

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 39, Number 10 - November, 2008

Watershed Summit Focused on Key Environmental Issues for Tennessee

By Jennifer Thompson

The 2008 Watershed Summit, sponsored by the Stones River Watershed Association, was held September 19-21 at Short Mountain Bible Camp near Woodbury. This year the event included the Tennessee Blueways Summit in which ideas and information about creating river trails and blueways were shared.

Saturday's session began with a presentation of the natural history of Short Mountain by Milo Pyne, the senior regional ecologist with NatureServe.

Summit topics included comprehensive planning for watershed protection, water quality monitoring initiatives, green infrastructure, fundraising strategies for Tennessee watershed groups, environmental stewardship for boaters and a presentation of the Tennessee Stream Mitigation Project. In addition, panel discussions on drinking water and updates from state and federal agencies were held.

Some of the key issues brought up during the Agency Roundtable discussion included the Limited Resource Waters Bill ("Ditch Bill"), the Tennessee Beverage Container Deposit Act ("Container Recycling Bill") and contamination of streams by off-road vehicles.

The Bottle Bill is proposed to reduce litter from beverage containers, increase recycling efforts and inject money into Tennessee's economy by creating jobs. This will be made possible because the five-cent deposit will motivate Tennesseans to return almost four billion containers each year.

The costs of collecting, sorting and recycling 200,000 tons of material each year will be covered by the unclaimed deposits, the value of scrap and a one-cent handling fee charged to the beverage distributors, according to Marge Davis, coordinator for Pride of Place, a project of Scenic Tennessee, and spokesperson for the bottle bill.

Paul Davis, director of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Division of Water Pollution Control, warned of the environmental consequences if the Limited Resource Waters bill is allowed to pass.

Limited resource waters include intermittent

or ephemeral streams, which may only flow for short periods but are vital to the functioning of a healthy watershed. Davis compared these streams, the headwaters (which make up 40-60 % of Tennessee's streams) to capillaries of the vascular system—as important as arteries and veins and critical components to the whole system.

He said that Tennessee has the highest aquatic biodiversity in North America. It is important that we protect this esteemed record.

Another water quality concern he brought up was the degradation of Tennessee waters from driving off-the-road vehicles in streams—an increasingly popular sport. Allowing these vehicles in streams damages the structure of stream

banks and beds and leads to excessive sedimentation, threatening aquatic life.

The Saturday session was brought to a close with a brainstorming session led by John McFadden, executive director of the Tennessee Environmental Council. Participants in this session worked together to determine which issues should be presented for conservation legislation at the 2009 General Assembly.

McFadden and others stressed how critical it is that we let the General Assembly hear from us, not just from large special interest groups.

Next year's Watershed Summit will be hosted by the Duck River Watershed Association. For more information, <http://watershedsummit.pbwiki.com>.



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Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter of the
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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.

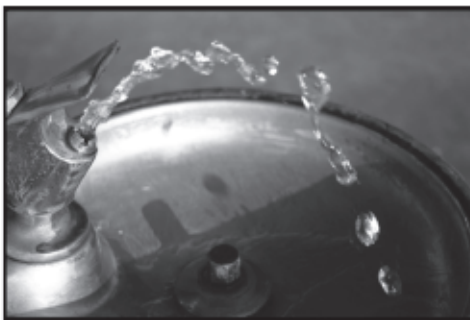
The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

Middle Tennessee Group Forming Program Committee

Programs are a huge part of MTG's environmental education and outreach to the community. The program chair invites you to join a new committee to plan programs for 2009. Small commitment of time with big rewards for you and for the group. Please contact Adelle Wood for more info. 665-1010, adelleintn@juno.com.



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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.

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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.

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Cherokee Group - Chattanooga (in reorganization)

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Katibug1959@aol.com

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mozenetc@yahoo.com
Vice Chair: Diana Mozen, (423) 232-0827
mozend@etsu.org
Treasurer: Janice Kasten, (423) 276-8751
jhkasten@aol.com
Sec/Membership: Mary Gavlik, (423) 773-1594

Watauga Group - Johnson & Carter Counties

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga
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gl4797@embarqmail.com
Vice Chair: Dr. Earl Taylor (423) 727-7211
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214
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gl4797@earthlink.net

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www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg
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Jmcquail@tntech.edu
Treasurer: Ralph Bowden
Secretary: Peggy Evans
Conservation: Easton Evans
Outings: Vacant

National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:

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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)

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Tennessee Chapter Member Wins National Sierra Club Award

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Tennessee Chapter member Ann Harris is among those being honored with national awards from the Sierra Club this year.

Harris is receiving the **Special Service Award**, which recognizes strong and consistent commitment to conservation or the club over an extended period of time.

She has supported and worked to increase awareness of how nuclear issues can affect our lives regardless of where we live. The Radiation Committee (RadCom) is one of the newest issue committees in the Sierra Club. She helped to recruit the top nuclear activists across America.

Harris joined the club at a time when the Sierra Club had neither a focus on nuclear issues, nor activity that provided an awareness of the effects of nuclear issues in the United States and on how the U.S. is affected by international actions on those same nuclear issues.

Her expertise in dealing with state, regional, and national nuclear issues generated an appointment to the Environmental Quality Strategy Team and then as leader of the RadCom. As her Sierra Club work gained momentum, a regional meeting of club members around the nuclear issue convened – the first since the 70s. Another is set for this fall.

Beyond the club, Harris's legendary accomplishments highlight the vast experience she brought to the organization. She prevailed in 11

legal complaints as a TVA employee – five Equal Employment Opportunity complaints and six nuclear whistleblower complaints.

In the 1990 agreement reached with TVA, TVA would send her to college to obtain a bachelor's degree; she graduated with parallel Master of Science degrees. During that time, Harris developed and implemented actions to provide support to nuclear workers inside TVA and throughout the country. She would later become known as the most successful whistleblower in America with these actions against the federal agency while staying on the payroll.

During the fuel loading of the TVA's Watts Bar nuclear plant, Harris discovered that TVA and the Department of Energy (DOE) had made an agreement to produce nuclear weapons materials at the site. The public never knew. She worked from 1998-2001 to stop this from happening. Unable to find legal help willing to tackle the Department of Defense, DOE, Department of Labor, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or the TVA, Harris began the intervening action herself. She was given standing but no safety issues would be heard.

The award was presented Sept. 20 during the Sierra Club's Annual Dinner in San Francisco. For more information on the Sierra Club awards program, visit www.sierraclub.org/awards. The deadline to nominate club members for 2009 awards is June 1, 2009.



Left to Right: Katherine Pendleton, Ann Harris and Jeremy Doochin.

Nature Photographer Edward Schell Honored for Contribution

State of Franklin group member Edward Schell was honored Oct. 9 for his contribution to the culture of the region at East Tennessee State University's Center for Appalachian Studies and Services and at a reception at the Centre in Millennium Park in Johnson City.

Schell is a recipient of the Sierra Club's national conservation club Ansel Adams Photographer of the Year award. He published in 1979 the award-winning book "Tennessee," and has his work on display at the Smithsonian Institution. National Geographic books have featured his photographs.

He collaborated for five years with premier composer, Kenton Coe, who is a native of Johnson City, on a DVD titled "Appalachia: A Visual Concert." His photos of nature in the region in all seasons are set to Coe's music. The DVD is \$15 and can be ordered online at www.etsustore.com.

Schell is also known for leading nature walks.

The Chair's Corner

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

Many heartfelt thanks to Chickasaw Group for putting on a great fall family chapter meeting at Pickett State Park. The food, hikes, and other activities were enjoyed by all who attended.

I wish to make some corrections regarding information I wrote in the October Tennessee-Sierran regarding Ann Harris and her national Sierra Club award. Ann is a member of the Upper Cumberland Group in Cookeville. As a pro-safety and anti-nuclear-waste activist, she has been written about by national, international, state and local media. She is not an anti-nuclear activist.

The national Sierra Club presented an award to Ann for her long and continuous service to promote nuclear reactor safety. She maintains a position that when the industry begins to go by the rules set forth in 10 CFR, stops the mismanagement and the health problems and deals with the waste issue, she will be their loudest cheerleader.

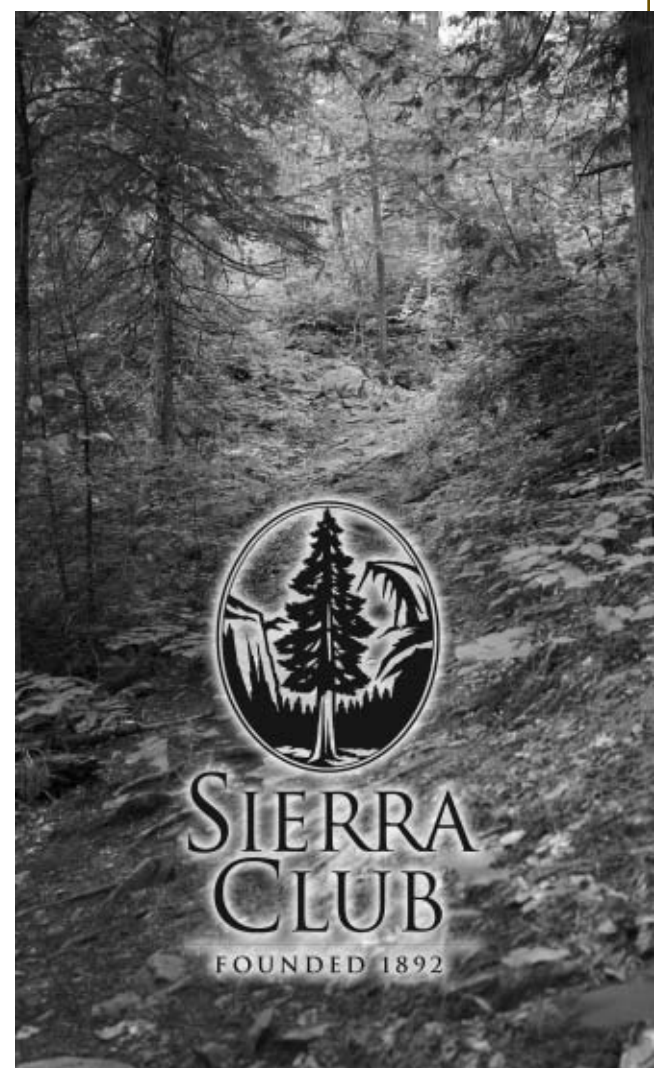
In this month's newsletter you will find ballots for group and chapter elections. Please take a few moments right away to vote. Also, please remember to vote on Election Day!

The Cherokee Group continues to make good progress reorganizing. Their next meeting will be November 30 which will be a regular meeting and holiday party held at the Hurst home. Call 423-886-9503 for directions.

I want to thank those who sent cards and emails recently upon the death of my grandmother. It has been comforting to know that many of you are thinking of me and my family during this time.

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet.

Katherine Pendleton, Chair
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club



Election Ballot for At-Large Delegates For the 2009-2010 Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee

Please vote for four (4) of the following candidates.

Membership		Candidate
Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Gary Bowers
_____	_____	Brian Paddock
_____	_____	Katherine Pendleton
_____	_____	Don Richardson

Only current members can vote. Please put your membership number (found on the mailing label of the Tennes-Sierran) on the outside of the envelope. Place that envelope inside another envelope and mail by close of business, Monday, December 1, 2008 to:

Robert M. Hill
Election Committee Chair
11504 Mountain View Road
Knoxville TN 37934

Candidate Statements: (Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

Gary Bowers

Gary has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1984, and has been actively engaged in conservation work since the mid 1980's. He believes that everyone should have the ability to experience nature and the natural wonders of the world. To that end he has spent the last 20-plus years working to protect it.

Gary believes that we are truly at a critical crossroads in the areas of energy and local/organic (non-genetically engineered) food production, and that these should be two of the focus areas for the TN Chapter in the upcoming year.

Gary's major accomplishments are recapped below.

- Sierra Club – TN Chapter Executive Committee 1998 – 2008 (At-Large Delegate 2001-2002, 2005-2008)
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter Conservation Chair 1998 – 2008
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – As conservation chair, worked with the TN Chapter Excom in 2006 to align the chapter's conservation committees with the national Sierra Club's new priority campaigns: Energy, Wild Legacies, and Safe & Healthy Communities. Each group of committees was placed under a super committee chair. Each committee was tasked with developing annual mission statements, goals, and a year-end evaluation of the success of their efforts during the year.
- TN Chapter Site Coordinator – Environmental Public Education Campaign (EPEC) to End Commercial Logging (ECL) in the Cherokee National Forest 1999-2002 (wrote the campaign matrix that garnered the first EPEC ECL site in the country)
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – founder and maintainer – TN Environmental Activist Messaging (TEAM) phone system 1998 – 2002
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – Sara Hines Award (for conservation) winner 1999
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – initiator and organizer – One Thin Dollar Silent Auction held at the spring and fall chapter meetings – proceeds going to support TN Chapter lobbyist
- Sierra Club – Middle TN Group Executive Committee – late 1980's to present
- Co-founder Friends of the Forest – the first assembly of environmental groups working to pass legislation to reform management practices of Tennessee's state forests
- TN Forests Council (TFC) – steering committee charter member – a unification of environmental groups working to stop the destruction of Tennessee's hardwood forests
- Author – 2008 Tennessee Locally Grown and Organic Farming Impact Task Force Resolution (TN Legislature)
- Co-author TN Sustainable Forest Management Act (TN Legislature)
- Author – TN Forest Landowner Boundary Protection Act (TN Legislature)
- TN Scenic Rivers (TSRA) – Board of Directors 2001-2003
- TN Scenic Rivers (TSRA) – Conservationist of the Year 2003

Gary would appreciate your vote so that he can continue his work on the TN Chapter Executive Committee.

Brian Paddock

I live on 40 acres of ridge top and sloped forest lands in Jackson County, TN about 15 minutes north of Cookeville, TN with my wife, Mary Mastin (former chapter treasurer). I am an attorney licensed in Tennessee. Mary and I represented the chapter pro bono as amicus ("Friend of the Court") in the Spencer wastewater discharge case, and we have represented the chapter in several administrative proceedings. I also assist the Solar Valley Coalition, the Alliance for the Cumberlands, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, the TN Environmental Council and several local groups.

My current pro bono clients include the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and with local water protection groups.

I am a volunteer legislative advocate of SOCM. Currently I am advisor to the Tennessee Forests Council and the Model Forests Policy Project.

I am former chair of the Forestry Committee, Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM, pronounced sock-em.). Currently I am an advisor to the Tennessee Forests Council and the Model Forests Policy Project. I chair the Transportation Committee of the chapter which is part of the Energy Super Committee. I chair the Transportation Reform Committee of the chapter. I chair the board of the Tennesseans for Fair Taxation Action Fund which works to end the sales tax on food and to progressively reform our state tax system.

Our now 2-year-old, 4-kilowatt photovoltaic solar electricity system was featured on the front page of the Tennes-Sierran.

Katherine Pendleton

My name is Katherine Pendleton. I am asking you to elect me as a delegate-at-large to the Tennessee Chapter. As your chapter chair the past two years, I have worked hard to effect positive change in our chapter. State of Franklin Group and Cherokee Group have been re-organized under my leadership. I have kept in close contact with our groups, making regular visits.

Aside from being chapter chair, my experience within our chapter includes chapter at-large delegate (2004-current), alternate CCL delegate (2007-current), chapter treasurer (2005-2007), and chapter outings chair (2004-2007). I am actively involved with the Middle Tennessee Group serving on the executive committee and as outings chair.

I became involved with the Sierra Club as an outings leader and have progressed through the "ranks," serving in various positions at the group level before becoming active at the chapter level. I have attended numerous training sessions at the national club headquarters in San Francisco, and currently serve on three national committees. I am well versed in Sierra Club policies, procedures, and protocols.

My mission in being involved with our chapter is to promote teamwork. As an at-large delegate, I will consider the wishes of all members of the chapter. I will be sure that you are represented and I will strive to serve you well.

Don Richardson

Please vote for me to continue as your at-large delegate to the Chapter Executive Committee. This position is required for Tennessee's participation in many regional and national conservation priority-setting entities as well as acquiring funding and other resources for our chapter and groups to work on Tennessee's priority issues.

As at-large delegate the last few years, I served as a chapter officer and chapter representative at national and regional Sierra meetings, and initiated the chapter's first strategic planning process. Currently I serve these objectives as your elected delegate to the national Council of Club Leaders (CCL) and Chapter Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee chair. I also serve as your lead sustainability volunteer and co-organizer for the statewide Sustainable Tennessee Initiative and Summit, and have co-organized several regional and local sustainability coalition events.

The club is entering uncertain times and we must focus on maintaining chapter and local effectiveness while the national structure is transformed by Project Renewal. Now, more than ever, experienced continuity will be essential for grassroots success at all club levels in the foreseeable future.

Please allow me the opportunity to continue to serve you to keep the Tennessee chapter engaged and sustainable. Thanks for your consideration.

State of Franklin Group Ballot

For the 2009 Executive Committee. Please vote for four (4) people.

Membership		Candidate	Membership		Candidate
Single	Dual		Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Jim Dorr	_____	_____	Jerry Greer
_____	_____	Diana Mozen	_____	_____	Donna Reppard

Place your ballot in an envelope and mark the word "ballot" on it. Place the envelope with the ballot in it in another envelope and write your membership number in the upper left-hand corner with your address. Your ballot must be postmarked no later than December 12, 2008 and mailed to Tom Mozen, 10 Garden Way, Johnson City, TN 37604.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (MTG) ELECTION BALLOT

FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT, you must enclose your marked ballot in an envelope marked "Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope for mailing. Write your membership number, which can be found on the address label of your newsletter, on the outer envelope with your return address. **ENVELOPES WITHOUT A MEMBERSHIP NUMBER CANNOT BE COUNTED.**

PLEASE VOTE! A low turnout means that the election is decided by very few votes, sometimes only one or two. We need and invite your participation.

Middle Tennessee Group Election Ballot. Please vote for four (4) of the following candidates.

Membership		Candidate
Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Jennifer Thompson
_____	_____	Rachel Floyd
_____	_____	Gary Bowers
_____	_____	Don Scharf

Mail your ballot to: Penny Brooks
1045 Riverview Lane
Ashland City, TN 37015.

The deadline for submitting your ballot is December 1.

Candidate Statements

Jennifer Thompson - I originally joined the Sierra Club in 1993 but have been a member of the Middle Tennessee Group for almost two years. I have helped represent the Sierra Club at events such as the Sonnenschein Festival and the Lawn & Garden show. I have also attended and reported on the Watershed Summit on Short Mountain for the past two years.

I received a B.S. in Environmental Biology from the University of North Alabama in Florence in 1985 and an M.S. in Biology from MTSU in 2003. My thesis topic and concentration of study for my Master's degree was in conservation botany. I have worked for the State of Tennessee for 22 years as an environmental specialist and biologist. One of my main responsibilities with the Nonpoint Source Program was environmental education. I organized and attended water quality education events and conferences, created and distributed educational materials for adults and children, and wrote articles for the Tennessee Conservationist.

My work with the state has brought me into contact with representatives from various federal, state, local and private organizations dealing with environmental issues. Because of my position with the state, I have access to information about and knowledge of state and federal regulations regarding environmental issues, particularly those dealing with wetlands, streams and endangered species. Environmental protection is not only a hobby or ideal for me, it is my job. If chosen for the executive committee, I will put my skills and resources to work to help the Middle Tennessee Group achieve its goals and promote environmental stewardship.

Rachel Floyd - Rachel became active in the Sierra Club in 1992 through listening and learning about issues important to our planet's environment. Over the past 15 years, she has served a number of terms on the MTG ExCom in positions such as secretary, treasurer, and group chair. Rachel has also served terms as a group delegate and at-large delegate at the chapter level, as well as editor of the state newsletter, the Tennes-Sierran, for 6.5 years. She is continually interested and active in conservation of wildlands, renewable energy, clean water, and environmental, economic and human sustainability. She currently serves as chapter treasurer, chapter PAC treasurer and communications chair. A vote for Rachel would assist election of a long-time committed conservationist who loves putting her administrative expertise to work for our environment.

Gary Bowers - Gary has been a Sierra Club member since 1984. He has been active at both the group and chapter level since the mid-1980's. Gary is currently, and has been for several years, a member of the Middle Tennessee Group executive committee. He is currently an at-large member of the TN chapter executive, where he has served since 1998. Gary has been the TN chapter conservation chair from 1998 to present. He spent the period of 1999 through 2002 as the site coordinator of the TN chapter's Environmental Public Education Campaign (EPEC) to End Commercial Logging (ECL) in the Cherokee National Forest; the first EPEC ECL site in the country. Gary has received the TN chapter's Sarah Hines Award for outstanding volunteer service. Gary is the co-founder of the Friends of the Forest, co-author of the TN Sustainable Forest Management Act, and author of the TN Forest Landowner Boundary Protection Act. He is a charter member of the steering committee for the TN Forests Council. He has also served on both the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA) board of directors (2000 - 2002) and the TSRA conservation committee (2000 - 2002). Gary was chosen as the TSRA Conservationist of the Year in 2003. Gary looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the Middle TN group and asks for your continued support in the form of your vote. Gary wrote a Local and Organic Agriculture Practices Act that was introduced in this years session of the TN General Assembly.

Don Scharf - As a former Middle Tennessee group chair, treasurer and conservation chair and a former Tennessee chapter conservation chair, Don has been part of many conservation issues including recycling, public land protection, air quality protection and global warming. In July, he was chosen to join the executive committee to complete the term of a member who moved out of the area. He is working with other ExCom members to find new activists and improve communications with Sierra Club members.

Upper Cumberland Group Election

Upper Cumberland Group Election Ballot

For the 2009 Executive Committee. Please vote for **two (2)** of the following candidates.

Membership		Candidate
Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Mary Mastin
_____	_____	Ralph Bowden
_____	_____	Eston Evans
_____	_____	Write-in Candidate _____

Place your ballot in an envelope and mark the word "ballot" on it. Place the envelope with the ballot in it in another envelope and write your membership number in the upper left-hand corner with your address. Your ballot must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2008 and mailed to Margaret Olson, P.O. Box 256, Pleasant Hill TN 38578.

Candidate Statements

Mary Mastin - Mary is a former conservation chair for the Upper Cumberland group and is currently legal chair for the chapter and a former treasurer of the TN chapter. As an environmental lawyer, Mary continues to defend the waters and land of Tennessee from environmental damage, having recently filed a federal court Clean Water Act lawsuit for the club over selenium discharges at the Zeb Mountain mine. Mary is the current chair of the Upper Cumberland group and would like to continue in that position. She puts out a monthly electronic newsletter for the group and is currently working on organizing a Rain Barrel festival for Earth Day and helping some TTU students with a greenhouse gas inventory for the City of Cookeville as a part of Sierra's Cool cities program.

Easton Evans - Easton has been a Sierra Club member since 1994 and has always been willing to help in any way needed. He has helped plan most of the quarterly meetings hosted by the Upper Cumberland group. He has been the kitchen coordinator for meetings hosted by the UC group.

Ralph Bowden - Ralph has been a member of the group since the mid-90's. He has helped behind the scenes for years. Presently he is the treasurer for the UC group. He has also written excellent environmental articles published in local papers.

Harvey Broome Group Election Ballot

Ballot for January 1, 2009-December 31, 2010 Term. VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN Five (5)

Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate	Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Barbara Allen	_____	_____	Elizabeth (Liz) Dixon
_____	_____	Robert M. Hill	_____	_____	David Reister
_____	_____	Linda Smithyman			

Only current members can vote. Please put your membership number (found on the mailing label of the Tennes-Sierran or on your membership card) on the outside of the envelope. Place that envelope inside another envelope and mail by close of day, Saturday, November 29, 2008 to:

Beverly Smith, Election Committee Chair
1300 Hickoryoak Lane
Knoxville TN 37919

Notice: Be sure to vote for the Chapter Delegates found on a separate ballot.

Candidate Statements

Barbara Allen

I joined the Sierra Club in 1989 and have been active in the club since my first meeting that year. Of special interest to me is advocating for and protecting wilderness areas—The Cherokee National Forest and all other national forests and public lands. I am an avid backpacker and hiker and also enjoy canoeing and bicycling. I have served on the HBG ExCom for several years, holding the position of group chair for one term and currently serving as a member of the Group ExCom and as group secretary. I have been an outings leader for the HBG as well as the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, where I also served as secretary. I have worked in the public health field for more than 30 years.

Elizabeth (Liz) Dixon

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1994 and was chair of the Tennessee Chapter from 2002 through 2004. I have been active in: End Commercial Logging (ECL), Save Our Smokies, Reform TDOT, End Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining and the lawsuit against TVA coal-fired power plant pollution. I am the Webmaster for the Tennessee Chapter and the Harvey Broome Group. I am also listmaster for listserves for the TN Chapter, Harvey Broome Group ExCom, HBG News, and the Great Smoky Mountains Coalition (GSMC). Previously I have served as TN Chapter vice chair, HBG as group chair, conservation chair and several other offices. I have worked closely with Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP), Save our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM) and the student environmental group at UTK (SPEAK). I am a computer specialist by trade; I also enjoy scuba diving, travel and all forms of social dancing (contra, salsa, waltz, swing, cajun/zydeco and tango).

Robert (Bob) M. Hill P. E.

I am running for election to the Harvey Broome Group Executive Committee (ExCom) for the terming beginning Jan. 1, 2009. I am currently serving on the ExCom as a result of appointment to a vacancy to fill an unexpired term. My wife and I have been members of the Sierra Club since 1987 and I have taken an active interest in Ex Com activities for the past eight years. I am a member of the Sierra Club because it is the only national environmental organization with a local level (grass roots) focus. We have 1,600 members in the HBG area and of those not more than 30 are active. I want to work with the ExCom members to get more members active and interested in the many local environmental issues that we face in the HBG area and in the state, particularly in combating the many pieces of proposed state legislation that have adverse environmental effects. I have been a resident of Knoxville and Farragut for 54 years since moving here in Jan. 1954. I retired from active engineering work in CY 2000 but still put some of my engineering experience to use in volunteer work. My work experience consists of extensive work in project management at ORNL and Y12 on general construction projects, special research projects, environmental restoration projects and waste management projects. I served for 10 years (1970-1980) as a member of the Knox County Quarterly Court and the Knox County Commission as one of the two representatives for the West Knox County area. I have served since about 1982 on the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission and have been chairman of that organization for 15 or so years. I also serve on the Town of Farragut Storm Water Advisory Committee since about 2005. I would be grateful for your vote and support in the upcoming election for HBG ExCom members.

Linda Smithyman

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1989 and was involved in the Harvey Broome Group from 1994 - 2003 when I moved to Nashville and continued my activities there. I have held positions as secretary, vice-chair, membership chair and chair, and have been a very active outings leader, coordinator of volunteers for the Third Creek Greenway Clean up and other activities. For years I have volunteered to do trail work and special events in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Recently I became a volunteer for the American Red Cross. I have relocated back to east Tennessee and would like to serve on the HBG ExCom again.

David Reister

I joined the Sierra Club in 1970 at Buffalo, N.Y., when I was asked to be the chair of the energy task force for the Niagara Group. I was active in the group until 1974 and served as outings chair and group chair. In 1974, I moved to Oak Ridge and worked at the Institute for Energy Analysis and ORNL. I became active in the Harvey Broome Group in 1997 when TDOT proposed to build the proposed Orange Route next to my house. In 1998 I joined the HBG ExCom. In 2000 I became conservation chair, and in 2008 I assumed the position of group chair. I am also the TVA chair for the TN Chapter. In 2005, I joined the national sustainable consumption committee. In 2007 I joined the sustainable planet strategy team, and in 2008 I was appointed as chair of the national biofuels task force. I plan to continue to be active on national energy issues. I am the chairman of the board for the Cumberland Trail Conference.

Watauga Group Election Ballot

For the 2008 Executive Committee. Please vote for five (5) of the following candidates:

Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate	Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Wilbert “Webb” Griffith	_____	_____	Earl “Doc” Taylor
_____	_____	Gloria Griffith	_____	_____	Dean Whitworth
_____	_____	Dennis Shekinah			

Watauga Group ballots must be received no later than Dec 8, 2008. Vote for five candidates, place ballot in a sealed envelope with only your Sierra Club membership number and mail enclosed in an outer envelope to:

Rita Cowan
WG Sierra Club
900 Miningtown Road
Mountain City, TN 37683

Candidate Statements

Wilbert “Webb” Griffith

Sierra member since 1990. Current Watauga Group ExCom member serving as fundraising and outings chairs. Newly elected steering committee member of the Watauga Watershed Alliance.

Gloria Griffith

Current Watauga Group chair and Sierra Club member since 2004.

Dennis Shekinah

Serves as Webmaster, ExCom member and secretary of Watauga Group. Sierra Club member since 2004. Watauga Watershed Alliance current president. Johnson County Humane Society volunteer; employed in the medical field; nature photographer and graphic artist.

Earl “Doc” Taylor

Sierra Club member since 2004. Current Watauga Group vice chair. DVM by profession and a veteran steering committee member of the Watauga Watershed Alliance.

Dean Whitworth

Sierra Club life member since 1992. Member of the Watauga Group ExCom and currently serving as conservation and membership chairs. Recently elected to the steering committee of the Watauga Watershed Alliance.

Chickasaw Group Election Ballot

All ballots must be postmarked before Sunday, December 14, 2008. Please vote! You may vote for up to seven (7) candidates for the Chickasaw Group ExCom.

Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate	Single	Dual	
_____	_____	James Baker	_____	_____	Don Richardson
_____	_____	Nancy Brannon	_____	_____	Judith Rutschman
_____	_____	Keith Hoover	_____	_____	Steven Sondheim
_____	_____	Deborah Mays	_____	_____	Mary Margaret Ware

Enclose your marked ballot in a plain envelope and place it inside a second envelope for mailing. Write your membership number (found on the label of your Tennes-Sierran) on the outer envelope with your return address. Envelopes without a membership number can not be counted so please follow these instructions carefully! Mail your ballot to: Chickasaw Group, Attn: Election Committee, PO Box 111094, Memphis, TN 38111

Candidate Statements

James Baker

Since 2000, James Baker has served on past Chickasaw Group executive committees in a number of roles. He has served as: group delegate to the Tennessee Chapter, secretary, vice-chair, conservation chair, and group chair. James has been serving as the project director of Tennessee Water Sentinels since 2003. He also serves on the national Sierra Club's safe and healthy communities conservation initiative committee. James's conservation interests are: clean water, energy issues—including advocating for minimizing the effects of global climate change, environmental justice, and emergency preparedness. A strong believer in leadership by example, James conducts his personal life with the same environmental ethics he advocates publicly. He recycles as much as possible. He picks up litter during his neighborhood walks, and when he drives his car, he "links his trips" to reduce his vehicle miles traveled. His participation in TVA's Green Power Switch program has resulted in a diversion of over 50 percent of his home's electrical usage to cleaner wind, solar and methane gas generation sources. Your vote for James returns an experienced and effective advocate to the executive committee.

Nancy Brannon

Nancy Brannon is education/outreach coordinator at the University of Memphis Ground Water Institute. She holds a doctorate in environmental sociology, so is knowledgeable on a number of environmental issues. Her dissertation was on ground water perceptions and policy in the Memphis, Tenn., area. She was formerly adjunct faculty in sociology at the U of M, where she taught environmental sociology and several other courses. She has been interested in ground water issues since the early 1990s and an environmental protection advocate since the first Earth Day 1970. She previously served on the Chickasaw Group Ex-Comm; was ground water chair, and hosted the TV show "The Nature of Conservation." Water is one of the most important issues of the 21st century, and the Mid-South area has one of the most valuable ground water resources in the nation. Her work with Sierra Club can foster the conservation and protection efforts that are needed to protect ground water for current and future generations.

Keith Hoover (incumbent)

For over 20 years, Keith has worked as a scientist providing laboratory services for governments, industries, consultants, citizens, and non-profit organizations, including the Sierra Club's Water Sentinels program. His concern for the environment and love of nature have led to his involvement with the Sierra Club by participating in group outings as an outings leader and coordinating the tabling events. He also maintains the monthly green events emails and the Yahoo group for the Chickasaw Group. Keith welcomes the opportunity to continue to serve the group in his current roles, with the objectives of increasing membership activity and addressing local conservation issues, including water quality, toxics, recycling, and parks/greenways.

Deborah Mays

It is imperative at this point in our Earth's history that each and every one of us do our part to halt environmental threats, raise awareness among our peers, and see to it that elected officials are on board with the policies that need to be addressed. We must all assume the colossal job of trying to save the Earth.

I have been actively involved in the Sierra Club for several years and hope to have an opportunity to encourage everyone to do their part. I have seen first hand how my involvement with environmental issues has had a positive effect on my children's global awareness. The small acts of each individual can have an enormous cumulative effect on preventing environmental disasters. It is our duty to become involved! Thank you for your consideration.

Don Richardson (incumbent)

I'm asking for your vote to continue as your voice on the local Chickasaw Group executive committee. Please allow me to continue as CKG's representative on many community organizations protecting parks, greenways, urban forestry, river-front development, livable neighborhoods, and environmental justice.

Please support my efforts to keep Sierra Club in the local forefront of not only speaking up for restoration ecology priorities in Shelby Farms, Overton Park, and the Memphis Riverfront, but also promoting sustainable development in land use control, zoning code reform (UDC) and implementing the recommendations of the Sustainable Shelby Initiative (on which I served as Mayor Wharton's appointee).

Vote for my continued involvement in creating new coalitions and working relationships to create community-based solutions to city, county, and regional problems as they emerge. As always, I will continue to be accessible to your input for positive change. Thanks in advance for taking the time to vote.

Judith Rutschman

Judith Rutschman served on the executive committee for several years. She retired from Rhodes College in September after working for 22 years as associate director of ITS. She has a BA and MS in mathematics. She has been the host for Nature of Conservation TV show for six years where she interviewed a wide range of people who work hard to add value to our world.

Her environmental focus is local sustainable agriculture because it touches every aspect of our lives—healthy eating, support for a local economy and a withdrawal from corporate agriculture which depends on heavy use of hydrocarbons. She is good at organizing, communicating and networking. She feels she is a positive advocate for our earth.

Steven Sondheim

I am an environmental advocate who's served as Chickasaw conservation chair and chapter vice-chair. Currently I am a chapter delegate and co-chair of the energy supercommittee. Interests: Parks/Greenways, Bike/Ped, Smart Growth, integrating transportation with land use, Smart Energy Solutions, and Climate Change.

I'm a past board member of Friends of Shelby Farms, and was instrumental in encouraging use of the Context Sensitive Design process for a reduced and more sensible design of Shelby Farms Parkway. Coordinator of the Citizens of Transportation Reform, Steve works with local and state planners on smart transportation and energy planning committees.

I work to build coalitions of Memphis environmental/community groups including Greater Memphis Greenline (rail to trail), GGM, Coalition for Livable Communities, etc. I'd like to work with others to increase volunteerism, activism, and citizen involvement among our current members.

Mary Margaret Ware

B.S. in Nursing (1970) and M.N. (1973) Emory University. Mary Margaret worked as a public health nurse, nursing professor, department chairman, and nursing consultant. In recent years, Mary Margaret served on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Coordinating Committee, and Mayor Wharton's Sustainable Shelby Committee. As a citizen activist in transportation planning, she is also concerned about the entire gamut of conservation issues.

Rather than only fighting against specific environmental abuses, she believes that the Sierra Club needs to provide leadership in proposing what our country should look like within 10 to 20 years. Mary Margaret has met people in Memphis who have this positive type of visionary direction. Most of them are active members of the Sierra Club. Thus, I would like to work with them as a member of the executive committee.

Cherokee Group Election Ballot

Your ballot must be postmarked no later than December 12, 2008. For the 2009 executive committee. Please vote for ten (10) candidates.

Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate	Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Mike Bascom	_____	_____	Barbara Hurst
_____	_____	Jamie Brown	_____	_____	Barbara Kelly
_____	_____	Lynn Cimino-Hurt	_____	_____	Dr. Henry Spratt
_____	_____	Emma Ford	_____	_____	Gayla Strickland
_____	_____	Tammy Friedman	_____	_____	Elizabeth Tallman

Place your ballot in an envelope and write the word "ballot" on it. Place that envelope in another envelope and write your membership number with your return address in the upper left corner. Mail the ballot to: Barbara Kelly, 3524 Pinellas Lane, Chattanooga, TN 37412

Candidate Statements

Mike Bascom

I have been a member of Sierra Club for eight years. I have recently moved to Tennessee from Kentucky. For the entire time that I have been a member I have always been active and involved in the Excomm and campaigns. Since moving to Chattanooga I have been a bit of an ambassador for the club. I have been advertising the need and benefits of having a club. In the past I was vice-chair and political chair of the Lexington, KY group. I enjoy direct actions and canvassing neighborhoods. I am currently employed as an environmental engineer. And in my spare time I am working toward a master's degree in environmental science at University of Tennessee Chattanooga.

Jamie Brown

My name is Jamie Brown and I have been a member of the Sierra Club for two years. I have returned back to school to pursue an environmental science master degree. I volunteer with Oceana on a regular basis. Oceana's goal is to stop mercury contamination in the Hiwassee River by a local company in Cleveland, Tenn. This hits home for me literally since I grew up in Cleveland. I enjoy hiking and camping and really appreciate the aesthetics of Tennessee. I was also involved with reinstating curbside recycling in Chattanooga. I would love to serve on the executive committee for the Cherokee Group.

Lynn Cimino-Hurt

I am interested in serving on the Cherokee Group ex com. I bring prior experience in Sierra Club governance and a strong connection with this region, as well as a personal commitment to be a good steward of the land. I was raised in Coffee County and have resided on the south Cumberland Plateau for many years. I have been a Sierra Club member for more than 20 years, and while living in Northern Virginia for a brief time, served on the Great Falls executive committee as environmental education chair. I see great opportunity to enliven community interest in sustainable development and local green economics, and I think the Cherokee Group can serve as a point of inspiration and leadership for such endeavors.

Dr. Henry Spratt

Dr. Spratt is a tenured professor in the biological and environmental sciences department at UTC. He first became an environmental activist in 1989 (in Cape Girardeau, MO), where he served on the organizing committee for an environmental festival to celebrate Earth Day 2000. Dr. Spratt served as the chair of the Trail of Tears Sierra Club group for two years, helping to establish that group in Cape Girardeau. Research is critical to Dr. Spratt, who in recent years has focused on projects in topic areas including microbial ecology, biogeochemistry, and bioremediation, studying processes in soils of forests and wetlands. Recently, Dr. Spratt played a critical role in UTC's involvement in a large-scale research project titled the "Chattanooga Creek Research Initiative."

Gayla Strickland

I am an architectural designer and project manager for River Street Architects, an architectural firm that is an award-winning leader in sustainable design in the Southeast region. I've been involved in earth-conscious decision making for the past two decades and continue to look for opportunities to educate and involve myself on a grassroots level to preserve and protect our world locally and globally.

I count problem solving as one of my greatest skills, and a dedicated willingness to stick with whatever I commit to as a close second. I am a hard worker with a strong desire to back up my beliefs about stewardship and protection of our natural environment with actions. I believe membership and service in the Sierra Club provide excellent ways to achieve these goals.

Elizabeth Tallman

I am the interim public relations chair for the group and am enjoying the position very much! I am currently completing my graduate degree in public and nonprofit management as well as working for a local nonprofit. However, I obtained my undergraduate degree in communications and rarely have a chance to use those skills.

I have volunteered for the local Audubon Society and worked for the Army Corps of Engineers involved in reservoir management. I am a member of the Sierra Club and long to play a greater role in the club. As a mother and a lover of Tennessee, I am passionate about preserving our land in the healthiest way possible for my future grandchildren.

No statement available for Emma Ford, Tammy Friedman, Barbara Hurst and Barbara Kelly.

Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

NOVEMBER PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, November 11, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike

Maryville backpacker Bert Emerson presents "From Canada to Mexico: Hiking the Continental Divide Trail," showcasing his recent trek of some 2,800 miles through varied terrain and challenging circumstances: snow and freezing rain in the Rocky Mountains, searing desert heat in New Mexico, logistical snafus, and just plain exhaustion. In the end the scenery, animals, solitude, and occasional socializing with humans made it all worthwhile. Bert has joined an exclusive club of fewer than 80 individuals who have traversed all of the "Triple Crown" trail routes: The Appalachian, Pacific Crest, and Continental Divide trails. (HBG guests may recall his excellent program of July 2006 on the AT and PCT.)

Everyone is welcome. For information, call John Finger at (865) 573-5908.

DECEMBER PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, December, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike

HBG's HAPPY HOLIDAYS PROGRAM!!

Bring some of your favorite edibles to share and join us for lots of fun! We're asking HBG members and friends to show favorite recent photos of travel, outings, the environment, or other things of interest to our group. Please, no more than ten minutes per person, including your commentary.

Ron Shrieves, our outings chair, will coordinate the presentations, so contact him regarding technical details, etc., at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net. You must get your photos to Ron one week in advance of the program, either by copying them to a CD or a flash drive (AKA, a jump drive). No Photos? No Problem! Come anyway and share the goodies and socializing. Everyone is welcome.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, November 13, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.

The Beaman Park to Bells Bend Conservation Community: The "Third Vision"

This month's very topical program is of great interest to all of us who care about preservation of open spaces. Minda Lazarov of The Beaman Park to Bells Bend Conservation Community will bring us an overview of the archeological, agricultural, outdoor recreational, and natural resources in this area. She also will give a brief overview of the role of the community and the planning process and talk about The Third Vision. The Middle Tennessee Group strongly supports the work of this organization and invites you to attend.

The Third Vision for the future of The Beaman Park to Bells Bend Conservation Community reflects the desire to provide the opportunity to experience an alternative to the demands of life in densely populated environments. Surrounded and protected by a bend in the Cumberland River and the hills of the Highland Rim, this unique community has been largely untouched by development, allowing it to maintain its rural character and authentic sense of place. Bringing this vision to reality requires dedicated conservation of the diverse terrain and open space, rich historical and archeological resources, varied wildlife and wildlife habitats, waterways and rural landscape.

This is a place to learn about Nashville's historical, agricultural and archeological heritage; a place to learn about where our food comes from and to purchase sustainable, locally grown food; a place to reconnect with nature and the natural world.

Please join us for this very important presentation, which is free and open to the public.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, November 25 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, and 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 more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bell-south.net or call 792-2590. If you come to the meeting and the building doors are locked, call Rachel's cell at 406-9204.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY/PROGRAM MONTHLY MEETING: 6:00 p.m., first Wednesday of the month, at the "The Acoustic Coffee House- Next Door" at 450 West Walnut in Ole Town Johnson City.

Contact Tom Mozen at mozenetc@yahoo.com or 423-232-0827 for more information.

At the October meeting the topics discussed were nuclear energy—pros and cons, plans for Buffalo Mountain day hike, Tom and Diane's completion of the Sierra Club outings training course at Laurel Forks and having an organic garden on Johnson City grounds as part of a public awareness program. The organic gardening initiative was presented, and the group was told that Mize Farm and Garden Shop anxiously accepted our proposal to use their grounds as our organic gardening pilot project. Their shop and our garden plot are on State of Franklin, one of Johnson City's two main thoroughfares. It's great publicity for the Sierra Club! Thank you, Mize!

As a follow-up to members' suggestion to better understand forest fire and restoration efforts, members Jim and Donna offered to sponsor a day hike to Buffalo Mountain, Johnson City's signature mountain that suffered a major burn last year. Jim has been instrumental in helping restore parts of the burn out. SOFG will be placing a plaque on Buffalo Mountain as a marker and vista/view finder for hikers.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

MEETING: Every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. in 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.

CHEROKEE GROUP—UNDER RE-ORGANIZATION (Chattanooga)

MEETING: November 30, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Barbara Hurst's home. Call 423-886-9503 for directions.

This will be a regular meeting and holiday party.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: November 6 & December 4, 5:30-7:00pm --

Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, TN

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.

Sierra Club 2008 Annual Environmental Justice Conference - "Surviving & Thriving Now & Into the Future" Saturday, November 8, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Church of The River, 292 W. Virginia Avenue, Memphis, TN

Keynote Speaker: Charles Allen III, community liaison for the Holy Cross Neighborhood and Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans, Louisiana. Allen is also associate director of external relations at Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research and is a board member of the US Green Building Council.

This is a community conference where asking questions is expected and welcomed. Registration for the conference is free, courtesy of the Sierra Club! Pre-registration is required. Lunch is included! For more information and/or to register, contact Rita Harris at rita.harris@sierraclub.org or (901) 324-7757.

Chickasaw Group Strategy Meeting

Monday, November 10 and December 8, 6:30pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, TN.

This meeting of the executive committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Nancy Ream by November 7 (November meeting) or December 5 (December meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 759-9416 or njream@aol.com.

Chickasaw Group Sierra Club Program Meeting - "Judge Potter's Environmental Court"

Wednesday, November 19, 6:30-8:00pm (please note meeting change from Thursday to Wednesday) Benjamin Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue.

The Memphis Environmental Court was founded in 1983 to serve as a "bridge over troubled water" for matters relating to the health and quality of life of our citizens. The purpose of the court was to ensure that our children's legacy was that of a better Memphis.

General Sessions' Environmental Court gave meaning to the term "expedient justice" by its ability to readily and specifically respond to our community's environmental needs. The court's powers were expanded to aid enforcement of the law.

Evidence of the Environmental Court's success is seen in the substantial growth of caseloads over the last 12 years. Gratifying results, such as repair of an indigent family's dwelling so that the children enjoy a healthier and happier home life, further demonstrate the successful actions of the court.

Program starts at 7:00pm. Come at 6:30 for social time! For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at bus@thecave.com or (901) 237-4819.

Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Holiday Party Friday, December 12, (instead of December program meeting) - Save the date! Time and location to be announced.

TELEVISION PROGRAM:

WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee, - Mondays at 1:30am, Tuesdays at 3:30am and 10:00pm, Wednesdays at 8:00pm, Thursdays at 5:30am and noon, Fridays at 11:30pm, and Sundays at 2:00am and 11:00pm.

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.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiver> PDF, 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)

November 1. Day hike, Andrews Bald, GSMNP.

This short hike out to Andrews Bald on the Forney Ridge Trail will hopefully allow us to enjoy the remaining fall colors. On the way back to the parking area, we'll take a side trip out to the old abandoned boiler which lies off the Forney Creek Trail. Total distance about 5 miles, rated moderate. Preregister with Ron Shrieves: 922-3518; ronaldshrieves@comcast.net.

November 5. (Wednesday) Citico Creek Wilderness.

We'll leave a shuttle vehicle at the "Warden's Station" on the Cherokee Forest Service Road #35, then drive out Double Camp Creek Road to the northern end of the Fodderstack Trail (FS #95) at Farr Gap.

This is a ridgetop trail with some good views. We'll hike from Farr Gap (elev. 2,800 ft) to the terminus of the Pine Ridge Trail (FS #99), then descend 1,720 feet to the Warden's Station on FS Road #35. The distance is 5 miles along the Fodderstack Trail and 3.55 miles on the Pine Ridge Trail. The high point of the hike will be at the junction with the Pine Ridge Trail (elev. 4,000 ft).

A short but steep side trip to Big Fodderstack Mountain (elev. 4,346) is possible for those who desire and time permitting.

Please bring something orange to wear or attach to your pack since this is the hunting season.

Preregister with Ron Shrieves: 922-3518; ronaldshrieves@comcast.net.

Meetings (continued from page 8)

"The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program on cable channel 18. For complete schedule listings on cable channel 18, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/schedule. 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

A Yahoo Group for the Sierra Club

Sierra Club-Chickasaw Group and Friends is a Yahoo group for members and friends of the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club (Memphis/West TN). It is an announcement-only email list to send notices of upcoming events and other "green" information of local interest. All announcements are accessible to the public, so you can look up the latest posts anytime! To view and/or join the Yahoo group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierra-club-chickasaw/>

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.

shrieves@comcast.net.

November 8-9. (rescheduled from October 4-5) Gourmet Backpack, Cherokee National Forest, along North Fork of Citico Creek.

This trip has become a Harvey Broome Group tradition, with everyone trying to make the most outrageous, non-backpacking type food that one can imagine. If you can dream it up, you can cook it in the backcountry. Frozen margaritas, Caesar salad, roasted Cornish game hens, seafood Newburg, hot fudge ice cream sundaes, cheesecake, blueberry pancakes -- it has been done in the woods on this trip. (Limited to 12 hikers.)

Mileage is less than 3.0-miles on a relatively flat trail, but involves several creek crossings, so you may want to bring your "creek shoes."

Rated easy. Pre-register with Beverly Smith: blsmith1300@comcast.net (preferred); 865-531-8480 (evenings).

November 22-23. Backpack, Elkmont section, GSMNP.

We'll take the Little River Trail for about 6 miles (the guidebooks say 5.2 miles but the gate has been moved further down the creek) from its beginning in the Elkmont area to its southern terminus at Three Forks.

We'll camp at Backcountry Campsite # 30, deep in the heart of the Smokies and only 2.5 air miles from Clingman's Dome. An alternate, if the creek is too high to easily ford with backpacks, will be to camp at Campsite # 24, Rough Creek Campsite, 3.4 miles up the trail, and to possibly day hike on up to the end of the trail.

Much of the trail is on the old logging railroad grade along the Little River and is unusually level, gaining only 1,200 feet in the 5.2 miles of trail (one-way).

This is a "hiker-only" trail as is the campsite. The campsite is the site of the old Lumber Camp 19, surrounded by the headwaters of the Little River. Hiking distance is about 12 miles total and it is rated Easy.

Pre-register with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; cell 742-327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

December 6. Day Hike, Greenbrier section, GSMNP.

This hike will ascend Rhododendron Creek to the Grapeyard Ridge Trail, then head west to campsite 32 and down Injun Creek. Along the way we'll get a close-up view of an old steam boiler (engine) that is the namesake for Injun Creek. Total distance about 6 miles.

Preregister with Ron Shrieves, 922-3518, ronaldshrieves@comcast.net.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

Contact Tom Mozen, SOF Group chair, at (423) 232-0827 or mozenetc@yahoo.com.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

November 16, Cordell Hull Lake Day Hike

Join us for a 5-mile day hike at Cordell Hull Lake, in the vicinity of Carthage. Trails extend over the bluffs of the Cumberland River, following the river, and may contain a spring and waterfall, depending on water level. For more details, contact Diane Perschbacher at Diane@Propson.com or 615-895-1236.

Middle Tennessee Group annual holiday party; Saturday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m.; 4641 Villa Green Drive (7 Hills area south of Green Hills) Nashville 37215.

Bring a dish to share and your beverage.

If you can, please also bring a non-perishable food item such as peanut butter, tuna, macaroni and cheese, beans, etc. to be donated to Second Harvest Food bank.

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!

Dress is holiday casual. You are welcome to come any time during the evening, but it is best to come close to 6:30 p.m. because the food usually goes fast!

Please call 665-1010 if you need directions or more information. We will look forward to seeing you there!

February 28-March 7, 2009: 3rd Annual Clair Tappaan Lodge Ski Trip

Make your reservation now to go with the Tennessee Chapter to Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge for a week that you will never forget! This is the third year for the Tennessee Chapter to host a ski trip for its members.

Clair Tappaan Lodge is located 7,000 feet in California's Sierra Nevada, 45 minutes West of Reno, Nevada. Activities planned for our week at Clair Tappaan include cross-country skiing and exploring the Lake Tahoe area. Skiing classes are available at the lodge.

Accommodations are in bunk beds equipped with mattresses. Bring your own bedding and towel. Restroom and shower facilities are shared with two men's and two women's bathrooms. Meals are served family style.

Price for the trip is \$600 per person and includes lodging, all meals from supper on February 28 thru breakfast on March 7 and transportation from airport to lodge and back to airport. Trip price does not include airfare, ski rental, ski lessons, ski fees, incidentals, breakfast and lunch on February 28 and supper on March 7.

Reservations are limited to six participants. Non-refundable \$100 deposit due by January 1, 2009 made to TN Chapter Sierra Club Outings, P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229. Remainder of fees due January 26, 2009.

Complete information regarding equipment rental rates, cross-country skiing activities planned, accommodations and any other inquiries may be directed to Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org. Payment by credit card is available. (Educational, Conservation)

CHEROKEE GROUP (CHATTANOOGA)

There are no outings scheduled at this time.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Wednesday, November 12, Sierra Club Film Night, "Plagues and Pleasures on the Salton Sea," 7:30-9:00pm, Power House, 45 G.E. Patterson (between Main and Front).

Once known as the "California Riviera," the Salton Sea is now called one of America's worst ecological disasters: a fetid, stagnant, salty lake, coughing up dead birds and fish by the thousands.

Accidentally created by an engineering error in 1905 and reworked in the 1950's as a world-class vacation destination for the rich and famous, the Salton Sea has a bittersweet past. The lake was sud-

(continued on page 11)

Chickasaw Group News

(Contributed by Various Members)

Chickasaw Group September Program Meeting

Dr. Andy Kouba, director of conservation and research for the Memphis Zoo, gave a presentation at the program meeting held at the Memphis Library at 3030 Poplar on September 25.

Did you know that the zoo has as many conservation projects as many academic biology departments? Did you know that the Memphis Zoo was recently ranked “#1” in the United States by TripAdvisor?

Dr. Kouba explained how the zoo spends \$2 million on conservation efforts worldwide. Since its formal establishment, the Memphis Zoo’s Conservation Action Network (C.A.N.) has funded over 10 conservation projects. Polar bears are preserved, and closer to home

the zoo works to save the Mississippi gopher frog, whose breeding habitat is limited to one lake in Mississippi. There were plenty of printed materials available about goings-on at the zoo.

For more information about zoo programs, visit www.memphiszoo.org or call (901) 333-6765.

A Chickasaw Group Outing to Shiloh

Keith Hoover led three members of the Chickasaw Group on an outing to Shiloh National Military Park on October 4. The weather was perfect with a cloudless sky and near normal temperatures.

Marcus Johnson, the park’s resource management specialist, gave the group a brief history of the park, discussed its conservation mission, and took the group to the Shiloh

Indian Mounds National Historic Landmark. The Indian Mounds have been closed to the public most of the year, but will reopen with a new interpretive trail in 2009. The group got a sneak peek of the Indian Mounds area, where we encountered a group of deer. Marcus also pointed out an eagle’s nest where chicks were born earlier this year. The eagles have not been sighted recently, but there is evidence of recent nest building activity.

After an artillery demonstration by re-enactors, Keith led the group on a two-mile hike in the Shiloh Church area, which was known as “Camp Shiloh” before the battle. The beautiful settings around Rhea Springs made it quite evident why the Union troops chose this area to set up their camps. The group enjoyed a wonderful seafood lunch at nearby Hagy’s Catfish Hotel before returning to Memphis.

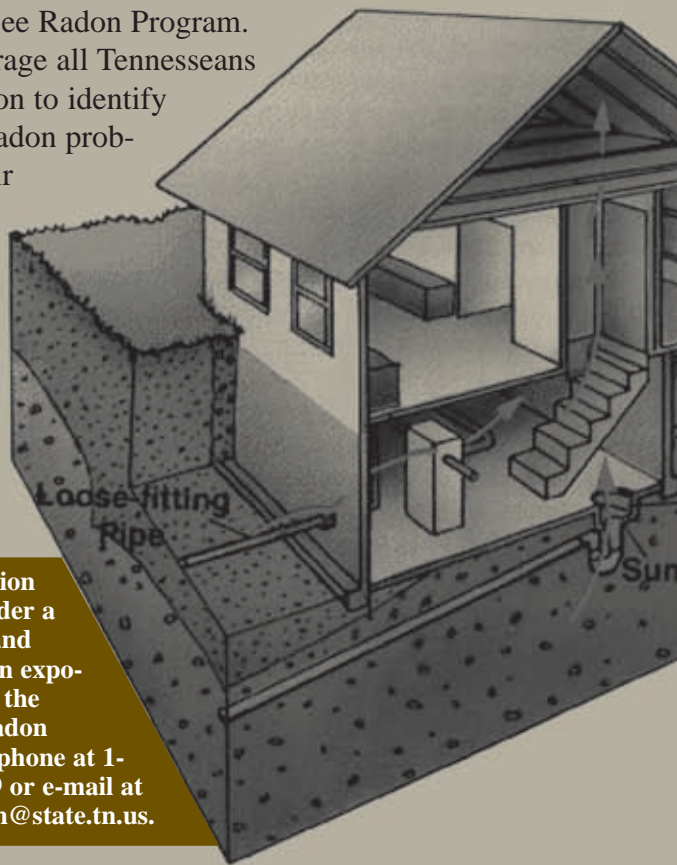
Tennessee Agency Offers Free Radon Test Kits

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is offering free single-use radon test kits and educational brochures on radon-resistant new construction techniques to Tennessee residents at their local Ground Water Protection Division offices, via email or a toll-free phone call.

According to US EPA estimates, radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States overall.

“Preventing exposure to radon is extremely important,” said Lori Munkeboe, director of Environment and Conservation’s Office of Environmental Assistance. “By utilizing new construction techniques that make homes resistant to this gas or by correcting high radon levels in existing homes, Tennesseans can protect themselves and their families.”

“The only way to know if a home has elevated radon levels is to test,” said Amy Inabinet of the Tennessee Radon Program. “We encourage all Tennesseans to take action to identify and to fix radon problems in their homes.”



For information on how to order a free test kit and prevent radon exposure, contact the Tennessee Radon Program by phone at 1-800-232-1139 or e-mail at TDEC.Radon@state.tn.us.

Contest for Home use Fossil Fuel Reduction

1) Finalize contest name – Maybe ExCom can select a formal name, but mentioned were: “bright green,” “greenest of green,” “little foot,” “shrinking footprint...”

2) Contest rules

- Two tracks would be available, both based on consumption per square foot: lowest annual kWh consumption and the greatest annual reduction year over year.
- Values expressed in kilowatt hours (kWh) with gas therm usage converted to kWh and included in total.
- All participants will enroll in the MLGW, My Account. The “My Account” will be used as the web based reporting tool. Hard copy forms will be available for those without Web access.
- Eligible contestants will be Sierra Club members that are MLGW customers, only. Vacant houses, moves, etc., will be checked by MLGW.
- Winners will be required to fill out a survey of changes made (we’ll develop a simple form to capture this data).
- Participants capture the annual “total” version of “How does my home compare?” bar chart and “How does my home use energy?” pie chart on the “Home Energy Center” tab, at the start and end of the competition. (A screenshot or print-out should be required, as entry and proof of “before” and “after.”)

3) Effective dates – Jan 1, 2008 thru Dec 31, 2008 compared to Jan 1, 2009 thru Dec 31, 2009

4) Categories and prizes – again, two tracks would be available: the lowest annual kWh consumption and the greatest annual reduction year over year, both measured by kWh per square foot. Framing it this way, we offer a track for those who are already doing good and can possibly do better, without allowing currently high energy users (possibly energy hogs) an unfair advantage of easy reduction.

We could have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes in each category with prizes coming from Sierra Club, possibly MLGW, possibly TVA (although gift bags will automatically be given just for participating in the MLGW, My Account, program), cowanhouse – free energy audit (only 1 available total), and other possible contributors.

5) Winners—along with their energy conservation measures—should be recognized on the Sierra Club website, via media, etc. Once we have all the contest details worked out, Becky Williamson will submit this idea for inclusion on MLGW’s Memphis Energized TV show, with follow-up at the end of the contest.

Outings *(continued from page 9)*

denly abandoned after a series of hurricanes, floods, and fish die-offs, and was finally almost saved by Congressman Sonny Bono.

While the film covers the historical, economic, political, and environmental issues that face the lake, it more importantly offers up an offbeat portrait of the eccentric and individualistic people who populate its shores.

Hair-raising and hilarious—part history lesson, part cautionary tale, and part portrait of one of the strangest communities you've ever seen—this is the American Dream gone as stinky as a dead carp.

Sierra Club film night is hosted by Power House Memphis. Admission is free (with donations accepted), and refreshments will be available.

For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at bus@thecave.com or (901) 237-4819.

Sunday, November 30, Outing on the Collierville Greenway, 1:00-3:00pm, Collierville, TN - Meeting place to be announced.

Saturday, December 6, Outing to Tunica River Park and Museum. Meet at museum parking lot at 2:00 pm.

Hike through the riverside forest on 1.9 mile round-trip trail/boardwalk and visit the outstanding museum—a one-of-a-kind interactive, interpretive center that showcases the life of the river and its history. Enjoy a Mississippi River sunset, too.

See www.tunicariverpark.com

To reach the museum: From the North: Highway 61 south to Casino Center. Turn right and drive 2.3 miles, then turn left on Casino Way. Turn right on Fitzgerald's Boulevard, then left on RiverPark Drive.

From the South: Highway 61 north to Hwy 304 (Casino Strip Drive). Turn left and drive 1.8 miles, then turn right on Fitzgerald's Boulevard, then left on RiverPark Drive.

For assistance with directions, please call the museum at 662-357-0050 or 866-517-4837 (866-51-RIVER).

Museum cost: \$5, \$4 for 65 and older, \$4 for under 12. \$4 for groups of 20 or more.

Optional dinner after the outing at the Hollywood Café (not associated with the casinos), an old farm commissary. Non-smoking section not available.

RIDE SHARING: In Midtown, arrive by 1:00 pm at the Center City Shopping Center sign, Avalon & Poplar Ave. (1625 Poplar Ave). Possible second location.

For more information, contact Sue A. Williams, z4cmv@juno.com or (901) 274-0524.

Chickasaw Holiday party, Friday, Dec. 12, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., at Burch, Porter, Johnson, 130 North Court Avenue, Memphis.

Bring an appetizer or dessert.

Please come and join the festivities at our holiday party! We look forward to seeing you! Any questions, contact Nancy Ream, (901) 759-9416.



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Electronics Recycling in the Age of Digital Television

By Bard Cole, WKNO-TV Memphis

By now, most people know something about the changes coming to broadcast television. On February 17, 2009, high-power TV stations in the United States will cease broadcasting analog signals and only broadcast digital signals.

Media coverage of this process usually focuses on what people need to do to make sure they can continue to receive a television broadcast signal over the air. Sometimes the media explores the politics behind the move to digital, as traditional broadcasters and technology corporations argue over the rules guiding the future use of the broadcast spectrum. But as the date draws near and people begin to make their preparations, more down-to-earth effects of the transition are also raising concern.

Though the useful life of an analog TV set can be extended using a digital converter box, it is estimated that one in every four American households will be discarding a television set in the next year. What's going to happen to all the TVs consumers will be tossing?

Unfortunately, the answer to this question may not be reassuring to people who are concerned about the environment. TV sets contain cadmium and lead – in the case of some older TVs, as much as eight pounds of lead – as well as metals like mercury, chromium, nickel and zinc.

Dumped into landfills, these metals can leach into groundwater. Once the toxins are into the aquifer they would be a significant health issue to any living organism, and are particularly harmful to humans at any age.

No one knows for certain how much of an impact the DTV transition may have on electronics waste. Regardless, discarded electronics now constitutes the fastest growing category of household solid waste in the state of Tennessee. Much of this material is fully recyclable and has real commodity value, but the infrastructure to promote electronics recycling has been slow to grow in Tennessee.

While a handful of states, including Arkansas, have passed laws regulating the disposal of electronics equipment and banning them from landfills, Tennessee has no such law currently. A few local municipal governments organize electronics recycling drives or have drop-off centers for electronics, but many simply collect these items with other household trash.

Unless individual citizens make proper disposal a personal priority, a TV set discarded in the state of Tennessee is most likely to end up in a landfill with other household garbage.

For those individual citizens who are concerned, there are electronics recyclers across the state who will accept televisions and other discarded household items for a modest fee, usually on a graduated scale based on weight.

Companies like 5R Processors Ltd., which has two facilities in Tennessee and processes the electronics recyclables for a number of municipal governments in the Mid-South, disassemble electronics to reclaim valuable metals and dispose of hazardous materials, with very little waste in the process.

In some states where electronics recycling mandates have been implemented, electronics waste often ends up shipped to countries like India or China where labor costs are cheaper and regulation of hazardous materials is lax.

But the next few years should see a significant expansion of efficient and profitable domestic electronics recycling efforts. The digital transition and analog shutoff has brought public attention to the issue of technological obsolescence in household electronics, and may prove to be a useful turning point for electronics recycling as well.

For more information about the digital transition and about the federal program to supply coupons to help citizens purchase converter boxes to extend the life of current analog television sets, please visit www.dtv2009.gov. For information on electronics recycling, visit <http://www.mygreenelectronics.com/>. *(Special thanks to Karen Birkenstock at 5R Processors Ltd for information on the hazards of television sets in landfills.)*

Beaman Park to Bells Bend Conservation Effort Continues

By Kathleen Wolfe

First, we want to thank Sierra Club members who provided support and encouragement during the July 24 and August 14 Metro Planning Commission hearings. It was a time of uncertainty and anxiety for us as we awaited the outcome of these two hearings.

Thankfully, the Metro Planning Commission voted to approve our Scottsboro-Bells Bend Community Plan and to defer indefinitely the May Town Center development area. This represented a huge and most welcome win for us. We will continue to keep you posted when the May development comes before the commission again.

Buoyed by our success in August, a group traveled to Adirondack Park in New York for a fact-finding mission to learn from their over 100-year experience in natural resource conservation and over 30-year experience in a private-public land use planning model.

We met with park officials and area residents to discuss how the park came to be, how they met challenges, and how those lessons might be applied to our goal of establishing a model conservation community. We left there inspired, rejuvenated, and with new strategies for applying what we had learned in New York to our own situation in Nashville. Joining us was Christine Kreyling, who wrote a City Paper article which chronicles some of what we learned.

(link: <http://www.nashvillecitypaper.com/news.php?viewStory=62739>)

We are currently in the midst of planning Beaman Park to Bells Bend – A Park2Park Celebration! This special day will be held all day November 1, 2008 to showcase the many resources within the Beaman to Bells corridor, including guided hikes, a blueways tour, workshops on edible wild plants, the whooping cranes, the archeological history of the Bend, sustainable gardening, a scavenger hunt, and booths on the heritage of the community. The Park2Park Celebration will culminate with a sunset concert with Nancy Griffith.

We are also busy bringing to life the Third Vision. This vision represents an alternative to the way poorly planned development has historically replaced rural open space with classic unplanned growth or the new higher density “conservation” subdivisions and mixed-use developments.

The Third Vision refers to a heritage and conservation district with endless possibilities for appropriate land use such as equestrian trails; sustainable agriculture; a retreat center for artists, musicians and others; opportunities for fishing, kayaking, hiking, biking and other outdoor recreation. This is a place to learn about Nashville's historical, agricultural and archeological heritage; a place to learn about where our food comes from and to purchase sustainably grown local food; a place to reconnect with nature and the natural world.

Bringing the Third Vision to reality requires the passion and commitment of not only Beaman Park to Bells Bend Community members, but all Nashvillians who treasure the varied experiences and opportunities that this treasured corner of Nashville offers.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of the Sierra Club. For more information on these activities, please contact Alicia Batson at crackerlake@comcast.net. And don't forget to check out our website at bells-bend.org.



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Sierra Club 2009 Calendars



Harvey Broome Fundraiser

Buy one of these Sierra Club Calendars for the discount price of \$9.95 for either calendar.

To order, go online to:

www.discexchange.com

and click on the Sierra Club calendar.

To order by phone, call (865) 573-5710

energy corner Energy Matters



Energy Call, 7 pm CST, Wed. Nov 19.

Discuss local projects, legislative agenda and ongoing task forces coming out of the Tennessee Sustainability Conference. Email Steven Sondheim stevensondheim@yahoo.com or Diane Perschbacher Phifer diane@propson.com for call-in information

Home Raffle: Tom Mozen is working on a raffle of an energy efficient, aesthetic, solar assisted house. We are looking for co-sponsors such as TVA.

2008 Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee, November 13th-15th, in Nashville www.tectn.org
Download the Summit Itinerary.
Download the Summit Brochure
REGISTER

Task forces span all areas of conservation on three different levels:

- Air, Water, Land, Agriculture, Waste, and Energy—Friday morning
- Natural Infrastructure, Healthy Community, Sustainable Energy, Quality Growth—Friday afternoon
- Growing the New Economy, Government, Networking and Education Saturday

People can enter the conference at any stage and still have an effect on legislation and action items.

Tennessee Governor's Summit on Clean Energy Technology: Louise Gorenflo attended a meeting for all mayors or representatives interested in the US Mayoral Climate Protection Agreement. (Oak Ridge and Cookeville mayors did attend.) They discussed the feasibility of achieving an agreement goal of CO2 reduction below 1990 levels. Regular meetings might pull in on-the-fence mayors. They also discussed the plusses and minuses of developing a full ICLEI community inventory or using city government operations-only inventory as a starting point.

Chattanooga Green Committee Plan: Brian Paddock met with the Green Team regarding green plan development. (This is the third iteration already!) They are in the process of working through nine different topics, including land use, water, air quality, etc, for problems and responses they want to consider. A draft of the plan is on the Internet, and will be presented to the city council at the end of the year. The city joined ICLEI and finished inventory plan using college interns. It took "global warming / cool cities" issues and moved over to sustainability as well. Link to draft plan: www.chattanooga.gov/Chatt_Green_Interim_Report.pdf

Knoxville: The city of Knoxville kicked off its Solar Cities Project on Oct. 24. It is an effort to encourage the creation of a sustainable solar energy infrastructure. The city was selected as one of 12 Solar American Cities earlier this year by the Department of Energy which, along with TVA, will provide financial support for city initiatives designed to reduce barriers to the development of solar power.

Memphis and Shelby County are working on implementing a Cool County program and will soon implement their Sustainable Shelby initiative.

Nashville has four sub-committees in its green ribbon committee. Nashville Mayor Dean will speak on this at the Thursday, Nov 13 kick-off lunch for the Tennessee Summit.

Cookeville: Mary Mastin and Brian Paddock showed a Cool Cities presentation at Tennessee Tech. There are students who want to do an energy inventory.

National Transportation Call: Steven Sondheim reports that state and national transportation committee chairs have begun dialog on the upcoming 2009 National Transportation Plan and legislation including an economy jump start plan which may invest heavily in environment and transportation infrastructure. Sierra folks favored projects and programs that will create jobs right now that don't have to start from scratch with design, engineering, etc. There is concern that Congress or the US Department of Transportation and state DOT's will use money for projects that we don't see as progressive. They are working on "green" criteria," such as connectability, no new lane mile capacity, fixing current infrastructure first, working for less vehicle miles traveled, etc.

Know Nuclear Conference: It was a successful conference with active people involved from around the region. There is more coming from the Sierra national radiation committee as it affects Tennessee. There is a proposal for regional meetings. There was lots of conversation on public health issues. A student group has identified rate payer issues and wants to develop a campaign. We can help with February campus teach-ins focusing on not wanting / not needing nuclear. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission environmental impact statement draft will be released for Bellefonte in March. Contact Louise Gorenflo lgorenflo@gmail.com to work on nuclear waste and nuclear power issues.

Renewable Tax Package passed within the economic recovery plan. Please publicize any good summaries. Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) has a website which lists state incentives, along with a handbook on the tax incentives. <http://www.seia.org>. See <http://www.energytaxincentives.org>

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