

# Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 43, Number 6 - November/December, 2012

## TVA Coal in Crisis

On August 14, the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign released a new report by Synapse Energy Economics, *TVA Coal in Crisis: Using Energy Efficiency to Replace TVA's Highly Non-Economic Coal Units*, which showed that TVA's coal fleet is becoming increasingly non-economic to operate and could be replaced through energy efficiency programs. The study's bottom line is that it does not make economic sense for TVA to invest billions of dollars into keeping old coal fired power plants running. Instead, TVA should prioritize investing in an energy efficiency program that will save TVA and its customers billions of dollars in the long run.

Compared to other utilities' coal fired power plants, TVA's are older and generate less power on average. They lack many modern pollution controls and are sending mercury, soot, and smog pollution into our air each day. New Clean Air Act standards from the Environmental Protection Agency will require TVA to reduce this pollution over the next several years. As a result, TVA must soon decide whether to invest in pollution controls for existing plants to reduce the pollution coming from their smokestacks, or to replace these older plants with cleaner options.

By investing in efficiency rather than retrofits, TVA could both lower customer bills and cut toxic emissions. For instance, if TVA opted to implement a program to improve efficiency by 1.2%, it could replace its Gallatin plant and would save at least \$2.7 billion – and possibly more than \$4 billion if carbon is taxed – over the next 20 years. TVA is considering spending \$1.1 billion at this facility.

Conversely, if TVA decided to retrofit their plants, they would tack on at least \$2.50 to the average residential bill every month for decades. The Synapse analysis determined that TVA would need to invest at least \$11.8 billion to update its full fleet of aging coal plants, with additional costs to operate the retrofitted plants piling up over time. Going forward, 30 of the 39 TVA coal boilers will cost more to run than market prices, once the capital costs of the pollution controls are counted.

TVA is considering retrofitting four coal plants: the Gallatin, Allen, Colbert, and Shawnee Fossil plants. Retrofitting these plants would cost billions of dollars in capital investment, which would be passed down to the ratepayers. Instead, TVA could retire one of those plants by committing to a

1.2% energy efficiency goal. This goal is, by TVA's own estimates, achievable, and is modest compared to some other utilities' programs.

If TVA implemented a 1.2% energy savings program, 1,590 MW of total energy savings would be gained by 2015. These savings projections are realistic. The US General Accountability Office reports that national utilities were already reaching average savings of 1.4% between 2005 and 2009 and energy efficiency programs have only become more effective since then.

These days, leading utilities have reached savings of 2.5% per year. The 1% to 2% savings rate that TVA needs to help avoid bad coal investments is therefore well within reach.

TVA was founded to provide low cost power and social benefits to the Tennessee Valley. If the Authority is to live up to its founding principles and its continuing obligations, TVA should prioritize energy efficiency to move forward, and should leave behind the toxic, costly coal power plants that it has relied upon for too long.

Submitted by TN Healthy Energy Campaign  
For more information about the TN Healthy Energy Campaign: [www.tnclimateaction.net](http://www.tnclimateaction.net).

## Chickasaw Group Hosts Panel Discussion, Objects to Parkway

by Dennis Lynch, Chickasaw Group's Transportation Chair

The Chickasaw Group's August 23rd program meeting was a panel discussion about plans for the Shelby Farms Parkway.

We object to the plan for numerous reasons: the fact that key environmental issues have become known since the 2007 public meeting and the change from a "no trucks" agreement that was previously made with the Context Sensitive Advisory Team. (Sierra Club was a part of this team.) These issues include risks of intro-

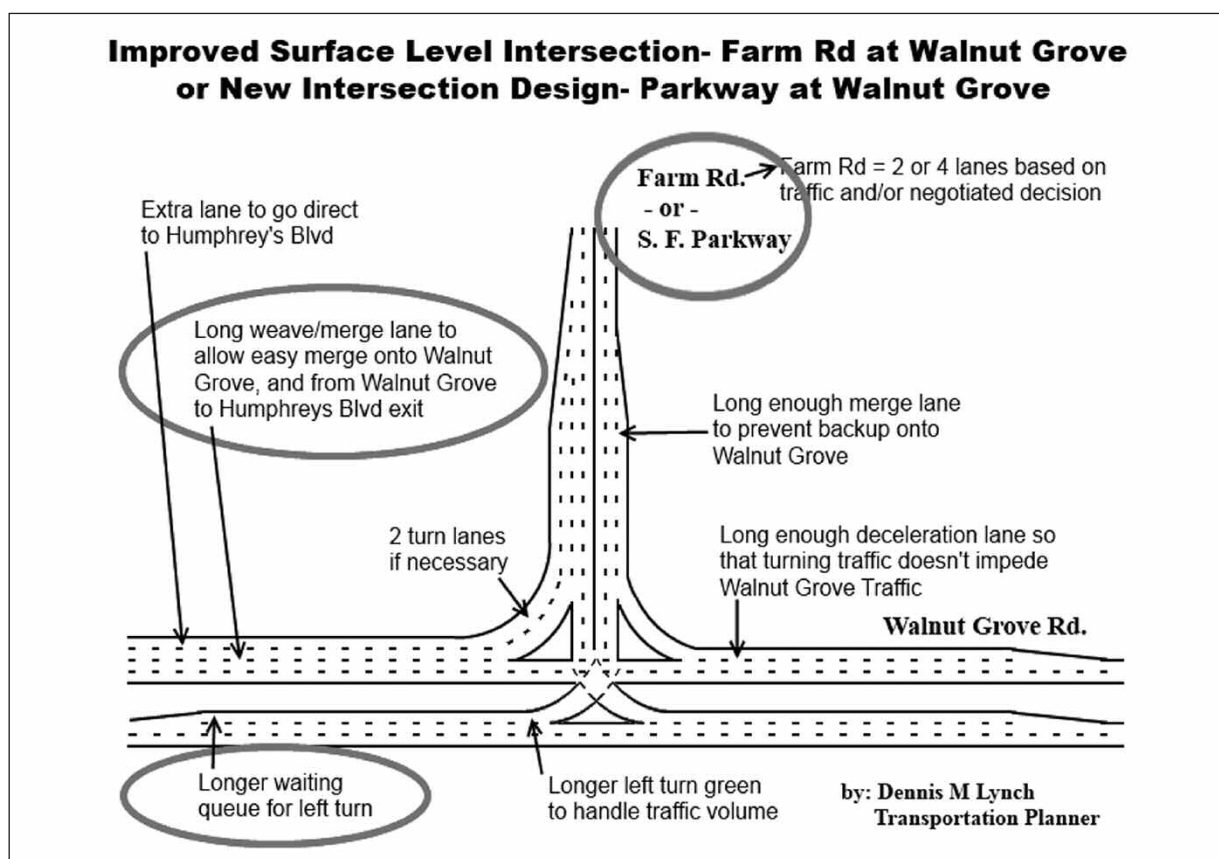
ducing pollution to the Memphis Aquifer (source of Memphis' great drinking water) and leaching of contaminants from an adjacent, but closed, landfill. We are pushing for a less impactful and less expensive alternative (diagram adjacent).

Since this road goes through a public park, the Chickasaw Group is recalling the legacy of the I-40-Overton-Park Supreme Court decision (in 1971), severely restricting the possibility to build a highway through a park.

Panelists who presented at the meeting were John Cameron (Director of Engineering for

Memphis), Laura Adams (Executive Director of the Shelby Farms Park Conservancy), Dennis Lynch (Transportation Chair for the Chickasaw Group), Brian Waldron (Director of the Ground Water Institute at the University of Memphis), and Gregg Elliott (a resident of the Shelby Place neighborhood just North of the Park). Their slide presentations and other information about the parkway can be found online at [goo.gl/x2o0q](http://goo.gl/x2o0q) (or use the adjacent QR code).

Nearly 90 individuals attended the meeting to hear about the issue. A robust Q&A period continued until the last possible moment before the library (our meeting location) closed. Some of the attendees are seen in the photo. Thanks to all who organized the meeting, and thanks to all who attended.



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# Tennes-Sierran

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

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to [gvanhorn26@gmail.com](mailto:gvanhorn26@gmail.com) either with embedded text messages, or attached files. Attached files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in Pages.
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  3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted: however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.
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  5. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Barbara Kelly, Communications Committee, [bk1rivers@comcast.net](mailto:bk1rivers@comcast.net).
- 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.**

**Target Date for  
January-February  
Issue is  
November 25, 2012.**

**All meetings and outings  
notices, articles and photo-  
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It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

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[gb1nature@aol.com](mailto:gb1nature@aol.com)  
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CCL Delegate: Brian Paddock (931) 276-1387  
[bpaddock@twlakes.net](mailto:bpaddock@twlakes.net)

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[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee)  
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Outings: Emily Marr Davis (423) 413-3038  
[emily.marr.davis@gmail.com](mailto:emily.marr.davis@gmail.com)

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[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw)  
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Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518  
[ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net)

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[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga)  
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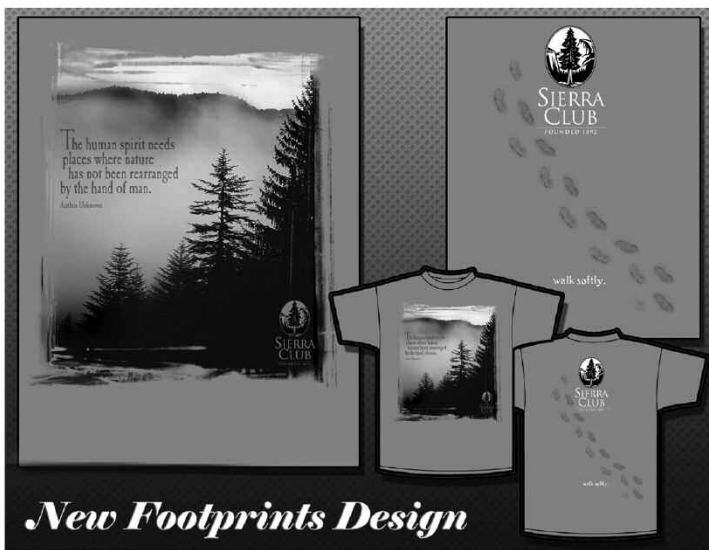
### National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:

Rita Harris, Field Organizer  
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757  
[rita.harris@sierraclub.org](mailto:rita.harris@sierraclub.org)

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

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# Summary: Economic Analysis of Alternative Programs for Managing Waste Coal in Central Appalachia

For decades, the coal industry in the central Appalachian region (Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia) mined coal and deposited the spoils in large piles, often in the holes left by mining operations or in nearby valleys and streambeds. Although nobody is sure of the exact amount, waste-coal piles in the central Appalachian region number in the tens of thousands and contain hundreds of millions of tons of coal refuse. In Pennsylvania alone there are over 8,500 waste-coal piles containing almost 300 million tons of waste-coal; estimates suggest 300 to 400 million tons of waste coal cover the landscape in West Virginia, and waste-coal is a problem in nearly every watershed in the coal-producing regions of Virginia. Toxins such as iron, manganese and aluminum can leach from these piles into nearby water and soil, endangering communities and the environment.

There are two general approaches to managing waste-coal piles. One is to burn the waste-coal piles in power plants to produce electricity. The other is to remediate the waste-coal piles using a variety of methods, such as planting with vegetation, re-shaping the piles, or moving the pile to a landfill to safely store the waste.

While the coal industry is pushing for new waste-coal plants to burn the piles, a recent study by ECONorthwest shows that the negative effects of burning waste-coal to generate electricity outweigh the positive effects generated from cleaning up the piles.

The direct costs of re-mining coal-waste piles to burn for electricity are between \$20,000 and \$40,000 per pile, but the major expenses come from waste-coal's air, water and climate pollution. Clean-up costs can be less than \$1,000 or reach \$40,000 at the highest end of the spectrum, depending on the type of remediation. The fact that there are fewer spillover costs associated with cleaning up the coal piles make remediation a far better economic choice.

Burning waste-coal creates significant air and global warming pollution. Since it takes nearly twice the amount of waste-coal to generate the same amount of energy as newly mined coal, emissions of soot, smog, mercury and carbon dioxide from waste-coal plants is very high. While the company would reap the profit

from burning the coal, the nearby communities would be paying with their health at an average cost of over \$10,000 per ton of pollution.

Burning waste-coal also leaves behind toxic waste. For every 100 tons of waste-coal that is burned, 85 tons remain as toxic ash and other solid waste. The costs of disposing of this toxic ash were illustrated dramatically following the recent Tennessee Valley Authority coal-ash spill, which released more than a billion gallons of coal ash and devastated more than 300 acres of land and stretches of the Emory and Clinch Rivers. The cost for the Tennessee cleanup could reach more than \$825 million. If federal regulations, such as those currently being discussed, are enacted, the coal industry estimates that coal ash disposal costs could rise \$5 billion a year, which could be passed on to ratepayers in higher electricity bills.

In addition to coal ash regulations, President Obama has promised to implement some sort of carbon regulations, which would put a price on the large amount of global warming pollution emitted by waste-coal plants. These regulations could raise electricity rates by at least 15% to 17%. The higher the cost of carbon, the higher electricity rates -some estimates expect rate increases of as much as 20% to 60%.

Burning waste-coal for electricity could not only raise rates, but could also hurt job prospects at a time when unemployment is already a major concern. Haze, water and other pollution will also damage the natural resources that account for about one-half of interstate differences in job growth, as well as discourage the boaters, anglers, hikers and sightseers who fuel the outdoor industry. Investing in new waste-coal power plants also takes money away from clean energy investments that could actually create more jobs than coal. Investments in biomass, wind and solar can create two times more jobs than investments in coal.

The negative spillover costs of burning waste-coal piles are far outweighed by positive the benefits of remediation. Not only is remediation more cost-effective, but it also improves air and water quality, while leaving the door open for more beneficial, cleaner energy investments that will not harm communities or the environment.

## Editor's Notes

Articles in the recent June 28 and July 4 issues of the *Chattanooga Times News Free Press* note that the new CEO of Exxon-Mobil, Rex Tillerson, had admitted that increasing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere will have a warming impact. That is a good sign from the head of a major company involved with energy.

The bad news is that he takes the stance that if we are concerned about predicted changes, then we don't know enough about math and science. Tillerson maintains that we have an engineering problem and that we will have an engineering solution. Hello Exxon — is anyone home?

Here are just a few problems that will not be solved by engineering solutions. It is well known that CO<sub>2</sub> is highly soluble in sea water and that concentrations have risen in the oceans. Carbon dioxide forms carbonic acid in water. Figures from NOAA indicate that in the past 200 years 525 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, or nearly half of the fossil fuel emissions during that period, have been absorbed. The world will produce more CO<sub>2</sub> and the oceans will become more acidic. We also know that increasingly acidic oceans are causing problems with coral reefs composed primarily of calcium carbonate. This is a mounting environmental disaster. Are we supposed to dump tons of bases into the oceans to offset the increased acidic conditions?

The increased global temperatures have caused thermal expansion in the oceans, resulting in higher sea levels. Increases of several inches have been recorded at various places around the world. Those living on low-lying islands in the South Pacific are rightly greatly alarmed. Closer to home, the rise in oceanic levels will cause hurricane damage to be more severe. Is the engineering solution to move cities inland?

The water vapor content in our atmosphere has increased by about 0.4 kilograms per square meter per decade since 1988, and natural variability alone can't explain this moisture change. This can be expected to cause increased snow and rainfall amounts in some areas. Changing patterns of wind, however, can bring drought to large areas. It does not appear that engineering will solve the problems of water in ways that we cannot now imagine.

There are many other problems that lack engineering solutions, such as the effects of changing climate on organisms. Animals and plants that live in the cooler regions of some mountainous regions are having their populations reduced as the mountains warm and the cooler area shrink. Some organisms are becoming endangered. Tropical diseases are expanding northward.

Tillerson also mentioned that risks relating to oil and gas drilling are well understood and can be mitigated. Is that correct? Do we know all the problems related to fracking? BP certainly did not take care of all the problems relating to their 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Oil flowed for three months and may be still seeping. Furthermore, we are still funding new problems relating to that spill. It would have had much more drastic consequences in the Arctic.

Exxon-Mobil made about \$137 billion in profits in 2012. Rex Tillerson's salary for 2011 was valued at \$25.2 million, a 17% increase from 2010. Let's see: \$25,200,000 divided by 365 days = \$69,041 per day. \$69,041 divided by 24 hours = \$2,877 per hour every hour of the year. It appears that Exxon-Mobil's upper-level executives are worried about the world's problems all the way to the bank.

Gene Van Horn



## CHAPTER MEETING

Cedars of Lebanon  
January 25, 26, & 27  
Hosted by the  
Harvey Broome Group

# Election Ballot of At-Large Delegates for the 2013-2014 Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee

Please vote below of the election of three (3) members to the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee, each having a two-year term of office beginning January, 2013. They will join our four other At-Large Delegates and Group Delegates in managing the fiscal, legislative, environmental, outings and other responsibilities for our Chapter.

The placement of nominees on the ballot and their statements, located below the ballot, has been randomly chosen.

If you are a "Paperless Subscriber" and have not received a paper Tennes-Sierran you still may vote! Print off the ballot, and follow the same instructions for sending your ballot in. If you do not know your Sierra membership number, you may contact Chapter Secretary Barbara Kelly, and she will provide you with your number: bk1rivers@comcast.net or 423-718-5009.

Joint Members use the same ballot.

**Ballots must be postmarked by Saturday, December 15, 2012, to be valid.**

Tennessee Chapter (Vote for no more than 3)	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Emily Marr Davis	_____	_____
Angela Garrone	_____	_____
Elizabeth Tallman	_____	_____
Gary Bowers	_____	_____
Katherine Pendleton	_____	_____

**Chapter members should vote for a maximum of three of the candidates.**

**Submit your Ballot:** Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write 'ballot' on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, write your Sierra membership number (found on the label of your Tennes-Sierran) in the upper left hand corner with your name and address. Envelopes without a Sierra membership number cannot be counted. Ballots must be postmarked no later than December 15, 2012.

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## Candidate Statements: (in random order)

### Emily Marr Davis

I had my formative outdoor experiences as a Girl Scout, enjoyed outdoor pursuits for years and eventually went on to earn a master's degree in outdoor education and to work as an outdoor professional. My enjoyment of the outdoors and outdoor adventure activities has always gone hand-in-hand with a desire to protect the environment and the places I've worked and played. I was born an activist but became formally involved in environmental action as an undergraduate student, and have continued to work for the Earth ever since. I strive to be a role model and teach others to care for and protect the planet we all share. I believe, as Stephen Jay Gould stated, "we cannot win this battle to save species and environments without forging an emotional bond between ourselves and nature as well - for we will not fight to save what we do not love." To this effect I serve as Outings Chairperson for the Cherokee Group, teach wilderness ethics to outdoor leaders as a Leave No Trace Master Educator, and take every opportunity available to go outside and to share the outdoors with others paddling, hiking, backpacking, biking and foraging. I have served this year as a Group Delegate to the Chapter ExCom, and would be honored to expand my focus to that of the Chapter At-Large.

### Angela Garrone

Angela Garrone says, "If elected, I would be delighted to join the Chapter Excom to further the Chapter's environmental goals." She recently joined Southern Alliance for Clean Energy in Knoxville as an attorney to work on coal retirement issues in the TVA area and on new renewable energy projects. She previously worked with the Solar Electric Power Association in Washington, D.C., after finishing a year-long legal intern position at the Environmental Protection Agency's headquarters. She completed a year in George Washington University's Energy and Environmental Law L.L.M. program and is finishing her thesis on distributed generation regulations and microgrid implementation. Angela graduated cum laude from Pace University Law School, with a Certificate in Environmental Law. She participated in Pace's Environmental Litigation Clinic, where she helped represent Riverkeeper in an administrative challenge to Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant's Clean Water Act permits. Angela was also a member of the Pace International Law Review and an article writer for Greenlaw, the environmental law program's bulletin. Angela has recently been appointed Vice-Chair of State Regulatory Issues in the Energy and Natural Resources Market Regulation Committee of the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy and Resources. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Memphis, with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy- and is a proud native Memphian.

### Elizabeth Tallman:

I've greatly enjoyed my previous service in the Sierra Club as the Cherokee Group's Chair, during which I was also a group delegate to the Chapter's ExCom. More recently, I've been using my knowledge from my M.S. degree in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management and my professional experience as the Development Director of the Bethlehem Community Center, where I write grants and do fundraising, as a member of the Chapter's Fund Raising Committee. I am so grateful for all the amazing volunteers at both the Group and Chapter levels; the Sierra Club is a team and we share our ideas, support, and participation in order to make our communities safer, healthier, and cleaner places to live. My goal is to facilitate collaboration, initiate action, and be a representative for Sierra members and communities across the state at the Chapter level. As a mother and a lover of Tennessee, I am passionate about preserving our land in the healthiest way possible for my future grandchildren. I would be honored to serve you in this capacity.

### Gary Bowers

Gary is committed to insuring that everyone has an opportunity to experience nature and the natural wonders of the world. He has lived that commitment for the past 27 years working diligently to protect our planet. Gary has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1984, and has been actively engaged in conservation work since the mid-80's. As part of his commitment, Gary strives to be well informed about the current threats to our environment. He strongly believes that we are at a critical crossroads in the areas of energy conservation/alternative energy generation and local/organic (non-genetically engineered) food production, and that these two very important issues should continue to be key focus areas of the TN Chapter.

As Chapter Conservation Chair, Gary worked with the TN Chapter Executive Committee following the Sierra Summit in 2005 to align the Chapter's conservation committees with the Club's national conservation campaign priorities: Energy, Wild Legacies, and Safe & Healthy Communities. A Super Committee structure was created paralleling the three national priorities. A Super Committee chair was assigned to each, and Chapter conservation committees were placed under their respective Super Committee. Each committee is tasked with:

- developing an annual mission statement and goals
- submitting quarterly reports prior to each Chapter meeting
- submitting a year-end evaluation of their efforts during the year

This alignment has proven to be very successful and provides the opportunity for synergy between the Chapter and national Sierra initiatives.

Gary appreciates your vote to enable him to continue his work on the TN Chapter Executive Committee.

### Gary's major accomplishments are recapped below:

- Sierra Club - TN Chapter Executive Committee 1998 - 2012 (At-Large Delegate 2001-2002, 2005-2012)
- Sierra Club - TN Chapter Conservation Chair 1998 - 2012
- Sierra Club - TN Chapter - Creation of Chapter Super Committee structure - 2006
- 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 thru 2010
- 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

### Katherine Pendleton

My name is Katherine Pendleton. I am an assistant professor in the Division of Nursing at Tennessee State University. I have a doctorate in nursing administration and a post-doctorate certificate in academic nursing education from Samford University in Birmingham, AL. I am asking you to re-elect me as a delegate-at-large to the Tennessee Chapter. As your chapter chair for the last 6 years, I have worked diligently to promote positive change and build communication in our chapter. The Cherokee Group was re-organized under my leadership. I have kept in close contact with our groups, making regular visits. Aside from serving as 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 represented our chapter at the annual CCL meetings in San Francisco as the CCL delegate in 2009 and 2010. I became involved with the Sierra Club as an outings leader and progressed through the "ranks," serving in various positions at the group level before becoming active with the chapter. I am well acquainted with Sierra Club policies having served on 4 national committees and having attended numerous training sessions at the national Club headquarters in San Francisco. My main goal in being involved with our chapter is to promote teamwork. As an at-large-delegate, I will consider the opinions of all members of our chapter. I will be sure that you are represented and I will strive to serve you well.



# Harvey Broome Group Election Ballot

## Election Ballot for HARVEY BROOME GROUP Executive Committee Candidates for the 2013-2014 term

**Harvey Broome Group  
(Vote for no more than 6)**

**Single Member or  
First Joint Member**

**Second Joint  
Member**

Barbara Allen \_\_\_\_\_

Rob Davis \_\_\_\_\_

Robert (Robin) M. Hill \_\_\_\_\_

Bob Perlack \_\_\_\_\_

David Reister \_\_\_\_\_

Will Skelton \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit your Ballot:** Only current members may vote. Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write "ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, write your Sierra membership number (found on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) in the upper left hand corner with your name and address.

IF you receive your Tennes-Sierran electronically and need your membership number, you may contact your group membership chairs David Reister at dreister@bellsouth.net or Ron Shrieves at ronaldshrieves@comcast.net. Print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number cannot be counted.**

**Mail by close of business on December 3, 2012.**

**Mail to: Ron Shrieves  
7812 Ember Crest Trail  
Knoxville, TN 37938**

### Candidate Statements: (alphabetically)

#### 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 serve on the Cherokee Forest Voices board. I am an avid backpacker and hiker and also enjoy canoeing and bicycling. I have served on the HBG ExCom for several years, as group secretary, treasurer, and chapter delegate; held the position of group chair for one term; and currently serve as a member of the Group ExCom. I have been an outings leader for the HBG as well as the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, where I also served as secretary. Interests are hiking, backpacking, riding my bike, canoeing and of course reading and enjoying Americana music. I recently completed a through-hike of the Appalachian Trail where I was able to do some environmental education along the way.

#### Rob Davis

I returned to east Tennessee in 2007 after a 29-year absence. Since then I have joined the Sierra Club, Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, Wilderness Society, and AT Conservancy. For the last 4 years, I have adopted/maintained a trail and campsite in the Smokies. My first backpacking experience was in the Smokies during high school - back when the shelter bunks were chicken wire rather than plywood. I will complete my Smokies trail map with one more overnight trip. I also enjoy flat-water canoeing.

While in middle TN, I was a long-time member of the Friends of South Cumberland State Park where I introduced my sons to backpacking. I also volunteered extensively with Habitat for Humanity of Sumner County both in home construction and by serving on the board of directors for 7 years including terms as secretary and treasurer.

My most notable outdoor accomplishment was not getting separated from the group on a recent "Will Skelton trip". That put me in the top 50% of the crew since Dr. Shrieves was misplaced for 5 days and Dr. Finger for 1 day.

#### Robert (Robin) M. Hill, P. E.

I have been a resident of Knoxville and Farragut for 58 years since moving here in January 1954. My wife and I joined the Sierra Club in 1987. I have taken an active interest in Executive Committee (ExCom) activities for the past 10 years. I was first elected to HBG ExCom in 2009. I am currently serving as Chair of HBG. I am running for re-election to the Harvey Broome Group ExCom for the term beginning Jan. 1, 2013.

The Sierra Club is unique as the only national environmental organization with a local level (grassroots) focus. HBG has approximately 1,500 members in the its area and of those, not more than 30 members are active. I want to continue to work with the ExCom members to get more members active and interested in the many local environmental issues 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 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 retired as Chairman of that organization in May 2010 after 17 years in that position. I also served for five years on the Farragut Storm Water Advisory Committee and retired from that committee in July 2010.

I would appreciate your vote for my reelection to HBG ExCom.

#### Bob Perlack

I am recently retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Environmental Sciences Division) after 31 years where I worked as a natural resource economist and energy analyst. I've been a member of the Sierra Club since the early 1980's. I have been a member of the HBG Executive Committee for about two years, and also served as treasurer of the HBG, and look forward to continuing in that capacity. In addition, I currently co-lead a number of HBG outings with my wife.

#### David Reister

I received a Ph.D. in Engineering Science from Cal-Berkeley in 1969. I was a Professor at the University of Buffalo from 1968 to 1974, before coming to Oak Ridge to work at the Institute for Energy Analysis in 1974. From 1985 to 2012, I was at ORNL. I have been a member of Sierra Club since 1970. I am active in the Harvey Broome Group and the in National Sierra Club. My principal activities and interests with Sierra Club have focused on energy impacts on the environment, transportation, and TVA.

#### Will Skelton

I am a retired Knoxville attorney with Bass, Berry & Sims, PLC, a prior chair of the Harvey Broome Group and Tennessee Chapter and longtime Sierra Club outings leader. I led wilderness campaigns in the 1980's that resulted in existing wilderness areas in Cherokee National Forest and I was editor of Cherokee National Forest Hiking Guide published by UT Press. I was Chair of Knoxville Greenways Commission 1992-2006 when most existing greenways were built. I am currently on the Board of Legacy Parks Foundation, TN Parks & Greenways Foundation, Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, and Knoxville Track Club. My personal interests include world travel, backpacking, running, vegetarian cooking, reading, photography, theater and arts.

## Looking for a Worthy Investment with Far Reaching Rewards?

NASHVILLE ICO serves many underprivileged kids in our community. We have enthusiastic, highly qualified Inner City Outing (ICO) leaders eager to get kids outdoors. We have established relationships with the agencies we serve. What we need to continue our mission? Money, naturally.

Here's a brief update on our year to date and what it costs to do all that we do:

The week of spring break we conducted five hikes in four days with the following groups: The After School Program (TAP), Coleman Community Center, Hadley Community Center, Easley Community Center and Venture Crew scouts. Our dedicated leaders took kids exploring at Shelby Bottoms, Owl's Hill, Radnor Lake and Beaman Park that week. Cost? Gas for transportation.

June 22 six ICO leaders met the TAP group at Beaman Park to let the kids cool off in and explore Henry's Creek. At the end of the outing, Craig Jervis and Clay Hardy, ICO co-chairs, served forty-five happy kids watermelon, fresh fruit and granola bars.

Cost? Craig and Clay donated the food out-of-

pocket; gas for transportation.

June 30, five ICO leaders took twelve teens and chaperones from Boys and Girls Club paddling on the Harpeth River. Cost? \$164/canoe rental; gas for transportation.

July 11 four ICO leaders paddled the Duck River with Generation Connection Camp, twenty-eight children and adults. Cost? \$340/canoe rental, \$16/watermelon, Mad Platter donated a feast for lunch, gas for transportation.

Mandatory Red Cross certification for outings leaders. Cost? \$70/person biennially.

Mandatory Basic Water Safety certification (in order to conduct water outings):

Cost? \$40 (note almost all ICO leaders who got certified this year paid this out-of-pocket).

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND ENVISION FUTURE PROPOSED OUTINGS

MONTGOMERY BELL OVERNIGHT CAMPING

Estimated cost\* for 15 kids/chaperones: \$750 MAMMOTH CAVE (Remember, our closest national park)

Estimated cost\* for 15 kids/chaperones: \$350.

CUMBERLAND CAVERNS

Estimated cost\* for 15 kids/chaperones: \$530. \*Includes price of admission, meals, transportation expense

Here's where you can help. YOU can be a part of this and share in the joys this program offers by becoming a certified ICO leader yourself OR you can help us with a financial contribution.

For a tax deductible donation make check payable to Sierra Club Foundation with Inner City Outings on the "For" line.

For donations not requiring tax deductible status, make check payable to Inner City Outings.

Mail to:

Michael Varnell

Treasurer ICO

7001 Stroop Lane

Murfreesboro, TN 37129

**If you are interested in ICO certification contact me: Joy Mayfield (615-851-1192) or joy.mayfield@comcast.net**

# Chickasaw Group (CKG) Referendum Ballot

## On Resolution to Reduce Executive Committee Size

The Chickasaw Group Executive Committee resolves to modify the Chickasaw Group Bylaws to reduce the number of Group Executive Committee members from thirteen (13) to seven (7). This reduction shall take place in the following manner and using the following timeline.

1. Chickasaw Group ExCom vote: Sep. 11, 2012 Executive Committee meeting.
2. Tennessee Chapter vote to approve: Oct 21, 2012 Chapter Executive Committee meeting.
3. **Chickasaw Group member vote: Nov/Dec 2012 Tennes-Sierran with ballot below.**

Reduction will occur as follows:

Only four (4) candidates were identified to fill eight (8) vacancies that exist at the end of the 2012. One (1) vacancy exists in the two-year term ending in 2013 and seven (7) in the two-year term ending in 2014.

The five (5) Chickasaw Group Executive Committee members currently fulfilling their term ending in 2013 will complete their term, but only three (3) vacancies will exist at the end of the 2013. In the fall of 2013 three (3) candidates will be elected to serve a two-year term ending in 2015. In the fall of 2014 four (4) candidates will be elected to serve a two-year term ending in 2016.

The Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee approved this resolution by unanimous voice vote at its meeting Oct. 21, 2012.

*As noted in the text of the resolution immediately above, this resolution must be approved by a majority of Chickasaw Group members voting in this referendum, because it is a bylaws change.*

### Chickasaw Group Referendum Ballot on Reducing Executive Committee Size

Please vote Yes or No on the resolution presented above, "Resolution to Reduce Executive Committee Size."

Chickasaw Group Referendum	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
YES	_____	_____
NO	_____	_____

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. If you receive your newsletter electronically and need your membership number, contact the group membership chairs, Keith Hoover at hooverkw@yahoo.com or Don Richardson at donrich@juno.com. Print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

**ENVELOPES WITHOUT A MEMBERSHIP NUMBER CANNOT BE COUNTED.**  
**Your ballot must be received by 15 December 2012.**

**Mail your ballot to:**           **ATTN: Bylaws Committee**  
**Chickasaw Group, Sierra Club**  
**P O Box 111094**  
**Memphis, TN 38111**

## Chickasaw Group Ballot

### Chickasaw Group Ballot

Please vote for no more than four (4) of the following candidates.

	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Scott Banbury	_____	_____
Adam Guerrero	_____	_____
Barbara Schroeder	_____	_____
Charles White	_____	_____

**Submit Your Ballot:** To assure privacy, place your ballot in a plain unmarked envelope, then place in another envelope. Your return address must include your Sierra membership number.

Your membership number is found on the mailing label, but if you receive your newsletter electronically and need your membership number, contact the group membership chairs, Keith Hoover at hooverkw@yahoo.com or Don Richardson at donrich@juno.com; print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

**Envelopes without a Sierra membership number cannot be counted.**

**Your ballot must be received by December 15, 2012.**

**Mail your ballot to:**           **ATTN: Election Committee**  
**Chickasaw Group, Sierra Club**  
**P.O. Box 111094**  
**Memphis, TN 38111**

### Candidate Statements: (alphabetically)

#### Scott Banbury

I've been engaged in environmental and social justice activism for over 25 years, ranging from ecosystem protection to environmental justice, and all related issues in between. I make my living building furniture, cabinetry and other custom woodwork using lumber I recover from fallen urban trees with my own sawmill. My wife, Amy, is a Certified Professional Midwife, and my children, Brighid and Kade, are up and coming world changers. The adage that guides my life, and is responsible for the wide range of issues I've engaged in, is "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." I'm currently serving on the Chickasaw ExCom and represent the Group as Conservation Chair.

#### Adam Guerrero

Adam Guerrero has lived in Memphis for 12 years. He considers himself on a quest for self-sufficiency through environmental activity. His lifestyle includes: Urban Agriculture, Natural Beekeeping, Biodiesel Production from Restaurant Waste Vegetable Oil, At Home Soapmaking, Wine Production, etc. all of which he teaches to students in his neighborhood. He focuses his community efforts in the North Memphis area. Any further interest or clarity can be found through a Google search!

#### Barbara Schroeder

Hello everyone! My name is Barbara Schroeder, but everyone calls me Bee. I moved to Memphis about 5 years ago and since have been active as a volunteer not only with the Sierra Club but also with organizations like GrowMemphis, ADAPT, and the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center. I am a student of Krav Maga, and currently live in a co-operative home with a dozen young people learning ways to better our lives with as little negative impact on our environment as possible. My experience volunteering with the Sierra Club at Bonnaroo highlighted ways that I could reach more young people and show them how to join the fight to protect our environment. I believe that the way we treat our Earth directly affects our ability to live in peace and preserve a world worthy of our children.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you in our efforts to keep our planet beautiful, healthy, and functional. Thank you!

#### Charles White

Charles White is a Tennessee native who has always been interested in leaving the world a better place than he found it. His true introduction to the environmental movement came from attending a Students for Environmental Action (SEA) meeting at MTSU in 2009. After a series of awesome events, he decided he was going to dedicate his life to this important work. The Beehive Collective did a presentation at MTSU of "The True Cost of Coal," an epic illustration about mountaintop removal (MTR). He then attended the 2010 Tennessee Alumni & Students for Sustainable Campuses, or TASSC, Winter Summit where in addition to learning basic organizing skills he discovered that people were sitting in trees next to active mine sites to halt blasting. This inspired him to attend the 2010 Mountain Justice Summer Camp in Kentucky with a contingent from MTSU. There he saw MTR in person, and had an amazing, inspirational experience being surrounded by intelligent and dedicated folks who were truly organizing for a better planet! The rest is history. Charles has stayed closely involved with Mountain Justice, SEA, and TASSC as well as making connections with many other groups doing great work in Tennessee and the Southeast. Charles states one of his primary goals as coalition building based in solidarity and mutual aid in order to create long-standing, resilient connections between all aspects of the global movement for justice.

## Cherokee Group ExCom Election Ballot

Please vote below for the election of five (5) members to the Cherokee Group Executive Committee, each having a two-year term of office beginning in January, 2013. They will join our other ExCom members in guiding our Group's activities.

Your ballot must be postmarked no later than Saturday, December 15, 2012 to be valid.

<b>Cherokee Group (Vote for no more than 5)</b>	<b>Single Member or First Joint Member</b>	<b>Second Joint Member</b>
Sheryl Campbell	_____	_____
Phillip Davis	_____	_____
John Doyal	_____	_____
Barbara Kelly	_____	_____
Andy Williams	_____	_____

**Submit Your Ballot:** Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write "ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, write your Sierra membership number (found on the label of your Tennes-Sierran) in the upper left hand corner with your name and address.

If you receive your newsletter electronically and need your membership number, please contact our group Secretary, Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com. Print off your ballot, and follow the instructions above.

**Mail your combined envelopes to: Emily Marr Davis, Elections Committee, 116 Hays Street, Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742.  
Must be postmarked no later than December 15, 2012 to be valid.**

### Meet Our Candidates: (alphabetically)

#### Sheryl Campbell

Sheryl is an active Outings Leader for the Cherokee Group; her favorite place to hike and backpack is in the Cherokee National Forest; hikes with her are always informative and fun. She is active in monitoring the forests locally, especially old growth forest, and has created the Heartwood local chapter and the annual Heartwood Music Festival. She believes that battling climate change also involves protecting our forests to maximize their role in carbon storage, cooling, hydrating soil building, and weather generation. She is also involved in efforts to protect the Cherokee National Forest and extend wilderness acreage within it.

#### Phillip Davis

Phillip is an outdoor enthusiast and professional outdoor educator at MTSU who hikes, paddles and climbs in the area around Chattanooga. His work as a professional in the outdoor industry has given him both hands on experience in the places that the Sierra Club seeks to protect and understanding of how people interact with those places. He believes passionately in the protection and preservation of our historical and environmental heritage and works to educate his students about the need for greater protection of our natural resources.

#### John Doyal

John has been a member since 1981. During this time his enthusiasm for the preservation of wilderness has not flagged. Long concerned about wildlife, John has served on the Sierra Club's National Wildlife and Endangered Species Committee. He is active in the current work to increase wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest, and to prevent oil and gas leasing in the Arctic Refuge in Alaska. He is serving as the Group's Vice-Chair and Program Chair.

#### Barbara Kelly

Barbara is currently active in our Climate Action campaign, which she believes is a great way to think globally and act locally, starting right in your own home. She is willing to work behind the scenes on things like mailing lists and the Group newsletter, and says she enjoys learning new things all the time at our Program meetings. At the Chapter level, she is serving as Communications Chair.

#### Andy Williams

A native of this area, Andy became active in the Sierra Club through Green Events. He is passionate about the need to work for and protect our air, water and land for ourselves and for future generations. He has been in property management for 20+ years, working for Freeman Webb of Nashville. He has been increasingly active in the Club's Climate Action Campaign in Chattanooga.

## Watauga Group ExCom Ballot

### Watauga Group ExCom Ballot

**Vote for five Watauga Group ExCom election candidates:**

<b>Watauga Group (Vote for no more than 5)</b>	<b>Single Member or First Joint Member</b>	<b>Second Joint Member</b>
Bob Carlough	_____	_____
Gloria Griffith	_____	_____
Dennis Shekinah	_____	_____
Carol Walker	_____	_____
Lyn Walker	_____	_____
Dean Whitworth	_____	_____

**Election Ballots must be received by Rita Cowan no later than Monday, Dec. 10th.**

**Mail ballots to:**  
**Rita Cowan**  
**WG Election Committee**  
**900 Mining Town Road**  
**Mountain City, TN 37683**

**For your vote to count:** Place your Sierra Club membership on outside envelope with your return address. (Note: Your number is located on the newspaper mailing label. If you receive your newsletter electronically and do not have your number, contact Rita Cowan at rcowanm@yahoo.com, and print out the ballot.) Place your ballot in a sealed envelope, within the outside envelope. Envelopes without a membership number cannot be counted.

**Election Committee counts valid ballots and notifies candidates, WG ExCom, and other interested parties of election results on:**

**Tuesday DEC 11th 2012  
Time: 6:00 PM**

**Place: 900 Mining Town Rd., Mountain City, TN 37683**



# Middle Tennessee Group Ballot

## Middle Tennessee Group Ballot

**Middle TN Group  
(Vote for no more than 4)**

**Single Member or  
First Joint Member**

**Second Joint  
Member**

Lauren Gearhardt \_\_\_\_\_

Betsy Garber \_\_\_\_\_

Scott Heflinger \_\_\_\_\_

Cliff Cockerham \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT, you must:**

1. Enclose your marked ballot in a smaller envelope marked "Ballot" on the outside;
2. Place that envelope inside another envelope for mailing; and
3. Write your membership number, which can be found on the address label of your newsletter or on your membership card, on the outer envelope with your return address.
4. If you receive your newsletter electronically and do not have your membership number, contact either Betsy Garber at garberb@hotmail.com or Sarah Tilney at kitten4@comcast.net to receive your number. Print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.
5. **ENVELOPES WITHOUT A MEMBERSHIP NUMBER CANNOT BE COUNTED.**

**Your ballot must be received by December 15, 2012.**

**Mail your ballot to:**

**Joel Gearhardt  
1019 Brixworth Dr.  
Thompson's Station, TN 37179**

### Candidate Statements: (alphabetically)

**Cliff Cockerham**

Cliff first started working on environmental issues in 1973 when the legislature appointed him to the Environmental Management Council of Central Upstate New York as an advocate for beverage container legislation and glass recycling programs. Since then he worked on a wide range of environmental education programs, conservation issues, & ecological studies at Cornell University, Georgetown University, Emory University, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and Ponape Agriculture & Trade School in Micronesia. In 1979, Cliff was an NGO observer at the UN Conference on Trade and Development in Manila. In 1980, Cliff served as convener for the DC-based NGO response to U.S. policies elaborated at the UN Conference on Energy in Nairobi. Serving on the TN Chapter Excom as a representative from MTG, Cliff revived and continues to chair the Chapter Environmental Education Committee, which now has a network of Sierra Club representatives on Tennessee college campuses, who are poised to work with incoming freshman with backgrounds serving in the Sierra Student Coalition during high school in Middle Tennessee. In Nashville Cliff works closely with Joy Mayfield, who chairs the MTG Environmental Education Committee, while he simultaneously serves as MTG liaison with the Sierra Student Coalition. Cliff also organized & created the Water Sentinels Student Project, which engages high school students in monitoring local water quality in TN streams and creeks.

Taken together over the last 3 years, these effort have led to: 15 scholarships for Middle Tennessee students representing Tennessee at the Sierra Club's national environmental youth leadership program; 12 Middle Tennessee students representing Tennessee at the Sierra Club's Powershift Conference in DC; and 2 Middle Tennessee students representing the youth perspective at the Green Jobs Conference of the Blue-Green Alliance in Atlanta. These students, upon their return to Nashville, have gone on to recruit and engage fellow students on a wide range of environmental education, service, and research projects that have garnered media attention, impacted legislative debate, and won awards for individual student efforts. Describing one of the overarching themes of this environmental work, Cliff explained: "All our efforts for the greater good are important, but if we fail to get a handle on climate change, nothing else will matter. For that reason, I hope you'll vote for me to continue serving on the Middle TN Group Executive Committee and as an MTG delegate to the TN Chapter Executive Committee, advocating for & facilitating youth engagement in Sierra Club initiatives. Together we can make a difference in what tomorrow will bring, but only if we start today."

**Betsy Garber**

Betsy Garber has been a member of the Middle Tennessee Group for approximately 16 years. Her first position was Volunteer Coordinator of the recycling site where she met her cute husband, Steve. She started an e-mail list with bi-monthly postings of hikes, programs, and environmental action requests, which thankfully, is now more competently handled by Sarah! She then became Membership Chair, and started mailing welcome letters to new members, which thankfully, is now more competently handled by Carol! Betsy is a certified hike leader with the Nashville Inner City Outings Group. She has enjoyed working with MTG's Conservation Chair, Scott Heflinger, and Chapter Education Committee Chair Cliff Cockerham in her current position as Chair of the Middle Tennessee Group. She would like the opportunity to serve on the executive committee to help shape the continuation and expansion of current programs, and the direction of our environmental efforts in the Nashville and Middle Tennessee area.

**Lauren Gearhardt**

Lauren Gearhardt, 15, a Williamson County High School Sophomore, is a South Florida native but has called beautiful Middle Tennessee home for the past five years. Miss Gearhardt, though younger than the typical candidate for such a position, boasts experience and dedication well beyond her years. Both an honor student and a passionate advocate for the environment and its inhabitants, she maintains a healthy balance between her studies and other commitments. She served as Recycling Chair for MTG and she is an active member of TennYEN (Tennessee Youth Environmental Network), serving as the Williamson County Coordinator for that organization. Miss Gearhardt aspires to become an Engineer, though she hasn't made a firm decision whether her focus will be Structural or Mechanical--possibly both! The recipient of numerous awards and accolades for academics and service to the community, Miss Gearhardt understands what it takes to get the job done. A talented artist, she spends her free time with her nose in her sketch book, tending to her horses, enjoying the outdoors or simply spending time with friends & family.

Miss Gearhardt has a deep appreciation for the natural world and works diligently to preserve and protect it--now and for a lifetime to come. She will bring a refreshing perspective to the MTG Executive Committee.

**Scott Heflinger**

Scott is currently serving his first term on the Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee and is the current MTG Conservation Chair. Scott is a licensed professional engineer with a BS in Civil Engineering and an MS in Environmental Engineering. He started his career working for the State of Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control, then moved to the consulting world assisting clients with pollution control projects involving water, wastewater, solid waste, air, wetlands, and storm water. He is a strong believer in wildlife protection, renewable energy, recycling, and global sustainability. Scott and his wife have been members of the Sierra Club for over 12 years and have been long-time supporters of many wildlife, environmental and conservation organizations



**NASHVILLE ICO** serves many underprivileged kids in our community. If you are interested in ICO certification contact me: Joy Mayfield (615-851-1192) or joy.mayfield@comcast.net

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and Go Paperless Today!**



# Meetings

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

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

**Strategy Meetings: Nov. 12 and December 10 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6 P.M. NEW LOCATION -- WE'VE MOVED!** Our Strategy Meeting is now held downtown, at Second Presbyterian Church in their excellent meeting room! Second Presbyterian is located at the corner of E. 7th Street and Pine, 700 Pine Street - parking is free at their Pine Street lot, across the street from the church, next to the old Blue Cross (orange) building. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome -- this is where and when we plan our actions! Come add your ideas and share your concerns. To place an item on the agenda, contact Chair Davis Mounger at 423-877-4616 or wdmounger@yahoo.com, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

**November Program: Last Monday, November 26, 7 P.M. at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: Outdoor Chattanooga!** Ruth Thompson will speak to us about Chattanooga Outdoors, a Chattanooga City initiative whose mission is to make outdoor recreation an attractive, healthy and distinguishing lifestyle for both residents and visitors to the area, which in turn will maintain and enhance the value of the region's natural and built resources and help grow the economy. Their LEED Gold certified building in Coolidge Park, with their facility at Greenway Farms, give them a great base from which they lead canoeing and kayak trips, host bicycle programs, rock climbing and team building as well as classes, seminars and outdoor club meetings. Come hear the latest about their many activities and programs.

The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Plenty of parking -- take the first left at the corner (just past GreenSpaces) and there's plenty of parking at a public lot.

**New Year Party, Covered Dish Get-Together: January 6, 5 P.M. at the home of Bill and Barbara Hurst, on Signal Mountain. No program is held in December** -we gather for our annual covered-dish party at Barbara and Bill's just after the new year begins. Bring a covered dish to share, and a friend or two that you'd like to introduce to environmental concerns. We'll have fun, socialize and talk about our goals for the new year. Call Barbara for directions - 423-886-9503; best to get directions from her, the GPS services are incorrect and will steer you far away to a non-existent road and you'll miss dinner!

*Note: Our Program Meetings continue to be held at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, which is a non-descript storefront building with little-to-no signage -- it is the last on the left in the first block off Market Street. It is kiddy-corner from the Fire Department across the street. Look for the Sierra Club banner!*

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**THURSDAY, November 1, 5:30 P.M. Monthly First Thursday Gathering Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN** Sierra Club members, activists, and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. First Thursday contact: Mark Plumlee at mark.chickasaw@gmail.com or 901-679-4622.

**SATURDAY, November 3, 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Sierra Club's Environmental Conference: "Community Health & Safety: A Human Right Lindenwood Christian Church, 2400 Union Avenue, Memphis, TN** Come join us for a day of fellowship, learning and fun at the Sierra Club's 11th annual grassroots environmental conference in Memphis. This is the only community environmental conference totally focused on providing easy-to-understand information and an opportunity to network with expert speakers and activists. Two ses-

sions with a choice of up to four workshops per session on various environmental topics will precede the keynote address. The topics include youth activism, extreme weather, clean energy solutions, secrecy around nuclear facilities, weatherizing, pollution-causing health problems, and more. The keynote speaker is the Climate Justice Initiative Director for the national NAACP, Jacqueline Patterson, of Baltimore, MD.

Free conference registration and lunch will be available for registered participants. Register before the deadline of October 26th by e-mailing rita.harris@sierraclub.org; for more information or questions, please call 901-324-7757.

**TUESDAY, November 13, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Strategy Meeting Contact Sue A. Williams for location information.** The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. This is a business meeting where members are welcome to attend. Come and see exactly what we are planning. If you have an issue which you would like to see discussed, agenda items must be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to the Executive Committee Chair Sue A. Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524.

**THURSDAY, November 15, 5:30 P.M. Meet & Greet & Snacks with a 6:00 P.M. Movie. Movie Night : "Fracking" (Tentatively scheduled) Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN** Watch Facebook and our web page for more information. Programs contact: Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or 901-413-3888.

**THURSDAY, December 6, 5:30 P.M. Monthly First Thursday Gathering Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN** Sierra Club members, activists, and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. First Thursday contact: Mark Plumlee at mark.chickasaw@gmail.com or 901-679-4622.

**TUESDAY, December 11, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Strategy Meeting Contact Sue A. Williams for location information.** The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month. This is a business meeting where members are welcome to attend. Come and see exactly what we are planning. If you have an issue which you would like to see discussed, agenda items must be submitted at least 5 days before the meeting to the Executive Committee Chair Sue A. Williams at z4cmv@juno.com or 901-274-0524.

**FRIDAY, December 14, 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Chickasaw Group Holiday Party Burch, Porter & Johnson Law Offices, 130 N. Court Avenue, Memphis, TN** (Located across the street from the northeast corner of Court Square.) Please bring a dish to share. This event is open to Sierra Club members and our guests. Adult beverages will be available for a donation. For additional information, contact Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or 901-413-3888.

**NOTE: For more details, additional events, and updates, see our website and Facebook page.**

**Sierra Club Chickasaw Group is now on Facebook:**

<http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

This is a forum for public discussion, so please feel free to post comments, raise issues, and express environmental concerns. Updates and details about upcoming events are posted here.

**"Nature of Conservation" Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Cable TV Show on WYPL-TV 18 (Comcast/Xfinity) and Online at Vimeo:**

Days and times vary -- see <http://www.memphis-library.org/tlc18/schedule/> (or the Comcast/Xfinity on-screen guide) for the latest schedule. Topic changes every month. For more information, or if anyone has an idea for a future program, contact Judith Rutschman at judithrutschman@gmail.com or (901) 767-5916. Previous programs are now available online at: <http://vimeo.com/user10896810>

Chickasaw Group members: 2013 Sierra Club calendars are now available from the Juliet or Ed Jones, 901-374-0582 in East Memphis and Jill Johnston, 901-278-2713 in Midtown.

Calendars are also available at program meetings and at the Dec. 14 Holiday Party.

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**October 9, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville Wilderness Whitewater Paddling in East Tennessee** Kirk Eddlemon, American Whitewater

We will have an in-depth look at the wilderness experiences that can be gained through paddling whitewater creeks and rivers in our region. The different paddling areas surrounding Knoxville will be discussed, with standout rivers receiving further attention. The psyche of the wilderness whitewater paddler will also be examined as well as a few river stories from the annals of local paddling lore.

Kirk is writing a guidebook for the southeastern paddling region with a co-author in Asheville. This book will be available in time for Christmas. <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Photo/detail/photo/14877/size/big/>

**November 13, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville Eco Songs: Promoting Sustainability Through the Arts** Clifton and Bettye Ware, Visiting UT School of Music Professors

Eco Songs is a unique 45-minute presentation, created by Clifton and Bettye Ware in 2010, that will be performed at the Tuesday, November 13th Sierra Club meeting. The work features 13 songs in a variety of styles, all supported by relevant narration and a slide show consisting of 70 visuals. Eight talented UT voice majors will perform all songs and narrations, assisted by Bettye Ware, pianist. Several songs involve audience participation on short choruses. This Knoxville premier performance will address environmental issues using a variety of thought-provoking attitudes, including humor, satire, and parody.

Dr. Ware, Prof. Emeritus (voice), U of MN-Minneapolis, is a visiting lecturer in the UT School of Music this fall semester, and Bettye serves as accompanist for student lessons and classes.

**December 11, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville HBG Christmas Photograph Show.** Everyone is invited for an evening of fun, food, and sharing. Bring a USB flash drive with some pictures from your favorite trips of the year to share. For more information contact Mac Post mpost3116@aol.com

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**PROGRAM: November 8, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center Agenda 21, presented by land use planner Bill Terry** If you haven't heard of Agenda 21, you need to know how this United Nations non-binding recommendation regarding planning and environmental protection has been seen by some as a conspiracy! Agenda 21 encompasses concepts that would protect our health and well-being; but anti-Agenda 21 groups fear that the UN is going after private property. Bill Terry is a long-time Sierra Club activist and a respected professional land use planner. Free and open to the public.

**THERE WILL BE NO PROGRAM IN DECEMBER.** You are invited, instead to ring in the holidays with our holiday celebration. It will be held on Saturday, December 8 from 6 - 9 P.M. at the home of Tom Cullen and Wray Estes, 1116 Arrowhead Drive, Brentwood. Please bring your own beverage, and bring a covered dish to share. Celebrate the holidays with old and new friends.

**STRATEGY MEETINGS: November 13 and December 11 at 6:30 P.M.** These meetings will take place at **Panera Bread, 2534 Powell Ave.,** in front of 100 Oaks. 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.

## WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

**PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Tuesday at 7 P.M.** Please contact Gloria Griffith at [gla4797@earthlink.net](mailto:gla4797@earthlink.net) or 423-727-4797 for more information.



# Outings

Welcome to the Tennessee Chapter's master list of our outings. Members, and the public, are always very welcome at any of these events. Listed by the sponsoring Group, you are welcome to attend as many across the state as you wish! We believe that what you come to love, you will stand up to protect.

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.

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

**Emily Marr Davis is our Outings Chair, and point-person for outings information for our Group.** Our activities are always open to the public and to members of the Club from across our state! Outings are planned to take in the interests and skill levels of the participants. For more information, contact Emily at 423-413-3038 or [emily.marr.davis@gmail.com](mailto:emily.marr.davis@gmail.com)

**November 10 (Sat) Tellico Plains Exploring.** We will have lunch at the Tellico Grainary Bakery. After lunch we'll explore the high country of the Cherokee National Forest. Meet at 9:30 A.M. at the Bi-Lo at Lee Highway and Shallowford Road; one-way driving distance, 80 miles. For more information, e-mail Trip Leader John Doyal, [baldie052@yahoo.com](mailto:baldie052@yahoo.com).

**December Date TBA: Sandhill Crane Paddling Trip** if there is interest and if they arrive early, we will do a December paddling trip to the Hiwassee Refuge. The best way to see these guys is from the water! For sure we'll do a paddling trip in January as well. Go mark January 19 & 20 on your calendars, for the Sandhill Crane Festival. (<http://www.tncranefestival.org>) E-mail me in early December at [emily.marr.davis@gmail.com](mailto:emily.marr.davis@gmail.com) if you have a canoe and are interested in a December paddling trip.

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**3 Nov (Sat). Dayhike, Indian Boundary Lake, Cherokee National Forest.** Enjoy an easy 3.6 miles scenic loop around Indian

Boundary Lake off Cherohala Skyway. This almost flat, wide trail, sometimes shared with bikes, should have beautiful views of the late fall colors. After the hike, we will go back to historic and delicious Tellico Grains Bakery in Tellico Plains for an early afternoon lunch. Rated easy. One-way drive: 72 miles. Pre-register with Priscilla Watts, 865-966-4142, or [sigmatngirl@earthlink.net](mailto:sigmatngirl@earthlink.net).

**17 Nov (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Obed Wild & Scenic River Segment, Cumberland Trail.** After meeting at Obed WSR headquarters in Wartburg, we will carpool to the trailhead at Nemo Bridge on the Obed/Emory River. The first part of our hike follows the Cumberland Trail north along the gorge of the Emory River. This stretch of trail is extremely scenic, yet is almost never used because it dead-ends at 1.1 mile. (It will eventually be extended to Wartburg.) After our round-trip, we will cross the Obed/Emory on the Nemo Bridge and hike south on the Cumberland Trail along the Obed River as far as participants care to go. Rating: easy. One-way drive: 45 miles. Pre-register with Warren or Carol Devine, 483-7894 or [warrendevine@comcast.net](mailto:warrendevine@comcast.net).

**8 Dec (Sat). Dayhike, Honey Creek, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.** This is a rather difficult 5.6 mile loop trail. Originally, it was one of the ten Bowater Pocket Wilderness Areas and is now one of two state natural areas located within the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The trail is very rugged and requires crossing a number of small creeks, climbing a series of ladders up and down the bluff, scrambling through boulders, and hiking up the Honey Creek drainage. The trail includes a number of waterfalls, a spectacular rockhouse, and one of the best views from an overlook 250 feet above the South Fork of the Cumberland River. Quite simply, it is one of the best trails on the Cumberland Plateau. The hike is difficult and requires about 5 to 7 hours to complete depending on how much time is spent enjoying the trail. Rating moderate to difficult. The hike is rated moderate to difficult given the off-trail stretch. The driving distance is about 75 miles from West Knoxville. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: [perlack@aol.com](mailto:perlack@aol.com); 675- 7668.

**12 Jan (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Spruce Flats Falls-Lumber Ridge (Great Smoky Mountains National Park).** This loop hike will start at the Tremont Institute. From the Institute we'll take the "Falls Trail" to Spruce Flats Falls. This section to the falls (about a mile) is relatively steep with some difficult parts, but well worth the effort. Here there are a series of cascades that drop 100 feet.

## 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!

Spruce Flats Falls is perhaps one of the nicest "unknown" falls in the park. We will then go above the falls and find an unmaintained trail (i.e., old railroad bed), which we will take to Lumber Ridge. Parts of this unmaintained section of the loop are overgrown with rhododendrons, littered with some fallen trees, and will require crossing Spruce Flats a few times. Some remnants of Little River Lumber Company can be seen along this stretch. About half-way through the hike we'll find the Lumber Ridge Trail and take it back to the Institute. The Lumber Ridge Trail will mostly be downhill with an elevation loss of more than 1000 feet. The driving distance is about 50 miles from Knoxville or about 25 miles from our meeting location in Maryville. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: [perlack@aol.com](mailto:perlack@aol.com); 675-7668.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**We want you! All Middle Tennessee Group Sierra Club members are encouraged to apply. Be an Outings Leader for MTG. Please contact John Pigg at [j.t.pigg@comcast.net](mailto:j.t.pigg@comcast.net) or (615)851-1192.**

**RECYCLING VOLUNTEERS: EVERY SATURDAY - 9:00 - 12:00 - Volunteer at the recycling Site.** We are looking for volunteers to man the recycling center from 9 to 12 on Saturdays. This is a major source of income for the club and we need volunteers to spread the workload out so that so few do not have to keep doing it every month. If you could volunteer just a few times a year that would help — that's only once every few months! Volunteers just need to be willing to ask people if they need help in unloading their recyclables and tell them "thank you" for recycling. The funds we receive from this effort help the group operations and activities, which includes lobbying efforts. The bins are in front of the Kroger at 3955 Nolensville Road, Nashville, TN. The Kroger lot is located about a half-mile towards town from the Walmart at Harding and Nolensville. It's a great place to get involved with our Group! Contact Tom at 615-373-9237(h) or 892-0128(c) for more information.

**Target Date for January-February Issue is November 25, 2012.**

**All meetings and outings notices, articles and photographs should be in by then. Send material to Gene Van Horn at [gvanhorn26@gmail.com](mailto:gvanhorn26@gmail.com)**



# Members of the Tennessee Chapter

## *Working For Everyone*



Don Safer speaks to TVA Board against Nuclear Reactor build up.



Lana Sutton addresses TVA Board in opposition to TVA clear cutting.



Mary Mastin addresses TVA Board on need for much greater energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.



Louise Gorenflo, Chair of the TN Climate Action Team, speaks to the TVA Board.



Allison Chin, Sierra Club President, and Keven Routon at the Council of Club Leaders



Barbara Kelly, after speaking for TN Chapter against TVA clearcutting to the TVA Board, with group speaking to the media.

## energy corner



## Congress Misses Opportunity to Move Our Transportation System Into the 21st Century

By Steven Sondheim, Green Transportation Leadership Team

While the Senate was able to keep unrelated, anti-environmental riders out, the transportation bill that was recently passed was a step backwards, missing an opportunity to move our transportation policy into the 21st century. The Senate brought a two-year bill that would take steps to reduce our dependence on oil by making biking and walking safer, giving local officials more control over transportation funding, extending transit commuter benefits, and revamping our planning process to be more performance-based.

The final bill does provide guaranteed funding for our transportation system over the next 27 months, preserving and creating nearly three million jobs, and it will consolidate the network of transportation programs. Further, the bill will dramatically expand the TIFIA loan program, which will hopefully allow environmentally beneficial projects, such as Los Angeles' 30/10 initiative, to leverage funds and get off the ground.

However, House Republican negotiators extracted significant concessions by threatening to walk away from negotiations and the millions of jobs that would be saved or created. Below are just a few of the backwards steps made in conference:

**Complete streets eliminated** – a provision that would have made streets safer for everyone, including cyclists, pedestrians and drivers.

**Transit commuter tax benefit parity eliminated** – the extension of the transit commuter tax benefit at the same level of parking benefits. Commuters now get nearly twice the tax break for driving to work instead of taking transit.

**Public input in environmental reviews reduced** – Perhaps the most egregious changes came as rollbacks of the environmental review process. Republicans have long wanted to eviscerate the 40-year old National Environmental Policy Act, which ensures the public has a say in highway and transit projects that will significantly impact local communities. Although the Senate was able to fight off the most egregious demands, the House still won significant concessions. Cash strapped state agencies will now face financial penalties if they don't make decisions on time, leading to rushed approvals (or rejections) of projects instead of well thought out decisions. Further, the bill now eliminates public comment on a whole raft of projects, including projects under an arbitrary threshold of \$5 million. Projects built in the existing right of way are also exempt from

environmental reviews, allowing the significant widening of existing roads without public input.

**National goals watered down** – The Senate bill included a set of national goals for our transportation system, which the US DOT would then report progress on meeting every two years. While the final bill includes a set of goals, Republican negotiators successfully removed the goal of "energy conservation and security." Our transportation system uses two-thirds of the nation's oil, and eliminating a goal of conserving energy in transportation just leaves progress on reducing oil use for another day.

**States allowed to waive investments in safe biking and walking infrastructure** – The Senate bill already reduced the total amount of funding available for safe biking and walking infrastructure, but it did require half of the remaining funding to be sent to cities and towns and the other half competitively awarded by states. The House successfully won the rights for states to opt out of using their half of the funding on safe biking and walking infrastructure all together. As state DOTs are squeezed for cash, many will likely choose not to fund biking and walking infrastructure, even though trends suggest more people than ever want this transportation option.

The transportation bill that was passed harkens back to highway, not transportation, bills passed decades ago and proves that Congress is still behind current trends. It is increasingly clear that people want clean transportation choices, like public transit and safe biking and walking, not expanded highways and more sprawl. *Excerpted from a blog by Jesse Prentiss-Dunn, Sierra Green Transportation*

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Speak up at local transportation meetings. Input from residents and local officials still counts. Resources:

**Google the phrase...Compass SierraClub**

**Click on Transportation-Director or Hybrid**

### Beyond Oil

<http://content.sierraclub.org/beyondoil/>

### Join Sierra Club's Transportation Campaign

<http://www.sierraclub.org/transportation/activists.aspx>

### Sierra Club Green Transportation Campaign

<http://sierraclub.org/transportation/>

## Air Leaks Are Costing You Money!

When it comes to your house and envelope air leaks, there are two simple rules: first, heat always moves to cold (nature wants it all the same temperature), and second, all insulation controls heat but most home insulation does not stop air.

Air-conditioned houses are summertime cold spots. This means summer heat (radiant energy) moves toward cool home interiors (remember rule #1). These homes are very leaky, under-insulated cool boats sitting in an ocean of heat but when the temperature rises and the wind blows, air leaks overwhelm the air conditioners (the bailing bucket). Homes sink into an ocean of heat because our air conditioners can't keep up. We could buy bigger air conditioners but there's a more energy efficient and less expensive solution -- fix the air leaks and add insulation.

Where are these air leaks? Take a magnifying glass outside your house. Look at the cracks around your doors and windows at the siding or brick. Notice the gap between the (frieze) board and brick that goes all the way around your house.

Look closely at the holes in the brick mortar that AREN'T weep holes (don't plug those) or all the spaces, voids/knotholes in your siding. Use the magnifying glass to see the gaps where every wire, gas pipe, phone line, TV cable, dog door, light fixture, dryer vent, hose bib, electric meter, etc., create an air leak. This is a partial list for outside your home. The air leak list for living space, attic and ceiling/wall assemblies is even larger. Ever felt a winter draft at doors or windows? Summer heat doesn't stop drafts. We're just not as sensitive to warm air movement. Any Mid-South home potentially has these air leaks unless it was built with an energy efficiency certification (Energy Star, Eco-build, etc.). A whole house air seal using caulk, foam and other air barrier materials will significantly reduce air leaks. As a certified building analyst, I've seen post remediation test results confirming air leakage reduction of up to 60%.

Other air leaks that need fixing aren't in walls and ceilings--they're in our HVAC systems. Today most homes are cooled and heated with forced air systems. When we want the house colder, our thermostat triggers a blower fan. This fan moves interior house air across a cooling element until it's reached the desired temperature. The pipes and boxes in this air distribution system leak because they have never been sealed and they are subject to damage and installer error. As a result, HVAC systems have an average 30-50% air loss from ducts. This means 30-50% of the air we pay to cool and heat NEVER gets to the rooms. The answer to this problem is full system duct seal of every plenum, connector, bend and register. Fixing this problem requires specialized training and is best left to energy remediation specialists

My next article will examine insulation and the relationship between heat loss and air loss. Remember: all insulation controls heat but only certain insulation controls air. For more information about energy efficiency, improved air quality, and related subjects, I recommend Bruce Harley's *Lower Your Energy Bills Now* from Taunton Press. Meanwhile, don't hesitate to e-mail questions to: [dtrentlage.npb@gmail.com](mailto:dtrentlage.npb@gmail.com).

Dave and Tom Trentlage own Neighborhood Pro Builders, Inc., a residential/small commercial TN licensed company. In 2009 NPB was the first Shelby County general contractor admitted to Tennessee Valley Authority's In-Home Energy Evaluation Program (IHEE) as an energy implementation partner. Since then NPB has completed 80 homes under the TVA Energy Right program. NPB is one of three companies certified by TVA to install all measures prescribed by TVA auditors. Dave is further certified by the Building Performance Institute as a licensed Building Analyst--a 60 hour training with proctored written/field exams. NPB is currently the only West Tennessee company in TVA's Energy Right program to offer 3rd party testing of implemented "building performance" measures and can tailor energy remediation measures to comply with Energy Smart, Energy Star, LEED, Eco Build or any other energy standard. Dave and his team are also certified for lead remediation and are kind to small pets, children and in-laws.

### Moving?



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

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Member ID# \_\_\_\_\_

My new address is:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041,  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041.

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group  
**Tennes-Sierran**  
3340 Perimeter Hill Drive  
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

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