

Tennessee Sierran

SIERRA
CLUB
TENNESSEE CHAPTER

The bimonthly state newsletter of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club

Volume 54, Number 6 - November/December 2021

Chapter and Group Ballots Inside!

Protecting the Wolf and Hatchie Rivers in West Tennessee

Story on Page 7



Cover Photo: Children enjoy a paddle on Wolf River. Photo courtesy Wolf River Conservancy; Masthead photo © Ron Shrieves

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect

From Mac Post, State Chair



Nov-Dec 2021 Rights of Nature

In the early 1980s a student that I hosted for the summer suggested a book that I should read – *Should Trees Have Standing? Toward Legal Rights for Natural Objects* by Christopher D. Stone. It was a small book, 4x7 inches, and 111 pages. I read it in one evening. I did not know what to make of this legal theory that set forth the case for inherent rights of ecosystems and species – rights as fundamental as the concept of human rights.

Stone's essay first appeared in 1972 in the *California Law Review* while the case *Sierra Club vs. Morton* was pending in the United States Supreme Court. Stone wanted to influence the court's consideration of the standing (meaning having legal rights) issues to prevent the Disney development of a mega-resort in the Mineral King Valley of Sequoia National Forest. The Sierra Club lost this case but subsequent legal maneuvering and publicity against the Mineral King Valley development led to Disney pulling out of the project and Mineral King Valley being added to the Sequoia National Park in 1978. The Mineral King Valley struggle is a cornerstone of modern environmental law.

Stone's essay did, importantly, get referenced in Justice William Douglas' dissent of the *Sierra Club vs. Morton* case. He argued that since an ordinary corporation is a 'person' for purposes of the law, the status of 'person' should logically extend to "valleys, alpine meadows, rivers, lakes, estuaries, ridges, groves of trees, swampland, or even air that feels the destructive pressures of modern technology" and thereby be permitted standing.

Even though the Rights of Nature concept was bolstered by the support of a US Supreme Court justice and became a rallying point for the early environmental movement, this idea has been slow to gain traction. Finally, in 2006, the Borough of Tamaqua, a small community in Pennsylvania, passed a law that banned dumping of toxic sewage sludge as a violation of the Rights of Nature. In September 2008, the people of Ecuador voted to recognize the Rights of Nature in its constitution. In 2010, the City Council of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, passed an ordinance recognizing the Rights of Nature as part of a ban on shale gas drilling and fracking. In 2012, the government of New Zealand reached an agreement with local Maori people to recognize legal persona for the Whanganui River. In 2010, the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature was formed. Since then, the pace of actions promoting the concept that nature has rights, and laws supporting legal standing, have steadily increased. For an up-to-date timeline see <https://www.therightsofnature.org>. Christopher Stone's book is available in a new edition, expanded with recent information.

The notion that animal and plant species, watersheds, and natural ecosystems are equal partners to humans on this earth is only new to those of us who make environmental decisions based solely on monetary values. Indigenous peoples have long recognized that nature has inherent rights and have actively integrated that philosophy into their stewardship.

Time is running out to just preserve nature. Though much conservation has occurred, our natural environment continues to decline under the weight of human consumption. What is needed is a change in view of conservation as nature for itself or nature for people, to a "people and nature" framework (G.M. Mace 2014 *Science* 345, 1558-1560). This "people and nature" thinking emphasizes the importance of cultural structures and institutions for developing sustainable and resilient interactions between human societies and the natural environment. It includes our hopes and desires about the environment that we wish to live in and leave to our descendants. "People and nature" connects with other societal needs from the environment and results in more flexible policy because it has a broader focus. Understanding our essential relationship with nature, as indigenous people do, can help inform inclusive, actionable steps towards conservation for the future.

John Stewart, Social Justice Champion, Dies After Long Illness



John Stewart, social justice advocate and government servant, died September 29, 2021. John and his wife Nancy created a fund to help cover medical costs for coal ash workers.

and did not have adequate health care. As a columnist for the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, he wrestled with his own mortality when he wrote, "Accepting uncertainty while still retaining the capacity to act and move forward is a reality most of us will face personally sooner or later. The same goes for America. In the end, what we do now – in our lives and in our nation – will determine, to paraphrase the words of William Faulkner, whether we not only will endure but prevail."

"John Stewart's not necessarily someone you cry over," his friend, Ellen Bebb, said. "He's someone you just get damned angry about losing because he's no longer here to carry the mantel, ... so you sure as hell had better pick up the torch. He's set the example and left it to all of us to march forward. We can't let him down."

Tennessee lost a friend and social justice advocate September 29 when John Stewart passed away. John was a remarkable man who lived a remarkable life. It was his office that was broken into at the Watergate Hotel in the wee hours of June 17, 1972, setting off a sequence of events that would entirely alter our nation's history. As Senator Hubert Humphrey's legislative aide, John helped guide the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. He continued as an aide during Humphrey's tenure as vice president. And he worked for NASA. He moved to Knoxville in 1980 to help direct TVA as assistant general manager and vice president for economic and community development.

"In everything that he did," his friend Matt Shears said, "John wanted to make our nation and society a more perfect union. He advocated for the poor, the widow, the left out, the forgotten, and the excluded."

In 2020, John and his wife Nancy created a fund for the Kingston coal ash cleanup workers to help pay medical expenses for those who became sick from exposure to toxic and radioactive coal ash waste

Tennes-Sierran

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Change of Address

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Submissions

January Issue of the Chapter E-Newsletter by December 24

February Issue of the Chapter E-Newsletter by January 21

January / February Issue of The Tennes-Sierran by November 30

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mcjoann@gmail.com

Care NET Regional Conservation Committee

Chair: Bill Kornrich 423-300-8764

bkornrich@gmail.com

Holston Valley Regional Conservation Committee

Chair: Dan Firth 423-967-3593

dwfirth@gmail.com

Watauga Regional Conservation Committee (Johnson/Carter Counties)

Chair: Gloria Griffith 423-727-4798

gla4797@embarqmail.com

Reports from Across the State

by Scott Banbury, Tennessee Chapter Conservation Program Coordinator



One of the State Chapter's most critical concerns this fall is the destructive clearcutting of nearly 2000 acres of mature hardwood forest in the Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wildlife Management Area adjacent to Virgin Falls. We are partnering with hunters, hikers, paddlers and other natural area lovers in White County and across Tennessee to make sure these land use decisions are right.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) says the project is meant to create habitat for the Northern Bobwhite Quail. While creating habitat for this beleaguered bird is important, TWRA has chosen to clear mature hardwoods rather than reclaim surrounding lands that had been previously converted to monocultural pine plantations. This project threatens the popular viewscape of Welch's Point and numerous trails,

and many are concerned that erosion could threaten the Caney Fork River.

The loud outcry against this misguided project resulted in public listening sessions in October and will undoubtedly lead to legislative action this fall. For more information, visit savethehardwoods.com, and let your state representatives and senators know how you feel about this project.

In many rural communities in Tennessee, rapid growth is pitting local governments against developers as subdivisions are proposed that require more sewer, storm-water, and drinking water resources than local communities can provide, or our streams can support. Sierra Club is currently working with local governments and concerned citizens in rural communities across the state to understand and use Tennessee's laws and regulations to protect our natural resources and quality of life.

We are also working with several local governments around state preemption of local zoning laws regarding the creation or expansion of landfills, including landfills in Rutherford and Davidson Counties. Also, the state is threatening to take local zoning control back from local bodies regarding the landfilling of abandoned quarries, including one in Bellevue. Nashville's Metropolitan Planning Commission is currently considering the zoning of the property on McCrory Lane in Bellevue. SC supports local initiatives that would bar developers from using the quarry as a landfill.

In Memphis/Shelby County we are pursuing local ordinances that would establish a 1,500-foot setback from homes, churches or schools for crude oil pipeline infrastructure. This has already passed the Shelby County Commission and awaits ratification by the Memphis City Council. Another measure would establish a wellhead protection area, currently pending in both bodies. For the latest, visit:

<https://www.protectouraquifer.org/nov>

If you want to get involved in any of these issues, contact me at:

scott.banbury@sierraclub.org or call 901-619-8567

To donate to the Defenders Fund in support of Scott's work, email Susan Johnston: susan.johnston2011@gmail.com

Regional Conservation Committees

Care NET by Bill Kornrich

The Care NET "Say Their Names - Never Forget," a Black Lives Matter memorial quilt, was displayed at the Morristown-Hamblen Library in August and September.

Care NET members created an exhibit entitled "The Holston: It's Your River, Hawkins County" with funding from Humanities Tennessee. This exhibit has been on display in conjunction with the "Tennessee Waters" exhibit produced by Humanities Tennessee, the Tennessee Historical Society, and the Gore Center at MTSU. Both exhibits have been on display in Hawkins County at the Surgoinsville Public Library, at the Tennessee Printing Museum in Rogersville, and at the Church Hill Public Library. The Holston River exhibit explores these river-related topics: history, recreation, abuse, animals, water protectors, and citizen involvement in improving river quality. A booklet accompanies the exhibit. Care NET organizes monthly hikes, most recently in Seven Islands State Park, Lamar Alexander State Park, and Pete's Branch Falls in Greene County.

Care NET members have worked with Hawkins County Schools to apply for a TVA Connected Communities Pilot Grant. The grant would cover the additional cost of purchasing electric school buses and exploring the air quality index outside and inside existing diesel buses.

Watauga

Watauga organized a hugely successful lake clean up. See story and photos on page 7.

Group Scoop

Cherokee Group (Chattanooga) by Kate Anthony

Cherokee Group continues to struggle in this pandemic era. In June, we started in-person public meetings. By August, we were back to virtual only. For the second time, we were signed up to host the Chapter retreat and for the second time it had to be cancelled. Despite some struggles, we are carrying on and continue to work to have impact. Our most recent public meeting featured Paul Davis, former Director of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Water Pollution Control, and was well attended. Since it was via Zoom, people from several different Tennessee groups were able to attend. Bill Moll has put in a lot of time contacting people so that we have a complete slate of candidates for next year's Executive Committee (ExCom) ballot. Since our ExCom meetings will stay virtual, we were able to include people from the more remote areas within our group. David Riall and Bill Moll are working to create a presentation on electric vehicles (EVs) to encourage East Ridge City Council and Red Bank City Council to move their city fleets to EVs. We are also working on a study of Chattanooga recycling: where do all the recyclables really end up and who benefits? Thanks for all the good work, everyone!

Chickasaw Group (Memphis) by Charlie Belenky

While the Byhahlia pipeline project has been canceled, much work remains in the Memphis area to protect our aquifer from future threats. Three ordinances each for the City and County are in the legislative mill. Most recently, the wellhead protection ordinance, which should prevent a pipeline from crossing the places where we draw our drinking water, was passed by the city. Our programs have been continuing into the fall. August was devoted to training for advocacy with local government. September was a survey on the advances in electric vehicles (EVs) and charging options. This turned out to be very timely as Ford has just announced it will make batteries and EVs here. We also have strong participation at community meetings concerning the removal and disposal of coal ash from the decommissioned Allen coal-fired power plant. Perhaps the most fun thing was a booth we shared with Protect Our Aquifer and Memphis Citizens Against the Pipeline at the annual Cooper-Young Fair, which drew a significant crowd despite Covid-19 and marginal weather.

Clarksville-Montgomery County by JoAnn McIntosh

We were pleased to attend the inaugural meeting of Clarksville's new Sustainability Board on September 20. While the agenda focused on administrative details, our Sierra Club member, Jimmy Mann, did manage to introduce the need for gathering data to establish a baseline from which to measure progress.

With the help of the Chapter Transportation team, SC CMC made a presentation to the City Council August 5 regarding Electric Vehicles (EVs) for City Fleets. The City has a number and variety of replacement fleet vehicles budgeted for 2022 and had not considered EVs. A morning of Ride-and-Drive EV demos targeting reps from the city and county and Austin Peay University was provided by Clean Fuels TN; EVs included Arcimoto, a Nissan Leaf, a Tesla 3, and a Ford Mustang Mach E. We had great attendance and feedback!

In October, we met with the City Garage to further discuss EVs for the City Fleet.

Holston Valley (formerly Tri-Cities) by Greg Kramer

The Tri-Cities Regional Conservation Committee has changed its name to Holston Valley RCC to better describe what part of the state we represent. We are struggling like other groups in getting members to participate in activities with Zoom or in person. Our August program was a visit to Jacob's Nature Park in Johnson City. It was a very nice evening to visit the park and Meg Kelly gave a great guided tour.

Our September program was a visit to Bay's Mountain Park. We were supposed to do a barge ride; since the barge was out of service because repair parts had not yet been received, we enjoyed a quick walk around the Bay's Mountain Lake before the park closed.

Middle Tennessee Group (Nashville) by Antoinette Olesen

Middle TN Group is pleased to have a full roster of enthusiastic nominees for the upcoming election. We celebrated State Naturalist Mack Prichard in August and brought a lot of long-time friends together on Zoom. Dr. Robert Wingfield gave a talk on reducing the family's exposure to toxic substances, which was well received, and followed by a lively question/answer session. In October, the Science Director of the Harpeth Conservancy, Dr. Ryan Jackwood, gave us a presentation on what he's learned so far from water sampling along the Harpeth River.

Nashville Tree Conservation Corps will be sponsoring tree ordinance legislation this December. MTG is hosting Corps founding member and Chair Jim Gregory at our November program to drum up support for this legislation.

Harvey Broome Group (Knoxville) by Jerry Thornton

HBG endorsed five candidates in the election for Knoxville City Council and will work for their election. If you live in Knoxville, please vote for your Sierra Club-endorsed candidates! Due to absurd tax law restrictions, we cannot tell you in this publication who we endorsed, but you can find out through your usual SC electronic sources.

We are hosting a "Get Out the Vote" phonebank at 428 E Scott Ave, Knoxville, through November 2. Help make phone calls to reach potential voters. Please email to request the schedule: gatwildcat@aol.com

HBG programs are via Zoom the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. November 9: Friends of Frozen Head State Park, by Jack Sims, President. Learn about the largest forested and mountainous state park and about the friends group that protects it. December 14: Will likely be our annual photo sharing program. If you would like to share photos of an outing or other adventure with your Sierra Club friends, let Mac Post know to reserve your spot in the queue.

The HBG has no outings scheduled for November or December due to COVID-19 protocol restrictions. If you would like to lead an outing for the HBG and don't mind the paperwork required due to Covid-19 protocol, email Outings Chair:

joanptomlinson@gmail.com.

Election Ballot for At-Large Delegates Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee

2022-2023 Term

Please note that ONLY paper mail-in ballots are available for this year's ballot. No electronic ballot is available.

Please vote for the election of four (4) At-Large Delegates of the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2022, and ending December 31, 2023. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom members in managing our fiscal, legislative, environmental, outings program and governance responsibilities of the Tennessee Chapter. Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2021, to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2021, may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot. Single Members or each Joint Member should vote for no more than four (4) candidates. The order of candidates on the ballot was determined by drawing names at random. **Also complete a ballot for your group on page 5, 8, 9, or 10.**

VOTE HERE FOR CHAPTER AT-LARGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES:

<u>At-Large Chapter Candidates</u>	<u>Single Member or First Joint Member</u> - Max 4 votes -	<u>Second Joint Member</u> - Max 4 votes -
Charlie High	_____	_____
Nancy Bell	_____	_____
Kent Minault	_____	_____
David Riall	_____	_____
Grace Stranch	_____	_____
Marquita Bradshaw	_____	_____

PLEASE READ: Paper ballots must be properly submitted to be counted.

Only current members as of November 1, 2021, may vote! Place both Group and At-Large ballots in the same envelope. Seal and write "Ballot" and your county on that same envelope. Place your "Ballot" envelope in a second envelope for mailing. Write your name, address, and Sierra Club membership number in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope. Your membership number is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your *Tennes-Sierran*.

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

- Mail promptly! Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2021 to be valid.

**Mail ballot promptly to: Dr. Cris Corley
294 Braid Dr., Mt. Juliet, TN 37122**

Candidate Bios

Charlie High is an avid camper, hiker, and kayaker. It was his passion for environmental issues that guided him to Sierra Club 32 years ago. As co-chair of Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO), he organizes and conducts summer outdoor activities for school-age children, inspiring them to care for their environment. In spite of COVID-19 restrictions, ICO conducted five days of outings in July 2021. In 2019, Charlie helped develop Jack Lyle's River Kids, in partnership with the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association, teaching children aged 12 years and older safe and effective use of kayaks. This program has continued offering these valuable, lifesaving skills to date. Charlie has had the honor of serving as Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary of the Middle Tennessee Group; currently, serving as Treasurer. He brings his knowledge and experience as a Nashville attorney to benefit Sierra Club. He currently serves as a Delegate to the State Executive Committee and Chair of the By-Laws and Standing Rules Committee, spearheading the creation of written standing rules for the Tennessee Chapter. If reelected as Delegate to the State Executive Committee, he will continue to pursue the vision for Sierra Club to lead the world in protecting our Earth.

Nancy Bell, a Peace Corps Volunteer in Iran, arrived in Tennessee as a public health nutritionist. Joining the Sierra Club in 1988, she worked on clean air issues in Kingsport. In 1990, she joined Friends of the Clinch and Powell Rivers, served three years as president, designed and led a school ecology program for 10 years, and coordinated cleanups and a recycling fair for 600 students. The Friends also defeated an ash landfill in Hancock County and an azide plant in Hawkins County. She served on the Hawkins County Solid Waste Board and on the Coalition for Jobs & the Environment (TN/VA). In 2004 she earned a Biology Teacher Certificate and taught for 10 years. In 2016, she formed Care NET Conservation Committee with friends and chaired it for three years. Care NET got the Jackson Law passed in Hawkins County, does cleanups, promotes solar power and EVs, and created a quilt memorializing black victims of violence. Currently she is assisting the Hawkins County school system in acquiring electric buses, and is helping create an exhibit on the history and value of the Holston River. She will work to support Sierra volunteers working in rural as well as urban areas.

Kent Minault acted and toured with the award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe in the '60's. He joined the Diggers, organizing street rallies and serving daily free food in the park. They organized the first Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic, a version of which is still there. In the 70's, he worked for the SF Art Commission. His acting career moved him to the top theaters in San Francisco and then to LA in 1987. He expanded into television and film, and taught English for the School District. He organized with his adult students to preserve adult education and worked with his union to defeat anti-union ballot measures. In 2010, he joined the Beyond Coal campaign. After getting LA off coal, he joined the LA County Electric Bus Coalition and got LA Metro to transition to electric buses by 2030. He organized three EV events in Watts and helped found the Watts Clean Air Committee, installing rooftop solar and helping residents enter union apprenticeship programs. He organized an EV event in East Knoxville with SEED. He's on the HBG ExCom and serves as the Group's Political Chair. He works regularly with the Beyond Coal Team and the Chapter Energy Team as well as with Bull Run Neighbors. He currently chairs the State Transportation Team.

David Riall: In my 40-year career in graphic arts, I have always been concerned about the environmental direction in which our world and country are headed. I was very active in the 70's during college and my early career. Family then became my main focus, but now I am back getting involved. In the past few years, I have become active in Sierra Club, Interfaith Power and Light, and Audubon, and as Conservation Chair/Webmaster for the very active and socially-conscious Tennessee Valley Canoe Club. Through the paddle club my wife and I have captained river cleanups along with Adopt-A-River at Audubon Acres. With Sierra Club, I serve on the Chapter Transportation Committee and am currently working through the Cherokee Group to get East Ridge to start thinking in terms of renewables and EVs. I think that everything begins on a local level, so on top of these involvements, I have been politically active in getting exposure for environmentally friendly candidates. I see that there is a path to a better and cleaner world, but we need to get on that path as soon as we can. I would love to be a part of that change for the better.

Grace Stranch is the COO and Vice President of Conservation and Policy at the Harpeth River Conservancy. Prior to joining the Conservancy, she practiced law at Branstetter, Stranch & Jennings, PLLC with a concentration primarily in class actions and union representation. Notably, she worked on the Volkswagen class action about the emission defeat device. She has been Chair of the Middle Tennessee Sierra Club and is currently Vice Chair. For the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, Grace has led or assisted in organizing counting of the election ballots for two election cycles and has served as an alternate delegate. She has led or assisted in organizing the Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law Conference for ten years and is the Tennessee leader for the Environmental Defense Fund. She has considerable organizing experience and has completed grassroots organizational training in Memphis, lobbying training in D.C., and has worked on a rural political campaign in West Tennessee. Based on her significant community involvement, Grace was honored with the 2020 Athena Young Professional Award and Metro Council Resolution RS220-457. If elected, she hopes to foster collaborations with environmental and other groups to promote and implement policies that protect Tennessee's natural environment.

Marquita Bradshaw made history as the first African American woman to win a major political party nomination in any statewide race in Tennessee with her 2020 US Senate run on an Environmental Justice platform. A South Memphis native, Marquita raised her child as a working-class mother while obtaining a degree from the University of Memphis. Marquita has championed many communities' causes in Memphis and throughout the Midsouth as an organizer at the local, state, and national level. Marquita's career and service have spanned from labor, environment, education reform, tax reform, trade policy, and social justice. Along with organizing around her own community's National Priorities List Superfund Site military landfill, she has served, on behalf of the Memphis Chapter Coalition of Black Trade Unionist Community Action and Response Against Toxics (CBTU-CARAT) Team, as Community Communications Liaison to the Memphis Community Advisory Board of the Southern Gateway Environmental Health Disparities Research Center of Excellence. Bradshaw received the Dick Mochow Environmental Justice Award from the Sierra Club, the Human Rights Award from the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, and the VOX Student Award: Financial Literacy High School Pilot from PRSSA. Marquita founded and currently directs Sowing Justice, dedicated to coalition building, increasing civic engagement utilizing citizen science, and providing tools and resources to emerging grassroots organizations.

Election Ballot for Cherokee Group Executive Committee

2022 - 2023 Term

Please note that ONLY paper mail-in ballots are available for this year's ballot. No electronic ballot is available.

You are in the Cherokee Group if you live in one of these counties: Bledsoe, Bradley, Coffee, Franklin, Grundy, Jackson, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Overton, Polk, Putnam, Rhea, Sequatchie, Van Buren, Warren or White. Please vote for the election of (4) members of the Cherokee Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023.

Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group's actions. Only current members as of November 1, 2021, may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot. Single Members or each Joint Member should vote for no more than four (4) candidates. The order of candidates on the ballot was determined by drawing names at random.

VOTE HERE FOR CHEROKEE GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES:

<u>Cherokee Group Candidates</u>	<u>Single Member or First Joint Member</u> - Max 4 votes -	<u>Second Joint Member</u> - Max 4 votes -
Kate Anthony	_____	_____
Bruce Blohm	_____	_____
Tony Wheeler	_____	_____
Lisa Luck	_____	_____
Alice Demetreon	_____	_____

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

- Mail promptly! Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2021 to be valid.

Mail ballot promptly to: **Dr. Cris Corley**
294 Braid Dr., Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Candidate Bios

Kate Anthony is a retired psychologist. She grew up in Southern California, and spent her young adult years backpacking in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. An environmentalist of long standing, she's done four different National Sierra Club service outings, and participated in the People's Climate March in NYC in 2015. She completed the Climate Reality Leadership training. Besides the Sierra Club, she serves for Quaker Earthcare Witness and is active in Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light. Her main focus is climate change. She is currently serving as Chair of the Cherokee Group.

Bruce Blohm is an outdoor enthusiast, an environmental advocate and active with numerous local sustainability efforts. He is a certified Tennessee Naturalist, currently serves on the executive committee as a board member for Friends of South Cumberland State Park, and as secretary/sergeant at arms for South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Alliance. He is originally from New Jersey, semi-retired and has been a resident of Chattanooga since 1981. He and his wife Kerry have one grown daughter living in Memphis.

Tony Wheeler: With degrees in Chemistry and Biochemistry, my professional career as a scientist and engineer has included environmental, health and human safety issues. In 1970, I directed an NSF environmental study of man-made lakes in Iowa. With 3 years at the National Animal Disease Center working in virology and physiology, I became involved with pandemic disease issues and human health. I have published work in medicine and have served as EPA and OSHA compliance officer for government and multinational organizations. After moving to Tennessee in 1985, I purchased property that included abandoned coal mines. By 1990, I had initiated a federal Rural Abandoned Mine Program in the Middle Creek watershed on Signal Mountain involving 6 landowners and multiple mines. This program continues today under TDEC supervision. In 2001, I was part of a community effort that prevented the development of a property at the top of the watershed that had significant sewage and storm water issues. In 2018, after another even more dangerous development proposal next to my home, I became the environmental representative for the Mountain Planning Group and have spent the last three years presenting multiple health and safety issues to TDEC and the Tennessee legislature. These efforts continue.

Lisa Luck is the Program Manager for the Putnam County Solid Waste Department. For over a decade, she has provided education for the county about best practices of waste management including litter, recycling, composting and reducing waste. In addition, she works as a solid waste consultant and works with counties in the Upper Cumberland regarding waste management. Lisa also writes articles about solid waste management for a variety of publications in Tennessee.

Alice Demetreon: I have always loved nature. Growing up in Chicago, I walked the beaches every chance I got. A poor kid from the North Side does not have a lot of opportunities to be "in the wild." I was fortunate to have a mother who took us to Chicago's nature preserves where I wandered the woods, loving every minute. That is why I know the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program is so very important. In 2012 I watched *Gasland*. How many people can say a movie truly changed their life? In 2013 I attended my first anti-fracking rally where I learned of the Sierra Club from Scott Banbury. I was inspired and immediately became a member.

I became very active in my local group by organizing and attending marches, also joining the Executive and Political Committees. In January 2014 I became the TN Chapter Treasurer. I was a Chapter At-Large Delegate for 2 years and know the commitment and work it requires. I seek to connect to the younger crowd out there who are ready to make noise and let legislators know we are watching and the Environment is not for sale to the highest bidder.





Watauga Lake Cleanup

Seventy-six citizens participated in the Watauga Lake Cleanup on September 18, corresponding with the annual World Cleanup Day, which recorded 50 million volunteers from 150 countries doing what was accomplished at Watauga Lake: acting on the problem of litter. Though the final tonnage has not been weighed, the five hours of cleaning debris from our lake will likely yield over 5,000 pounds of garbage.

Families, friends, and lone kayakers brought their catch to collection sites at Roan Creek Bridge, Pioneer Landing Marina, and Fish Springs Marina. Johnson County Litter Control Officer Sandy Hammons continually ran trips from boats and pickup trucks to the Transfer Station. Carter County Solid Waste donated a large dumpster to Fish Springs Marina, which was filled by the end of the day.



Fish Springs and Lakeshore Marinas also donated the use of their barges for collection from isolated shores. While the sense of community was strong and a positive outlook ran through the volunteers, the question was frequently asked (but never thoroughly answered), “why do people litter in the first place?”

Reprinted with permission from *The Tomahawk*, a weekly online and print newspaper distributed in upper East Tennessee. All photos courtesy of Dennis Shenikah.

Editor's note: Final total for litter collected was a whopping 8060 pounds!



Are Ocean Currents Running Amok?

by Joanne Logan, Chapter Digital Team Leader



and Retired University of Tennessee Climatologist

I first learned about the importance of ocean circulation as a controlling factor for many climate patterns around the world while taking a college class in regional climatology. Ocean water temperature, density and salinity are critical factors affecting ocean circulation.

Perhaps the ocean current we are most familiar with is the Gulf Stream, which sends warmer, less dense, water from the tropics, up along the US East coast, and finally across the Atlantic and toward Iceland and the British Isles. That's why England is generally a much balmy place in the winter than, for example, Newfoundland, although they are at similar latitudes.

If you ever had the pleasure (or not) of sitting through *The Day after Tomorrow*, the premise of that movie was that over the course of several years, the part of the Gulf Stream known as the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, or AMOC, ran “amok” (pun intended!), basically shutting down and sending the Northeastern United States and Northern Europe into a deep freeze.

In case you haven't heard, there has been recent speculation that the AMOC is, in fact, acting erratically. AMOC has two basic patterns – weak and strong – and theory goes that it shifts between these two patterns over periods of millennia, and that it is very much related to glacial and interglacial episodes. For recent millennia, it has been in the “strong” phase.

So, how do we measure the AMOC and know whether it is experiencing a change in intensity? As for all ocean circulation patterns, such as El Niño, indices are calculated based on various measurements such as sea surface temperature and salinity.

Niklas Boers, in a recent article published in the monthly journal *Nature Climate Change*,* suggests that several models using such indices predict that a “shift from the strong to the weak AMOC mode can be triggered by adding large amounts of freshwater to the North Atlantic, effectively reducing salinity there, ... although the exact amount is not known.”

So, what are the sources of the incoming freshwater? They include the well-known melting glaciers of Greenland and the increasing precipitation at the higher latitudes, especially Siberia. The rivers flowing into the northern Atlantic are increasing in runoff.

Dr. Boers goes on to stress that “a collapse of the current AMOC state would have severe impacts on the global climate system and would increase the risk of a cascade of further transitions in other major multi-stable components of the Earth system, such as the Antarctic ice sheet, tropical monsoon systems, and the Amazon rainforest.” This sounds pretty dire to me. Now, of course no one is suggesting that a weakening might happen over the few years proposed in the movie.

So, what's the final message from reading this article? If Dr. Boers' predictive early warning indicator is right, it appears that over the last century, the AMOC has indeed started to run “amok” and might be approaching a critical transition. What's not known is when this weakening might occur, how much weakening has happened, or how long it might last. However, anything we can do to slow the melting of the Greenland glaciers or level off the precipitation falling at higher latitudes will help postpone this tipping point.

*Boers, N. Observation-based early-warning signals for a collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation. *National Climate Change* 11, 680–688 (2021).

Contact Joanne at loganjojolo@gmail.com

Let's Protect the Wolf and Hatchie Rivers

by John Henry, Wolf River Guide, Artist, Conservationist, Explorer, "Soggy-Bottom Boy," and Seventh-Year Licensed Hemp Producer

The Wolf River is perhaps the best-kept natural secret anywhere in the great State of Tennessee. Having paddled every linear foot of the Wolf River — from its humble origins in the Fabled Headwaters Region in Ashland Mississippi, all the way to the confluence with the Mighty Mississippi River at Memphis, Tennessee — I formed my own opinions about this sacred body of water along the way.



A kayaker's point of view on the Lost Swamp Trail. Photo courtesy of the Wolf River Conservancy

The Wolf River is classified as a meandering stream - a spring-fed river which flows through some of the most unique wetlands and swamps available anywhere on the planet. Literally — it is a pristine swamp with a river running through it.

The Wolf River bottoms are filled with hardwood and bald cypress and tupelo trees, and are home to a myriad of wetland wildlife — some permanent, and much of it migratory. Twenty-three species of freshwater mussels thrive in the Wolf River, and they all attest to the fact that the spring-fed water is both clean and healthy. Bears and red wolves can still occasionally be found along the Wolf River in the fabled Headwaters Region in Mississippi. That's right — I said bears and red wolves. Two of us actually witnessed and videotaped a red wolf three years ago in

the headwaters, in Ashland Mississippi, and bears are not uncommon in the Holly Springs National Forest where the Fabled Headwaters Region is located. Alligators and all manner of freshwater fish also attest to the health and vigor of the multitude of micro-environments located along the Wolf.

Having guided eco-tourists from across the globe (Australia, Italy, New Zealand, Japan, Canada, the UK, etc.) down the Wolf River, I never cease to be amazed by their reactions to the incredible and surreal beauty presented by the Wolf. More than once I have been told, "This is just like something you would expect to see in National Geographic!"

While the Ghost River is the most well-known stretch of the Wolf, and is paddled by thousands of eco-tourists a year, my personal favorite run is from Bateman Road to Moscow. That float is five to seven hours of serene, surreal, natural wetland beauty.

The Wolf River is a bird-watcher's paradise, with bald eagles, osprey, hawks, falcons, great egrets, several species of owls, buzzards, several species of woodpeckers, blue herons, prothonotary warblers, kingfishers, summer tanagers, indigo buntings, greater yellowlegs, black winged stilts, ducks, geese, hummingbirds, and even localized Canadian geese present for viewing. Many of these species migrate from Central or South America to come here and raise their babies before heading back South for the winter. River otters, beavers, muskrats, deer, coyotes, raccoons, rabbits, and bobcats also thrive along the Wolf River.

Yes — there are some snakes along the Wolf — from venomous cottonmouths, to copperheads, to timber rattlers, to non-venomous northern water snakes, to all the other harmless local snake varieties present in the area. Soft-shell and both species of snapping turtles, along with painted sliders, box turtles, and several other species of turtles also thrive in the Wolf River bottoms.

It is a fairly slow-moving river with no real rapids, but it does occasionally require adept technical paddling skills while maneuvering at two to three miles an hour through and around all the aquatic plant life present. So if you decide to wet a paddle there, be prepared for an adventure that you will never forget.

Please pressure the Wolf River Conservancy, and your elected officials to PROTECT the Wolf River through whatever means necessary.

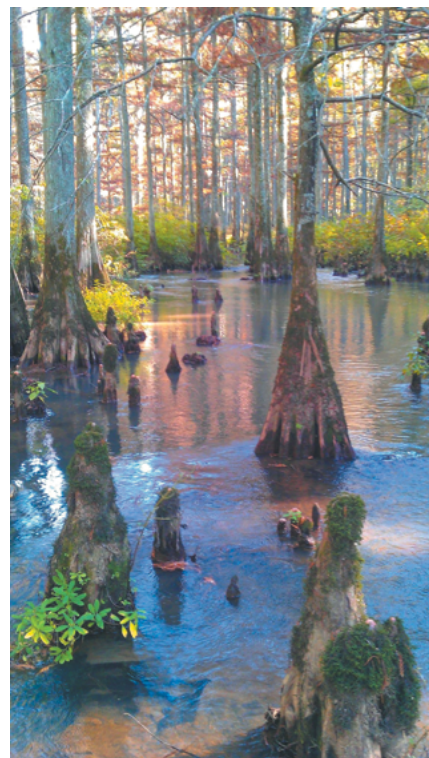
by Ray Graham, Wolf River Guide and Special Education Teacher

I am networking with multiple groups and individuals to increase awareness and appreciation of two Southwest Tennessee rivers, the Wolf and the Hatchie. These overlooked natural wonders are unique in their character and need to be protected from development and the dumping of toxic waste.

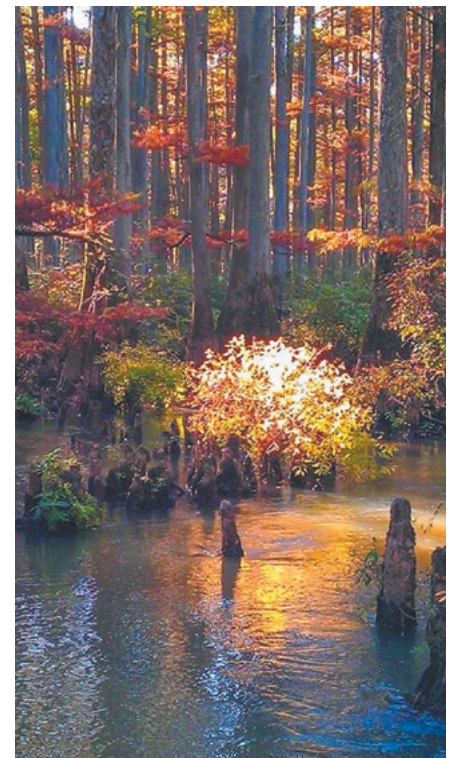
The Wolf River, particularly in Fayette County, remains wild and natural. This is upstream of the 1959 channelization project that terminated in the Memphis suburb of Collierville. The Wolf is a spring-fed river that continually divides itself into divergent channels and spills through a variety of biomes, including open grasslands, mixed hardwood forest, and cypress forest. I've heard an ecologist call it a "frantic river" because its distributaries that break away from the main river channel, only to return later some place downstream. Visitors sometimes ask, "Why would we need a guide? It's a river, you just go downstream." However, the Wolf is no ordinary river - it is labyrinth of flowing water that beckons paddlers to explore. Because the flow is only two to three miles per hour, there are opportunities for upstream paddling that you don't get on most rivers. One can also explore the attached lakes and tributaries. Sadly, the Wolf is only partly protected by the state and nonprofits. My goal is to communicate to the public that the Wolf still needs to be protected from logging and development.

The second river is the Hatchie. It's the last remaining river in West Tennessee to not have its main channel dredged. This natural river includes a "scenic river" section and multiple wildlife management areas. I have not kayaked this river as often as the Wolf, but I am planning a trip to document the lower Hatchie. I plan to become more familiar with it and network with other conservators in the area.

Contact Ray at rrgraham179@hotmail.com



Autumn afternoon on the Bateman-to-Moscow section of the Wolf River in West Tennessee. Photo courtesy of Ray Graham



A sunbeam strikes a sweetspire bush in full fall foliage. Photo courtesy of Ray Graham

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Proposes to Remove the Storied Snail Darter from the Endangered Species List

by Axel Ringe, Chapter Executive Committee

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced on September 1 its proposal to remove the snail darter (*Percina tanasi*) from the endangered species list.

The species first made news in 1975 when the Service listed it as endangered due to the threat posed by a proposed impoundment for the TVA's Tellico Dam, near Lenoir City, Tenn. At that time, it was the only known location for the fish, having been discovered by Dr. David Etnier, University of Tennessee biologist and professor, on August 12, 1973. Dr. Etnier discovered the snail darter in the Little Tennessee River while doing research related to a lawsuit under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The lawsuit said that the Tellico Reservoir, to be created by Tellico Dam, would alter the habitat of the river to the point of killing off the endangered snail darter. Conservationists sued to stop the dam from being completed due to its threat to the fish. The snail darter was the first ESA case to reach the Supreme Court, and in 1978 the court ruled in favor of protections for the fish.

The NEPA lawsuits slowed the construction of the Tellico Dam but did not stop it. After the Supreme Court upheld protection under NEPA, Congress passed legislation specifically exempting the snail darter from protection; the dam project and inundation of the reservoir were completed in 1979. Meanwhile, snail darters were col-



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced September 1, 2021, its proposal to remove the snail darter (*percina tanasi*) from the endangered species list.

lected from the Little Tennessee River and transplanted to the Hiwassee and Holston rivers in Tennessee and then to other locations within its native range.

Inspired by its Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections, over the last 40 years conservation partners went to work protecting and restoring snail darters, conducting surveys that located additional populations, and reintroducing the fish to rivers it once called home. Due to these (continued on page 11)

Election Ballot for Chickasaw Group Executive Committee

2022 - 2023 Term

Please note that **ONLY paper mail-in ballots are available for this year's ballot. No electronic ballot is available.**

You are in the Chickasaw Group if you live in one of these West Tennessee counties: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison; McNairy, Obion, Shelby, Tipton or Weakley. Please vote for the election of three (3) members of the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023.

Successful candidates will join our other ExCom members in guiding our Group's actions. Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2021 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2021, may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot. Single Members or each Joint Member should vote for no more than three (3) candidates. The order of candidates on the ballot was determined by drawing names at random.

VOTE HERE FOR CHICKASAW GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES:

<u>Chickasaw Group</u>	<u>Single Member or</u>	
<u>Candidates</u>	<u>First Joint Member</u>	<u>Second Joint Member</u>
	-Max 3 votes -	- Max 3 votes -
Shenée Simon	_____	_____
Carl Richards	_____	_____
Charlie Belenky	_____	_____

Only current members as of November 1, 2021, may vote! Place both Group and At-Large ballots in the same envelope. Seal and write "Ballot" and your county on that same envelope. Place your "Ballot" envelope in a second envelope for mailing. Write your name, address, and Sierra Club membership number in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope. Your membership number is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran.

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

- Mail promptly! Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2021, to be valid.

Mail ballot promptly to: **Dr. Cris Corley**
294 Braid Dr., Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

PLEASE READ: Paper ballots must be properly submitted to be counted.

Candidate Bios

Shenée Simon brings high energy and strategic thinking for the inclusion of girls/women and girls/women of color across communities and borders with a deep commitment for their peace, safety and security where they live, learn, work, play and pray. In 2019 Shenée founded S.H.E. Collective, LLC, a niche organization to shift and challenge how we regard and name peace, safety and security for girls and women, connecting U.N. resolutions and UNSDGs to state and local education, health and environment programs and policies. Previously, Shenée spent twelve years in for-profit and nonprofit spaces.

Shenée is a 2021 Truman National Project Security Fellow, 2020 Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security Fellow. She currently serves as the United State of Women's Ambassador for Tennessee, serves on Advisory Boards for City of Bartlett Parks and Recreation, and the Working Group on Girls. Shenée holds an MA in Women and Gender Studies and Human Resources Management with a concentration in Nonprofit Management and a BA in Women's Studies and Leadership Studies. She is conversant in French. Shenée is a Virginia native and currently calls Memphis, Tennessee home with her husband, two daughters and two sons, proud homeschooling Army family!

Carl Richards: I am a retired aquatic scientist residing in Memphis, Tennessee. I relocated to Memphis just prior to the pandemic to be near family. Although I have not been active with the Sierra Club throughout most of my career I have long appreciated the thoughtful approach that the Sierra Club takes on most thorny environmental issues. Recently I have enjoyed interacting with both Chickasaw Group and Tennessee Chapter members on several local and regional problems as they've unfolded. I believe the true strength of the Sierra Club lies in the strength and energy found at the local group level and I would like to assist in continuing the success of the Chickasaw Group in Memphis and Western Tennessee. I'm interested in many environmental issues but I'm particularly interested in water-related problems. I've had a diverse professional career leading research in water resource problems for Tribal, State, Federal, and private entities across the U.S. as a professor, researcher, and administrator with the University of Minnesota and as the Director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Research and Development Laboratory in Minnesota which focused on resolving environmental problems in freshwaters of the U.S.

Charlie Belenky: I have always tried to live lightly on the planet and to raise my voice at what I consider mistakes. Since joining Sierra Club in 2016 I have gone on outings, attended chapter retreats, served on the ExCom (Chair since Fall 2020) and the Communications Committee. I am also active with MICAHA (a faith-based social justice organization) and support the Poor People's Campaign. In my youth I was a Boy Scout. I once was arrested at Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. The Byhalia Pipeline opposition has taught me the importance of centering those most affected by a project to lead the opposition to it. I believe we must recruit, engage and mentor a younger and more diverse group of potential leaders.

Every Election is
Determined by the
People who
Show Up.



SIERRA CLUB
TENNESSEE CHAPTER

We CHAMPION solutions
to the climate crisis.

We WORK for clean air, safe water, land
protection, & a vibrant natural world.

We FIGHT for environmental and social justice.

We BELIEVE in getting people outside to enjoy the
outdoors.

Election Ballot for Harvey Broome Group Executive Committee

2022 - 2023 Term

Please note that ONLY paper mail-in ballots are available for this year's ballot. No electronic ballot is available.

You are in the Harvey Broome Group if you live in one of these counties: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Cumberland, Fentress, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Pickett, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Sullivan, Union, Unicoi, or Washington. Please vote for the election of six (6) members of the Harvey Broome Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023.

Successful candidates will join our other ExCom members in guiding our Group's actions. Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2021, to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2021, may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot. Single Members or each Joint Member should vote for no more than six (6) candidates. The order of candidates on the ballot was determined by drawing names at random.

VOTE HERE FOR HARVEY BROOME GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES:

PLEASE READ: Paper ballots must be properly submitted to be counted.

<u>Harvey Broome Group Candidates</u>	<u>Single Member or First Joint Member</u> - Max 6 votes -	<u>Second Joint Member</u> - Max 6 votes -
Axel Ringe	_____	_____
Kristine Johnson	_____	_____
Julie Elfin	_____	_____
Stefen White	_____	_____
Maggie Longmire	_____	_____
Dr. Melanie Mayes	_____	_____

Only current members as of November 1, 2021, may vote! Place both Group and At-Large ballots in the same envelope. Seal and write "Ballot" and your county on that same envelope. Place your "Ballot" envelope in a second envelope for mailing. Write your name, address, and Sierra Club membership number in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope. Your membership number is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your *Tennes-Sierran*.

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

- Mail promptly! Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2021 to be valid.

Mail ballot promptly to: **Dr. Cris Corley**
294 Braid Dr., Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Candidate Bios

Axel Ringe: I would like to be re-elected to the Harvey Broome Group ExCom. I have an academic background in the natural sciences and am retired from the US Department of Energy. I have served on the HBG ExCom continuously since 2001 and have held the position of Group Chair (for four years) and currently serve as co-Conservation/Political Chair. In addition, I hold or have held several positions in the TN Chapter ExCom, including Conservation Chair, Legal Chair, Water Quality Committee Chair, and Biodiversity Committee Chair. I consider myself to be a committed activist and believe I can continue to be an asset to the Harvey Broome Group.

Kristine Johnson is currently completing two years of service as a member of the Harvey Broome Group Executive Committee and would appreciate support for a second term. The Sierra Club provides a unique, unified, and powerful voice for environmental policy and social justice in local, regional, and national issues. While the pandemic limited HBG activities, the Ex Com moved forward with many initiatives and programs and Ms. Johnson was able to participate in each monthly meeting and respond in a timely manner to called votes and requests for information. She appreciated the lively yet congenial discussions and well-informed decisions made by the group. Ms. Johnson grew up in rural southeast Tennessee with parents who were Sierra Club members, active in Boy/Girl Scouting, and advocates for social justice. She earned a Master of Science in Forestry from the University of TN and has served as a federal employee specializing in natural resource management for over 40 years. She is a board member and past president of the TN Invasive Plant Council and has served her local community of Pittman Center on Firewise Committee, Tree Board and Planning Commission. Hobbies include hiking, playing the flute and current events.

Julie Elfin has served as editor-in-chief of the HBG newsletter since February 2021 and is excited to deepen her involvement as an ExCom member. Julie has been a Sierra Club member since 2013 and has organized for fossil fuel divestment, renewable energy, and environmental justice ever since. As a young adult herself, Julie understands the importance of adapting traditional activism to collaborate with new partners and appeal to younger generations. To this end, she recently created an Instagram account for HBG. As an ExCom member, Julie would prioritize seeking out diverse perspectives and building coalitions to improve the East Tennessee environment for all residents. She uses the HBG newsletter to highlight the work of allies like the Sunrise Movement, SEED, and SOCM. Julie lives in Knoxville with her girlfriend, Nora, and their cats, Theo and Banjo. She works as a park ranger in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and previously educated local students about the environment through AmeriCorps positions with the Water Quality Forum in Knoxville and Discover Life in America in the Smokies.

Stefen White was born to Jacita and Joseph White on March 9th in 1989 in Nuremberg, Germany and was raised in Knoxville, TN. Stefen graduated from Austin-East Magnet High School in 2007, graduated from Rust College in 2011 with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration, and started and is completing a Master's of Science in Instruction and Curriculum Leadership and a Master's of Arts in Liberal Studies at the University of Memphis. Stefen has a passion for economic development, business/organizational development, investing, entrepreneurship, entertainment, health—mental and physical. He is a Co-founder and CEO of Allinwon, a growing startup (LLC) that is a financial institution dedicated to increasing the rate of experiential learning and the diversification of personalized curriculum and personalized experiences for all subjects/studies. Allinwon has won awards, and is establishing itself by providing a business accelerator called the Allinwon-a-thon that utilizes proprietary technology and the inclusion and resources of the community to intentionally help business and people grow. Stefen has also held numerous positions with various organizations including being an Intake Specialist with Knox County CAC, the Veterans Program Coordinator with The East Tennessee Technology Access Center, and the Curriculum Director with SEED, while also having volunteer experiences. Stefen believes in abundance and the capability of all people to contribute to everyone having the most fulfilling life & world possible. These goals are made possible with the dedicated support of the strategic sharing of understanding and resources.

Maggie Longmire: I came to Knoxville in 1966 from Norris, TN to attend U.T.K. majoring in Sociology. I am a professional singer and musician. I have written and recorded 4 CD's. I owned a leather manufacturing company for 20+ yrs. I helped to organize "Sing for the Climate" in 2019 to raise Climate Awareness in Knoxville. I use music as a vehicle for my activism as a singer/songwriter. I joined the Sierra Club to learn how I could help mitigate the consequences of using fossil fuels. As a current ExCom member, I serve as Membership Chair. As a member of the Political and Conservation Teams, together we: participate in political candidate endorsements processes; build relationships with City Council members; produced 2 videos interviewing endorsed candidates running at state level; support "Freeze the Fees" and weatherization programs; build relationships with SEED, Appalachian Voices, S.A.C.E, and Sunrise Movement; support Claxton Community near Bull Run Fossil Fuel Plant as closure approaches and residual Coal Ash threatens the region; and support Kingston Coal Ash Workers and their fight for justice. I want to continue to advocate for renewable energy and environmental justice and leave an inheritable planet for our children. I would be honored to continue to serve if selected. Sincerely, Maggie Longmire

Dr. Melanie Mayes is a geologist and Senior Scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and a Joint Faculty with the University of Tennessee. Melanie's two-decade research career involves relationships between soil carbon, greenhouse gases, and climate; remedial solutions for mercury contamination; and radionuclide and heavy metal migration in soils. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a Lead Editor of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's Second State of the Carbon Cycle Report. She presented the report's findings to the Tennessee Sierra Club Annual Meeting and the Harvey Broome Group. Melanie is an avid hiker, having logged over 10,000 miles in the Appalachian Mountains. She serves as the Chair of Waysouth, a non-profit promoting environmentally and fiscally responsible transportation projects in Appalachia. She is a past Board member of the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning and served as a science advisor to the Lundquist Environmental Appalachian Fellowship. Melanie can contribute to the mission of the Harvey Broome Group with her expertise in subsurface hydrology and metal contamination, can speak to the public about climate change and its effects, and would love to contribute to the Third Edition of the Cherokee National Forest Hiking Guide to the fabulous mountains of eastern Tennessee.

Election Ballot for Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee

2022-2023 Term

Please note that ONLY paper mail-in ballots are available for this year's ballot. No electronic ballot is available.

You are in the Middle Tennessee Group if you live in one of these counties: Bedford, Cannon, Cheatham, Clay, Davidson, DeKalb, Dickson, Giles, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Moore, Perry, Robertson, Rutherford, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Wayne, Williamson and Wilson. Please vote for the election of four (4) members of the Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023.

Successful candidates will join our other ExCom members in guiding our Group's actions. Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2021, to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2021, may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot. Single Members or each Joint Member should vote for no more than four (4) candidates. The order of candidates on the ballot was determined by drawing names at random.

VOTE HERE FOR MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES:

<u>Middle Tennessee Group Candidates</u>	<u>Single Member or First Joint Member</u> - Max 4 votes -	<u>Second Joint Member</u> - Max 4 votes -
Diane Scher	_____	_____
Mary High	_____	_____
Jack McFadden	_____	_____
Karen McIntyre	_____	_____

PLEASE READ: Paper ballots must be properly submitted to be counted.

Only current members as of November 1, 2021, may vote! Place both Group and At-Large ballots in the same envelope. Seal and write "Ballot" and your county on that same envelope. Place your "Ballot" envelope in a second envelope for mailing. Write your name, address, and Sierra Club membership number in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope. Your membership number is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of this *Tennes-Sierran*.

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

- Mail promptly! Ballots must be received no later than December 15, 2021 to be valid.

Mail ballot promptly to: **Dr. Cris Corley**
294 Braid Dr., Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Candidate Bios

Diane Scher has been on the Executive Committee for two years. She retired from Bridgestone as an environmental manager for manufacturing operations for over 20 years. She is originally from New York and has lived in Nashville nearing 40 years. She has become a native plant enthusiast and works on wildlife habitat restoration on her 35-acre property in Joelton, Tennessee.

Mary High: I have been a member of Sierra Club for nearly five years, and I have performed the duties of Secretary for the Middle Tennessee Group for most of that time. I work in healthcare finance and spend my free time with a close group of friends and family here in Nashville. I attended University of Tennessee at Knoxville where I was involved with the Progressive Student Alliance and United Campus Workers-CWA. I have volunteered for and attended numerous MTG events and outings. I enjoy spending time in nature and especially love spotting wildlife. I'm very proud of the work that Sierra Club does to protect the environment, particularly the Middle Tennessee Group. I would be happy to represent MTG ExCom, and I thank you for your consideration.

Jack McFadden's history of support for environmental responsibility began as part of a team organizing events on his college campus for the very first Earth Day. Jack spent the early part of his professional life utilizing video technology in education and community development before transitioning to Information Technology positions in telecommunications and planning. Since retirement in 2018, he has been active in support of program planning for the Middle Tennessee Group, and has served on its Executive Committee for the past year. He is committed to practicing environmental sustainability and has volunteered for tree planting and other activities to support our natural landscape with the Cumberland River Compact. He is also an avid hiker and has introduced family and quite a few friends to the many wonderful trails and natural areas available to us in Nashville area parks and reserves.

Karen McIntyre: I grew up surrounded by people who loved nature, spending summers by the Gallatin River in Montana and winter weekends with a park ranger uncle on after-dinner walks in the woods. I serve as Westmeade Elementary School Librarian (Nashville, TN) introducing children to books and nature. I received a BA degree in history from Chapman University, an MLIS from the University of North Texas, and an M.Ed. in reading from Eastern New Mexico University. I'm a member of many environmental organizations including TIPL and Westend UMC Creation Care. For twelve years, I have worked to bring outdoor education to Westmeade. During this time programs to redirect untouched food to the Rescue Mission in Nashville rescued 10,000 pounds of food in 2½ years. In 2019 composting of cafeteria waste began. In 2020, many conservation organizations, businesses and individuals mounted a successful campaign to get Metro Nashville Public Schools to fully adopt sustainability. The district agreed and students completed a Nashville Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. Metro Council passed a proclamation honoring MNPS and accepting the COBOR in January 2021. This is only the beginning of the impact we hope to have locally in limiting our carbon footprint and re-establishing wildlife habitat.



Dear Eartha : Advice from An Eco-Guru

Dear Eartha,
Since Joe Biden took office as president, US policies to protect the earth have improved. But more needs to be done. Do you have any suggestions?
Worried in Tullahoma

Dear Worried,

You read my mind. President Biden's improvements — raising the US target for cutting climate pollution (double what was promised in the Paris Agreement); appointing a killer climate change team, including Gina McCarthy, Michael Regan, John Kerry, Jennifer Granholm, and Deb Haaland; creating a superstar American Jobs Plan; prioritizing environmental justice by establishing two agencies and committing 40% of benefits from investments flow to disadvantaged communities; and rolling back Trump's harmful rules by overturning or targeting one per day in Biden's first 100 days in office — have begun to turn our ship around. And it is just the beginning — if Congress will pass his main infrastructure bill.

But you are correct in stating that more needs to be done. Let's start with contacting Senator Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia, to pressure him to abandon his resistance to the climate action in that 3.5 trillion budget. According to Bill McKibben, writing for *The New Yorker*, Manchin wants to "reward utilities that build new power plants designed to burn natural gas," essentially seeking to lower Biden's four percent clean electricity from utilities to three percent or less. This number is not supported by scientists or economists, says McKibben, who call for "urgent action" and "a speedy switch to renewable energy" respectively. <https://bit.ly/NYClimateWeek>

Senator Manchin can be reached at (202)224-3954.

Here's another suggestion: Join one of the Sierra Club's letter writing teams via their political committee. I get regular reminders to write letters to various constituencies from the mobilize.us platform. You sign up for a training on how to write letters in support of Sierra Club causes, and then you'll regularly be invited to participate in writing letters with other people or on your own. There's one going on now called Letters to Virginia Voters 2021 Election to help elect Democrats to the Virginia House before November 2. Sign up for training, which is virtual, of course, so you can join anywhere if you have internet access. The letters are sent to voters already "highly motivated by environmental issues," and the letter is a personal reminder. Powerful, right? And fairly simple and Delta-variant-exposure-free since you write the letters in the privacy and comfort of your home. Contact: www.sierraclubindependentaction.org

In whatever way we take action, what we need to do is *keep* taking action because power never loosens its grip on power until forced to — and our force is activism, any way we can do it!

So, Worried, may the force be with you. As I am!

— Eartha

*Dear Eartha is written by Rita Bullinger.
Submit your question for Eartha to SierraTNNews@gmail.com*

Snail Darter (continued from page 7)

and other efforts and collaborations, the FWS scientific status review has found the snail darter no longer faces the threat of extinction, and they are proposing it for delisting.

The snail darter was downlisted from endangered to threatened in 1984 due to successful relocations and the discovery of new populations. It can now be found in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The improvement to the status of the species is due to partnership work among federal and state agencies and the Reservoir Release Improvement Program managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), which benefits darters and other species. TVA's program increased water quality in the Tennessee River system, allowing snail darters to recolonize the Tennessee River.

In 2015, TVA biologists collected snail darters in new locations more than 100 river miles downstream of previously known occurrences. This initiated a focused sampling effort that extended throughout the entire length of the Tennessee River. TVA biologists have since documented snail darters in portions of eight of the nine Tennessee River reservoirs, a reach spanning 442 river miles.

State water quality and wildlife laws will continue to protect the snail darter and its habitat if the species is delisted. In addition, its range overlaps with other federally protected aquatic animals, so its habitat will not be affected.

Contact Axel at onyxfarm@bellsouth.net

"It's Nixon who created the Environmental Protection Agency. Clean Air and Water Acts. Endangered Species Act. Promoted affirmative action. One could go on and on with Nixon as a New Deal liberal on domestic policy and a hawk, but one with great geo-political skills."

—Douglas Brinkley, American Author

Kingston Coal Ash Workers Honored



Coal ash widows Janie Clark, left, and Johnnie Bledsoe, right, and coal ash orphan Jessica Waller, center, pose in solidarity with the flag flown over the Capitol in honor of Kingston cleanup workers, as the flag behind them flies at half-mast. Photo courtesy of Janie Clark.

by Todd Waterman, Harvey Broome Group

The Kingston Coal Ash Workers Legacy Flag, which was flown over the U.S. Capitol on July 29, was presented in Knoxville on Monday, September 13, to Kingston cleanup worker Ansol Clark's widow Janie. Tennessee 2nd District Representative Tim Burchett made the presentation at the East Tennessee Veterans' Cemetery Pavilion.

Rep. Burchett remarked: "On Monday, I presented Kingston Coal Ash workers with a flag that was flown in honor of their legacy. Many of the workers who cleaned up the disastrous 2008 coal ash spill still face devastating health effects. It was an honor to recognize these folks."

"Monday was perfect," Janie Clark said. "This was a long-awaited dream that came true for me. I am just saddened Ansol was not physically present and by my side, although I know he was there in spirit."

"At the time and place of God's choosing, the workers' flag will be given to Jamie Satterfield in enormous gratitude for the extraordinary sacrifice she has made in seeking justice on our behalf," she said.

Contact Todd at jtoddw@gmail.com

Three Haiku by Matsuo Basho


An ancient pond!
With a sound from the water
Of the frog as it plunges in.

Ah! the waving lespedeza,
Which spills not a drop
Of the clear dew!

The cry of the cicada
Gives us no sign
That presently it will die.

All three haiku were translated by William George Aston and are in the public domain.

Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left.
— Aldo Leopold



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Spark connects people with disabilities to assistive technology and services. The term 'assistive technology' describes a wide variety of equipment. It can refer to items such as walking canes and hospital beds, as well as highly sophisticated computer applications that assist people with vision loss, or those who cannot speak.

Spark offers a range of services to people with disabilities. We offer help for those learning to live with a disability, for those facing new challenges from existing complications, and for their caregivers and support staff. Assistive technology can be a big investment, and we at Spark strive to help people with disabilities make better-informed choices about buying assistive technology that is right for their needs.

We are located at: www.sparktn.org
 116 Childress St (865) 219-0130
 Knoxville, TN 37920

UPCOMING MEETINGS

COVID-19 NOTICE: Sierra Club activities may enforce group size limits, PPE, social distancing requirements to comply with COVID-19 restrictions of the meeting venue, city, and county rules where the activity takes place. Please contact the activity organizer for any updates. Consultation with your health care provider in best practice prevention is recommended. Check website for Zoom or in-person meeting status or contact your chair (see page 2).

Group Program Meetings	
Group	Date
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Mon 11/22, 12/27, 1/24 @7pm
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Thu 11/18, 12/16, 1/20 @6pm
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 11/9, 12/14, 1/11 @7pm
Middle TN (Nashville)	Thu 11/11, 12/9, 1/13 @7pm
Group Business Meetings	
Group	Date
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Mon 11/1, 12/6, 1/3 @7pm
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Wed 11/3, 12/1, 1/5 @6:30 pm
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 11/23, 12/28, 1/25 @7pm
Middle TN (Nashville)	Mon 11/15, 1/20, 1/17 @6:30 pm
Regional Conservation Committee Program Meetings	
Committee	Date
Holston Valley	Tue 11/9, 12/14, 1/11 @7pm
Regional Conservation Committee Business Meetings	
Committee	Date
Clarksville	Tue 11/16, 12/21, 1/18 @6pm
CareNET (Rogersville)	Thu 11/18, 12/16, 1/27 @7pm
Watauga (Mountain City)	Tue 11/9, 12/14, 1/11 @5pm
Holston Valley	Wed 11/24, 12/22, 1/26 @7pm

Deepen Your Involvement

If you would like to deepen your involvement with the Tennessee Chapter, please consider volunteering to help with any of the following important support activities. Unless otherwise noted, please contact Mac Post with questions or to volunteer (mpost3116@gmail.com or 865-938-3116).

- **Chapter Treasurer** — oversight of the finances for the Chapter. Fortunately, we have an excellent bookkeeper who is knowledgeable about Sierra Club policies and procedures and does much of the detailed work.
- **Membership Committee** — recruit and engage new volunteers in a way that furthers the Chapter mission.
- **Elections Committee** — Three volunteers are needed for about eight hours of work in December to collect and count ballots, and report results of Chapter and Group executive committee elections. Contact Cris Corley (drcriscorley@gmail.com, 615-477-9090).
- **Digital Strategies Team** — Digital strategies leader, social media, working with Sierra Club tools. Contact John Behn (by text at 615-390-8079 or email at Digital.Strategies@Tennessee.SierraClub.org).

Seeking Passionate Writers

The *Tennes-Sierran* is looking for passionate writers to cover important Tennessee news about conservation. We're especially interested in writers with backgrounds in environmental issues. If you are an experienced writer and would like to be a part of the Sierra Club movement to protect Tennessee's environment, please contact:
 Emily Ellis, TS Editor, tnsierran.editor@gmail.com



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 NOVEMBER 3-4, 2021
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National Zero Waste Virtual Conference
 December 8-9, 2021
www.zwconference.org

Defenders Fund Contributors

Thanks to the generosity of these Defenders of the natural world!

Walter F. Cygan	Martha Simmons
Kent Minault	Brian and Angela Groenhout
Elizabeth L. Cunningham	Elizabeth Garber
Russell Warzyn	Charlotte Icardi
Judith Chevedden	Ray Willis
Cathy Conley	Sherry Loller
Brian Paddock	Emily Ellis

January 2022 Chapter Retreat Replaced with Virtual Business Meeting

The January 14-16 2022 retreat at Cedars of Lebanon State Park will not take place due to Sierra Club COVID-19 restrictions. The Executive Committee business meeting will be hosted on Zoom on Saturday January 15, 9:00am Central time, 10:00 Eastern. All Chapter members are invited to attend. Please register using the following link and you will be sent the information needed to join remotely:
<https://bit.ly/TNSC-Jan22ExCom>

RETREAT SCHEDULE		
	LOCATION	DATES
Winter 2022	Cancelled due to Covid-19	
Spring 2022	Fall Creek Falls State Park	April 29-May 1
Fall 2022	Pickett State Park	October 28-30