

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 39, Number 4 - April, 2008

National Green Jobs Conference Points Toward New Green Economy

Katherine Pendleton, TN Chapter Chair

A conference coordinated by the Blue Green Alliance, a strategic partnership between the United Steelworkers (USW) and the Sierra Club, was held March 13-14, 2008 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This conference launched a nationwide dialog about moving the United States rapidly toward leadership in promoting the benefits of a new green economy.

Over 50 business, environmental and union leaders gave presentations including Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club; Marco Trbovich, assistant to USW President Leo Gerard; and Ed Mazria, founder and executive director of Architecture 2030.

The conference was designed for advocates representing the labor, environmental and public health movements; local, state, and federal policy makers; business leaders; economic and work force development specialists; investors; and scientists and technology experts.

Goals of Good Jobs, Green Jobs were to provide a forum for strategic interaction between a variety of constituents with a stake in the developing economy; to showcase key policy initiatives for the rapid expansion of green economic development, including the use of existing state and local programs; and demonstrate to the public the importance and promise of the emerging green economy.

Out of 900 conference attendees, approximately 150 Sierra Club leaders and Sierra Club Student Coalition members were in attendance. The Tennessee Chapter was well represented by Katherine Pendleton, chapter chair; Tom Mozen, SOFG chair; and Rita Harris, EJ regional staff.

Traditionally, unions have been hesitant to endorse environmental protection, fearing this would hurt the economy and destroy jobs. The message delivered by union leaders such as Marco Trbovich during this conference stressed the opportunities for creation of new "green jobs" associated with sustainable energy sources such as wind and solar power. A concern that was stressed related to a shortage of skilled labor, which can easily be remedied by bringing back trade school courses taught in high schools.

Ed Mazria gave a powerful PowerPoint presentation on the use of solar energy as an alternative to dependence on the use of coal in the United States. Mazria focused on the need to prevent production of new coal burning power plants, which account for 40% of carbon emissions produced in the United States, and emphasized that there is no such thing as "clean coal!" He asked for people to wear blue on Earth Day in support of "no coal." The talk given by Mazria was a refreshing end to a day of speeches promoting carbon sequestration as the answer to carbon emissions produced by burning coal as a primary energy source rather than solar and wind energy.

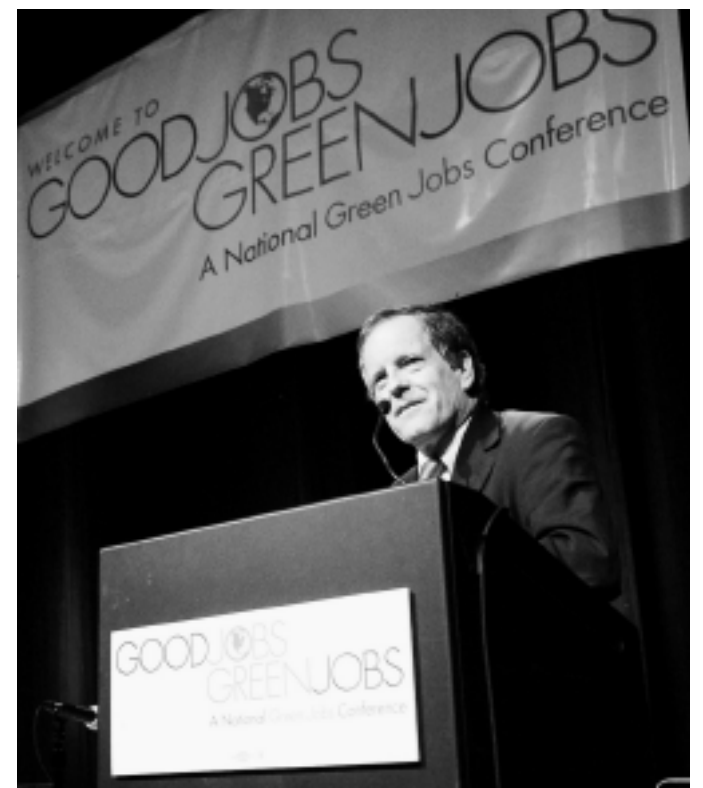
Carl Pope spoke at the beginning of the conference and gave the closing remarks, delivering inspiring, hopeful messages emphasizing that carbon emissions must be accounted for worldwide.

"The energy sector is the least innovative sector in the American economy where innovation and high performance is needed," Pope

said. "The idea that we are still in 2008 surprised that good jobs and environmental quality go hand in hand is something that should sober us all."

For more information regarding the Good Jobs, Green Jobs conference visit www.greenjobsconference.org or the Blue Green Alliance at www.bluegreenalliance.org

Another perspective of the conference by Kevin Doyle can be obtained at <http://gristmill.grist.org/story/2008/3/18/151955/884>. Katherine Pendleton may be contacted at Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org.



Sierra Club Saves Airport Wetlands

By Mary Mastin

The Upper Cumberland Regional Airport (UCRA) announced that it is revising its plans for expansion of the airport in White County so that the 10.08 acres of high quality, Tier II wetlands set for destruction in the original expansion proposal will not be impacted. The revised plan lengthens and strengthens the runways and increases the number of hangars but does not increase the parking and



Our Sierra Club saved these wetlands located next to the Upper Cumberland Regional Airport.

other landside development that had originally been slated for the area over the three wetlands.

A public hearing was held on the original plan in September 2003. The Upper Cumberland Group Sierra Club submitted comments that the UCRA failed to establish that there was no practicable alternative to filling the wetlands. It appeared that the area to the southeast of the airport that the UCRA planned to level and use as fill or borrow dirt to extend the runways could be utilized for the landside expansion as an alternative to filling the wetlands.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), however, issued an Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit (ARAP) in February 2004. The Sierra Club appealed the ARAP to the Water Quality Control Board and while that was pending, filed a federal court lawsuit along with the National Wildlife Federation, the Tennessee Environmental Council, the Tennessee Clean Water Network and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility against the Army Corps of Engineers. The lawsuit challenged the corps' failure to require a federal wetland permit. The environmental organizations showed through a dye trace test that the wetlands at the airport have a hydrologic connection to the nearby Falling Water River.

The Army Corps subsequently agreed to assume jurisdiction and to require a federal permit, causing the state permits to be withdrawn. Over the next two and a half years the UCRA's permit appli-

cations have been pending with both TDEC and the Corps.

During this time, the Sierra Club, as well as the federal Fish and Wildlife Service, also challenged the Tennessee Department of Transportation's role as the agency responsible for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this project. It was successfully argued that the agency responsible for compliance with (NEPA) for this project was the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been pending at the FAA since May 2005.

In October 2006, a TDEC public hearing was held in Sparta on the question of whether the UCRA had established social and economic necessity for the project. The Sierra Club submitted economic information calling into question the need for the expansion as planned.

Richard Rinks and Associates, on behalf of the UCRA submitted a revised Environmental Assessment to the FAA on January 28, 2008. The revised EA was available for public review until February 15 at the Putnam County Library.

The airport wetlands are a real treasure, a favorite spot of local birdwatchers. The wetlands are home to a state threatened species, the Tennessee barking tree frog. The largest of the three wetlands, 7.9 acres, is deep enough that folks have been known to fish in it. Check them out yourself. You'll be amazed to see an Okeefeenokey-like swamp here in the Upper Cumberland.

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail

*Address changes are processed much faster if you include your Sierra Club membership number. To find your membership number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: lbaker@usw.org
Snail Mail: Lynne Baker, Tennes-Sierran Editor
108 Pepper Ridge Circle, Antioch, TN 37013
(615) 831-6782

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 10th of the month preceding the new month's issue.

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to lbaker@usw.org either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Attached files are preferred. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) 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. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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.

Get Involved!

To keep up with Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club news, join the Tennessee News by emailing Liz Dixon at dixon@cs.utk.edu

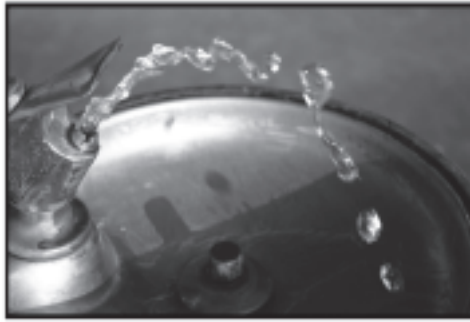
Volunteer Opportunities

- * Openings on the Nuclear Committee for a lead and members.
- * Openings on the Smart Growth/Transportation
- * Committee to advocate on local issues.
- * Opening for someone to do research on biofuels.

Contact StevenSondheim@yahoo.com



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



With your help, we can clean up our water.

Over the last 30 years, we've made great progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
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Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org F94Q W 4300 1

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Cherokee Group - Chattanooga (in reorganization)

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Chickasaw Group - Memphis

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Katibug1959@aol.com

State of Franklin Group

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mozenetc@yahoo.com

Watauga Group - Johnson & Carter Counties

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gl4797@earthlink.net
Vice Chair: Dr. Earl Taylor (423) 727-7211
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gl4797@earthlink.net

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville

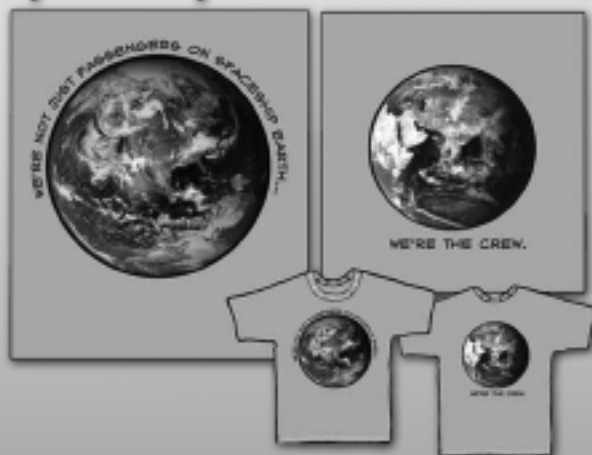
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Secretary: Peggy Evans
Conservation: Easton Evans
Outings: Vacant

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Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org
Bill McCabe, Central Appalachian EJ Organizer
office - 423-944-3220 fax - 423-944-3221 (call first)

**Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed**

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6th Annual Wilderness First Aid Training June 7-8, 2008

There are still some spots left for the sixth annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training (WFA) the weekend of June 7-8 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Landmark Learning, LLC, our training provider for the previous five years, will perform the training again this year, teaching the National Outdoors Leadership School (NOLS) WFA curriculum. This educational weekend features top notch training in an outdoor setting by field experienced instructors.

Course: WFA - 16 hours / 2-yr certification. Fast paced and hands-on, this two day course covers a wide range of wilderness medicine topics for people who travel in the outdoors or who spend time in the back-country as either a passion or profession. In this course you will learn to prepare for the unexpected. You will acquire knowledge and skills that will help you make sound decisions in emergency situations. This course is ideal for trip leaders, camp staff, outdoor enthusiasts and individuals in remote locations. This NOLS course is pre-approved by such organizations as the American Camping Association and the U.S. Forest Service. Visit the NOLS website <http://www.nols.edu/wmi/courses/outlines/wild-firstaidoutline.shtml> for course details.

When: June 7-8

Where: Fall Creek Falls State Park, TN, near Pikeville.

What is included: Training by highly qualified instructors, mid-morning snacks, lunch, mid-afternoon snacks

Not included: Breakfast, dinner, lodging, Sierra membership, CPR certification

Lodging: We plan to camp in the state park. You will receive information regarding the area of the park where we will be camping should you want to be in the area with other participants.

Campsites may be shared, and the logistics of this can be worked out when you check in with

the on-the-ground organizers. Other options include an inn at the park, and a few B&B's in the area. Check the state park webpage <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/FallCreekFalls/> for more info.

Cost: \$165, non-refundable – Sierra commits to Landmark, you commit to Sierra

Payment due: May 15

Other Info: 1 – Membership in Sierra is required. You can join online at <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/> or Katherine can send you a membership form. Introductory memberships are \$25.

2 – Participant must have health insurance coverage and complete a health form.

3 – Participant must sign Sierra liability waiver.

4 – Participant must sign NOLS/Landmark Learning liability waiver.

Enrollment: Complete participant form and send with check to Katherine Pendleton.

Questions: Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email at Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org

Note: This course is not for Wilderness First Responder recertification.

Value: Wilderness first aid classes of this caliber often cost up to twice this amount. Sierra's goal in providing this training is to help insure the safe enjoyment of the great outdoors, and we price this course accordingly for our members.

Membership: We require membership in return for the value pricing offered. By becoming a member, you will receive both the Chapter (state of Tennessee) newsletter and the national Sierra Club publication, Sierra Magazine. Each of these publications will help to keep you aware of challenges to great outdoors and suggest actions that you can take to preserve the things about nature that we value.

Corner

The Chair's

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

In March many of you received a letter asking for a financial contribution to be used for the environmental work of our chapter. March is the month set aside by the Sierra Club in which chapters may fundraise without competition from the national club.

As of March 22, we have collected \$7,750 in response to the March solicitation resulting in 219 donations averaging \$35 per donation. Thank you for your contributions! If you have not yet sent in your contribution it is not too late to do so. One person on a fixed income sent in \$3.

Any amount that you can spare will be appreciated and used for continuing programs such as our legislative work and our many environmental battles that will create a better environment for all Tennesseans. Thank you for your help. (If you want your contribution to be tax-deductible, make your check out to The TN Chapter Sierra Club Foundation.) Your contribution will make a huge difference!

Last month I attended the Good Jobs/Green Jobs conference sponsored by the Sierra Club and the United Steelworkers Union in Pittsburgh, Pa. I came home from that conference with a renewed commitment to decreasing energy consumption and making my lifestyle more environmentally friendly. My spouse and I installed water saver shower heads and turned down the temperature on the water heater in our home. These are simple things that collectively can make a huge difference in reduction of energy use and conservation of water.

The next step in my household is researching how we can install solar panels on our home and convincing our homeowners' association that this needs to be allowed in our subdivision. I challenge you to look around your home and find ways to make your home more environmentally friendly.

For those of you in the Cherokee Group in the Chattanooga area, be on the look-out for a postcard announcing the date of another re-organizational meeting in May that is being hosted by Herschel Pollard at his cabin on Mott Lake. For information on how you can get involved with the Cherokee Group, contact Herschel at 941-639-5126.

There is still time to register for the wilderness first aid course being sponsored by the Tennessee Chapter June 7-8 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. The cost of the course is \$165 per person which includes course materials and lunch and snacks on both training days. The training will be provided by a certified NOLS Wilderness Medicine instructor through Landmark Learning in North Carolina. Please contact me for additional information and to register for this training at katibug1959@aol.com or 615-943-6877.

Our spring chapter meeting is April 11-13 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Bring your golf clubs and hiking shoes and partake of many activities available at the park including canoe rental. I encourage you to bring your family. Children are always welcome at Tennessee Chapter meetings. We need to teach our children how to appreciate our wild places and to bring them up in our club in order that our mission may continue.

Explore, Enjoy and Protect Our Planet.
Katherine Pendleton
Tennessee Chapter Chair

6th Annual First Aid Wilderness Training Enrollment Form

Name _____ Phone # _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Previous 1st Aid Training _____

A non-refundable payment of \$165 is due by May 5th

- to participate in this training you must be a Sierra Club member
- introductory Sierra Club memberships are \$25
 - I will go to <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/> to join on line
 - please send me a membership form

NOTE - breakfast, dinner, lodging/camping, and Sierra membership are not included in the course fee of \$165

I am seeking recertification of a previous WFA certification

- YES ___ NO ___ If yes, previous certification is NOLS ___ SOLO ___ Other ___
- Note: this is not a recertification class for Wilderness First Responders

I am interested in information on the following

- camping with the other training participants YES ___ NO ___
- buffet dinner at the park lodge YES ___ NO ___

If you answered yes to either of the above, information will be emailed to you by May 15th

I am an omnivore ___ a vegetarian ___

**Please send check along with this form to: Katherine Pendleton
Make check to TN Chapter Sierra Club P.O. Box 290306
Nashville, TN 37229**

Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

APRIL PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

It's Flower Time! Beth Willis presents "Tips and Techniques for Better Flower Photography." Flowers may be beautiful (and uncomplaining) photography subjects, but lighting, weather conditions and other factors can make getting great shots tricky. This presentation will share some basic principles of exposure and composition to help you capture by camera the beauty you see. It will offer tips for using natural light and weather to your advantage and also suggest ways to edit, share and store your photos. Though her emphasis is on digital photography, many of her principles and tips apply to film photography as well. Beth, an East Tennessee native, is a recent graduate of UT in public horticulture. She has worked in the UT gardens for four years and is especially interested in garden and wildflower macro photography. As part of her Master's project, she took more than 8,500 photographs of the flower varieties being trialed in the UT gardens last year. Everyone is welcome. For information call John Finger at (865) 573-5908.

MAY PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, May 13, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

Bali and Komodo! HBG's Liz Dixon, avid scuba diver and traveler, presents a show on her visits to two of Indonesia's most scenic and exotic islands, rich with history and wildlife resources. When the Balinese are asked what heaven is like, they're likely to say it's just like Bali, without the worries of mundane life. Komodo is famous for the world's largest lizard, the fierce and voracious "Komodo Dragon," and for Komodo National Park, a unique marine sanctuary offering photographers a variety of rarely seen creatures—turtles, marine mammals, over 1,000 fish species, and a wide variety of coral and sponge species. It is said that a single reef in Indonesia contains more species than the whole Caribbean combined. Everyone is welcome. For information call John Finger at (865) 573-5908.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.

We have a spectacular program lined up for this month! Jonathan Harwell of Nashville Public Television is presenting a NOVA special entitled "Saved by the Sun." If you have wondered why we're not using this great infinite power and exactly HOW we can harness it, you must attend this meeting.

We heartily urge all our members to make an effort to see this because it helps illustrate what the Sierra Club stands for and it is the way of the future. Please come so we will have good attendance and NPT will come back again! Call Martha Wilson at 376-2535 for info and directions

May Preview: Another great topic out of today's headlines! James Cargile from TVA will present a program about Green Power Switch. For only

\$4 a month you can buy a block of wind power! What are you waiting for?

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the old St. Bernard's Academy Building, 2021 21st Avenue South, 4th floor.

Conservation issues are first on the agenda. All members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Betsy Garber at 615-370-9454 or email hackberrypond@hotmail.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net or call 792-2590.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY/PROGRAM MONTHLY MEETING: The SOFG meeting place & time has been changed. While we have been fortunate in the past for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Gray for allowing our group to meet there, we find it necessary to move our meeting place to 'The Acoustic Coffee House- Next Door' at 425 West Walnut in Ole Town Johnson City. We will be starting at 6:00 p.m. the 1st Wednesday of every month but April. April's meeting will be staged to basically coincide with Earth Day—but on the 22nd. Roberta Herrin of East Tennessee University's Center for Appalachian Studies & Services will be presenting the latest preview of a Tribute to Ed Schell, naturalist, photographer and an Ansel Adams award winner along with another Johnson City resident, Kenton Coe, composer & musician. Contact Tom Mozen at mozenetc@yahoo.com or 423-232-0827 for more information.

GROUP NEWS: Group Chair Tom Mozen participated in "Green Development: Good for Water and the Bottom Line" and the "Good Jobs/Green Jobs" conference in Pittsburgh, and will be attending the National Home Builders Green Building Conference in New Orleans in May.

Some of our group plans to participate in East Tennessee State University's Environmental Studies planned Appalachian Trail Improvement Day on Saturday, April 19, 9:00 AM at Discount Liquor parking lot on South Roan Street.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

MEETING: Every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. at the downstairs meeting room of the Putnam County Library. Alternating program meeting with planning meetings every other month. For more information, contact Mary Mastin at marymastin@twlakes.net or (931-268-2938).

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: April 3, & May 1, 5:30-7:00pm -- Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee -- Join us for Chickasaw Group's "First Thursday"

monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Anyone interested in learning about the Sierra Club is invited. For more information, contact Juliet Jones at (901) 374-0582 or juliet101@comcast.net.

Strategy Meeting: Monday, April 14 & May 12, 6:30pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, Tennessee -- This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Nancy Ream by April 11 (April meeting) or May 9 (May meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 759-9416 or njream@aol.com.

Chickasaw Group Sierra Club Film Night, "Blue Vinyl" – Wed., April 16, 7:30 p.m., Power House, 45 G.E. Patterson, (between Main and Front) – When filmmaker Judith Helfand's parents decide to replace the rotting wood siding on their home with the cheaper, more durable blue vinyl, Helfand embarks on a quest to find out whether it's possible "to make products that never hurt anyone at any point in their life cycle." Toting a slab of siding, Helfand travels to Lake Charles, Louisiana, the vinyl capital of the United States. What she uncovers there and in another manufacturing center, Venice, Italy, is enough to convince even her stubborn parents to take the vinyl down. Nominated for two Emmys, the film won the 2002 Messenger of the Year Award from the Environmental Grantmaker's Association. Sierra Club film night is hosted by Indie Memphis. Admission is free (with donations accepted), and refreshments will be available. Come early to get a good seat. For more information contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.org.

Program Meeting: Thursday, April 24, 7:00pm, Benjamin Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue. – Come at 6:30 p.m. for social time; program begins at 7:00pm. Jim Holt of the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department will discuss several of the programs that have been implemented to help reduce air pollution in the Memphis and Shelby County area. For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com.

TELEVISION PROGRAM:

WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee, - Mondays at 1:30pm, Tuesdays at 4:00pm, Wednesdays at 11:30am & 11:00pm, Thursdays at 7:00am, Fridays at 2:30pm, Saturdays at 10:00am, and Sundays at 2:00am. "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program on cable channel 18. "Recycling in Memphis" is the next program. For more information about "The Nature of Conservation" or if any groups or individuals in the community have a special concern and would like to see a program on it, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu

WATAUGA GROUP (North Eastern TN)

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith at gla4797@earthlink.net or 423-727-4797 for more information.

Chickasaw Group News

Contributed by various members

February Program Meeting

The February program meeting of the Chickasaw Group looked at Tennessee's Beverage Deposit Container Act, otherwise known as the "Bottle Bill" (SB 1408 & HB 1829). The presentation was scheduled to be made by Marge Davis, coordinator of "Pride of Place" (POP), an organization that has worked hard for container deposits. Marge herself has bicycled around the state in support of the legislation. However, due to an illness in her family, Marge was unable to appear and the presentation was made instead by James Baker, a Memphis authority on the bottle bill. One Shelby County Commissioner, Steve Mulroy, was present through most of the meeting, and asked James some questions about the bottle bill that showed how much he cared about the issue.

This year the Tennessee Sheriff's Association

came out in support of container deposits. Recycling has plenty of support in Tennessee! Lots of other organizations are on board, too! For more information about the bottle bill, visit <http://www.tnbottlebill.org>.

Shelby Farms Park proposals on view at Memphis Public Library

Three possible plans for the future of the 4,500-acre Shelby Farms Park were made available for public viewing at the Benjamin Hooks Central Library on Thursday, March 6. There were photos as well as 3-D models of the proposals. Other places of viewing were the Shelby Farms Park Visitor's Center and the Cossitt Library downtown.

Both Mayors Wharton and Herenton were there at the Central Library for the unveiling. Representatives of the planners were on hand to answer questions. The public was invited to offer comments on the three plans and to pick what they liked about each. Printed forms for comments were available. To learn more about the future of Shelby Farms Park, visit the website www.shelby-farmspark.org.

Nancy Ream (Chickasaw Group Chair) talks with Clark Buchner at the February Chickasaw Group program meeting.

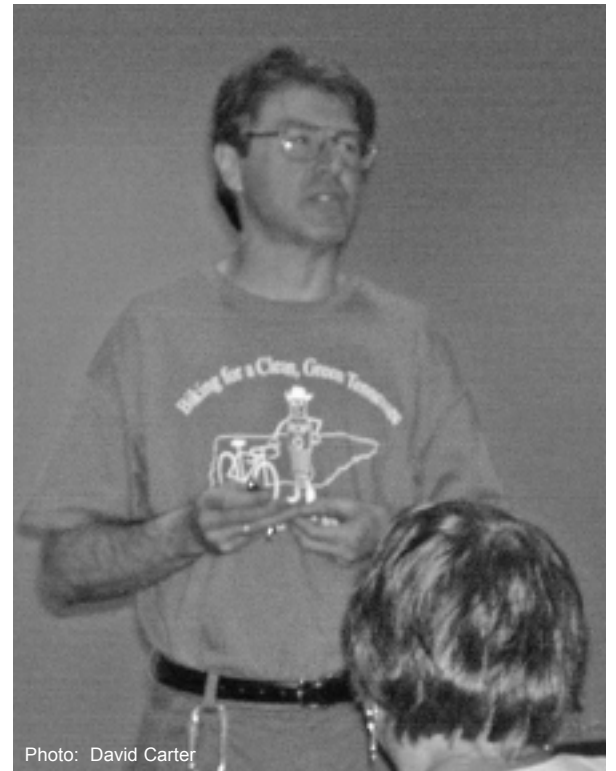


Photo: David Carter

James Baker talks about container deposit legislation.

March Old Forest Hike in Overton Park

Adults! Children! Dogs! Nearly 50 of them attended the regular 2nd Saturday, Overton Park Old Forest hike on March 8. Longtime hike leader Don Richardson's last hike happened to coincide with recent tree-cutting by the Memphis Zoo. Both the zoo's area (visible from the road in Overton Park) and the public hiking area in the Old Forest were visited. Many local authorities on trees attended and answered questions from concerned nature-lovers. Some of the graffiti on the fence around the Zoo site included "Who will speak for the trees?" and "Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves." For pictures of the forest and information about trees in the park, visit www.overtonparkforever.com.



Photo: David Carter

Choose Organic When Buying Food

By Teresa Campbell

Since 2002 we have had a standard for chemical and GMO free food: USDA Certified Organic. Seek out, protect and support this standard with your dollar vote for rivers and oceans, animal habitats, air and soil, farm worker safety, the health of your family, the survival of small farms, the value of the land and its products, and the taste of your food!

Consider this dilemma: Kids love apple juice, but the organic jar costs a dollar more. Studies conducted on preschool children in Seattle, Wash., (<http://tinyurl.com/d9or1> and <http://tinyurl.com/cmmsa>) show that a diet of organic food is more economical because it protects children's health.

"Children eat more food per body mass than adults, and their diets differ from those of adults. These diets are often rich in foods containing higher levels of pesticide residues, such as juices, fresh fruits and fresh vegetables... Recent work has indicated that children's diets may contain pesticides at levels above the acute population-adjusted reference dose."

After 15 days of an organic diet, the drop in levels of malathion and chlorpyrifos was "dramatic and immediate" in the Seattle test children. If cost is still a stumbling block, thedailygreen has a list of 12 MUST BUY organic purchases: www.thedailygreen.com/healthy-eating/Dirty-Dozen-Foods

- Beef—higher levels of pesticides than plant foods
- Milk—no hormones or antibiotics.
- Coffee—fair trade
- Peaches—45 chemicals regularly used on conventionally grown peaches

- Apples
- Bell peppers—one of the most heavily sprayed vegetables
- Celery
- Lettuces
- Strawberries—up to 500 pounds of pesticides per acre used to grow conventional strawberries
- Grapes—especially imported
- Potatoes—pesticides and fungicides
- Tomatoes—skins easily punctured allowing chemicals to infiltrate fruit

These foods can be obtained from local organic growers. If you know your source, trust local producers that farm sustainably. Otherwise, look for USDA Certified Organic products in the grocery store. "Local" conventional agriculture ships in chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides that find their way into your rivers and streams, animal habitats and the bodies of the ones you love.

We Have a Label

Worried about genetically engineered food? You should be, because even though we are assured GMOs are "substantially equivalent" to non-GMO foods, testing for safety has not been done and Americans have been eating a lot of the stuff since 1996. Developers claim no one has died from eating GMOs, but the deterioration of American health over the last 10-12 years is alarming.

We have no labeling to identify GMO foods, but if it's not organic and comes in a box, bottle or bag, your food probably contains GMOs. The big GMO crops in this country are easy to remember:

- Corn
- Soy
- Canola
- Cotton

The derivatives of these crops are in most processed foods. High fructose corn syrup has become America's sweetener. Almost all soy grown is genetically engineered. Our no-GMO label is USDA Certified Organic.

Every organic purchase you make is a cash registered vote (the vote that won't be miscounted) for poison free food and a clean, healthy world.

Organic produce helps kids stay healthy.

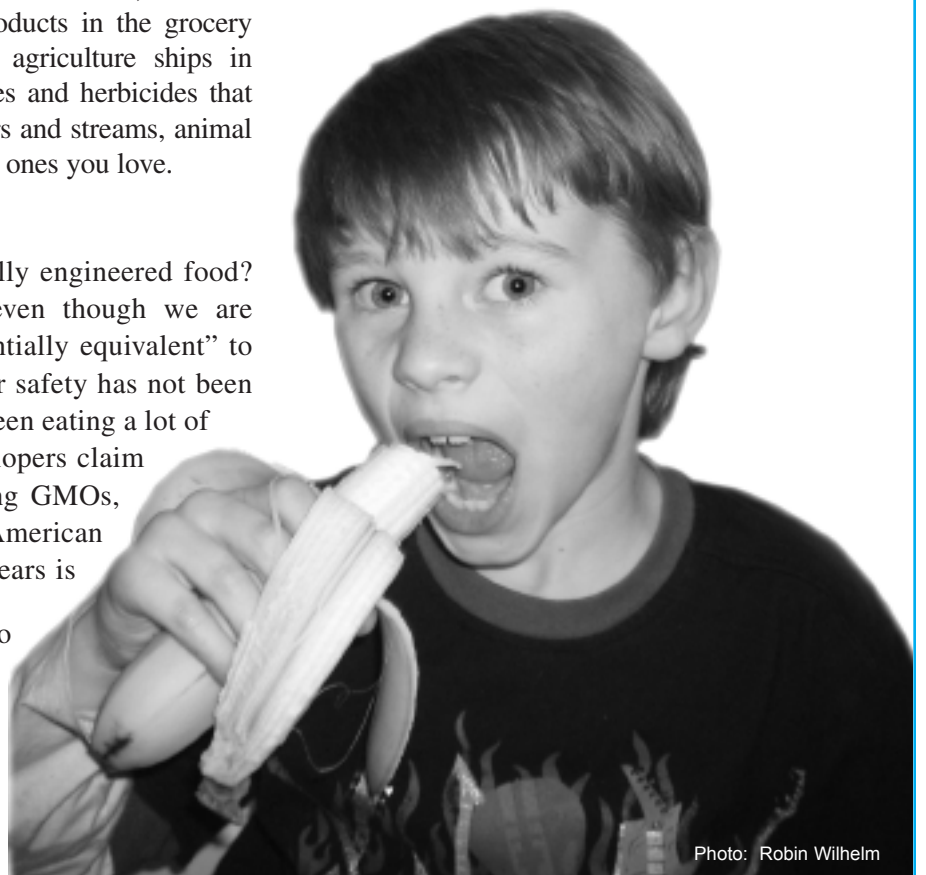


Photo: Robin Wilhelm

Outings

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierra-club.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiverPDF>, or call 415-977-5630 for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride-sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

April 5, Day Hike, Honey Creek Trail, BSNRRA.

One of the most varied, scenic trails in Tennessee, including stream crossings, waterfalls, ladders, boulder passages, an "Indian Rockhouse," and other adventures. Only 5.2 miles but some of the terrain necessitates a slow pace. Rated moderate. Driving distance approximately 70 miles each way. Preregister with Bill Adams at radvet@frontiernet.net.

April 19-20, Backpack, John Muir Trail and No Business Valley (Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area).

The valley of No Business Creek in the Big South Fork is one of the more remote and beautiful areas of the BSF (although a thriving community once existed there). A premier destination is the John Muir Overlook that provides wonderful views of the No Business Valley.

On Saturday we'll start hiking from the Divide Road and camp, depending on water, either a short distance before the Overlook or on Tackett Creek after descending into the valley. On Sunday we'll hike out, via Maude's Crack to the Terry Cemetery. Hiking distance is about 11 miles and it is rated Moderate. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

April 19, Day Hike, Ace Gap Trail, Cades Cove section, GSMNP.

A pleasant, easy and relatively flat 9 miles up and back on this trail. There are "marvelous displays of pink lady's slipper" in the spring. Also at the trailhead is Bull Cave, one of the "deepest in the southeast." Preregister with Priscilla Watts: H 966-4142; sigmtngirl@earthlink.net.

April 26, EarthFest 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Admission to EarthFest is FREE!!!

May 3-4, Backpack, Mount Rogers NRA.

The Mount Rogers National Recreation area is a unique environment with high country balds populated with wild highland ponies. This backpack will climb the Mount Rogers trail to join the Appalachian Trail at Deep Gap. Near Thomas Knob shelter we will take the Mt. Rogers spur trail to the highest point in Virginia. After descending, we will travel cross country to the campsite at Cabin Ridge. The next morning we will pick up the Wilburn ridge trail across the spectacular rocky bald.

At Rhododendron gap, we will traverse the Pine Mountain trail and finally descend another segment of the AT. Total distance is 15.3 miles with 7.1 miles on day 1 and 8.2 miles on day 2. Due to the altitude, open terrain and other environmental factors, the area is subject to extremes of weather. Hike is rated moderate due to distance, climbing, and technical aspects of crossing Wilburn ridge. Preregister with Bill Adams: radvet@frontiernet.net.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP

April 19, 9 a.m., Appalachian Trail Improvement

Meet at Discount Liquor parking lot on S. Roan St. in Johnson City. The Environmental Studies program of East Tennessee State is sponsoring this trail improvement. All Sierra Club members are encouraged to participate.

The May outing will be of "Rocky Forks," the Southern Appalachian Crown Jewel, to be purchased by the Southern Appalachian Conservancy, the Appalachian Trails Conservancy & other meaningful groups. Co-photographer of Rocky Forks Public Relations & Sierra Club member, Jerry Greer will lead the day hike into this 10,000 acre wonderland. For the date, time and place, contact Tom Mozen, SOF Group chair, at (423) 232-0827.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (NASHVILLE)

April 12, Edgar Evins State Park Day Hike

Heloise Shilstat will lead a day hike at Edgar Evins State Park in Silver Point near Center Hill Dam. This trail consists of a 2.5 mile loop and a 5.5 mile loop, with a couple dozen different wildflowers, ferns, views of, and access to the lake. Plan on hiking all the trails unless we run out of steam! The trip leader is not a speedy hiker but all are welcome. Last year, a rattlesnake was seen on this trail on April 12! Bring water, lunch, BOOTS, and your own first aid kit. No dogs please on this outing. Meet at the park welcome center at 9:30 AM sharp! Pre-register with Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-6278 or email heloisew@bellsouth.net

April 19, Earth Day-Centennial Park-Nashville, TN

The Middle Tennessee Group will be celebrating Earth Day on April 19, 2008 at Centennial Park in Nashville, TN. Volunteers are needed to assist with set-up, tabling, and clean-up beginning at 10 AM and ending at 6 PM. Please contact Alyssa Browning for additional information regarding volunteer opportunities at 314-369-5705 or Alyssa.browning@vanderbilt.edu (Education, Conservation)

April 22, MTSU Murfreesboro Earth Day Celebration & Booth

Celebrate Earth Day once again with MTSU Student Environmental Action Club's Earth Fair from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the campus knoll. Activities include viewing alternative vehicles, eating cookies from a solar oven and food from local restaurants, viewing eco fashion and beauty, plus listening to music from a local band. We will have a Sierra Club booth: Volunteers are needed to help man the booth! For more event information, check the Earth Fair link on www.mtsu.edu/~sea. To sign up to help for an hour at our booth, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or email Diane@Propson.com.

April 26, Short Springs Wildflower Day Hike

Short Springs Natural Area is between Manchester and Tullahoma, TN. We will hike all the trails, approximately 6 miles. There will be 30 or more varieties of wildflowers and at least 10 varieties of ferns. Be prepared to get your feet wet getting to the mossy waterfall. Bring WATER, lunch, water shoes or sandals, boots, and your own first aid kit. Dogs are not permitted. Meet at the parking lot next to the water tower at 9:30 a.m. The leader is not a fast hiker, but speedy hikers are welcome. Pre-register with Heloise Shilstat 615-896-6178 or email heloisew@bellsouth.net

April 20, Mount Olivet Cemetery Walk With Carole Bucy

Mount Olivet Cemetery is one of the oldest urban cemeteries in Middle Tennessee and is the final resting place of many well known people who made Nashville their home such as Adelia Acklen. Carole Bucy, a local historian and professor at Volunteer State Community College, will be our guest guide on this walk led by Katherine Pendleton. Pre-register with Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org by April 23 to find out the meeting location. The walk will start at 2 p.m.

May 3, Polly's Branch Wildflower Day Hike

Heloise Shilstat will lead a day hike to Polly's Branch in Centennial Wilderness near Sparta, TN. The hike will consist of 6-8 miles. A map is available on the state Centennial Wilderness website. A half

Ten 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 modified 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!

dozen different varieties of ferns and lady slippers, phlox, pinkster, flowers, etc., should be seen on this hike. Take WATER, lunch, boots, and your own first aid kit. No dogs please! Pre-register with Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-6278 or email heloisew@bellsouth.net

May 3, Percy Priest Island Cleanup

Please contact Diane Perschbacher at Diane@Propson.com or 615-895-1236 or <http://www.cumberlandrivercompact.org/index.shtml> for information regarding this non-Sierra Club sponsored event which focuses on clean-up of Percy Priest Lake.

May 10, Virgin Falls State Natural Area Day Hike

This strenuous eight-mile trail descends from the Cumberland Plateau near Sparta and meanders along a creek, offering spectacular views of caves, sinks, and waterfalls. Participants will stop for lunch at the falls, where they also can feast their eyes on a truly remarkable sight. Water cascades from a cave mouth at the top of a bluff and falls more than 100 feet to form Virgin Falls. Participants should bring WATER, snacks, BOOTS, and dress in layers. For more details and to register, contact Dave Bordenkircher at dabor-denkircher@mindspring.com or 615-333-3377

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

In April, meet on the bridge at the end of the Old Forest Lane for trail maintenance. 2nd Saturday Old Forest hikes will resume later in the year. For additional information, contact Don Richardson at don-rich@juno.com.

"Signs of Spring" Walk, Sunday, April 13, 1:00pm, Memphis Botanic Garden, 750 Cherry Road.—Meet at Botanic Garden Visitor Center. For more information, contact Judith Hammond, Chickasaw Group outings chair, (901) 276-2819.

Wolf River Harbor Cleanup, Saturday, April 19, 12:30-3:00pm, hosted by Chickasaw Group, Sierra Club Water Sentinels—Celebrate Earth Day by helping clean up the public boat ramp area at Wolf River Harbor. Meet under the Auction Street bridge off Front Street. Please call to confirm meeting place. Gloves and bags provided. Wear clothes and shoes appropriate to the weather conditions and that you don't mind getting muddy. Contact James Baker, (901) 826-2448 or kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com.

Come see the Chickasaw Group's table on Saturday, April 19 at Lichterman Nature Center's EarthFest 2008. To volunteer to help staff the table, please contact Nancy Ream at njream@aol.com.

The Chickasaw Group will have a table at the Memphis Zoo's Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 19! To volunteer to help staff the table, please contact Nancy Ream at njream@aol.com.

Visit the Chickasaw Group at Shelby Farms Park's Down to Earth Celebration on Sunday, April 20! To volunteer to help staff the table, please contact Nancy Ream at njream@aol.com.

Sierra Club Joins Fight Against Sand Mine Quarry

By Mary Mastin

She Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club recently joined with the Meadow Creek Conservation Coalition (MCCC) in its opposition to a proposed sand mine quarry in eastern Putnam County.

MCCC is an association of landowners who have covenanted to meet certain requirements limiting land use and protecting the environment on lands in eastern Putnam County that are adjacent to the proposed Plateau Sand facility. The proposed sand mine is also adjacent to two well-known and longstanding summer camps, Camp Monterey for girls and Camp Country Lad for boys.

The sand quarry proposes to take 300,000 gallons per day from a pre-existing pond on the Little Piney Creek, which is a headwaters stream that was affected by the drought and was completely dry this past fall.

"We are concerned that the sand mine threatens the water supply for surrounding well owners," said Cary McAfee, who lives across the road from the proposed sand mine.

The sand mine will result in destruction of some wetlands and impacts on others and, according to one expert's report, threatens the existence of a rare and ancient species of crayfish, *Cambarus obeyensis*. The Hurricane Creek basin is the only known locality where

the Obey crayfish is known to occur. The watershed is very small and is highly vulnerable to



This is the farm that has been permitted for the sand mine quarry and will be destroyed.

disturbances. The Obey Crayfish is one of 11 crayfish species protected by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission (TWRC). Due to such an extremely small range distribution and habitat degradation, *C. obeyensis* is considered vulnerable to extinction and is currently listed as "Threatened" by the TWRC.

The Sierra Club believes that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) failed to follow its own anti-degradation policy requiring consideration of economic and social necessity of a project in issuing water withdrawal and alteration permits. TDEC failed to make an independent thresh-

old determination that there was no alternative to sandstone mining at this site and to require the permit applicant to meet its burden of showing demonstrated economic and social necessity for the project.

Axel Ringe, chair of the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club's water quality committee, in urging Sierra Club support of MCCC's appeal of the permits to the Tennessee Water Quality Control Board explained that "the challenge to the water permits issued to Plateau Sand is a very important test case for how TDEC follows its own anti-degradation policy."

The Upper Cumberland Group of the Sierra Club sponsored an educational tour and potluck lunch with the Meadow Creek Conservation Coalition, just outside Monterey, on March 1.

Mary Mastin, UC Sierra Group chair, described the goals for the event, which drew 30 people: "We wanted to acquaint Sierra members and the public with the 1,750 acres of natural Cumberland Plateau eco-system with beautiful bluffs, hiking trails and hemlock forests but where the effects of an underground coal mine, long since abandoned, are still evident on the land. We saw where acid mine drainage still discolors Meadow Creek. We also saw the site of the controversial proposed sand quarry."

TVA Urged to Generate Renewable Energy instead of Nuclear Power

By Steven Sondheim

Energy Chair, Tennessee Sierra Club

TVA's recent efforts at efficiency, conservation and renewables are to be applauded. However, there needs to be a more aggressive program in order to preserve the economic vitality of the southeastern region, reduce energy costs for consumers in the long term and begin to help make significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The need for new power plants can be reduced by this approach, which many other states are doing. New power plants are extremely capital intensive and financially risky. Instead, TVA could be in the business of leading the way by having incentives for efficiency and conservation. Projecting into the future, renewables will cost less than either nuclear or coal. It would be prudent to invest in renewables now for a competitive TVA and a viable economy in Tennessee's future.

It is important to keep the eye on a critical prize. The bottom line is to track the amount of carbon dioxide and to reduce it by 2% per year for the next 40 years. TVA needs to come up with a plan to do this and work in conjunction with consumers and the state for an 80% reduction in CO2 by 2050. With legislation pending at the federal level, it is critical that TVA get ahead of the curve so that this region benefits from investment in the clean technologies of the future rather than remaining stuck in the past. Currently the state is working on an energy plan and climate change legislation. TVA's future needs to be coordinated with these voluntary efforts before they become mandated.

Challenging TVA's Assumptions

Some of TVA's assumptions in recent reports need to be challenged, namely:

1. Power need projections will increase by 2% per year

2. Need for new power plants

The nation and this state are on the cusp of a change in energy policy. TVA can either resist this or get on board. There will be restrictions on CO2, incentives on less energy use, energy efficiency, new infrastructure that allows needs to be met with less travel, more efficient distribution systems, localized power, less transmission, etc. TVA should get ready for this instead of betting the farm on centralized power, especially nuclear, which looks like a bad move both economically and risk-wise. The TVA must be a part of the solution to climate change and confront and take on the carbon challenge. It has a responsibility as a good corporate citizen to help the public prepare for a cleaner and economically viable future.

The assumption that there will be an approximate 2% increase in power demand per year needs to be challenged. In fact, energy consumption has been decreasing steadily this past year prompting TVA to raise rates by 12% to pay its fixed costs. The good news is that there are available ways to do the same and even increasing amounts of work with reduced energy. The better news is that as the nation changes its infrastructure for a viable future, everyone will be able to do more with less.

Nuclear Power is Bad Move

Environmentally speaking, nuclear power is a bad move. Nuclear is not a viable option until waste disposal and safety are assured. It is unnecessary and foolhardy for a number of reasons. Safety, risk factors, waste handling, environmental impacts and cost are questionable at best. Nuclear power is a poor investment as evidenced by Wall Street's unwillingness to back it without huge government guarantees and subsidies. On cost alone, nuclear seems implausible.

First, there needs to be a real cost re-analysis study that takes into account all costs including

subsidies, mining, fuel, transportation, construction and material increases, legal fees, operation, waste disposal, etc. Put new nuclear power plants on hold until safety, disposal and economic viability can be discerned. Invest in the development of renewables and efficiency to replace new power plants. TVA could become a leader and a cleaner, leaner, more responsive energy provider.

Second, TVA should do an analysis of how power needs could be met without new power plants by depending on efficiency, conservation and renewables. What would it take? It would be instructive to see this as a goal and to know what is necessary to get there.

TVA scientists and analysts are top-notch and should be put to work on solving these problems. There is a good future ahead that is well-balanced with prosperity for all.

Legislative Call to Action on Renewables

In early April, call Senators Corker and Alexander and ask them to extend clean energy tax incentives. Congressional switchboard number: 202.224.3121

Sample phone script:

Hi. My name is [NAME] and I am calling from [CITY/TOWN].

- I urge Senator [name] to support the extension of renewable energy tax credits past their current expiration date of 2008.
- Efficiency incentives will boost the economy and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.
- Extending the renewable and efficiency energy tax incentives will improve local economies in [STATE] by creating jobs that will help companies and consumers save money on their energy bills.
- The U.S. economy needs an extension of these important incentives beyond 2008.

Sierra Scene Newsletter Compiled for Libraries

The October 2007 issue of Smithsonian magazine had an interesting article called "Teaming Up With Thoreau," about how "One hundred fifty years after the publication of Walden, Henry David Thoreau is helping scientists monitor global warming."

Richard Primack of Boston University, in his own study of how the natural world was reacting to climate change, needed data from the past to compare with his more recent observations of the Concord area. He found that Thoreau had collected just such data.

The Upper Cumberland Sierra Club has long had its own "Thoreau:" Richard Simmers. Like Thoreau, he is Harvard educated, with a Ph.D. in ornithology from Cornell. The Upper Cumberland Sierra Club has been publishing Dr. Simmers' observations or "field notes" in our newsletter since 1994, and in the year 2000 we collected all of these newsletters into a soft-bound book. Recently, his columns have been appearing in the Tennes-Sierran because his "field notes" had such a broad appeal.



Dr. Josie McQuail (at left) of the Upper Cumberland Sierra Club recently donated a copy of the collected Sierra Scene newsletter to the Tennessee Collection at the Doris and Harry Vise Library at Cumberland University. The newsletter, with field notes by Dr. Richard Simmers, is not only a record of climate change, but also a history of the environmental movement and development in the City of Cookeville. Vise Library Director Eloise Hitchcock (at right) said the resource will serve as a valuable document for library patrons present and future. If you would like to know more about the Tennessee state chapter of the Sierra Club and your local group, please visit <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/>.

Introducing Tennes-Sierran's New Team

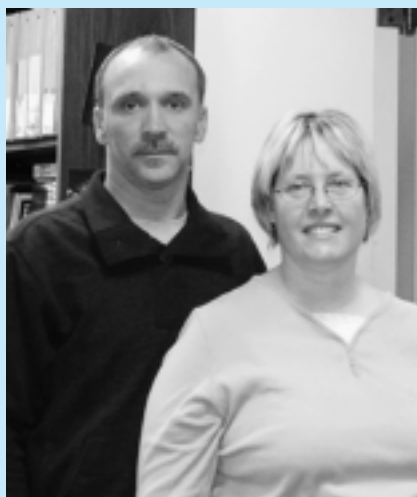
Lynne Baker is the new editor of The Tennes-Sierran. The graphic designer for the newsletter is Kenny Carlisle. Both work in the communications department of the United Steelworkers (USW) union and are based out of the Nashville office.

Baker writes newsletters for the USW's paper and oil workers and articles for the international union's magazine, USW@Work. She handles communications for the union's oil, chemical, atomic and paper sectors. Carlisle helps design the magazine and various materials for the USW.

Baker has been with the USW for a little over 10 years. She started out as the communications director for the Oil, Chemical & Atomic (OCAW) workers union in Denver, Colo. Then the OCAW merged with the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) in 1999 to form the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers (PACE) International union. Baker headed the PACE communications department and was editor of the union's magazine, The PACEsetter, prior to the April 2005 merger with the United Steelworkers of America.

Carlisle came from the UPIU and has worked 15 years for the UPIU, PACE and USW. Previously he worked for The Tennessean.

Both like the great outdoors. Baker enjoys hiking, the mountains, the beach and being by a stream or lake. Carlisle raises and trains Tennessee Walking Horses and enjoys camping and trail riding.



Volunteers Sought for Inner City Outings

Eleven local Inner City Outings (ICO) volunteers attended a leader training workshop in Nashville at the end of February. They received instruction from regional Sierra Club Inner City Outings leaders on various topics important to leading outings involving children and teens.

Volunteers are needed to take on some of the administrative tasks. Also needed is a treasurer, someone to do background checks (done using a rapid internet search on a secure website) and someone to design a web page which will be linked to the national Sierra Club website.

Please contact one of the Inner City Outings co-chairs (Alyssa Browning - alyssa.browning@vanderbilt.edu, or Tami Hilbert - heatherinnashville@yahoo.com) if you would like further information or an application to become an ICO outing leader.



Photo: Thom Scott, Middle TN Group ICO Committee

Thanks to Defenders Contributors

Thanks to this month's contributors to the Defenders of Tennessee (February 10 through March 9).

Anonymous	Bob Barnett
David Bordenkircher	Sharon Boyce
Daniel Case	Margaret Simpson
James Thoman	Julia Ann Walker
Philip A. Wright	

The Defenders campaign funds our very important legislative and lobbying activities. For further information see our January newsletter at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/0108ts.pdf>

Moving?



Attach mailing address label, or fill in current name, address & Membership ID#

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