

# Tennessee-Sierra

The Bi-Monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 51, Number 2 - March/April 2018

## A Word on Meetings

By Dennis Shekinah

Honestly, I have to tell you I'm not a big fan of meetings. In the old days friends and neighbors would meet in store fronts, libraries, courthouses, restaurant conference rooms, churches and anywhere else people would let us meet to plan strategies for protecting our local watershed. When litigation was imminent we would often meet weekly, even daily, in venues that felt impersonal and sterile.

When we incorporated as the Watauga Group of the Tennessee Sierra Club in 2006, we decided to try on some new ideas to see what fit. Do things a little differently. A little more friendly. A little more inviting.

We began meeting in member's homes. Come as you are casual. No more fluorescent lights, no more distractions in public places, no more odd looks from others. The comfort of a home allows us to indulge in friendship and laughter that is difficult in public venues. Along with this personal

touch, we began meetings at dinner time and conducting business around a potluck feast. We continue to eat first and conduct business before dessert. Watauga Group dubbed this monthly tradition a "Meal and Meeting" and has evolved into a 'gathering' of like-minded new and longtime friends.

Twelve years later, we still stick to a schedule as best we can, beginning the meeting after the dinner hour with a whistle. The Chair usually introduces or recognizes new people and begins with a few antidotes and updates from committee teams. This always seems to focus folks attention and makes them more willing to 'pitch in' to help active committee work, consider attending vital county commissioner meetings or take flash actions, such as letter writing or petition signing.

Kinks, you ask? Sure we've had a few logistical challenges to overcome or attendee constraints to accommodate. Active listening for opportunities to adjust ensures what continues to fit.



Dean Whitworth, in character as Theodore Roosevelt, presents Teddy's vision to preserve public lands as National Forests for future generations to enjoy. Photo credit Dennis Shekinah

## Looking Ahead: Tennessee Chapter Spring Retreat April 27-29 N.B. Forrest State Park

Join us in this beautiful setting in late Spring and enjoy the splendors of Mother Nature as She awakens. Environmentalists and nature lovers from across the State of Tennessee will be there. Will you?

Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park, located on the western shore of Kentucky Lake, began as a local park constructed by the Works Progress Administration, a Depression Era work recovery program. Established in 1929, the park consists of 2,587 acres managed by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The area was designated a state park in 1963. The park contains more than 25 miles of hiking trails. It is home to the Tennessee River Folklife Interpretive Center and Museum situated on one of the highest points in West Tennessee, Pilot Knob. The center features the life ways and customs of folks on the Tennessee River including musseling, crafts, commercial fishing and more.

### Arrival Details & Reservations

Check in begins Friday after 4 PM at the Group Lodge. Early bird pricing of \$50 for the weekend is available thru Friday, April 13th. First time attendees are half price. Youth under 16 are free. Registration after the 13th is \$60. This includes dorm style

lodging, Saturday and Sunday breakfasts, Saturday dinner. Specify vegetarian or omnivore when registering. Pay with cash or check upon arrival. Special student pricing and for partial attendance pricing is available: students \$15, Saturday meals \$30, Sunday breakfast \$10, attendance only \$5. Scholarships are available with advance arrangement. Camping is available at an additional cost. Register on line at <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4019609/April-27-29-2018-Sierra-Club-Retreat> or contact Charlie High for information and reservations at [cahigh1722@aol.com](mailto:cahigh1722@aol.com) or by text at 615.500.5499

### What to Bring

Attendees should bring a sleeping bag or bedding, pillow, towel, toiletries, sturdy shoes or hiking boots, appropriate clothing, snacks, beverages, reusable water bottle, Friday evening and midday lunches, items for the silent auction.

### Liability Waiver

All retreat attendees will be required to sign a liability waiver. See Chapter Retreat Schedule on page 2 for details.

## Tennessee Chapter Summer Retreat Cedars of Lebanon State Park August 3rd thru 5th

Mark your calendar! Come explore a part of middle Tennessee's wild side and Civilian Conservation Corp history for a great weekend this coming August while you meet others from across the state that share your same concerns. Hike with State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepath on Saturday and/or Sunday morning in the Red Cedar Forest and Glades at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

Watauga Group is hosting and reservations may be confirmed by contacting Gloria Griffith at [Gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:Gla4797@embarqmail.com) or call 423-727-4797 or register online here <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4124392/August-3-5-2018-Sierra-Club-Retreat>.

- Early Bird Registration Price until July 27: \$50/adult
- Regular Registration Fee: \$60/adult
- Students: \$15 for the whole weekend
- Single day only price with meals: Sat - \$30; Sun - \$10
- Day only, no meals: \$5
- (Children 15 and under attend free)
- Special: ½ off regular fee for first-time attendees!

Chapter Retreats are considered by National as an activity that requires people to sign the waiver we use for people going on Sierra Club outings. So, when first arrive at the Retreat, we will have these handy and make sure that it is a part of registering each of you.

If someone under 18 is attending with their parent/guardian, they should be listed and signed in by the parent/guardian. If youths are coming separately, there is a Minor Waiver, which needs to be signed by the parent/guardian and brought to the Retreat.

The Chapter retreat will begin at 4 PM on Friday and end at 2 PM on Sunday. All TN Chapter Retreat participants will be required to sign the standard Sierra Club outings liability waiver when checking in at the retreat location. To review this waiver, please visit [http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual\\_waiver.pdf](http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual_waiver.pdf)

Any attendee under the age of 18 not accompanied by parent will need to have a signed liability waiver and medical authorization form with them when they arrive. To review and print these waivers, please visit [http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual\\_waiver.pdf](http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual_waiver.pdf) AND <http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/forms/local-outings-minor-release.pdf>

# Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

\*Email: [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)

\*Snail Mail: clip the "Moving?" coupon on page 8 and mail

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: [c.demetreon@mchsi.com](mailto:c.demetreon@mchsi.com)

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is March 31st for the May/June 2018 issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to [c.demetreon@mchsi.com](mailto:c.demetreon@mchsi.com) either with embedded text messages or attached files. Attached files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in Pages.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or a .tif file format then either attached to e-mail or mailed via U.S. Postal Service on a 3 1/2" diskette or CD RM. 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 will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

5. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Tennessee Chapter Ombudsman, Joel Gearhardt at [jgearhardt@yahoo.com](mailto:jgearhardt@yahoo.com). The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter or the Sierra Club.

**Cutoff Date for the May/June Issue is March 31, 2018.**

**All meetings and outings notices, articles, and photographs should be in by then.**

**Send material to Chris Demetreon at [c.demetreon@mchsi.com](mailto:c.demetreon@mchsi.com)**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## All Creatures Great and Small



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32141-6417 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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## MEETING SCHEDULE



Chapter Meeting	Location	Dates
Spring	NB Forrest State Park	April 27-29
Summer	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	Aug 3 - 5
Fall	Picket State Park	October 19 - 21
Winter	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	January 25 - 27

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Any attendee under the age of 18 not accompanied by parent or legal guardian will need to have a signed liability waiver and medical authorization form with them when they arrive. To review these waivers, please visit

[http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual\\_waiver.pdf](http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual_waiver.pdf) and

<http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/forms/local-outings-minor-release.pdf>

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# Lessons from the Trail, Remember the Monarchs

by Joan Tomlinson, trail name Blue Jay

I've spent some time out hiking over the last few years. Long hikes. Long enough to call my hikes journeys. I think of my time out hiking as times of discovery. I've learned lessons out there, in the natural world. And I've brought the knowledge and wisdom of those lessons back home with me. Many of the things I've learned were taught to me by the very simple things that I took the time to study, to contemplate. I want to talk here about unusually deep connections to Earth that I discovered as a result of thru hiking the Appalachian Trail in 2014.

Let me back up a bit. I am an over sixty, female, often solo hiker. I started my thru hike (a hike from end to end in one fell swoop) of the Appalachian Trail (AT) in March of 2014 and completed my hike in September of that year. It took me 6 months and 8 days to complete my journey. I started my AT hike because I "wasn't done yet." I wasn't done learning, I wasn't done growing, I wasn't done living closer to the edge of my comfort zone or, indeed, living outside my comfort zone. I knew the trail would change me, although I wasn't specifically looking for change. I was open to what the trail would teach me. Little did I know in March of 2014 the sea change, the tidal wave, the tsunami that would occur in me. My AT journey prompted me to start hiking the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in 2016. I needed to return to the trail to try to recapture or re-live what I had discovered on the AT, although what I had discovered on the AT was still an elusive, fuzzy thing that was poorly defined yet deeply felt. What I have discovered and what draws me back to the trail is a visceral connection to this planet we call home.

There are many things from my AT hike that I can talk about that might explain why I feel so deeply connected to Earth. There was the night early in my hike when the 2 barred owls courted each other all night in the tree above my tent. There was the most amazing and incredible unfolding of spring, millimeter by millimeter, before my very eyes. There was the wildflower growing from a rotting tree, with one melded completely into the other so they were as one. There was the night of a loud and constant howling of the wind high in the mountains yet no wind at all at the level of my tent. There was the realization that I had to let go of my dislike for stopping to collect water and the subsequent discovery of the majesty and beauty that water brings forth. There were beautiful lichens, lovely salamanders, a hillside of Dutchman's Britches, birds and birdsong, sunsets, and moons so lovely that my heart would weep for joy. Even the hard parts, like days and days of rain and an eight degree night, held special places in the tapestry of my journey. All that, ALL THAT, though, could not explain to me why I had such a deeply felt connection to Earth. Let me just say that getting into the backcountry for a long

period of time felt like returning home. It felt like an ancient connection that had been passed down to me through eons and had been awakened by my time on the AT. Simply put, it felt like I had fallen in love with Earth.

When I return from my long hikes, I "process" my experience; I let my journey work itself through me. After my AT hike, I was exhausted in every way; I had no reserves to call upon until I had a time of rest. One thing I did during that period of rest was to go to the Smokies to tag Monarch butterflies. I had seen Monarchs while I was on the trail. I think I was in Virginia when I first started seeing them. I didn't know about the full life cycle of Monarchs when I was on the AT; I learned about this most amazing butterfly during the tagging event in the Smokies. I'm not a scientist so I hope I can get this life cycle correct. A specific Monarch mates in Mexico and flies



Monarch butterfly. Photo Credit: Kenneth Dwain Harrelson via Wikipedia

towards, say, the Smokies. That specific butterfly lays eggs on a milkweed plant and dies. The second generation (the egg that was laid), hatches and is a Monarch caterpillar that eats, forms a chrysalis, goes through metamorphosis (I think metamorphosis is way cool!!), and becomes a Monarch butterfly. This second generation flies closer to, say, the Smokies, lays eggs and dies. Ditto for Gen 3! Maybe Gen 3 actually makes it to the Smokies. And then Gen 4 comes along. Some human (me!) drops by the Smokies one day and captures and tags a Gen 4 Monarch! The tag is the tiniest thing and I hope with all my heart it is not too heavy for the beautiful little creature. I know how heavy even the smallest amount of additional weight feels in my own backpack, so I hope the burden of this tiny tag is not too much for my new friend. Generation 4! Oh the destiny of this brave generation. It will fly to Mexico to a place it has never been. Let me say that again. It flies to far away Mexico to a place it has NEVER BEEN. This is amazing to me!! Truly!!! It will go to a place that is somehow encoded in its very being or fiber, that its ancestors knew. I can't think about the Monarch without being baffled, humbled, and amazed at the journey of that last generation. My journey was only 2000 miles long. And I had a guide book. And 4 pairs of shoes.

Somewhere during this period of resting from the AT, feeling extraordinarily con-

nected to Earth, and tagging of Monarchs, I connected the dots. If a Monarch has within its small and beautiful self the ability to know how to navigate to a place it has never been, if that connection is so deeply wired into its very being, why should I doubt my own very deep connection to Earth? Understanding the Monarch gave me an intellectual understanding of the very real, yet abstract, deep feelings for "home," for the dirt under my feet, for a living planet. My connection is not to a specific place, like the Monarch, but the connection is there none the less. Our ancestors - yours and mine - were deeply connected and lived close to the Earth for millennia. Only in relatively recent history have we put up barriers and ignored our deep roots to this planet that sustains us. Our current culture allows us to go days, weeks, or months without the least little thought of Earth. Not any more for this thru hiker. My AT hike has awakened in me a deep love and reverence for our beautiful planet.

It is said that we protect what we love. The Monarch butterfly has shown me that it is the most natural thing in the world to be connected to Earth. And I feel compelled to do whatever I can to protect her. For me, it has started with my own personal journey to remove things in my life that harm the Earth. I am on a journey (and I have a long way to go) to zero waste and to a plastic free life. I feel a personal responsibility for this. There is freedom in that, great freedom and momentum. I am motivated and I am taking actions.

Some actions seem small, yet they feel like progress to me. I am encouraged by people like Joanna Macy who see a "Great Turning" in the things we hold dear and the positive Earth-saving actions that result. I am getting more involved with the Sierra Club - I am impressed by my own local Harvey Broome Group. Together, we as Sierra Club members can make a difference. We can. We can love and protect the Earth. Because we want to. Because it is important. Because it is hard-wired in us. Perhaps you have had your own awakening to your connections to Earth. Perhaps you've had your deep connections to Earth your whole life. The important thing is that we acknowledge and honor the connections. And then actions come easily.

I, like many people, often feel overwhelmed by the toxic coal ash flowing into the rivers near me, by Zinke's and Pruitt's and Trump's latest assaults on the Earth, by alarming climate news, by mountaintop removal, and more. When I do, I take a deep breath, I find a Sierra Club conservation event to stand with, I make phone calls to my Congressmen, I march, I seek the company of other Earth-lovers, and I find new ways to reduce my own personal impact on the Earth. Then I joyfully remember the Monarch and go dig my fingers in the dirt.

*Blue Jay may be contacted at [BlueJayAT@gmail.com](mailto:BlueJayAT@gmail.com)*



# Members Take Note...

## Seeking Nominating Committee Members for Tennessee Chapter 2019 Board Election

Each spring, new appointments are made to TN Chapter Nominating Committee (Nom Com), which plays the vital role of identifying candidates for election to the Executive Committee (ExCom). This is an invitation for qualified volunteers to volunteer to serve on this very important committee, and for recommendations of volunteer leaders who you believe would contribute importantly to this work. Serving on the NomCom involves a substantial commitment of time and attention, but it is also gratifying and enlightening work. The appointments are made by the Chair and confirmed by the Executive Committee. If you are interested please respond to Mac Post (mpost3116@gmail.com, 865-938-3116) by the end of March 2018.

### Key responsibilities of the committee include:

- (1) Plan and conduct outreach to volunteer leaders through multiple channels to cultivate interest in service on the ExCom, and encourage qualified candidates to apply. Much of the work is delegated amongst committee members and managed through email and conference calls. The bulk of the activity occurs from May through September.
- (2) Become familiar with the functioning of the ExCom and the roles and responsibilities performed by Delegates and Officers. Identify particular strengths and skills to look for in ExCom candidates.
- (3) Conduct discrete but thorough checks of every applicant.
- (4) Work as a team to select the best slate of candidates for nomination.

### Essential skills, knowledge, and abilities for committee members:

- (1) Have a basic understanding of, and a readiness to learn more about, Sierra Club structure and internal dynamics, tradition, and general organizational operation. Additionally, familiarity with current and recent issues before the Board is desirable;
- (2) Be, or become, knowledgeable about the applicable election By-laws, Standing Rules and Guidelines that govern the responsibilities of the NomCom;
- (3) Work with a high level of confidentiality and engender trust within the committee -- due to the sensitive nature of evaluating candidates, this quality is of paramount importance;
- (4) Be knowledgeable about the NomCom schedule and be willing to spend extra hours at the critical times, responding quickly and efficiently and completing assigned tasks promptly.

NomCom members cannot be Board candidates for 2019.

Contact: Mac Post at [mpost3116@gmail.com](mailto:mpost3116@gmail.com) - please use the subject line "NomCom Application"

## Announcements for the Programs for the Middle Tennessee Group for March through May 2018

### Anne Passino - March 2018

Nashville is growing by almost 100 people every day. To be prepared for the future, the city plans to invest in a transportation system that relieves traffic congestion, connects our neighborhoods, and increases access for all Nashvillians, whether they're new arrivals or those who have spent their entire lives here.

Anne Passino represents the Southern Environmental Law Center on the coalition Transit for Nashville and will present information on how the proposed transit plan is intended to change the physical as well as the social environment in Nashville.

Anne Passino is an attorney in the Southern Environmental Law Center's Nashville office. SELC is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization that works in six Southeastern states to protect natural resources and special places. Anne's work focuses on water quality and land use issues throughout Tennessee. Anne received her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia, then studied law at the University of Tennessee College of Law, where she was a member of the Environmental Moot Court team and received advocacy awards for her work in the Legal Clinic. She has worked as an adjunct professor at the College of Law, been a member of two American Inns of Court, and served in leadership positions with the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She is a board member of the Nashville Chapter of the American Constitution Society and was selected as a member of the 2017 Tennessee Bar Association leadership class.

### Dan Joranko - April 2018

Dan Joranko will present on climate impacts in Tennessee and on current campaigns to address the climate crisis. This will include national, regional and local campaigns. A particular focus will be on moving toward a 100% renewable future.

Dan Joranko coordinate the Climate Nashville network - a very active grassroots group focused on climate issues. He is the Executive Director of Tennessee Alliance for Progress, which convenes Climate Nashville. He also co-coordinates the Nashville Chapter of Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light - which is part of a national interfaith organization focused on responses to Climate Change. He teaches at Vanderbilt Divinity School - and coordinates the school's prison education program.

### Steve Ward - May 2018

Steve Ward is Native of Donelson, TN with first visit to Radnor Lake in 1976 thanks to Ms. Margaret Mann, USMC Veteran, graduate of MTSU with a BS degree in Geoscience, a state park ranger with Tennessee State Parks in 1995 and the park manager at Radnor Lake State Natural Area since December 2001.

Radnor Lake State Natural Area 2020: Presentation by park manager Steve Ward on what is ahead for the State of Tennessee's First Natural Area including the completion of the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center, planning/development of the Harris Ridge Trail Project, RLSNA Native Grasslands & Ground Nesting Bird Initiative, interpretive programming goals and future land acquisition plans for protection of the natural area for future generations.

### Group Business Meetings

Group	Date	Location	Time
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Mon 3/6, 4/2, 5/7	Pilgrim Congregational Church, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chattanooga	6:00 P.M.
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Wed 3/7, 4/4, 5/2	Cheffie's Cafe, 483 High Point Terrace, Memphis	6:00 P.M.
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 3/27, 4/24, 5/22	The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd., Knoxville	7:00 P.M.
Middle TN (Nashville)	Tue 3/19, 4/16, 5/14	House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville	6:30 P.M.
Watauga (Mountain City)	Tue 3/13, 4/10, 5/8	R&D Campground 900 Mining Town Rd. Mt. City, TN 37683	5:00 P.M.

### Group Program Meetings

Group	Date	Location	Time
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Mon 3/26, 4/23, 5/28	Unitarian Universalist Church, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga No meeting on Memorial Day	7:00 P.M. N/A
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Thu 3/29, 4/19, 5/17	Benjamin Hooks Public Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., Memphis	5:55 P.M.
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 3/13, 4/10, 5/8	Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalists Church, 2931 Kingston Pike	7:00 P.M.
Middle TN (Nashville)	Thu 3/8, 4/12, 5/10	Radnor Lake Nature Center, 1160 Otter Creek Rd., Nashville, TN	7:00 P.M.
Watauga (Mountain City)	Tue 3/13, 4/10, 5/8	R&D Campground 900 Mining Town Rd. Mt. City, TN 37683	6:00 P.M.

# 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

**March 26, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - March Program:** at Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chatta. 37411; off I-24, just east of the Missionary Ridge cut. Take the Germantown Road Exit, turn north onto Germantown Road, take the 2nd left onto Navajo, go about 1/2 mile, UUCC will be on your left, up the hill! We meet downstairs, in the Forum Room.

Wetlands: Water is Just the Beginning," a presentation by naturalist Rick Foster on wetland ecology. Rick will be giving a general overview of wetlands, starting with the most fertile periodic ones (tidal, estuary and flood plains) through vernal pools, swamps and marsh to fen and bogs. We'll learn how nutrient and oxygen levels affect conditions, and the uses and biology of wetlands. Rick will bring representatives of wetland biology as examples.

With degrees in resource ecology and management, Rick has made most of his living, besides teaching and managing labs, doing habitat assessment for National Forests and The Nature Conservancy, with habitat restoration, especially wetlands, thrown in. You'll also meet him on the trail, and volunteering in community gardens, along the South Chickamauga Creek Greenway and at the Pollinator Garden.

Letter-writing materials on current issues with talking points will be available for those interested. Hand written letters do count! Phone calls and e-mails too.

Bring a friend. The public is very welcome! FREE as always.

**April 23, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - April Program:** Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chatta. 37411; off I-24, just east of the Missionary Ridge cut. Take the Germantown Road Exit, turn north onto Germantown Road, take the 2nd left onto Navajo, go about 1/2 mile, UUCC will be on your left, up the hill! We meet downstairs, in the Forum Room.

John McGirk will present "Green, Respon-

sible and Impact Investing." John will focus on different ways to approach investing for the good of Earth, including how fund companies identify and rate the holdings in their funds, and a comparison of fund fact sheets that can be used for research. You will leave with new insights as well as a do-it-yourself program and a portfolio (if you choose) you can build with your broker or advisor. An independent investment advisor with wide experience serving individuals and institutions for many years, outside of work John is currently president of the Belvoir Neighborhood Association, and an avid birder and nature lover.

Letter-writing materials on current issues with talking points will be available for those interested. Hand-written letters do count! Phone calls and e-mails too.

Bring a friend. The public is very welcome! Free as always.

**March 5 and April 2, 2018 - 6:00 P.M. - Strategy/Business Meetings:** Come add your ideas, share your concerns as we resist, insist, persist and enlist! We've got committees on outings, programs, clean energy and climate, water quality, forestry issues, and parks/land protection with room to support YOUR concern. Where: Pilgrim Congregational Church, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chatta. 37404 (at the corner of Glenwood Dr. and E. 3rd Street. Come in the front door! We'll be in the second room on the right. All are welcome!

**Looking Ahead:** We will not hold a Program Meeting in May, on Memorial Day. Use that time to venture outdoors into Nature. "It was in the forest that I found 'the peace that passeth understanding.'" -- Jane Goodall

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Our monthly programs are normally held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:55pm at the Memphis Main Library, 3030 Poplar Ave, Memphis.

Our business meetings are normally held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6pm, at Cheffie's Cafe, 483 High Point Ter, Memphis.

Program and business meetings are free and open to the public. For additional information see: <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group>.

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Our monthly programs are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 P.M., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. For additional information see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs>

Our business meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd. Knoxville, TN 37909 at 7pm. Everyone is invited. These meetings are free and open to the public. See our web page ([sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs](http://sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs)) for details.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

No Submissions

## WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

**Program and business meetings begin at 6:00 PM on the second Tuesday** near Doe Mountain Recreation Area from spring through fall at R&D Campground Pavilion at 900 Mining Town Rd., Mountain City, TN. During the wintertime meet up at The Loft 5902 Hwy 421 south Mountain City, TN. Got questions, contact [bmw@icloud.com](mailto:bmw@icloud.com) 423- 534-4804 or [GLa4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:GLa4797@embarqmail.com) 423-727-4797.

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**So Join the Crowd  
and Go Paperless Today!**

# Outings

The Tennessee Chapter's Outings and activities are always open to the public and members of the Club from across the state! Sponsored by our local Groups, pre-registration with the trip leader is a must for all outings.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** We are organizing another Outdoor Ambassador/Outings Leader Training in late spring, together with Outdoor Chattanooga. This is your chance to get certified so you can guide us to your favorite places! For further info and to register, contact Barb Kelly, [bk1rivers@gmail.com](mailto:bk1rivers@gmail.com) or 423-718-5009. (Cherokee Group)

**March 24, 2018 - 8:30 A.M. - Flats Mountain Trail Dayhike,** Citico Creek Wilderness. This is one of Citico Creek's most beautiful trails, with outstanding views of the entire Citico Creek Wilderness. The trail begins at Eagle Gap on the Cherohala Skyway and ends at Beehouse Gap on Citico Creek Road; it is 6.1 miles, rated moderate. In the event of bad weather we will have lunch at Tellico Grains Bakery, visit Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center, and drive to Bald River Falls and Baby Falls. Total round-trip driving distance from Chattanooga is 200 miles; departure from Chattanooga 8:30 am.

For further details and to pre-register, contact trip leader John Doyal, 423-315-0965 or [2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com](mailto:2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com). (Cherokee Group)

**April 7, 2018 - 10:00 A.M. - John Muir Trail Dayhike.** This is a beautiful section of the John Muir Trail beside the Hiwassee River in Reliance, TN; from Childers Creek to Big Bend, 3 miles, rated easy.

John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, walked along the Hiwassee River in September, 1867, and wrote this in his journal: "Such a river is the Hiwassee, with its surface broken to a thousand sparkling gems, and its forest walls vine-draped and flowery as Eden. And how fine the song it sings!"

A short car shuttle is required. Total round-trip driving distance from Chattanooga is 100 miles; departure from Chattanooga 10:00 am. For further details and to pre-register, contact trip leader John Doyal, 423-315-0965 or [2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com](mailto:2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com). (Cherokee Group)

**May 19, 2018 - 1:00 P.M. - Cherokee Removal Memorial Park at Blythe Ferry Day Trip.** Thousands of Cherokee were removed from Blythe Ferry on the Trail of Tears; we will be visiting the Memorial dedicated to 'those who died

and those who cried." The park interprets and educates the public about the forced removal of the Cherokees from their ancestral land as well as informs visitors about the unique wildlife in the area; it features a large outdoor map of the Trail of Tears route, visitors center and the Memorial and History Walls. This is a good outing for families with children. Total round-trip driving distance from Chattanooga is 80 miles; will depart at 1 pm near Northgate. For further details and to pre-register, contact trip leader John Doyal, 423-315-0965 or [2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com](mailto:2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com). (Cherokee Group)

**Harvey Broome Group** For the 2018 outings year, which starts on March 1, 2018 and ends on Feb 28, 2019, the final schedule will be available online by February 7. You may view the calendar on the Outings tab of the HBG website: <https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome>

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

# Meet Your New Chapter Executive Committee Members

By Mac Post, Tennessee Chapter Chair

The last weekend in January 2018, the Tennessee Chapter greeted the new members of its Executive Committee in the meeting room of the Cedars Of Lebanon State Park Group Lodge. Many were familiar faces of people that have served the Chapter and its 5 Groups for many years. In addition, there are two people elected by Chapter members as at-Large members of the Chapter Executive Committee that are brand new members to the Chapter leadership team. Let's get to know something about these two amazing people in their own words.

## Erica Davis

**Mac:** Tell us about yourself.

**Erica:** I am a 23-year-old law student at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Born and raised in Tennessee, I became involved in environmental activism when I moved to Knoxville for college and fell in love with the mountains.

**Mac:** How did you get interested working on environmental issues?

**Erica:** I started by getting involved with campus organizing groups, through which I took on a variety of projects including petition drives, public hearings on a number of environmental issues, and starting a food pantry to reduce food waste and hunger in the campus community. I've also advocated for a responsible TVA and researched water quality and energy programs. The more I learn, the more work I want to do! I have also spent time in D.C. training and lobbying our state representatives on global sustainable development.

**Mac:** What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the Tennessee Chapter executive committee?

**Erica:** I am interested in resource extraction issues, sustainable agriculture, and combatting climate change, as well as other areas of social justice. I hope to bring my skills in coalition building, campaigning, educating, and mobilizing to the great State of Tennessee and beyond. I would also love



Left: Erica Davis, Right: JoAnn McIntosh

to see more young people involved, and I plan to devote a lot of time and energy to making that happen. We have a great group, and I want to make sure we keep it going for many, many years to come.

## JoAnn McIntosh

**Mac:** Tell us about yourself.

**JoAnn:** I have been an advocate for active environmental stewardship since the first Earth Day in 1970, and became a member of the Sierra Club shortly thereafter. I spent much of my life since then living the green life on our small farm near Clarksville, TN and supporting the many environmental organizations that were educating and lobbying for environmental protections.

**Mac:** How did you get interested working on environmental issues?

**JoAnn:** Over the years, environmental issues increasingly took a backseat to economic issues in the eyes of the public and the government, and with little acknowledgement of the connection between the environment and the economy, we are now facing the consequences. In January 2017,

I joined many others who realize the importance of grassroots activism, and started connecting with individuals and organizations to spread our message. I've engaged with local Indivisible and Resist chapters, met government officials at town halls and in their offices, proposed and led an environmental stewardship class and a Creation Care committee at my church, and attended Climate Reality Leadership training with Al Gore.

**Mac:** What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the Tennessee Chapter executive committee?

**JoAnn:** I have worked to establish a local Sierra Club "team" in my community, now officially recognized by the Chapter as a conservation committee: Sierra Club Clarksville-Montgomery County. I look forward to helping Tennessee's 5th-largest city become a leader on sustainability initiatives. I also volunteered to be the Chapter Secretary and started serving this role at the recent executive committee meeting at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

## Sierra Club at the Nashville Climate March



Bill, Betsy, and Deanna at the December Nashville Climate March. Photo by Charlie High

## New Conservation Committee in Clarksville-Montgomery County

"Sierra Club Clarksville-Montgomery County" held its organizational meeting January 9, 2018. The group was recently recognized as a conservation committee by the Tennessee Chapter, and is on task to address local issues including land-fill non-compliances, consideration of a gasification plant, follow-up of the county's 2017 Sustainability Report, and initiation of a local Ready for 100% campaign. Meetings are scheduled the second Tuesday of each month; next meeting is 6:00pm March 16th at the Clarksville-Montgomery County Library. For more information, contact JoAnn McIntosh at mcijoann@gmail.com.

## Sierra Chapter Retreats are Interesting, Fun with Great Food

Each quarter the Tennessee Chapter holds a retreat in some part of our state, most often at a state park group camp/lodge. It's dorm-style, you bring your sleeping bag, and you pitch in to help with cooking and clean-up. People come from all over the state to hear interesting speakers, go on nature walks and hikes, get updated on conservation issues, and have time to make new friends, and eat great food.

This last retreat, held at Cedars of Lebanon State Park, featured Will Skelton's Fantastic 3 Bean Vegetarian Chili for Saturday supper. You will enjoy his recipe:

### THREE BEAN VEGETARIAN CHILI

In large saucepan sauté in olive oil until golden and soft:

- 1 cup chopped onions
- 2 cloves garlic, minced very fine or pressed through garlic press

Then add these items and continue to sauté briefly:

- 1 medium chipotle pepper in adobo sauce, minced (these are available, canned, at numerous grocery stores in the Mexican section); important as they give the chili a lot of its unique flavor; you can add a bit more of the adobo sauce to make the chili more spicy)

1 TBS ground ancho chili pepper (also available at many groceries)

1 TBS ground cumin

Meanwhile, steam these vegetables (do carrots separate from peppers as they take different times) until soft:

- 1 cup chopped green bell peppers
- 1 cup chopped red/yellow bell peppers

1 cup chopped peeled carrots  
Transfer all of above to large pot and add:

1 28-ounce can chopped tomatoes with juice (or use regular canned tomatoes and chop)

1 16-ounce can red kidney beans, rinsed and drained

1 16-ounce can cannellini beans, rinsed and drained

1 16-ounce can black beans, rinsed and drained

1 16-ounce can yellow corn

1 cup tomato juice

Salt to taste (if you use canned beans and tomatoes with salt added, not much if any salt will be needed; if you use unsalted beans/tomatoes some salt will be needed)

Bring everything to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low, just enough to keep it simmering, and cook, uncovered, stirring frequently (to avoid sticking on bottom), for around 45 minutes to 1 hour or longer, long enough to blend all the flavors. Add more tomato juice/tomatoes/or water as needed for liquid. Add more adobo sauce and/or ground ancho chili pepper to make spicier or have such available for guests to add.

The chili is good, maybe even better, if it is left in the refrigerator overnight or even longer.

Serve with toppings that can include shred-



ded cheese (vegan or dairy), sour cream (vegan or dairy), salsa, chopped fresh cilantro, chopped scallions. Serves 8.

Recipe adapted by Will Skelton from Joy of Cooking, 1997 edition

## "Chickasaw Group Programs Highlight Energy & Climate Change"

From previous articles, you already know that the Chickasaw Group has highlighted energy & climate change in many of its programs in 2017. That trend continues in 2018.

The February 15 program, which will happen after this article is written but before it gets published, will have speakers from the city of Memphis, Shelby County, the Office of Sustainability, and Memphis Light Gas and Water (MLGW- our local utility). The focus will be on energy efficiency strategies in buildings, HVAC, and vehicles that the city and county are using to reduce their use of energy. We will also be looking for any plans for rooftop solar on city and county buildings, as well as plans for con-

version of over 100,000 streetlights to LED's.

The March 29 program, at the Main Library, 3030 Poplar, 5:55pm, will focus on household strategies for energy efficiency and renewable energy. Three members of the CKG Excom have solar panels on their roofs, and will describe their experience. A local installer will also describe the process that a new install will go through. MLGW will also describe various energy efficiency programs that they support to help students.

A future program will focus on the specifics of climate change, and what we can do about it.

### Chickasaw Group Outings Leaders Sought

The Chickasaw Group, in Memphis and West Tennessee, is dedicated to getting our Outings program restarted. We have a few volunteers who have already begun to organize our efforts. You can join them and help!! We are especially looking for anyone who has first aid certification, although it's not necessary for everyone to have that certification. If you have CPR certification, that would also be a plus.

Email us your interest to ChickasawSierra@gmail.com. We hope to hear from you.

## Poem: Those Underwater

by Jon Katz

I sat on my porch tonight and heard the frogs stirring in the last night,  
saw the hawk give up her rounds in vain, head up to the trees over the hill.  
Bombs are not the only thing that kill people, they just get the most attention.  
On my porch I gave my pledge of allegiance to the new nation,  
the Corporate Nation, and said my prayers.

I prayed for the people underwater, lured into their homes,  
then chased out by the bankers still collecting their bonuses.

I prayed for the stolen holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas,  
sacrificed to the mood of the stock market.

I prayed for the millions who have seen their work stolen and sent overseas,  
and I pray to the new worker ants of the global economy here,  
who scramble in giant warehouses to get us our two-day  
free shipping, they can't give those jobs away.

I pray for the farmers run off their farms, condemned by the economists as  
too inefficient in the global economy, a capital crime, and run off their land,  
I pray for their sons and daughters, driven to jobs they hate in distant cities.  
And for the land, turned everywhere into black holes, bottom less pits,  
garbage dumps.

I pray for the children who cannot imagine better lives than their parents had,  
and for the people whose beaches and oceans have been stolen by develop-  
ers building

the mansions that no one else will ever see.

And I pray to the old sheep, the humans distracted by their likes and notifica-  
tions,

their tests and pills, pressured into ever longer lives and surgeries they can't  
pay for, and then

blamed for not having the money to pay for it or for wealthy children to sacri-  
fice themselves.

They are underwater too, pray hard for them.

I pray for the congress that protects us from people marrying freely, but  
makes sure the angry and the disturbed can buy machine guns to shoot our  
children.

We don't build monuments or statues any longer, but garbage dumps and  
strip  
malls and we rape and insult the Mother Earth while our carbon seals the  
sky.

We abandon higher purpose or spiritual consciousness to a world driven by  
machines, our new  
priests and rulers, our real representatives.

I care about you, but can no longer speak with you.

Please call customer service or leave a message. You mean a lot to us.

Brother, can you spare a "like" for peace? Or maybe declare war  
on the rest of the world, they are not like us, they cannot be human.

Perhaps we can "share" what it is that people are really for? And "tweet"  
a short prayer for Mother Earth, you can hear her weeping and see her tears  
from my porch.

Bombs are not the only way to kill people and steal their land and farms  
and work. You can do it every day and never see blood,  
or hear a siren, or get on TV, or arouse the wrath of a congressman, or  
get chased through the streets by armies in black helmets,  
pouring out of trucks.

On my porch, I pledge allegiance to the people underwater, whoever they are,  
wherever they are.

Your government is for sale. There are lots of ways to kill people.

The tub is overflowing.

## Tennessee Chapter Spring Retreat Sneak Peak April 27 thru 29

### Antoinette Olesen & Buddy Farler

Following the evening program sit back and take in the easy listening of music by Antoinette and Buddy, always a favorite at our Chapter retreats.

Antoinette Olesen is a member of the Sierra Club and is an award winning songwriter who has traveled internationally and performed with numerous world class artists from The Doobie Brothers to Bonnie



**Buddy Farler**

Raitt. Her most recent success has been songs released by Canadian artist Alessia Cohl. Olesen's songs feature positive messages celebrating nature, life beauty, relationships and living peacefully in concert with the world. Antoinette will be unveiling her new song "We All Live Off The Land" inspired by the Sierra Club!

Antoinette is an avid supporter of pre-

serving and protecting wildlife, clean air, water, recycling and preserving natural habitats. She also works locally in Nashville with her neighborhood organization "The West Meade Conservancy" in protecting the wildlife habitats and fighting off irresponsible development. Antoinette is honored to be included and is looking forward to seeing you at this event!

Buddy Farler is Nashville native who as a young boy sold paper fans to the Ryman Theatre goes when Broadway was a seedy, peep show neon strip. We're not sure why he turned the Country Music Hall of Fame down when they wanted to place his rock band in the Nashville Archives... fast forward to the present where his unique voice, colorful stories and memorable melodies stand out in the crowd. This actor/ singer songwriter will captivate your heart. Buddy is currently in the studio recording his latest project.

### Join the NB Forest Park Ranger for a Hike

April 28 - 9:00 am Pafford Wilson Trail - This trail is approximately 1 mile and follows a ridge running along Happy Hollow Road. It is a moderately difficult trail due to steep hills in some areas. We will be able to see many birds along the trail, so it is a great trail to bring a camera. We will meet at the group lodge and start the hike there.

1:00 pm - 3 Mile Trail - This trail will start at the Pilot Knob Folk Life Museum and is a 3 mile, relatively easy hike. There



**Antoinette Olesen**

is a large hill at the end of the hike that can be a bit strenuous. We will be in between hills during most of this hike, so we will see some beautiful creeks along the way. We will hopefully be able to find some reptiles and amphibians along the way.

April 29 - 9:00 am Girl Scout Interpretive Trail - This trail is approximately 1 mile long and should be an easy hike. We will start the hike at the group lodge and hike around the Happy Hollow campground. This is our newest trail and has signs along the way pointing out different things found in nature.

## Tennessee Chapter Fall Retreat at Pickett State Park

### By Todd Waterman

Mother Nature seemingly bypassed fall altogether - by the time we headed home it was snowing - but neither rain nor snow stopped hikers, meeting fans, or socializers from non-virtually enjoying the Fall Retreat and Business Meeting, warmly hosted by the Chattanooga-area Cherokee Group. Chapter Chair Cliff Cockerham overcame agonizing family concerns to lead not only Sunday morning's Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) quarterly meeting but also a Saturday morning discussion of his carefully-thought-out Saturday morning "Communicating in the One Club" plan to more effectively and inclusively "Connect the Dots" between members of our more isolated communities. Next on Saturday the Tennessee Chapters' five groups, and also between those sometimes-neglected dots on the Tennessee map, our far-flung rural members. Next came Transportation Committee Chair Dennis Lynch's update,

followed by a State Lobbying Workshop with National Sierra Club state lobbying expert Jen Hensley and our own Tennessee Chapter lobbyist Scott Banbury, who invited us to discuss and attend their February 20, 2018 Nashville lobby training for the next day's Nashville Conservation Lobby Day on the 21st. Next Gary Bowers led a discussion with the Chapter's Tennes-Sierran/E-Newsletter (cat) "wranglers," who solicit articles for both newsletters (current Editor Sinclair Sparkman is departing). On Saturday evening we unwound with a fine dinner, the auction, Ranger Joseph Gamble's PowerPoint on local war hero Sergeant Alvin York, and then, into the night, conversation warmed by a blazing fireplace.

At Sunday Morning's Fall ExCom Meeting Tennessee Chapter and At-Large Delegates shared their sometimes-conflicting perspectives and also a transcendent responsibility to the Chapter to find common ground and solutions to the Chapter's

challenges. Revitalization Coordinator Gary Bowers filled us in on why Revitalization for the Tennessee Chapter was necessary, where it's been going well, and where we might do better. Gary had posted all of the groups' survey results on the surrounding windows beside us and elsewhere. Motions passed, with colors flying, to promptly share group ExCom meeting minutes; to appoint Chapter (and Group) ExCom Nominating Committees beginning in January and publish the call for nominees early in the year; and to research e-voting possibilities for Chapter and Group ExCom elections well ahead of next year's voting.

Thanks to the leadership and commitment of Cliff and all concerned, the Fall Chapter ExCom Meeting was commendably smooth and productive - proof that while for the Tennessee Chapter being blessed with strong leaders with strong and diverse opinions can be a challenge, we can also make it a vital strength.

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