

Tennesse - Sierran

The Monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 49, Number 6 - November/December 2016

Watauga Group Recipe: Equal parts trust, respect and teamwork

by Dennis Shekinah and Gloria Griffith

We have all experienced that special moment of walking into a room full of strangers who have gathered to organize and fight a common threat. For us within the Watauga Group, the threat has taken many forms such as a factory farm, agricultural chemicals, an asphalt plant fouling a native trout stream and a creek-side trailer park with insufficient septic capacity to name a few.

The process is always the same for us; calm the group's sense of helplessness, let them know they are not alone, begin turning their rage into hope and (arguably the most important) begin identifying those individuals that can be trusted and relied upon.

Feeling out those citizens who can be counted on to show up for the second meeting and the third and the fourth is a far better recipe for success than capitalizing on people's anger and emotions. Outraged 'drama' leaders will not forge a lasting alliance of activists. Trust does.

Trust is the bedrock foundation of leadership teams. Those leaders will engage others toward their best effect. Momentum is gained. Bad guys loose.

Teams that trust one another are not afraid to engage in open, vigorous debate around issues and decisions that are cornerstones to success. They do not hesitate to disagree with, challenge and question one another. There exists a spirit of finding the best answers, developing winning strategies and making good decisions.



Watauga Group members Donna Lisenby, Mark Piper and Jay Piper.
Photo credit: Dennis Shekinah.

Trust builds a team whose members count on each other to say what they will do and get it done.

Members of great teams trust one another on a fundamental, gut level and are comfortable being open with each other about their weaknesses, mistakes, fears and constraints. Trust leads to the freedom to ask questions and be active listeners. Trust quickly leads to reaching the point where everyone can be open with one another without filters. That creates a powerful bond.

I have developed a lasting respect for

members who have confronted me on my frivolous ideas and poorly thought-out proposals. Likewise, when applying feedback to other team members, it always strengthens our friendship. We all possess ego, however a generous dose of compassion and humor makes the occasional bitter pill of honesty easier to swallow.

I think our fellow Sierra Club members with far more experience in organizing would agree with the premise we in the Watauga Group continue to learn: trust is essential to achieving goals.

Remember To Vote! Ballots on pages 4 – 8.

Looking Ahead: Tennessee Chapter Winter Retreat January 27-29 Cedars of Lebanon State Park

Join the TN Chapter as we meet for our Winter Retreat. Come and enjoy the company and interaction with environmental leaders from across the state. Be a part of the fellowship, hikes, fireplace chats, meetings, and star gazing. Be sure not to miss the Saturday evening program, live music and bon fire. Meet others that share your love and respect for Mother Nature.

Cedars of Lebanon is a 900 acre state park located south of Lebanon, TN and is part of the Cedars of Lebanon State Forest. We will meet at the Group Lodge. Facilities include two heated bunkhouse wings with restroom and shower accommodations

Weekend activities will feature:

- Winter nature hikes on both Saturday and Sunday led by Randy Hedgepath, TN State Naturalist.
- Saturday evening program by Susan Thrasher, owner and operator of Southern Brookies Fly Fishing in Lancaster, TN about her home water, the Caney Fork, and other tail waters in the Tennessee area
- Saturday evening live music by Antoinette Olesen, award winning singer and songwriter.

Details regarding these activities and their presenters can be found on page 12.



Register by Saturday, January 14th to receive early bird pricing of \$50 for the entire weekend, which includes dorm style lodging, two breakfasts, and Saturday dinner. Note that you will need to bring your own lunches. Registrations after January 14th are \$60. First time attendees are half price. Partial attendance pricing: Saturday meals - \$30, Sunday breakfast - \$10, attendance only registration fee - \$5

To register, email Charlie High at ca-high1722@aol.com or telephone at 615-500-5499. Voicemail is available; reservations will be confirmed in same form made. Be sure to specify Vegetarian or Omnivore.

Tennessee Chapter Spring Retreat Pickett State Park April 28th thru 30th

4605 Pickett Park Highway
Jamestown, Tennessee 38556
<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/pickett>

Mark your spring calendar to attend the TN Chapter Retreat!

Pickett State Park has miles of trails with geologic features on the scenic Cumberland Plateau. Come join the fellowship, hikes, campfire, star gazing and silent auction. Early wildflowers will be popping.

Meet up at Pickett State Park Group Lodge which includes bunkhouses with separate bathhouse accommodations. Early bird reservation fee is \$50.00 which includes Sat & Sun breakfast plus dinner on Sat night. Specify vegetarian or omnivore when you confirm.

Everybody pitches in to help with cleanup before 11am Sunday checkout. Special 1/2 price for first time attendees, children 15 and under are free and several scholarships are available with advance approval.

Watauga Group is hosting this Spring Chapter Retreat. For further information contact Gloria Griffith at 423-727-4797 or GLa4797@Embarqmail.com

Tennes -Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: c.demetreon@mchsi.com and sean.m.rinehart@gmail.com

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is September 30th for the November/December issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to c.demetreon@mchsi.com and sean.m.rinehart@gmail.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files. Attached files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in Pages.

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

**Target Date for
January - February is
November 30, 2016.**

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

**Send material to
Chris Demetreon at
c.demetreon@mchsi.com
and
Sean Rinehart at
sean.m.rinehart@gmail.com**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



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

- John Muir

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Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____
Exp. Date ____/____/____
Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<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

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**Chapter Staff:
Scott Banbury
Conservation Program Coordinator
901-619-8567**

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

Chapter Meeting	Location	Dates
Winter	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	January 27 - 29
Spring	Picket State Park	April 28 - 30
Summer	NB Forrest State Park	July 21-23
Fall	Picket State Park	October 27-29

TVA reneges on promise to use wastewater to cool gas plant

By Scott Banbury, Tennessee Chapter Conservation Programs Coordinator

Memphis, TN - In April 2011, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) entered into agreements with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, and three environmental advocacy groups, including the Sierra Club. These agreements required TVA to reduce emissions across its coal-fired generating system and take other pollution reduction actions at its coal plants, including retiring some of its units. TVA agreed to reduce emissions at the Allen Fossil Plant in Memphis by either installing flue gas desulfurization systems (FGDs or “scrubbers”) or retiring the plant by December 2018.

To comply with the EPA Agreements, TVA proposed to replace the existing coal-fired plant by constructing and operating a new natural-gas fired plant. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), TVA developed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this action. The Draft EA and Draft Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were released for public comment in July 2014, and 1,500 people provided comments, including 1,300 letters generated by the Sierra Club. After reviewing the public comments, TVA issued the Final Environmental Assessment in August 2014.

The Preferred Alternative as identified in the Final EA was: “TVA’s preferred alternative is Alternative B under which TVA would construct and operate a new gas-fired CT/CC generating plant on a 73.3-ac parcel that TVA leases immediately south of the existing coal-fired facility. The proposed facility would utilize the existing switchyard at ALF. Under a CC configuration, the new plant would use gray water provided by the Maxson WWTP located west of ALF. Potable water would be provided by an existing water supply line. In addition the proposed CT/CC facility operation would require the construction operation, and maintenance of approximately 13 mi of new gas pipeline to supply fuel for the new plant. Retiring the three coal units and constructing the proposed natural gas plant would comply with the EPA Clean Air Agreements consistent with TVA’s mission to provide reliable and affordable power and TVA’s goal of achieving and maintaining a balanced portfolio of generation resources (collectively, the Purpose and Need for this proposed action).”

In January 2016, Sierra Club learned that TVA might be considering cooling water sources other than gray water from the Maxson Wastewater Treatment Plant due to “prohibitive” costs associated with pre-treating greywater from the treatment plant. At the TVA Regional Energy Resource Council (RERC) meeting in Memphis a few days later, Sierra Club confirmed this with TVA staff. TVA staff said that a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) would be published sometime in April, and Sierra Club staff emphatically stated our interest in commenting on it. April came and went and no SEA was ever announced or posted for public review.

On July 20, 2016, Sierra Club learned that a SEA was, in fact, conducted in April but

that the public, including the approximately 1,500 people and organizations that had commented on the original EA, were not notified in any way. It was not even posted on TVA’s NEPA compliance page for the Allen Fossil Plant Emission Control Project. Sierra Club immediately requested a copy of the SEA and was told the next day that it was posted on the aforementioned webpage, (where it was NOT to be found the day before. Sierra Club staff checked the Wayback Machine (historical snapshots of websites) and confirmed that it was not there in April.

The SEA considered three alternatives: Alternative A - No Action (continue with use of wastewater); Alternative B - Installation of Groundwater Wells; and Alternative C - Purchasing Water from Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW). TVA subsequently decided that Alternative B was the preferred alternative, arguing that the use of greywater was too expensive, and that MLGW was unable to provide the volumes of water required during peak operation (it turns out that TVA never asked MLGW if they could provide the requisite water). The groundwater wells proposed in Alternative B would reach 500 feet below Memphis to tap the Memphis Sand Aquifer, the source of Memphis’ lauded drinking water, which takes as long as 2000 years to recharge.

Sierra Club then reached out to TVA’s NEPA compliance staff and asked why the public was not notified of the SEA and received the following response: “...Although not required to do so by law, TVA opened for comment the Environmental Assessment that it prepared to address the proposed construction of the natural gas plant in 2014. Approximately 1,500 people commented on the EA. After reviewing the environmental impacts and public comments, the TVA Board approved retiring the coal plant and replacing it with the natural gas plant. The schedule to complete the natural gas plant and putting it into service before the coal plant has to be retired is challenging. TVA received only one substantive comment about the use of greywater, which came from a supporter of continued operation of the coal units. This commenter was not associated with the Sierra Club or any other environmental advocacy group. Smith Management Group (Kentucky) asserted that minerals in the greywater would impact using it for cooling water at a gas plant without advanced, costly treatment. TVA’s subsequent, more detailed engineering evaluations reached a similar conclusion and led to the decision to reconsider potential sources of cooling water...”

Why would TVA not notify any of the 1,500 members of the public who commented on the original Environmental Assessment about this major modification to the preferred alternative? Could it be that they knew that wasting 3.5 million gallons of drinking water per day to cool a power plant would not be popular?

Sierra Club learned in July that the Shelby County Health Department had issued two well permits to TVA with a third in the works and two more pending. These permits are issued without public notice and oversight by the Memphis & Shelby County Groundwater Control Board, which has the respon-

sibility to “secure, protect, and preserve the quality and quantity of the groundwater within Shelby County,” let alone approval by the Shelby County Commission or Memphis City Council.

On August 18, the Chickasaw Group held a public forum on the issue which was attended by nearly 200 people. The panel included Jerry Collins, the President of Memphis Light Gas and Water; Angela Garrone, attorney for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy; Brian Waldron, Director of U of M’s Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research (CAESER); Nancy Brannon, Citizen Member of the Shelby County Ground Water Board; and Scott Banbury, Conservation Program Coordinator of the Sierra Club. Presented with the facts, the public in attendance was outraged by TVA’s decision.

The next week the Memphis City Council passed a resolution condemning TVA’s use of our drinking water, which was delivered to the TVA board during the morning public listening session at their meeting in Knoxville on August 25, along with a letter from U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen asking TVA to reconsider. That afternoon, TVA CEO Bill Johnson responded saying that TVA was mandated to pursue the least cost alternative and that he could not pass on the \$6 million it would cost to pretreat wastewater to TVA’s approximately 7 million customers, an annual rate increase of less than one dollar.

Sierra Club then turned to the Shelby County Commission, which ordered that committee be formed to study Shelby County’s groundwater regulations and draft a new ordinance that would provide public transparency and require final approval of any well permits over a certain volume to be approved by the Commission. Several Commissioners also asked the Shelby County Health Department to reject TVA’s last two permits.

This got TVA’s attention and the next week a half dozen TVA executives came to plead their case to County Mayor Mark Luttrell. While the Mayor does not appear to be sympathetic to TVA’s arguments, the Health Department was forced to issue the final two permits for fear of a lawsuit. However, for the first time ever, the Health Department announced this decision publicly and as a result, the Sierra Club is appealing those permits before the Groundwater Quality Control Board, another first.

Though there may be little hope that we will be able to stop TVA from raiding our drinking water, this issue, and the strong public response to it, has awakened local elected officials, and we are certain that it will result in much stronger Shelby County groundwater regulations, as well as action on the state level to strengthen groundwater protection across the state. It may even lead to the adoption of an interstate compact to insure the sustainability of the Memphis Sand Aquifer, which underlies the states of Mississippi and Arkansas, too.

For more information, or to get involved, contact Scott Banbury at 901-619-8567 or smbanbury@gmail.com.

Election Ballot of At-Large Delegates for the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee: 2017-2018 Term

Please vote for the election of three (3) At-Large members to the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. Successful candidates will join our four other At-Large Delegates and Group Delegates in managing the fiscal, legislative, environmental, outings and other responsibilities for our Chapter.

Ballots must be received no later than 1/5/2017 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2016 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.

2016 Tennessee Chapter At-Large Election for 2017-2018

You may vote for no more than three (3) candidates (listed in random order):

Vote for 3 Candidates	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Gary Bowers	_____	_____
Barbara Kilbourne	_____	_____
Bill Moll	_____	_____
Dennis Lynch	_____	_____
Joel Gearhardt	_____	_____

Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2016 may vote.

Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write "At Large Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in a second envelope. In the upper left hand corner, write your Sierra membership number (which is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) with your name and address.

If you receive your Tennes-Sierran electronically and need your membership number, you may contact Gloria Griffith for your number at GLa4797@embarq-mail.com (put "membership number" in the subject line) or call 423-727-4797. You will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

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

Ballots must be received no later than 1/5/2017. Group ExCom ballot and At Large Delegate ballot should be mailed in same addressed outer envelope.

Mail to: Grace Stranch, Sierra Club Elections
223 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37203

Candidate Biographies (in random order):

Gary Bowers

Gary is committed to insuring that everyone has an opportunity to experience nature and the natural wonders of the world. He has lived that commitment for the past 31 years working diligently to protect our planet. He has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1984, and actively engaged in conservation work since the late 1980's. His true passions are the hardwood forests of Tennessee.

Gary strives to be well informed about current threats to our environment. He strongly believes that we are at a critical crossroads in the areas of energy conservation/alternative energy generation and local/organic (non-GMO) food production, and that these very important issues should continue to be key Chapter focus areas.

Gary currently is an At Large member of the TN Chapter Executive Committee and Chapter Revitalization Coordinator.

An At-Large delegate represents the entire Chapter (State of Tennessee) and provides leadership. This means having working knowledge, historical and current, of Sierra Club national initiatives, Tennessee Chapter initiatives, how the two relate.

15 years as Conservation Chair provide an extensive knowledge of these areas. Experience includes: revising Chapter conservation committees, aligning with National Club priorities, establishing goals and mission statements, helping bring National's Beyond Coal Campaign to Tennessee, obtaining Sierra's first End Commercial Logging campaign in the country, drafting forest protection legislation.

Continuing as an At Large member of the Chapter Executive Committee is important to allow him to work effectively in the Revitalization Coordinator role.

Gary would appreciate your vote.

Barbara Kilbourne

Environmental protection has been a consistent passion since my environmental activism in community college and developing the Eagle Valley Environmental refuge during my last two years of college.

Despite this passion I completed a Master's of Science in Public Affairs and the Ph.D. in sociology. I currently work as a Professor of Sociology at Tennessee State University. In this capacity I continue to promote advocacy for environmental justice, a passion for outdoor activities that create an appreciation of nature that will translate to good stewardship of the planet, and urge students to embrace sustainability."

Many thanks!

Bill Moll

I have been a Sierra Club member for over forty years, and have been on the Cherokee Group ExCom for the past two years. As the Program Coordinator, one of my objectives has been to make our local members familiar with the Chapter's conservation activities and campaigns.

As an At-Large Delegate to the Tennessee Chapter ExCom, a primary objective would be to increase the involvement of members in the Chapter's activities. A related objective would be to share the successes of the individual Groups across all of the Groups. Working together we can have a greater impact on preserving and improving the environment both in Tennessee's natural and its populated areas.

Professionally, I was a consultant in operations from manufacturing, distribution, transportation and logistics to services and systems in communications, automotive, fast food, chemical, pharmaceutical and media industries plus governmental organizations, both domestically and internationally. I have the background to assist in most of the Chapter's campaigns.

I have served on the Board of both national and local non-profit organizations, been the Treasurer of several and have chaired a variety of symposiums and conventions. I have started bicycle clubs and Friends of Parks groups. I understand how volunteer organizations function.

With my experience and skills, I feel that I can build on the current Chapter strengths to increase member involvement in Chapter campaigns and make the campaigns even more effective.

Dennis Lynch

I am currently completing my second year as Chair of the Excom of the Sierra Club Chickasaw Group (CKG), and would like the opportunity to be an At Large Delegate to the Chapter Excom to "explore, enjoy, and protect the planet". I have been the Transportation Chair for the Chickasaw Group since 2012 and for the Tennessee Chapter since 2013.

I also hope to continue as the Chapter's Delegate to the National Council of Club Leaders- providing valuable 2-way communications between local and national strategy.

I am a career professional in transportation, and work in various committees in the Club to increase the priority of transportation issues within the Sierra Club. Transportation is responsible for 28% of energy use in the USA, and 34% of greenhouse gases, as well as air and water pollution, and misuse of our land. I frequently contribute to transportation leader conference calls and the transportation list-serv.

While working with the CKG Excom, I have been responsible for organizing multiple well-received Programs on subjects like "Shelby Farms Parkway", "Public Input Process", "Transportation Budgets", and Candidates Forums for Memphis Mayor and City Council.

I plan to work to strengthen Chapter and Group membership development and communications efforts. I also would like to organize an Emeritus member program to recognize the contributions of past leaders and facilitate their role as information / training resource for new leaders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joel Gearhardt

When I was young, I learned the value and importance of our environment. I also learned the challenges our environment faces. A lot of people and companies do not understand the fact we have not been given the planet by our ancestors but are borrowing it from future generations. Organizations like the Sierra Club must stand up for the planet and those who cannot fight for themselves. I have been an environmentalist most of my life and have instilled it in my children. We have spent many weekends camping, hiking, picnicking, and enjoying the great outdoors. My passion lies in protecting the forests, green spaces, and water. I have been very successful in the business world and want to continue to bring this experience and expertise to the Sierra Club. I have been active at both the group and chapter level. Currently, I am the treasurer for the group and a member of the chapter communication committee. I look forward to serving the members of the Sierra Club.

Election Ballot for CHEROKEE GROUP

Executive Committee Candidates

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 five (5) members of the Cherokee Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group's actions.

Ballots must be received no later than 1/5/2017 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2016 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.

Cherokee Group Vote for no more than five (5) candidates	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Bill Moll	_____	_____
John Doyal	_____	_____
Wenona Kunesh	_____	_____
Barbara Kelly	_____	_____
Sandy Kurtz	_____	_____

Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2016 may vote.

Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write "Cherokee Group Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in a second envelope. In the upper left hand corner, write your Sierra membership number (which is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) with your name and address.

If you receive your newsletter electronically, and need your membership number, you may contact Gloria Griffith for your number at GLa4797@embarqmail.com (put "membership number" in the subject line) or call 423-727-4797. You will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

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

Ballots must be received by 1/5/2017. Group ExCom ballot and At Large Delegate ballot should be mailed in same addressed outer envelope.

Mail ballot to: Sierra Club
Grace Stranch, Sierra Club Elections
223 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37203

Candidate Biographies (in random order):

Bill Moll

Bill has been a Sierra Club member for many years - way back in 1973 he helped stop clearcutting in the Cherokee Forest. He is active in bicycling advocacy, energy conservation, the promotion of native plants and 3D photography. He shepherded our Sherman Reservation Trail Project through to completion. As an international business consultant, he provides much practical advice to our Group ExCom. He serves as our Program Coordinator.

John Doyal

Long-time advocate for wilderness protection for the Cherokee Forest, he's been a member since 1981. He has served on Sierra's National Wildlife and Endangered Species Committee, and continues to keep a watch on wildlife issues, especially our bobcats in the South Cumberlands. An outings leader for several area groups, he currently serves as our Outings Chair.

Wenona Kunesh

Wenona has served for several years as a senior counselor at the Kids For Clean Water Camp. In her last year of high school, her Senior Project is on Environmental Racism in Chattanooga. She attended the 10th Year Katrina Event, highlighting environmental justice; joined the Sierra Student Coalition in Paris at COP21; and just recently participated in "SPROG" in Colorado, a special Sierra training event for high school and college students.

Barbara Kelly

Barbara is active in climate action issues, working with both Climate Chattanooga - Healthy Energy for Everyone (CCHEE) and Chattanooga Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), advancing the belief in a 100% clean energy future in Chattanooga and for Tennessee. She's willing to work behind the scenes on things like mailing lists and our Group newsletter. She currently serves as Group Chair, and Fundraising Chair for the Chapter.

Sandy Kurtz

Sandy is known state-wide in environmental circles. Here in Chattanooga, she is the convenor for our Climate Chattanooga - Healthy Energy for Everyone (CCHEE) coalition, and works as an environmental consultant for the Urban Century Institute. She brings her skills in facilitating meetings to our ExCom, as well as her vast knowledge of local, state and national issues and contacts. She serves as our Conservation Chair.

WATAUGA GROUP EXCOM BALLOT

Election Ballot for Watauga Group

Executive Committee Candidates for 2017-2018

You are in the Watauga Group if you live in one of these counties: Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi or Washington.

Please vote for the election of five (5) members of the Watauga Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group's actions.

Ballots must be received no later than 1/5/2017 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2016 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.

Watauga Group Vote for no more than five (5) candidates	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Sandi Cranford	_____	_____
Gloria Griffith	_____	_____
Dean Whitworth	_____	_____
Dennis Shekinah	_____	_____
Gayle Riddervold	_____	_____
Bob Carlough	_____	_____
Sonnie Keefer	_____	_____

Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2016 may vote.

Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write "Watauga Group Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in a second envelope. In the upper left hand corner, write your Sierra membership number (which is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) with your name and address.

If you receive your newsletter electronically, and need your membership number, you may contact Gloria Griffith for your number at GLa4797@embarqmail.com (put "membership number" in the subject line) or call 423-727-4797. You will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

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

Ballots must be received by 1/5/2017. Group ExCom ballot and At Large Delegate ballot should be mailed in same addressed outer envelope.

Mail to: Grace Stranch, Sierra Club Elections
223 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37203

Candidate Biographies (in random order):

- Sandi Cranford** – Hospitality Coordinator; Current Vice Chair; Mountain City, TN
- Gloria Griffith** – Wholesale/Retail Sales; Current Chair; Mountain City, TN
- Dean Whitworth** – Chemical Engineer; Current Conservation Chair; Butler, TN
- Dennis Shekinah** – Inhalation Therapist; Current Secretary; Mountain City, TN
- Gayle Riddervold** – PA State Employee; Current ExCom; Hampton, TN
- Bob Carlough** – Sea Captain; Current ExCom; Butler, TN
- Sonnie Keefer** – Red Cross Administrator; Mountain City, TN

Election Ballot for CHICKASAW GROUP Executive Committee Candidates

You are in the Chickasaw Group if you live in one of these counties: Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Chester, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Haywood, Hardin, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison; McNairy, Obion; Shelby, Tipton or Weakley.

Please vote for the election of five (5) members of the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group's actions.

Ballots must be received no later than 1/5/2017 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2016 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.

Chickasaw Group Vote for no more than five (5) candidates	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Linda Kaplan	_____	_____
Joe Ozegovich	_____	_____
Dennis Lynch	_____	_____
Karen Thornton	_____	_____
Lynn Strickland	_____	_____

Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2016 may vote.

Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write "Chickasaw Group Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in a second envelope. In the upper left hand corner, write your Sierra membership number (which is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) with your name and address.

If you receive your newsletter electronically, and need your membership number, you may contact Gloria Griffith for your number at GLa4797@embarqmail.com (put "membership number" in the subject line) or call 423-727-4797. You will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

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

Ballots must be received by 1/5/2017. Group ExCom ballot and At Large Delegate ballot should be mailed in same addressed outer envelope.

**Mail to: Grace Stranch, Sierra Club Elections
223 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37203**

Candidate Biographies (in random order):

Linda Kaplan

My name is Linda Kaplan. Let me tell you a little something about who I am. In "Follow the Leader," an article published in the Commercial Appeal (January 25, 2011), Lindsey Melvin states: "Realtor Linda Kaplan teaches how to adopt sustainable lifestyles." I learned this lesson early as a young child growing up on a small 50 acre farm in northwest TN. The food on our table was, for the most part, only what we grew or raised on our farm. Reuse and repurpose was our way of life. It wasn't until I left home to attend college that I realized this was not the norm.

I am a member of the Sierra Club. I am secretary of the Mid-South EV Club and was initiator and chair of the Temple Israel Task Force on the Environment coordinating the vendors and volunteers for six successful Eco Expo events. As an Eco Broker, I have earned the Green designation through the National Association of Realtors. For the past seven years, I have served on the Germantown Environmental Commission and have served on the Green Committee for the Memphis Area Home Builders Association.

I would be honored to serve the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club and to labor with our members to further the good environmental work this organization continually does for our community, our state, our nation, our planet.

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." (Native American Proverb)

Joe Ozegovich

As a leader in the Mid-South EV Club (Electric Vehicle), I have hosted the Sierra Club sponsored "National Drive Electric Week" events in the Memphis area over the last 3 years. And due to my enthusiasm in renewable energy sources, local Sierra Club members solicited my efforts to join the Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter's Chickasaw Group.

In addition to being a two time electric car owner, I have married renewable solar energy as source of energy to power this vehicle. I have just completed my second solar installation, and participate in the Tennessee Valley Authorities' Generation Partners program, producing approximately 12 MegaWatt hours annually of renewable energy for my community. My hope is facilitate in the creation of state and local codes which enable homeowners and businesses to easily move towards renewable energy and to promote the Sierra Club's 'Ready for 100%' goals.

I work with developers and builders to allow for a good southern exposure, and roof design to obtain the greatest solar energy production possible. In addition, I want to work with legislators to pass laws to promote mandatory minimum standards for PV panels, solar water heating or Wind Turbine installation on new buildings both commercial and residential.

Dennis Lynch

Dennis Lynch is currently completing his second year as Chair of the Excom of the Sierra Club Chickasaw Group (CKG), and appreciates the opportunity to work with the Excom to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet. Dennis has been Transportation Chair for the Group since 2012 and for the Tennessee Chapter since 2013. He is also the Chapter's Delegate to the National Council of Club Leaders- providing valuable 2-way communications between local and national strategy.

Dennis is a career professional in transportation, and works in various committees in the Club to increase the priority of transportation issues within the Sierra Club. He points out that transportation is responsible for 28% of energy use in the USA, and 34% of greenhouse gases, as well as air and water pollution, and misuse of our land. Dennis is a frequent contributor to transportation leaders' conference calls and the transportation list-serv.

While working with the CKG Excom, Dennis has been responsible for organizing multiple well-received Programs on subjects like "Shelby Farms Parkway", "Public Input", "Transportation Budgets", and Candidates Forums for Memphis Mayor and City Council.

Dennis plan to work to strengthen CKG's membership development and communications efforts, and also to find a way to restart our outings program. Dennis also intends to organize an Emeritus member program to recognize the contributions of past leaders and facilitate their role as information / training resource for new leaders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Thornton

Karen Thornton worked as the Public Outreach and Education Coordinator for the Mississippi River Corridor-TN (MRCT) and the national Mississippi River Network (MRN) - 1 Mississippi campaign for five years. At this time, she is pursuing her PhD in Public Health. Her concentration is in Social and Behavioral Science. By being a part of the Sierra Club Chickasaw Group's Executive Committee, it enables her to use her public outreach skills to communicate with interested members of the Mid-South who want to take an active role in not only preserving our natural assets in Greater Memphis; but also improving our quality of life.

Karen Thornton is interested in water quality, accessible open-green spaces and nutrition. She considers health promotion to be key to eliminating health disparities and improving public health policy. Karen believes that one of the most important ways to encourage stewardship and adoption of a healthier lifestyle is to share innovative ways to explore, enjoy and protect our natural, cultural, and historic resources.

Lynn Strickland

Lynn Strickland has been a long-time advocate for better TVA energy Policy, particularly in the area of renewable solar energy. Very knowledgeable about implementing solar, Lynn is active in Memphis, advocating City efforts toward more effective solar and renewable energy. He leads efforts toward better coordination between TVA, MLGW, Bioworks, local manufacturers, local renewable service providers, and City and County Governments.

Lynn sits on the Sustainable Shelby Committee and is a member of our Rebuild & Repower Tennessee Sierra Committee. Lynn has been on the Chickasaw Group Excom for one year and wants to continue his work with the Excom.

**Remind other members to vote.
Deadline for votes is January 5th, 2017!**

Election Ballot for HARVEY BROOME GROUP

Executive Committee Candidates

You are in the Harvey Broome Group if you live in one of these counties: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Cumberland, Fentress, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Pickett, Roane, Scott, Sevier or Union.

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, 2017 through December 31, 2018. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group's actions.

Ballots must be received no later than 1/5/2017 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2016 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.

Harvey Broome Group Vote for no more than six (6) candidates	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Bob Perlack	_____	_____
Todd Waterman	_____	_____
Will Skelton	_____	_____
Denise Bivens	_____	_____
Robin Hill, P.E.	_____	_____
Lynne Davis	_____	_____

Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2016 may vote.

Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write "Harvey Broome Group Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in a second envelope. In the upper left hand corner, write your Sierra membership number (which is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) with your name and address.

If you receive your newsletter electronically, and need your membership number, you may contact Gloria Griffith for your number at GLa4797@embarqmail.com (put "membership number" in the subject line) or call 423-727-4797. You will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

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

Ballots must be received by 1/5/2017. Group ExCom ballot and At Large Delegate ballot should be mailed in same addressed outer envelope.

**Mail to: Grace Stranch, Sierra Club Elections
223 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37203**

Candidate Biographies (in random order):

Bob Perlack

Bob recently retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Environmental Sciences Division) after 31 years where he worked as a natural resource economist and energy analyst. A member of the Harvey Broome Group for several decades, Bob served on as an outings leader and the Executive Committee in various capacities. He currently serves as the HBG Treasurer and as Assistant Treasurer for the Tennessee State Chapter of the Sierra Club. If re-elected to the Executive Committee he will continue to serve as the treasurer and participate in activities that promote the Sierra Club's mission to protect the environment of region, country and world.

Todd Waterman

My childhood tramping in the woods and canoeing in South Knox, and exploring Assateague Island, made me an avid hiker, backpacker, and traveler. I now live in Clinton. I've always been a professional artist, but now I prefer creating, co-organizing, publicizing, and documenting media climate events: rallies, theater, concerts, vigils, and press conferences. I believe climate change is a transcendent, imminent, irreversible threat to our environmental and economic future - indeed, to our entire world - and that Sierra Club activism will be vital to achieving sustainable policy. I also believe we're strongest together, so I'm active with several Sierra partners. I've volunteered full-time as Organizing for Action State Climate Lead, as Citizens' Climate Coalition lead, on Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light's Steering Committee, and on SOCM's e3 Committee. I started Facebook's Knox Climate Action Central. With the Sierra Club's SF Bay Area Chapter I hiked weekly and served on their Toxics Committee in the early 90s. Recently here I've helped organize for Sierra Club Beyond Coal EPA hearing trips, local TVA and BLM hearings, and HBG's Scott Banbury/Axel Ringe and Chris Lunghino events. I fund-raised for and helped with a People's Climate March trip to New York for 49 E. TN. students.

Will Skelton

Retired Knoxville attorney with Bass, Berry & Sims, PLC. Prior Chair of Harvey Broome Group and Tennessee Chapter and longtime Harvey Broome Group outings leader. Led wilderness campaigns of 1980's that resulted in existing wilderness areas in Cherokee National Forest and editor of Cherokee National Forest Hiking Guide published by UT Press. Chair of Knoxville Greenways Commission 1992-2006 when most existing Knoxville greenways were built. Currently on Board of Legacy Parks Foundation, TN Parks & Greenways Foundation, Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards, and NPCA National Advisory Council. Personal interests include world travel, backpacking, jogging, vegetarian cooking, reading, photography, theater and arts. Goals for Harvey Broome Group include passage of the Tennessee Wilderness Act to designate an additional 20,000 acres of Cherokee National Forest as Wilderness.

Denise Bivens

A recent member of the Sierra Club, Denise stepped up in 2014 to serve on both the Harvey Broome Group (HBG) and the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Executive Committees, chairing the state membership and working on many HBG committees, including fundraising. She has a strong, lifelong love of nature. She imparts that love into others and continues to learn more and 'pass it on'. She has been a small business owner for over 11 years, served as a board member and as Secretary of North Knoxville Business and Professional Association and served on the Hollerpalooza Street Fair board. I has led hikes for Knoxville Greenway Walking group, Harvey Broome Group and is an Outings Leader for the Knoxville Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO).

Robin Hill, P.E.

Robin, a resident of Knoxville and Farragut for 58 years since moving in January 1954. He and his wife joined the Sierra Club in 1987. He has taken an active interest in Executive Committee (ExCom) activities for the past 12 years, first elected to HBG ExCom in 2009. He served as Chair of HBG and continued on the board. He wishes to continue to work with the ExCom members to get more members active and interested in the many local environmental issues we face in the HBG area and in the state, particularly in combating the many pieces of proposed state legislation that have adverse environmental effects. He retired from active engineering work in 2000 but still puts some of his engineering experience to use in volunteer work. He worked in project management at ORNL and Y12, on general construction projects, special research projects, environmental restoration projects and waste management projects. He served for 10 years (1970-1980) as a member of the Knox County Quarterly Court and the Knox County Commission as one of the two representatives for the West Knox County area. He served since about 1982 on the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission and retired as Chairman of that organization in May 2010 after 17 years in that position. He served for five years on the Farragut Storm Water Advisory Committee and retired from that committee in July 2010. He wishes to remain involved as an Executive Committee member and to pursue environmental issues related to transportation, parks and greenways, responsible development, and other issues where results are best achieved at the local level.

Lynne Davis

Lynn, a Sierra Club member for several years and Harvey Broome ExCom leader for two year, traces her environmentalist feelings back to childhood. She has always enjoyed learning about and appreciating the animals, plants and natural features of every place she has lived. In her career, she worked as a computer programmer for Norfolk Southern Railway until moving to Tennessee in 1987. She feels fortunate to work in Great Smoky Mountains National Park for over 10 years, where she has helped cataloging work in the archives and helped with the production of books at Great Smoky Mountains Association, while developing a deep and abiding love for the National Park. She retired from The Trust Company of Knoxville, where she worked in operations and data management. She sings with the Knoxville Choral Society, raises numerous house plants, volunteers at Ijams Nature Center, and is active with Old Smoky Railroad Museum. She has been a glider pilot for over 37 years.

Election Ballot for Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee Candidates

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 or Wilson.

Please vote for the election of five (5) members of the Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee (ExCom), each having a two-year term beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. Successful candidates will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group's actions.

Ballots must be received no later than 1/5/2017 to be valid. Only current members as of November 1, 2016 may vote. Joint members must use the same ballot.

Middle Tennessee Group Vote for no more than five (5) candidates	Single Member or First Joint Member	Second Joint Member
Robert C. Wingfield Jr.	_____	_____
Joel Gearhardt	_____	_____
Karen Cisler	_____	_____
Paula Lennon	_____	_____
Scott Hefflinger	_____	_____
Betsy Garber	_____	_____

Submit your Ballot: Only current members as of November 1, 2016 may vote.

Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write "Middle Tennessee Group Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in a second envelope. In the upper left hand corner, write your Sierra membership number (which is located to the left of your name on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) with your name and address.

If you receive your newsletter electronically, and need your membership number, you may contact Gloria Griffith for your number at GLa4797@embarqmail.com (put "membership number" in the subject line) or call 423-727-4797. You will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

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

Ballots must be received by 1/5/2017. Group ExCom ballot and At Large Delegate ballot should be mailed in same addressed outer envelope.

**Mail to: Grace Stranch, Sierra Club Elections
223 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37203**

Candidate Biographies (in random order):

Robert C. Wingfield Jr.

I would like to express my interest in supporting both the environmental justice and environmental education mission of the Nashville Group of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club. I have been working in both of these areas for more than two decades. I am currently serving as an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Fisk University and Director of the Fisk Community Environmental Toxics Awareness and Sustainability Program. My community work addressing environmental protection, environmental health, environmental sustainability and environmental justice reaches ages 5-90 years old. My environmental justice work goes back to the late 1998-2000 project where I co-lead a state-wide effort to effectively develop an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. In the past, I have worked with other Colleges and Universities in the southeast to address several environmental justice concerns. Most recently I have been focusing on addressing the environmental health concerns of disadvantaged populations in Metropolitan Nashville - Davidson County. I am now serving on a Metropolitan Health Department Community Advisory Committee to develop a strategic plan to improve, protect and sustain the environmental health of the city. I served for ten years on the Healthy Nashville Leadership Council, which serves to address strategic planning to improve the health of the city. Also, I have been serving for almost twenty years on the Metropolitan Wastewater Hearing Authority.

Joel Gearhardt

When I was young, I learned the value and importance of our environment. I also learned the challenges our environment faces. A lot of people and companies do not understand the fact we have not been given the planet by our ancestors but are borrowing it from future generations. Organizations like the Sierra Club must stand up for the planet and those who cannot fight for themselves. I have been an environmentalist most of my life and have instilled it in my children. We have spent many weekends camping, hiking, picnicking, and enjoying the great outdoors. My passion lies in protecting the forests, green spaces, and water. I have been very successful in the business world and want to continue to bring this experience and expertise to the Sierra Club. I have been active at both the group and chapter level. Currently, I am the treasurer for the group and a member of the chapter communication committee. I look forward to serving the members of the Sierra Club.

Karen Cisler

My career in chemistry began with a summer job analyzing toxics with a fledgling Coroner's Program. After completing my B.S. in chemistry at the University of KY, I held bench positions in food chemistry and livestock sanitation. I then moved to a placement at UK at the Center for Applied Energy Research, basic research exploring combustion products of fossil fuels (primarily coal and oil shale) and resultant environmental effects on air and water.

A move to TN had me working in agricultural chemistry and medical research. I returned to KY to settle the estates of my parents, and found work with the KY Geological Survey at UK studying water quality in relation to geological formations, until shrinking funding led to the elimination of personnel. I returned to TN to marry, and have been working primarily on a volunteer basis, using what I know about the chemistry of fossil fuels to convince people there is a better way than burning coal to generate electricity, making contact with other professionals in the field through the American Chemical Society; the Sierra Club; TN Association of Environmental Professionals; the Tennessee Environmental Council; chemistry and environmental science departments at TSU and MTSU; the Cumberland Greens; and five years ago I was named the Environmental Representative to the TN Air Pollution Control Board; my appointment was renewed last year until August 2020. I have also volunteered much time and effort with Recycling Advocates of Middle TN (RAM) in lobbying and providing information sessions to convince state and local government personnel to rethink the way we handle solid waste.

I seek to continue to use my knowledge to reduce the human impact on air and water quality in the face of dramatic population increase, expected over the next twenty years.

Paula Lennon

Having spent most of her life in California, Paula moved to Tennessee 20 years ago and is proud to call Tennessee her home. She truly loves the outdoors and is very passionate that we leave our environment in better condition than we found it. That's quite a goal and we have a lot of work to do.

Paula has been a member of the Sierra Club for quite some time, and currently serves as the TN Chapter Executive Committee Secretary, Group Executive Committee member and Secretary. Paula has worked in the background of Sierra for a long time, but this year became more active in the actual operation of the organization.

Tennessee is an amazing state, and Paula hopes to help more members become active in the group. She is also interested in bringing more environmental awareness to school age children.

Having participated in most quarterly Chapter meetings for the last 13+ years, she has seen many places in this great state that she wouldn't have seen without the Sierra Club. This also made it possible for her to make some amazing friends all over the state.

Thank for your participation in the Sierra Club and Paula would appreciate your vote!

Scott Hefflinger

Scott is currently serving his third term on the Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee and is the current MTG Conservation Chair. Scott is a licensed professional engineer with a BS in Civil Engineering and an MS in Environmental Engineering. He started his career working for the State of Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control, which is now the Division of Water Resources under the TN Department of Environment and Conservation. He then moved to the consulting world assisting clients with pollution control projects involving water, wastewater, solid waste, air, wetlands, and storm water. He is a strong believer in wildlife protection, renewable energy, recycling and global sustainability. Scott and his wife have been members of the Sierra Club for over 17 years and have been long-time supporters of many wildlife, environmental and conservation organizations.

Betsy Garber

I am a retired attorney. I have volunteered in various capacities with the Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) for over 15 years. Currently, I am the Chair of the MTG Program Committee. With much help from Adelle Wood, we schedule speakers and advertise programs once a month on a variety of subjects. I am certified as an outings leader, assist in leading outings, and facilitate the certification of the other outings leaders. I compile and submit MTG's monthly calendar for the Tennesierran newsletter, provide content for the MTG webpage, help with tabling events, help Joy Mayfield with her environmental classroom presentations, and maintain MTG and ICO (Inspiring Connections Outdoors) records. I consider climate change and pollution critical issues which should be addressed not only globally and nationally, but also locally and individually. It is my hope that MTG will increase its efforts to positively affect both local governmental and individual environmental practices. I would be honored to serve on the MTG executive committee.

Meetings

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

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

November 28, 2016 - 7 P.M. - November Program: Located at green|spaces, 63 E. Main St. Chattanooga, TN, Rick Wood, Executive Director of Tennessee's Trust for Public Land, will be our speaker, bringing news about their latest actions linking Chattanooga to our remarkable natural spaces outdoors. We'll hear more about our South Chickamauga Creek Greenway and TPL's efforts to build more livable cities using our green spaces as infrastructure to reduce rising temperatures and flooding from storms. Come learn more about TPL's extensive research to help Chattanooga battle climate change. We'll also learn about their new free Fitness Zones, established in Chattanooga. Learn about local Sierra Club outings and advocacy activities. All are welcome. Invite your friends. The event is free as always.

*Join us before the meeting, 5:30 P.M., at the Conga Restaurant, right across the street, for a lively social supper. Reminder: We do not hold a Program Meeting in December! Instead, mark your calendars for our Pot-Luck of the New Year on Jan. 8.

November 5 and December 7, 6:30 P.M. Strategy/Business Meetings: Held at Second Presbyterian Church, at the corner of E. 7th Street and Pine, 700 Pine Street [parking is free in their Pine Street lot, across the street from the church] Come add your ideas and share your concerns as we plan our actions. We've got committees on outings, clean energy, forest watch/protection, mining/fracking issues, and room to support your concern. Come share! The building looks like an old school - knock on the door, and if somebody doesn't answer, call 423-718-5009 for access. All are welcome!

Note: With November we are shifting our Strategy Meetings to the 1st Monday each month!

January 10, 2017 - Welcome 2017 Covered Dish Supper/Mixer: Audubon Acres, 5-8 P.M. You are invited! Bring friends and a covered dish. We'll supply drinks, utensils, plates, etc. Come start the New Year off on an optimistic note as you join people who share the same interests, energy and dreams for our environment as you. All are welcome, and don't worry if you haven't got a covered dish, there's always plenty of food and wine as well. We'll share a quick walk to the bridge over South Chick Creek before dinner starts. The Visitors Center is a mini-museum with interesting archeological artifacts to explore as well. Location: Audubon Acres Visitor Center, 900 Sanctuary Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37424, in East Brainerd, off Gunbarrell Road, just follow the signs. The Visitors Center is on the right, just inside the gate.

NOTE: The Cherokee Group will be moving in January to a new date and location for our Program Meetings! We will be shifting to the 4th Tuesday of the month, and our new home will be at Nutrition World, at the corner of Lee Highway and Vance Road, just off Highway 153. We'll be in their Education Room, which fronts on Vance Road. We very much appreciate the hospitality

and welcome that Ed Jones, owner of Nutrition World, is giving us. Plenty of free parking (no more tickets!) Look for our banner, and remember we'll now meet the 4th Tuesday for our programs. See you then!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Check <http://www.facebook.com/ChickasawGroup/> for meeting information.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

See our web page (sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs) for details.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

November 7, 2016 - 6:15 P.M. - ICO MEETING: Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet at the Mad Platter restaurant at 1239 6th Ave. North, Nashville. We will discuss recent fall outings and plan Winter outings for disadvantaged kids. New folks welcome. Contact Craig Jervis at cmjervis@comcast.net to make sure the meeting is still on. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

November 15, 2016 - 6:30 P.M. - LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. We are in the midst of changing our meeting location, so please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com to find out where we will be meeting and to let him know that you plan to attend. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

December 5, 2016 - 6:15 P.M. - ICO MEETING: Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet at the Mad Platter restaurant at 1239 6th Ave. North, Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids, and training. Contact Craig Jervis at cmjervis@comcast.net to make sure the meeting is still on. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

December 20, 2016 - at 6:30 P.M. - LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. We are in the midst of changing our meeting location, so please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com to find out where we will be meeting and to let him know that you plan to attend. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

January 9, 2017 - 6:15 P.M. - ICO MEETING: Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet at the Mad Platter restaurant at 1239 6th Ave. North, Nashville. We will discuss our outings for disadvantaged kids, and training. Contact Craig Jervis at cmjervis@comcast.net to make sure the meeting is still on. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

January 17, 2017 - 6:30 P.M. - LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. We are in the midst of changing our meeting location, so please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com to find out where we will be meeting and to let him know that you plan to attend. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

February 21, 2017 - 6:30 P.M. - LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. We are in the midst of changing our meeting location,

10 Essentials for Hiking



Sierra Club outings offer a variety of wilderness and near-wilderness experiences. It is important to realize that while all trips are guided by a leader, it is ultimately the responsibility of the individual to operate in a safe manner. To this end, the following is a list of essential items which should be modified according to the particular type of outing. These are:

1. Adequate map
2. First aid kit
3. Compass
4. Rain gear
5. Extra clothing (it is a good idea to always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Knife
8. Flashlight
9. Extra food, water
10. The tenth essential: You decide what is the most important thing to bring!

so please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com to find out where we will be meeting and to let him know that you plan to attend. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you."

January 27 - 29, 2017 - CEDARS of LEBANON: Come join us for our Retreat & Chapter Meeting, stay in the group lodge, and enjoy breakfasts and a Saturday evening meal cooked by MTG's talented chefs (Joel & Cyndi). Bring your own lunches. Early bird fee is \$50; regular price is \$60; bring your own bedding or sleeping bag for the bed. First time attendees are half price. For more information, contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Tuesday at 6 P.M. Please contact Gloria Griffith at GLa4797@embarqmail.com or 423-727-4797 for more information.

Tennes-Sierran E-News

Please Like Us:
on Facebook -- our Organization Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CherokeeSierra>

on Facebook - our Group Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/65310596576/>

Join our MeetUp --Green Events-- Group: <http://www.meetup.com/greenhome-107/>

Keep those e-mail addresses coming so you will get our E-News: send your e-mail address to Alice at demetreon1981@gmail.com so you get the News about our Programs and Outings!

We have e-mails for only about 1/3 of our members -- so you are missing out on all our activities! We will not give your address away.

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. Please invite your friends to come on an outing with you. A variety of outings are offered across the state. Come explore and enjoy our wonderful outdoor resources.

November 5, 2016 - Tellico Fish Hatchery, Tellico Plains: With fall colors at their peak, this is a beautiful drive along the Tellico River, passing Bald River Falls, up to the Hatchery. The Fish Hatchery, run by the Tenn. Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) raises brook trout for restoration projects. The hot summer made it tough on trout - high temps in the streams limited areas that could be stocked, especially Tellico and Citico Creeks, as trout require temperatures no higher than 70 degrees. Come learn more about the TWRA's work protecting our aquatic resources. Pre-registration required with leader John Doyal, 2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com or call 423-800-2745. (Cherokee Group)

November 10, 2016 - 7:00 P.M. - Program: "The Elephant Sanctuary": This month we welcome Rosanne Sietins who, after an illustrious business career, has turned to various volunteer opportunities. Among them, happily, is The Elephant Sanctuary, where she has done community outreach since 2002. She will showcase amazing stories and accomplishments since The Sanctuary was founded in 1995 with one elephant and 110 acres.

The Elephant Sanctuary provides formerly-captive elephants a natural habitat, individualized care, and the opportunity to live out their lives in a safe haven. It is the nation's largest natural habitat refuge developed specifically for African and Asian elephants. Because these two species would never meet in the wild, each has its own habitat, and Ms. Sietins will explain the differences between the two. To date, the sanctuary has rescued 27 elephants. It is a non-profit organization, licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and accredited by the Association of Sanctuaries, designed specifically for old, needy elephants who have been retired from zoos and circuses. We encourage you to arrive early to get a seat. Come at 6:30 P.M. to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. The program is free and open to the public. (Middle Tennessee Group)

November 12-13, 2016 - Backpack - Cataloochee Valley and Mt. Sterling, GSMNP: This loop begins in the historic Cataloochee Valley and climbs nearly 3000 feet to one of the 3 fire towers still open in the park. On Sunday we will complete the western half of the ~19-mile loop. The trip is rated difficult due to elevation gain, distance, water crossings, and blowdowns. Driving distance is about 200 miles round trip. Pre-register with Rob Davis: 865-202-6661; hikinrob@charter.net (email preferred). (Harvey Broome Group)

November 19, 2016 - Dayhike at Cove Mt. and Laurel Falls Trails, GSMNP: The hike between Sugarlands Visitor Center (SVC) and Laurel Falls (LF) parking area is 12.4 miles. Either a shuttle is required or we could time it to ride the trolley from SVC to LF parking area then walk back to cars at SVC. Best in fall because leaves are BEAUTIFUL. Good views. Waterfalls at both ends. Preregister by email with Denise Bivens not later than 8 P.M. the night before the hike: denisebivens@gmail.com. (Harvey Broome Group)

December 3, 2016 - 9:30 A.M. - Morning Walk, South Chickamauga Creek Greenway: We'll be walking a gorgeous section that begins at N. Hawthorne St. (near Bonny Oaks Drive) and takes us into the trees along elevated boardwalks over wetlands. Bring water and a snack. For details and to pre-register, contact Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com or 423-718-5009. (Cherokee Group)

December 3, 2016 - Hike at Edwin Warner: We are hoping to be led through the new old growth section of the park, but if that cannot be arranged, we will hike the Harpeth Woods Trail, a 2 ½ mile loop. Rated moderate with hills. Sign up for the hike with Betsy at garberb@hotmail.com or 615 668-1977. (Middle Tennessee Group)

December 10, 2016 - Dayhike at Laurel-Snow State Natural Area, near Dayton, TN: With the water flowing, the hike along Richland Creekout and up to Snow Falls provides awesome scenery. We'll hike up the historic trail that follows Richland Creek through an old mining area before turning to ascend the ridge on which the falls are located. We'll also take the spur trail out to Buzzard Point, where we'll have great views of the watershed. The lack of leaves on the trees in winter enhances views of the surrounding area, as well as giving great views of the spectacular mountain creek and several waterfalls. Round-trip hike distance, 11 miles. Rated moderate. Two creek crossings, hopefully with boots on. One-way driving distance, 80 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronshrieves@gmail.com (email preferred). (Harvey Broome Group)

December 10, 2016 - 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. - PARTY!: New folks & kids welcomed! Bring a dish to share, and your beverage, for a potluck feast at 1327 Otter Creek Road, Nashville, 37215 (between Green Hills and Brentwood). Turkey, water, and tea will be provided. For more information, contact Betsy or Steve at garberb@hotmail.com or 615 668-1977. (Middle Tennessee Group)

January 12, 2017 - 7:00 P.M. - Program: "Walk/Bike Nashville": Our program speaker is Daniel McDonell, who will fill us in on recent improvements to the walking and biking in Nashville, and plans for the future. Come at 6:30 P.M. to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. The program is free and open to the public. (Middle Tennessee Group)

January 14, 2017 - Sandhill Crane outing: Join us for a trip to The Tennessee Sandhill Crane Festival at the Hiwassee Refuge and Birchwood Community Center. - To sign up, contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com. (Middle Tennessee Group)

January 28, 2017 - 9:00 A.M. - Hike at Cedars of Lebanon: Led by Randy Hedgepath, Tennessee State Naturalist. Bring a sack lunch or snack if you like. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures/events/calendar/>. (Middle Tennessee Group)

January 28, 2017 - 6:00 P.M. Dinner & 7:30 P.M. Program - "Fly Fishing across the State": Join us for dinner and a program presented by Susan Thrasher on Fly Fishing throughout Tennessee. Susan is an entertaining & informative speaker with lots of great pictures. You'll enjoy this program even if you're not a fisher-person (in fact, she throws her catches back in). There is a cost for dinner that has not been determined yet (approximately \$15 I think). For more information, contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or cahigh1722@aol.com. (Middle Tennessee Group)

January 29, 2017 - 9:00 A.M. - Hike at Cedars of Lebanon: Led by Randy Hedgepath, Tennessee State Naturalist. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures/events/calendar/>. (Middle Tennessee Group)

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Time and dates of outings are to be determined. For information check: <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

See our web page (sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/outings) for details.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

For outings not listed before printing this newsletter go to www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures/

Sierra Club Cherokee Group connects nature to history

by Sandra Kurtz, Cherokee Group Conservation Chair

With the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and National Public Lands Day announced for fall 2016, the Cherokee Sierra Club group in Chattanooga last fall 2015 turned attention to the creation of a new trail that would connect the Sherman Reservation to the Pennsylvania Reservation and the Glass Street Community just down the hill.

Sherman Reservation is the site of one of many Civil War battles along Missionary Ridge. The reservation preserves the area where Confederate troops retreated from



Cindy Robbins with trash and dog Cash on cleanup day

the assault of General William T. Sherman's Union forces in 1863. Today the 50 acres not only provides historical tales, but beautiful and peaceful view of the City of Chattanooga. Yet it seems that many young people living in the Glass Street Community were unaware of this prominent landmark less than a mile away.

Together with the National Parks Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance, the Southeast Conservation Corps, and the Glass Street Collective, the Cherokee Group wrote a grant asking the national Sierra Club to grant \$20,000 to help build a trail and provide educational opportunities for the community to connect them to their natural world and its history. It would also be a good step toward our efforts to increase diversity as well.

Prior to rededication of Sherman Reservation for National Parks Day on September 24, the trail was laid out and then built by the Southeast Conservation Corps. Several Saturday interracial community cleanups were held along the trail with assistance from Cherokee Group members. Huge amounts of trash demonstrated the neglect the area had received over the years. Temporary Sierra Club signs were placed along the trail to educate trail users about the components of a forest and its natural processes.

At last came the national parks re-dedication day kicked off in Chattanooga with a Glass Street Block Party including a parade,

booths, live music and speeches both on Glass Street and in Sherman Reservation. For the parade artist Wayne White created 14-foot tall puppets representing Civil War generals. Cherokee Group was there with their booth containing a climate ribbon tree. People wrote their pledges on ribbons telling how they would help the Earth and then hung



Wayne White and part of the puppets created for the Glass Street block party parade.

them on the tree.

The trail now begins at the small Pennsylvania Reservation at the base of Missionary Ridge and moves through the woods paralleling North Crest Road to Sherman Reservation atop Missionary Ridge. Eventually the trail will connect to greenways/walks throughout the Glass Street Community. Cherokee Group will continue to help acquaint residents with the natural world around them.

Nashville ICO Hike – The participant's perspective

By Araminta Ray

On Saturday mornings I get the privilege to inspire connections outdoors when I take my students from The Afterschool Program, an academic and social enrichment program for at-risk youth in North Nashville, on an outing with the local Sierra Club ICO group.

My name is Araminta, and I am a Vanderbilt student who was born and raised in the shadow of my beloved Smoky Mountains. My mom took me on my first hike in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park when I was just four days old. As I have grown from a little girl sporting her first pair of pink hiking boots into a young woman chasing big dreams, the mountains have provided the trails, both literal and figurative, for me to walk. Spending much of my childhood in the outdoors has enriched my soul and instilled a deep love and concern for nature that I now seek to pass on.

I partner with ICO because I believe that every child, no matter his or her background, deserves the opportunity to fall deeply in love with the natural world. Advocacy will follow, but it must begin with wonder and with love.

Last Saturday, I saw this very principle in action as I wrangled 15 kids ages 8-14 in the parking lot of our after school program. Some looked forward to another adventure with Mr. Craig, the local ICO coordinator, while others were not quite sure what to expect on their first hike. We unloaded the bus at Edwin Warner Nature Center and stepped into the

magical world of the forest.

Elijah and Giovanni, both on their first hike, had eyes as wide as the hickory nuts we were examining as we discussed the fall mast and how it helps the wildlife prepare for winter. I watched in awe as middle school girls that are usually concerned only with their cell phones and the latest classroom drama ran their fingers through a patch of algae and suddenly made a connection between Wednesday's science homework about the food chain and the natural world they were standing in.

On the bus ride home, Xavier told me all about how much he loved all of the plants and animals we got to meet. I reminded him that those creatures are his neighbors, and



Craig Ann shares her 6 foot snake skin

that he has the chance to look out for them just like his neighbors look out for him. If advocacy for and lifelong enjoyment of nature begin with love, then a morning with ICO has given fifteen more Nashville youth the opportunity to begin that very journey.

To inspire connections outdoors, to volunteer with ICO, is to foster a deep love that starts lasting change. Please join us in the adventure by contacting Craig Jervis or your local chapter.

Tennessee Chapter Winter Retreat Sneak Peak January 27-29

Susan Thrasher

Susan Thrasher is the owner and operator of Southern Brookies Fly Fishing in Lancaster, Tennessee. She started fishing at a young age with her dad in East Tennessee and has been passionate about the outdoors all her life. As an avid fly angler, fly tier and oarsman, her enthusiasm for the sport is contagious.

In the spring of 2015 she fulfilled a lifelong dream of spending all of her time on the river. She left her civil engineering career and now conducts business from her drift boat. She has six vintage campers at her fly fishing school to house fishing clients looking for an added adventure. Each camper is painted to represent a different trout. It adds a little flair to the banks of the Caney Fork River.

She has been on staff with the Joan Wulff School of Fly Fishing since 2005 where she teaches in the spring each year in the New York Catskills. She is also the retreat leader for Casting For Recovery, a non-profit program focused on supporting breast cancer survivors through the healing art of fly fishing.



Vintage campers at Southern Brookies Fly Fishing.

Susan will be presenting a program about her home water, the Caney Fork River, and

other tail waters in the Tennessee area.



Antoinette Olesen, Songwriter

Antoinette Olesen

Antoinette Olesen is a member of the Sierra Club and is an award winning songwriter. She has traveled internationally and has songs recorded by numerous recording artists. Most recent recordings are with Southside Drive, Gabe Burdulis, Lauren Presley and a "Parents Choice Award" for her song "That's What I Like About The Rain". Her songs feature positive messages celebrating life, beauty, nature, relationships and living peacefully in concert with the world.

Antoinette is an avid supporter of preserving 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. Recent neighborhood wins include the purchasing of a waterfall and adjoining 3 1/2 acres for preservation in open space and the defeat of land sale to a developer with mountaintop removal plans and sending a message to all by holding the one house per 3 acre zoning against another developer on the Hwy 70 corridor through West Meade.



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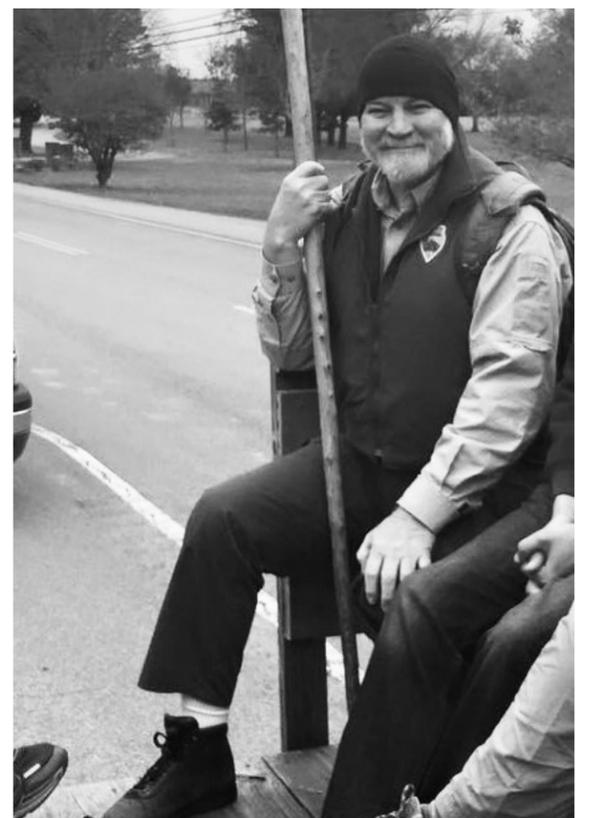
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Randy Hedgepath Hikes

Saturday, January 28th @ 9:00 A.M.
Cedar Forest Trail
2 miles

Saturday, January 28th @ 2:00 P.M.
Hidden Springs
2 miles

Sunday, January 29th @ 9:00 A.M.
Jackson Cave and Dixon Merrit walk
1 mile



Randy Hedgepath, TN State Naturalist