are there any RFITs actually in use?

Interestingly enough, yes. The World Bank’s Lighting Africa program is currently piloting such an approach with mini-grids in Mali. Details are still not forthcoming, and the Bank has not currently labeled the program an RFIT, but conversations with Bank staff suggest all the aspects of an RFIT are present. This means Light Africa could well be the world’s first RFIT.

At the same time, many of the concepts integral for RFITs have been in place in the world’s most wildly successful beyond the grid solar market for years: Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, their solar program just so happens to be doubling in size and introducing support for mini-grids and mobile money. More importantly, there are new initiatives being announced all the time, including the Rockefeller foundation’s $100 million, 1,000 mini-grids in India (where Prime Minister Modi has promised solar for all by 2019).

With sky high bills for subsidizing dirty kerosene already in the crosshairs in certain countries, funds for potential RFITs need not be found, only redirected to support all this activity. And to be clear, there is the full expectation households will pay for these services given the large amounts they already pay for dirty, expensive forms of energy like kerosene. This means RFIT revenue may never be needed. But the payments can still help unlock these markets by covering the risk of default by households while helping to get more services to low-income communities than they could otherwise afford themselves.

All of this means governments need to make a choice to use smarter, better targeted, and ultimately cheaper support for rural electrification. That’s why it’s important for policymakers interested in expanding clean energy access to become intimately familiar with what an RFIT is. Because it just may help unlock clean energy for all.

-- Justin Guay, Associate Director, International Climate Program November 21, 2014 in Energy Solutions
“Building a Stronger More Inclusive Movement” – Training Retreat Reflections

The Sierra Club Board of Directors threw out a challenge to Chapters and Groups in its last meeting by passing the Multi-Year Plan for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Tennes-Sierran Training Retreat Reflections

“The cultural sharing exercise showed me that everyone has history (his story) that generates pride and value. History has negative aspects that can cause shame and guilt. The training allowed the time to evaluate initial judgments about others and to realize the flaws in stereotypes. All of the participants had a wealth of experiences suggesting that all people have that to offer.”

Louise Gorenflo: “I came to the diversity training knowing that it would deepen my understanding of how we need to move forward together. I realized the interconnections among all of our issues, the importance of giving up the role of the white leader, and following the lead of those I know I want to work with.”

Gloria Griffith: “After completing the Dismantling Racism Training weekend I know anyone can be prejudiced, but only the group that holds power can commit racism. And in the U.S., that group has always been white.”

Steven Sondheim: “I recently attended the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Weekend. During the past year, I’ve realized that I am privileged in that I represent the majority race, a man, with the education and resources to maneuver my way fairly well in my life journey. To me “Privilege” is access without impediments. Of course, I experience major impediments. Of course, I experience impediments and am subject to prejudice (pre-judgment) sometimes. I am Jewish, short, a liberal, an environmentalist, soft-spoken, stubborn, persistent, and I question unadulterated capitalism, etc.”

Sandy Kurtz: “We from the Cherokee Group returned home after our training and immediately applied for a Sierra Club grant that allows us to partner with people of color who live in a low-income Chattanooga community as they build a trail and establish a green space. Our new knowledge has and will be most helpful.”

Gary Bowers: “As a dear friend of mine who is a psychologist says, “Once you know you can never not know again.” The material covered, the videos shown, and the interactive sessions have given me a new level of insight into our culture and its inequities.”

Gloria Griffith: “I came to the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Weekend with resolve to recruit more of the “other” on our team, include underprivileged issues in considering campaigns, and work on EJ issues with our partners.”

Louise Gorenflo: “I came to the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Weekend with resolve to recruit more of the “other” on our team, include underprivileged issues in considering campaigns, and work on EJ issues with our partners.”

Sandy Kurtz: “We from the Cherokee Group returned home after our training and immediately applied for a Sierra Club grant that allows us to partner with people of color who live in a low-income Chattanooga community as they build a trail and establish a green space. Our new knowledge has and will be most helpful.”

Special thanks to the Sierra Club staff who served as training facilitators – Bill Price (Charleston, WV) and Rita Harris (Memphis, TN)