

# Tennes-Sierran

The bimonthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 41, Number 1 - January/February, 2010

## Tennesseans Learn Ways to Bring Green Jobs to State

By Gene TeSelle, Tennessee Alliance for Progress

At the Green Jobs conference in Nashville Dec. 4-5, 2009 people from around Tennessee gathered to stimulate the development of green jobs in the state.

Plenary sessions featured three articulate organizers: Julian Mocine-McQueen from Green for All [www.greenforall.org](http://www.greenforall.org); Ruben Lizardo from PolicyLink [www.policylink.org](http://www.policylink.org); and Ron Ruggiero from the Apollo Alliance [www.apolloalliance.org](http://www.apolloalliance.org).

Workshop topics included work force development, green collar jobs task force of Nashville, statewide green collar jobs, and sustainable innovations.

A youth track included testimonials by Asheville youth who were recently trained and have green jobs and a Youth Speaks Nashville session by teaching artist Benjamin Smith that motivated youth and gave them a voice. During lunch the Youth Speaks Nashville participants recited their "slams"—poetic dreams and critiques of the negative views of the environment and the poor that are often voiced in the media.

A presentation on federal policy, especially the "green jobs" aspects of the Recovery Act, encouraged public agencies to take maximum

advantage of available resources, and advocated monitoring the activities of those agencies.

An impressive program has been mounted in Portland, Oregon. Loans and grants for weatherization of homes are funded by a statewide revolving fund. Utility bills are reduced, and repayment on the loan (3 to 5 years) is included in the monthly utility bill. For low-income people it's a monthly grant.

A project labor or community work force agreement assures 30% of the work force and 20% of the contractors must be from disadvantaged or under-represented groups and the businesses have to be owned by minorities or women. Community organizations perform a range of activities: outreach, signups, recruiting of workers, and evaluation of effectiveness. Jobs are "bundled" by area to increase efficiencies for contractors. Inspectors identify improvements, certify proper work and advocate for homeowners in dealing with contractors.

Portland's program creates jobs that offer a living wage (using Davis-Bacon criteria) and develops skills that will lead not merely to temporary work but to a "career." This is a goal of the Department of Labor's "Pathways Out of Poverty" program. Barriers to employment may range from inadequate education to a record of

incarceration. Overcoming such barriers is part of any work force development program.

A qualified work force must be trained for the jobs that will be opening up. Employers are a crucial factor, too. When we talk about influencing legislators, "green business" is an effective lobbying group, since it creates jobs and small business.

There are at least two major aspects to "green business." One is energy efficiency. Weatherization of homes and businesses makes sense because it lowers the bills paid by consumers. It also helps the budgets of energy companies, which do not need to build as many new power plants and may begin to clean up their emissions. Energy efficiency also involves the manufacture of more efficient heating and air conditioning units, an important source of jobs if they are made in the U.S. under fair working conditions and at decent wages.

The other aspect is clean energy—the use of alternative energy sources, especially solar, wind and geothermal power. This, too, can create new jobs, both in manufacturing and in installation.

The Green Jobs conference was also an opportunity for networking. Programs usually begin locally and become models for other programs. When votes are needed for legislation, one of the strongest arguments is a program that has been successful in a legislator's home district.

For further information and to connect to green job efforts in your city, call Nell Levin at Tennessee Alliance for Progress, 888-903-9576. Go to [www.taptn.org](http://www.taptn.org) for workshop summaries and videos.

## Get Involved in Chapter Conservation Issue Committees

By Gary Bowers

The Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club conservation issue committees for 2010 are now forming. If the Chapter is to be effective in meeting our goals for 2010 and improve Tennessee's environment for us, our children, our friends and neighbors, and all Tennessee stakeholders, we need YOUR help. The time to be active is NOW.

If you would like to participate in any of the conservation issue areas listed below, please email the Super Committee Chair and Gary Bowers at [gb1nature@aol.com](mailto:gb1nature@aol.com). We welcome your involvement as well as your input in the areas that you would like to work on, as the 2010 goals and mission statements for each committee are in the process of being developed.

**CLIMATE RECOVERY SUPER COMMITTEE** - Gloria Griffith, Chair, [gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com), [gb1nature@aol.com](mailto:gb1nature@aol.com)

- \* Rebuild & Repower America Committee
- \* Beyond Coal/Nuclear Committee
- \* Transportation/Smart Growth Committee

**WILD LEGACY SUPER COMMITTEE** - Axel Ringe, Chair, [onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net), [gb1nature@aol.com](mailto:gb1nature@aol.com)

- \* Biodiversity Committee
- \* Cumberland Mountains Committee
- \* Great Smoky Mountains Committee
- \* National Forests/Wilderness Committee
- \* TN State Parks & Natural Areas

**SAFE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES SUPER COMMITTEE** - Gloria Griffith, Chair, [gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com), [gb1nature@aol.com](mailto:gb1nature@aol.com)

- \* Environmental Education Committee
- \* Environmental Justice Committee
- \* Population Committee
- \* Organic & Local Agriculture Committee
- \* Water Quality Committee

The following committees are dormant. If you have an interest in them and would like to organize and be considered for chairing any of these committees, please email the Super Committee Chair and Gary Bowers at [gb1nature@aol.com](mailto:gb1nature@aol.com).

**CLIMATE RECOVERY SUPER COMMITTEE** - Gloria Griffith, Chair, [gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com), [gb1nature@aol.com](mailto:gb1nature@aol.com)

- \* Air Quality Committee

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- \* TN Forests Committee

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# Tennes-Sierran

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## ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 10th of the month preceding the new month's issue.

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to [lbaker@usw.org](mailto:lbaker@usw.org) either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Attached files are preferred. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.

3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.

4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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

## Save the Date!

"Nature Votes," Tennessee Conservation Voters' annual fundraiser, will be held on February 5, 2010 at Traveller's Rest in Nashville. It's always a great party, with good food, drinks, music, and a chance to meet friends and government officials. Go to [www.tnconservationvoters.org](http://www.tnconservationvoters.org) for more information.

TCV needs your help! To attend the event, be a sponsor, or donate an auction item contact the TCV office at [tcved@bellsouth.net](mailto:tcved@bellsouth.net), 615-269-9090, or contact event chair Mary Helen Clarke at [mhclarke53@aol.com](mailto:mhclarke53@aol.com), 615-297-2969.



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## With your help, we can clean up our water.

Over the last 30 years, we've made great progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands.

## Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

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

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) F940 W 4300 1

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### Chickasaw Group - Memphis

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office - 423-944-3220 fax - 423-944-3221 (call first)

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





## Help Needed to Restore State Funding for Land Conservation

By Kathleen Williams, President and Executive Director of Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation

If you love Tennessee's woods, water and wildlife, your action is needed because the state funding for land conservation is at risk.

In 1986 an addition to Tennessee's Real Estate Transfer Tax was designated to protect wetlands in Tennessee. It was later renewed and increased with passage of the "State and Local Parks and Recreation Partnership Act." This act created a dedicated fund to conserve land for parks, wildlife areas, greenways, cleaner water, and preservation of the natural beauty of Tennessee. As real estate is developed, a small portion of the transfer tax is re-invested in a Forever Green Tennessee.

However, in 2003 and in 2008, this "designated" fund was taken to help balance the state's budget. These funds are to be reinstated in 2010, unless they are targeted and taken again to balance the state's budget. These funds are for conservation purposes and are needed now more than ever to keep Tennessee forever green and beautiful.

We need it to ensure a healthy environment and economy. Tourism is the second largest industry in Tennessee, employing thousands and contributing billions to our economy and tax revenues. The top tourist attractions in Tennessee are parks; it is short-sighted not to keep this program, which represents only .07% of our state's budget.

There are four funds generating approximately \$20 million annually: the wetlands fund; state parks acquisition fund; local parks and recreation funds; and the agricultural resources conservation fund.

These funds have leveraged investments from sources including federal, city and county governments, non-governmental organizations, and private philanthropy. Approximately 240,000 acres have been acquired, helping to make our communities more livable and attractive to industry and tourism while making our economy stronger.

Tennessee is the 7th worst state in America for destruction of forests and farms for roads and development. We lose 80,000 acres annually and are 50th nationwide in environmental spending.

These funds are needed to save at-risk sites such as Rocky Fork, the bluffs at Scott's Gulf, Cummins Falls, the big trees at Warner Parks, Mississippi River Bluffs, Fiery Gizzard Trail, segments of the Cumberland Trail, Rattlesnake Falls, Virgin Falls, Short Mountain, and more.

We can't sell our children's future by risking our greatest natural assets. Our quality of life, water and wildlife, and future depend on these investments. Large tracts of land will never be more available than they are today.

Raiding these funds is a step backward in terms of stewardship of our land and responsible budgeting, and ***we need your help*** in securing this funding in 2010! **Contact your state senator and representative, with a copy to Governor Bredesen, asking them to ensure that this funding is available for its designated purpose.**

Contact your legislators at <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us>. To volunteer to do more, or for information, contact Kathleen Williams, Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, at 615-386-3171 or at [tengreen@earthlink.net](mailto:tengreen@earthlink.net). The foundation's website is at <http://www.tengreen.org/>.

## Tennessee Chapter Activists Awarded for Volunteer Work

By Mary Mastin

Louise Gorenflo, chair of the Tennessee Chapter's Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) committee, and Brian Paddock, chair of the Chapter's transportation committee, received awards from the Tennessee Environmental Council for their volunteer work on behalf of Tennessee's environment.

Gorenflo founded the Solar Valley Coalition and BEST (Bellefonte Efficiency and Sustainability Team), which is challenging the relicensing of the Bellefonte nuclear plant. She is one of the founding members of Tennessee Alternative Growers Association and co-founded the Plateau Organic Growers Association.

She is the Sierra Club representative on the TVA long-term planning advisory committee; coordinator of the Crossville Sustainability Fair, Blue Turning Green—a six-county sustainability



(continued on page 5)

## Corner

The Chair's

## Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

The Tennessee Chapter Meeting will be held January 22-24, 2010 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park hosted by Chickasaw Group. A new Executive Committee will be in attendance. We will be welcoming newly elected group delegates and Chapter at-large delegates. Please make plans to come to the meeting to meet new people and associate with old friends.

On January 22, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Demos' restaurant in Lebanon, the Tennessee NAP (Nitrogen/Phosphorus) Team will meet to review their state plan, elect officers, and set group norms. The NAP Team is associated with the Mississippi River Team and Water Sentinels. The NAP Team's focus is on prevention of nitrogen and phosphorus runoff into watersheds that run into the Mississippi River.

If water quality issues interest you, consider attending this NAP Team meeting. Reimbursement is available for fuel expense. Lodging will be available at no cost to participants staying at Cedars of Lebanon State Park in the group lodge. Friday night supper will be provided. Please pre-register with me or contact me for more information at 615-943-6877 or [kdpndleton1@aol.com](mailto:kdpndleton1@aol.com).

### Chapter Treasurer Needed!!

The Tennessee Chapter is in need of recruiting an individual to serve as Chapter treasurer. The skills sets required include accounting and bookkeeping. Please submit your resume by January 18, 2010 for immediate consideration to Chapter Vice Chair Gloria Griffith at [gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com) or call her at 423-727-4797.

Just a reminder! You will be receiving a ballot in the mail or via email in the coming weeks for the 2010 Sierra Club Board of Directors election. Please take a moment to vote! Nominating Committee candidates include the following: Donna Buell (IA), Allison Chin (VA), Robbie Cox (NC), Jim Dougherty (DC), Jared Duval (CT), Jonathan Ela (WI) and Phil Wheeler (CA). Petition candidates include Frank Morris (NY) and Katherine Pendleton (TN).

Wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year!

Katherine Pendleton, Chair  
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

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# Meetings

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.**

**RUSSIA: UP FRONT AND FRIENDLY.** Knoxville Attorney Ron Leadbetter, a frequent visitor to Russia, talks about renewing old acquaintances and seeing new things on his most recent trip to the Penza region and the Caucasus Mountains. Everyone is welcome. For further information contact John Finger at 865-573-5908.

**FEBRUARY PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.**

**ICELAND: NATION OF MANY FACES.** HBG members Will Skelton, Kim Robinette, John Dunlap and Beverly Smith visited Iceland in July 2009 and concluded that, for scenic beauty, this country (the size of Kentucky but whose population is less than Knox County, TN) can match any place in the world. They drove most of the paved Ring Road around the island, took a dirt road across the central Highlands between two ice caps, and also saw most of Reykjavik, the capital. The sights included waterfalls, volcanoes, glaciers and ice caps, sea cliffs, geysers, coastal villages and farms, lava fields, and more. Come see their photographs and learn about a fascinating and scenic nation.

**MARCH PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.**

**Our Annual Outings Program!** Outings Chair Ron Shrieves coordinates discussion and illustration of the varied programs offered through February 2011, including day hikes, backpacks, canoe trips, car camping, etc. In most cases you will have an opportunity to hear the leaders themselves discussing their outings as well as see slides, maps and other visual aids. Complete brochures of the outing schedule will be available free of charge.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, January 14, 7:00 p.m., at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville**

Many of you already know Kathleen Williams, president and executive director of the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation and one of our Tennessee environmental heroes. The foundation works hard and effectively to identify, preserve and protect the most ecologically rich, historically significant and beautiful places in Tennessee, thereby protecting wildlife, improving water and air quality, providing recreation opportunities, and promoting sustainability. This is "win-win" for all of us.

Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation is and has been very successful in its work and has been instrumental in preserving some true Tennessee treasures, but the group can't do everything alone. The only state funding we have for land conservation is at risk, and the foundation needs our help and YOUR help. Please attend this program to learn about the critical importance of Tennessee's real estate transfer funds—which generate \$20 million annually for the wetlands fund, the state parks land acquisition fund, the local parks and recreation fund, and the agricultural resources fund—and what you can do to help ensure they continue in the future! Kathleen is working to unite a broad constituency for reinstating these funds as the first phase of creating a *Forever Green Tennessee*.

We have invited Davidson County legislators to this presentation, so please help us have a good turnout!

**PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, February 11, 7:00 p.m., at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville**

What is killing our bats? Chrys Hulbert from the Nashville Grotto of the National Speleological Society will give a PowerPoint presentation about bats and the ways in which they are beneficial to people and the environment. She will also discuss the issues associated with white nose syndrome (WNS), a newly-emergent fungal disease that has killed over 1 million bats in the northeast United States in just the last two years. WNS has left unprecedented numbers

of sick, dying and dead bats in and around caves and mines from Vermont to Virginia. In some hibernating colonies, 90 to 100 percent of the bats are dying. Strong efforts are being made to keep it from spreading to neighboring states, including Tennessee.

Chrys is also a member of Bat Conservation International and is a molecular biologist at Vanderbilt University.

**STRATEGY MEETING: Third Mondays, January 18 and February 15, 6:30 p.m., at the United Steelworkers Union Building, 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211.** Follow the signs to the conference area. Conservation issues are first on the agenda, and all members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. If you have problems finding or accessing the building, call Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877.

## UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

**MONTHLY MEETING: Every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Putnam County Library.** Alternating program meeting with planning meetings every other month. For more information, contact Mary Mastin at marymastin@twlakes.net or (931) 268-2938.

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

**STRATEGY MEETING: 2nd Wednesday each month, Jan. 13, 6:00 pm.** Here is where the business of the club is decided. Join us around the recycled block table at Green|Spaces as we plan our campaigns. This month we'll also be electing officers and setting up our conservation committees. Come and be a part. To add an item to the agenda, call Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway, 423-619-0379, or e-mail her at elizabethjamestallman@hotmail.com. We meet at Green|Spaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga (the brick building at the end of the first block of Main off Broad Street.)

**JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING: Last Monday each month, Jan. 25, 7:00 pm, Green|Spaces, 63 E. Main St., Chattanooga.** Come see the Mountaintop Removal Roadshow, presented by Eric Blevins of Gran View, Tenn. He is a graduate of MTSU in Murfreesboro, where he worked with Students for Environmental Action on a successful campus clean energy campaign. A founder of Tennessee Alumni & Students for Sustainable Campuses, he has worked with Mountain Justice and United Mountain Defense in the fight against mountaintop removal. Public welcome, refreshments served after the program.

**STRATEGY MEETING: 2nd Wednesday each month, Feb. 10, 6:00 pm.** Come pool your knowledge and skills or share your concerns as we develop our strategies for fixing the world (or at least the part down here in southeast Tennessee!). To add an item to the agenda, call Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway, 423-619-0379, or e-mail her at elizabethjamestallman@hotmail.com. All members welcome. Green|Spaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga.

**FEBRUARY PROGRAM MEETING: Last Monday each month, Feb. 22, 7:00 pm, Green|Spaces, 63 E. Main St., Chattanooga.** Glen Craig, BLA, who is a top level landscape architect and general contractor who owns Craig Design Group, (<http://craigdesigngroup.biz/>) will discuss rainwater runoff protection and other issues and solutions. He is dedicated to sustainable landscape design, active in the newly formed Chattanooga Green Climate Action Plan teams, and is working hard to promote sustainable landscape design and construction. Come learn what's going on in the Chattanooga/Hamilton County region, and get your questions answered by a pro. Public welcome, refreshments served after the program.

**CONSERVATION CONVERSATION:** Join our Conservation Committee to discuss what's up and what needs action and attention, **1st Wednesday each month at Green|Spaces.** Call Mike Bascom to double check if we're meeting, 423-757-9710, or e-mail him at mikeb37415@lycos.com.

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

(Sign up for our monthly email events list on the calendar page <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/>)

**Monthly First Thursday Gathering Thursday, January 7, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm Otherlands, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN**

Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Keith Hoover at [hooverkw@yahoo.com](mailto:hooverkw@yahoo.com) or (901) 363-8299.

**Strategy Meeting - Monday, January 11, 6:30 pm Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, TN**

The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. To place items on the agenda, contact Nancy Ream at [njream@aol.com](mailto:njream@aol.com) or (901) 759-9416.

**Thursday, January 28, 6:30 pm-Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Presentation: "Reelfoot Lake" Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN**

Reelfoot Lake ranger, David Haggard, will give a presentation about birds of prey --hawks, owls, and eagles -- as well as the beauty of Reelfoot Lake and outdoor opportunities found there. This precedes a Chickasaw Group Outing to Reelfoot Lake in February.

**Monthly First Thursday Gathering - Thursday, February 4, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Otherlands, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN**

Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Keith Hoover at [hooverkw@yahoo.com](mailto:hooverkw@yahoo.com) or (901) 363-8299.

**Strategy Meeting-Monday, February 8, 6:30 pm Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, TN**

The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend.

**Thursday, February 25, 6:30 p.m. Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Presentation "Tennessee Clean Water Network - Water Protection in Tennessee" - Renee Hoyos Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN**

The Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN) is a non-profit corporation that organizes Tennesseans to claim our right to clean water and healthy communities by fostering civic engagement, building coalitions and advancing water policy for a sustainable future. Renee Hoyos, the executive director of the TCWN, will be in Memphis to discuss work the group does statewide to protect clean water, as well as local challenges to clean water and activities underway to protect local water bodies. For more information about the talk, contact Renee Hoyos at [renee@tcwn.org](mailto:renee@tcwn.org). For more information about the meeting, visit the Group website at <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw>.

**"Nature of Conservation" Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Cable TV Show on WYPL-TV 18 (Comcast)**

Days and times vary -- see <http://www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/schedule/> (or the Comcast on-screen guide) for the latest schedule. Topic changes every month. For more information, or if anyone has an idea for a future program, contact Judith Rutschman at [jrutschman@gmail.com](mailto:jrutschman@gmail.com) or (901) 767-5916.

**Yahoo Group "Sierra Club-Chickasaw Group & Friends"**

This is a free announcement-only email list to send notices of upcoming events and other "green" information of local interest. All announcements are accessible to the public, so you can look up the latest posts anytime! To view and/or join the Yahoo group, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierraclub-chickasaw/>

## WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

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



# Outings

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiver> PDF, or call 415-977-5630 for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride-sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**January 23-24, 2010 (Sat-Sun). Winter Backpack, Cades Cove Section, GSMNP.** We will hike in from the Cades Cove picnic area to campsite #9 (2.9 miles) on the Anthony Creek Trail. There we'll set up camp and then hike up to Spence Field (2.6 miles more), hoping for some winter views. Good winter gear is critical. This is an opportunity to learn more about critical winter camping and hiking skills. Please speak with the hike leader if you have not previously backpacked in the winter. Rated moderate to difficult. Drive 40 miles each way. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: email [sharvey86@aol.com](mailto:sharvey86@aol.com); phone 865-271-7227.

**February 20, 2010 (Sat). Day hike, Ten Mile Greenway, Knoxville.** Let's shrug off the winter weather and take an easy walk on the Ten Mile Greenway, starting at the far edge of the Wynnsong theatre parking lot. Plan for 2 to 4 miles. Dogs are invited too. Please register with Linda Smithyman at [ismithymanhbg@yahoo.com](mailto:ismithymanhbg@yahoo.com) or call at 865-335-3559.

**February 27, 2010 (Sat). Spring Breakout Backpack.** TBD. Preregister with Ron Shrieves: 922-3518; [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net).

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**January 10, 2010, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Inner City Outings Training**

If you would like to help lead underprivileged kids on hikes, please join us for our yearly child abuse recognition and prevention training followed by a short meeting. New folks and children are welcome! Contact Betsy at [garberb@hotmail.com](mailto:garberb@hotmail.com) or 615-37-9454.

**April 17-18, 2010, Wilderness First Aid Training—Fall Creek Falls State Park**

The Tennessee Chapter is sponsoring its 8th WFA training with NOLS through Landmark Learning. Cost is \$165/student including training only. Lodging and meals NOT provided. Register by contacting Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or [katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:katibug1959@aol.com).

## CHEROKEE GROUP

**Please register at least 1 week in advance. All hikes: wear warm clothing, closed-toe shoes, and bring water and snacks. For details about the outing, questions, and to register, call Outings Chair Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway at 423-619-6548 or e-mail him at [GazawayPainting@gmail.com](mailto:GazawayPainting@gmail.com).**

**January 17 (Sun.) Lula Lake Land Trust Day Hike, 10 a.m.**

**January 30 (Sat.) Signal Point Day Hike, 11 a.m.**

**February 14 (Sun.) Cloudland Canyon Hike to the Waterfalls, 12:30 pm.** Singles outing?!

Couples may also come too!!

**February 27 (Sat.) Reflection Riding Walk - call for time.**

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**Saturday, February 6, 2:00 pm and Sunday, February 7, 9:00 am Sierra Club Chickasaw Group Outing: Reelfoot Lake Tour**

**Reelfoot Lake State Park, Tiptonville, TN** Saturday's tour will explore a couple of locations along boardwalk and/or road, but best viewing will likely be Sunday morning. Reservations required with trip leader for Sunday morning with US Fish and Wildlife Service. Reservations for motel need to be made ASAP. For more details, call Sue Williams at (901) 274-0524.

## Tri-Cities/Johnson City "Home & Garden -Going Green Expo," Feb. 20-21, Freedom Hall, Johnson City

Green Home Tour Feb. 21 at 4:00 pm.

The "Green Acres" home is a semi-prototypical version of the Sierra Club presentation "Casa Verde" (Raffle Home). It was designed/built by architect/builder Tom Mozen and was certified by the National Association of Home Builders Green Building Program to go 'Emerald'--the highest level of green available.

Description of the house: geothermal heat pump, total Icynene foamed, Photo Voltaic solar array, passive solar, live roof, earth sheltered, etc. --- with 28 sustainable housing techniques & products. Call Tom at 423-232-0827 for more information.

## Ten Essentials for Hiking



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

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

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## Tennessee Chapter Activists Awarded for Volunteer Work

*(continued from page 3)*

fair and Democratic rally—and Cumberland Stewards—a coalition fighting the coal ash land-fill in Cumberland County; and manager of the Cumberland Sustainable Farmers Market.

Other activities she is involved in include being editor of the Energy in Agriculture Primer and executive director of The Learning Community, a nonprofit committed to citizen involvement on issues related to food, transportation, energy, poverty and resource management.

Paddock is a lawyer whose environmental work in the last couple of years includes working to defeat the selenium bill; drafting legislation, finding sponsors and working with advocates on a bill to ban radioactive waste in Tennessee landfills; and giving advice to citizen groups on how to navigate the state legislature on various bills and gain legislative protection from impacts of highway and construction blasting statewide.

As chair of the Chapter's transportation committee, Paddock arranged for periodic meetings between transportation reform advocates and the Tennessee Department of Transportation and worked on a citizen's guide to the agency.

He has worked on a better land use plan for Cookeville, on clean energy issues and with TVA to encourage publication of a DVD on TVA's



Dr. John McFadden, Tennessee Environmental Council (left) and Brian Paddock (right).

Generation Partners program, which provides incentives for use of alternative energy.



# Sustainable Tennessee Summit Charts Course for 2010

By John McFadden and Steven Sondheim

Over 160 Tennesseans representing 90 organizations convened Nov. 13-14, 2009 to refine and prioritize Tennessee's 2010 Sustainability Agenda. The Tennessee Environmental Council led the meeting with support from the Tennessee Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club.

Tennesseans deserve clean water for drinking, clean air to breathe, healthy greenway parks, and urban and rural forests. We must look at our own lifestyles and our dependence on fossil fuels, foreign oil and coal. The Kingston coal ash disaster brought this into focus for many Tennesseans. It is time we use natural resources in a way that does not degrade them, so our children and grandchildren have a better quality of life.

Clean energy, like wind and solar power, will create jobs, reduce health care costs, enhance national security, restore our environment, protect our children and make our state a leader in climate change solutions. It is time we re-engineered our infrastructure for quality growth and sustainable development.

Kathleen Williams (Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation) spoke on the importance of our natural resources for a sustainable Tennessee and how we could each support the reinstatement of the real estate transfer funds to promote conservation of our most functional ecosystems.

Dave Keiser (Cumberland Region Tomorrow) spoke on mitigating sprawl and overdevelopment through planning and smart growth. Our neighborhoods and roads will be overcrowded, and many of our urban streams will be polluted from how we develop the land. As a result of roads, parking lots, rooftops, sidewalks and other hard surfaces that do not allow storm water to be absorbed, many urban streams will flood our neighborhoods and continue to be polluted.

John Noel (Southern Alliance for Clean Energy) challenged us to keep reminding folks about how necessary it is to reduce greenhouse gases to ward off impending climate change.

Paul Sloan (Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation) promised to take a closer look at regulating polluters and to



Participants to the Sustainable Tennessee Summit came from throughout the state to attend.

meet with concerned groups including the Know Nuclear Coalition on radioactive waste dumping in landfills.

Ed Cole (Tennessee Department of Transportation) suggested economic stimulus money be used to promote efficient, sustainable, and alternative transportation (mass transit, reconnecting neighborhoods and active transportation) to lower the vehicle miles traveled to meet our needs. Vehicle emissions contribute to air pollution and climate change. Tennessee cities lead the country in childhood asthma.

The 2010 Sustainability Agenda is a road map to help Tennessee move from recession and pollution toward enhanced public health and quality of life and a better future. It's about being proactive and opportunistic in creating a healthy economy, livable communities and enhanced property values. It's about attracting business and industries who understand that minimizing waste is a measure of economic efficiency. It's about lifestyles, the choices we make and conse-

quences – good and bad. Finally, the Sustainability Agenda is about the policies established by our legislature, county and city governments, businesses, churches, families and individuals.

The agenda includes items such as reinstated real-estate transfer funds to conserve prime farm land for food production, greenways and local parks; statewide commercial energy and water building codes; coordinated regional development plans; bans on nuclear waste dumping, open burning for land clearing and coal mining mountaintop removal; assessment of all Tennessee Department of Transportation projects based on vehicle miles traveled and impact on greenhouse gas, energy and health; dedicated funds for mass transit and active transportation; and greater representation from the conservation and environmental community and child advocates on state administrative boards, especially the air quality board.

The Sustainable Tennessee Coalition needs your public input and support for Tennessee's Sustainability Agenda. The final draft 2010 Tennessee Sustainability Agenda is available at [www.SustainableTn.org](http://www.SustainableTn.org). Please email [John\\_McFadden@att.net](mailto:John_McFadden@att.net) for more information.



Michelle Haynes from Tennessee Conservation Voters addresses representatives from 90 organizations across Tennessee.

## Winter Tennessee Chapter Meeting Cedars of Lebanon State Park • Lebanon, TN January 22-24, 2010

**\$40.00/Adult**  
**\$20.00/Child**

Half price for first attendee. Includes 2 nights lodging/Sat/Sun breakfast/Sat Supper  
Bring own bedding/Towels/Toiletries/Coffee Mug

Chickasaw Group hosting- Contact Chickasaw Group Chair Nancy Ream to register at [njream@aol.com](mailto:njream@aol.com) or 901-759-9416 or mail registration fee to Nancy at the address as follows: 490 Elise Drive, Cordova, TN 38018 by January 15, 2010.



# Nashville Inner City Outings Group Seeks Volunteers

By Betsy Garber

With just six certified hike leaders, the Nashville Inner City Outings Group led 10 hikes in 2009 for 92 kids and 26 adults.

Numbers are informative, but they don't tell the rest of the story.

The whole story begins in 2007, when Celeste, a recent California transplant, suggested at a Sierra Club meeting that we start an "Inner City Outings" (ICO) program. Our response was, "We can't, we don't have enough hike leaders for our regular outings program." For several years the Middle Tennessee group has consisted of a handful of volunteers.

Undaunted, Celeste started the paperwork—required to maintain Sierra Club quality but a stumbling block to those who actually want to do something—and began recruiting hike leaders. When life and employment got in Celeste's way, Alyssa, a sleep-deprived young doctor in training at Vanderbilt, took over. Somehow, Alyssa, with Tami's help, managed to complete the paperwork, recruit agencies to work with, obtain more hike leaders, get everyone trained and certified, and sell Sierra Club note cards to raise seed money.

Our first hike was on June 14, 2008 at Shelby Bottoms Greenway. We led four hikes in 2008, all of which Alyssa led or attended. Then Alyssa left for California to become a cardiologist.

After Alyssa left, Olivia, recently married and unemployed, helped us open a bank account; soon after, her job search took her and her family to Georgia. So, the structure was in place thanks to Celeste, Alyssa, Tami, and Olivia; the challenge was whether we could maintain the program.

In 2009, with just six certified hike leaders, Nashville ICO took 92 kids and 26 adults on hikes to Radnor Lake, Beaman Park, Manskers Station, and the Discovery Wetlands in Murfreesboro. Most of the participants had never taken a hike in the woods before. We did this with just six committed volunteers.

It's not the easiest thing in the world. It

takes many phone calls and e-mails; it takes checking waivers and filling water bottles; it takes contacting parks and verifying transportation; and it takes continued training. But it can be done with just six people. It would be better with more, but it can be done with just six committed people.

Imagine what we could do if even more people became certified ICO hike leaders? What if six new people decided to commit a portion of their time to volunteer at the recycling site or become regular hike leaders? What if six new people decided to attend and participate at the business meetings or help with our new environmental justice campaign? What if six new people decided they would start attending and supporting the monthly program meetings? Here in Nashville, the structure is in

place for each of these Sierra Club activities; the question is whether we have enough committed volunteers to make it work.

It's not easy, but imagine what we could do with just six more people.

(If you have questions about how to get involved with the Nashville group, please leave a message at our office at 837-3773, or e-mail Betsy Garber at: garberb@hotmail.com. Put "Sierra Club" in the subject line so I know it is not junk mail.)



August 5, 2009 Inner City Outing at Beaman Park. Photo: Betsy Garber

## Chickasaw Group Seeks Volunteers

The Chickasaw Group in west Tennessee needs volunteers who will chair and/or actively participate with a committee in several areas including conservation, outings, program meetings, publicity, membership, tabling events, fundraising, and e-newsletter publishing. We may also need a new secretary and treasurer.

You do not have to be on the Executive Committee to be a chair or committee member. Except for secretary and treasurer, attendance at monthly ExCom meetings is not necessary every month, but is highly encouraged.

**If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Keith Hoover at hooverkw@yahoo.com or (901) 363-8299 with your area of interest.**

## Chickasaw Group Presents Annual Awards

By Steven Sondheim

**Outstanding State Legislator—  
Representative Beverly Marreo**

Special recognition goes to Beverly Marreo for being the most environmental legislator of 2009. Keep up the great work! Hats off to you!

**Most Responsive County Legislator—  
County Commissioner Steve Mulroy**

An effective local leader because he shares and coordinates ideas with the public, Councilman Mulroy initiates actions and makes a strong case for environmental and public values. Thanks for your help in working to keep the air cleaner and the city cooler!

**Environmental Stewardship—  
Janet Boscarino**

Clean Memphis efforts make our city a cleaner place to live. Through endless efforts, Janet and the groups she has organized are working to keep Memphis a beautiful, safe and healthy city.

**Volunteer of the Year—Nancy Ream**

Special recognition goes to Nancy Ream for her selfless service both as our leader and for her tireless efforts toward conservation. Nancy has chosen a path to serve the environment and the community through her volunteerism and encouragement to others to volunteer. Nancy, know that you have been very

effective.

**Stepping Up Award—Keven Routon**

Keven stepped in after a Chapter meeting to help with state newsletter articles, stories, and pictures. He attended Tennessee Valley Authority hearings and helped make our second Randolph Bluff event a success! Since then he has been showing up everywhere and doing everything.

**Community Building  
Award—**

**Sarah Newstok and Emily  
Trenholm**

The 2009 Community Building award goes to Coalition for Livable Communities. Through the Pizza with Planners programs, neighborhood summits and Walk Bike Memphis, Sarah and Emily work with community leaders to make Memphis a more livable and walk and bike friendly place.

**Rising Leader Award—  
Keith Hoover**

Consistently stepping up to help and grow into new

roles, Keith has blossomed into a dependable and qualified leader. From improving our communications, to managing our membership and tabling functions, to taking initiative as a strong board member and vice-president, Keith is becoming an exemplary activist and leader.



Chickasaw member Steven Sondheim (right) gives award to Commissioner Steve Mulroy.



# Defenders Campaign Seeks Donations for State Lobbying

By Adelle Wood

The Sierra Club Defenders campaign, which funds our critical legislative and lobbying work, is in its 14th year. A number of Sierrans contribute every year, but each year there is attrition as people move or are unable to continue to donate. *We need new Defenders and we need your support!* Since the national Sierra Club may not be able to continue with some of its usual revenue-sharing with state chapters, this is a *make-or-break year* for the Defender program.

During the last legislative session our lobbyist, Mike Murphy, worked hard on a number of issues, especially focusing on some important water bills. Mike is very knowledgeable about the legislative process and is a staunch protector of Tennessee's environment. He encourages grassroots lobbying by our members as the most effective way to ensure that our legislators understand that Sierra Club members care deeply about the environment and that we have voters in every part of Tennessee.

In the 2010 legislative session we expect to support a bill to prohibit disposal of nuclear waste in our existing landfills; continue to fight against more selenium in our waterways; restore funding for wetlands and park land acquisition; and support a bill to prohibit mountain top removal mining in Tennessee

We know you have many demands on your resources, but please give as generously as you can. If you can't contribute a lot, a little would



still help. Since the Defender campaign is a grassroots volunteer effort, **100% of the proceeds** are dedicated to program purposes and **stay in Tennessee**.

Your contribution is not tax-deductible, but it is critical in enabling us to have an advocate on "the

hill." **Please** send your contribution, made out to Sierra Club Defenders, to Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. Thank you.

**Bill Terry, Legislative Co-Chair**  
**Penny Brooks, Legislative Co-Chair**

## energy corner

# Energy Matters World Climate Change Hangs in the Balance at Copenhagen



Delegations from all over the world met in Copenhagen to work out climate change agreements. [www.sierraclub.org/copenhagen](http://www.sierraclub.org/copenhagen)

The Sierra Club sent 50 delegates who are working daily to urge Congress to enact climate legislation that would cut greenhouse gases and put a price on carbon through pollution limits. Joining the Sierra Club at the conference were the Blue Green Alliance and the U.S. Climate Action Network.

"This is one of the most important environmental gatherings in history," said Carl Pope, Sierra Club executive director. "A strong start in Copenhagen will allow the United States and the world to achieve final, binding domestic and international climate agreements later in 2010."

### EPA head: US must make up for lost time on climate

The top U.S. environmental official pledged efforts to cut greenhouse gases to complement congressional action. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson suggested the

EPA's decision that greenhouse gases should be regulated would be a dual path of action by the administration and Congress.

"This is not an either/or moment. This is a both/and moment," Jackson said.

The EPA determined that scientific evidence clearly shows greenhouse gas endangers Americans' health. Pollutants — mainly carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels — should be regulated under the Clean Air Act. That means the EPA could regulate those gases without the approval of Congress. This was welcomed by other nations in Copenhagen that have called on the U.S. to boost its efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

### Green Jobs means getting people back to work

Investment in infrastructure such as rail, roads, and bridges and ramping up government support for energy efficiency and clean energy creates jobs. Providing rebates to consumers who make energy efficiency retrofits would provide jobs and save them money by sealing up their leaky houses. The "cash for clunkers" bill took inefficient vehicles off the road, saving consumers \$3.3 billion per year in energy bills, as well as creating 600,000 to 850,000 jobs. Expanding existing stimulus money will leverage private investment and create jobs quickly, such as industrial energy efficiency investments and tax incentives for investing in renewable manufacturing facilities in the U.S.

To get involved with national energy campaigns, contact Steven Sondheim at 901.761.1793, [stevensonsondheim@yahoo.com](mailto:stevensonsondheim@yahoo.com)

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