

# Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 42, Number 6 - November/December, 2011

## Muscles, Enthusiasm Wanted for White's Creek High School Tree Planting

On Saturday, November 19 at 9:00 a.m. you are invited to join White's Creek High School students, in Nashville, planting native trees on the grounds of their school.

As Sierra Club members, don't we want to increase Nashville's urban tree canopy? Aren't we proponents of improved water quality and don't we want to plant shade trees to cool our cities with their "heat islands?" Aren't we interested in cleaning up the air we breathe? Don't we want more shelter for wildlife and don't we want to get our kids engaged in the natural world? How about planting trees simply for their beauty and grace? Yes! Yes! Yes! We can accomplish all this in just one morning of planting trees. Good for the soul, good for the planet, good for our community and for all who inherit it after we're gone.

Through the generous donations of the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, as well as the Cumberland River Compact, we hope to plant twenty to twenty-five 6-8 foot native trees on school grounds. With your muscles and enthusiasm we can accomplish this.

Dr. Cliff Cockerham, science teacher at White's Creek High School and Environmental Justice Chair of the MTG group, has a mission to not only restore the riparian buffer to White's Creek proper but to establish a carbon sequestration outdoor classroom. Tulip Poplar (our state tree) and sycamore are the primary trees we will plant as they are the stellar native trees for carbon sequestration with their broad leaf canopy. However, we also hope to plant

sassafras, persimmon, pear, plum and hickory trees to provide food for wildlife and for students to sample too.

For 13 years the Saturday before Thanksgiving has been set aside as Nashville's annual tree planting day. We've decided to join ReLeaf Nashville by coordinating our tree planting with theirs.

Many years ago members of MTG planted trees with students from MLK at Mill Creek

Greenway. It was a lot of fun. It was a lot of hard work too but mostly it was fun.

Please contact me if you'd like to help.

Joy Mayfield

851-1192

joy.mayfield@comcast.net

White's Creek High School

7277 Old Hickory Blvd

White's Creek, TN 37189



Fall 2011 Chapter meeting group photo. Find out about the winter Chapter meeting on page 3.

## More Support Needed for Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2011

By Jeff Hunter

On August 3, the Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2011 received a hearing in the Public Lands and Forests subcommittee of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee. US Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell was the only individual who offered testimony in-person at the hearing, and said that the Obama Administration "strongly supports the Tennessee Wilderness Act." Senator Alexander submitted written testimony to the committee, as did Knoxville resident and longtime Sierra Club member Will Skelton. In addition, Senator Corker submitted a stakeholder letter to the committee. This letter in support of the bill was signed by over 70 groups and individuals including the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

In the next few months, we expect the bill will be approved by the full committee and added to a bipartisan package of public lands bills. We are hopeful that this Omnibus Public Lands Bill will receive a full floor vote in the US Senate sometime in 2012. While there is currently no companion bill in the House of Representatives, it is important that the

Tennessee Congressional delegation hear from their pro-wilderness constituents about this bill. This is particularly true of Congressmen Phil Roe, Chuck Fleischmann, and John J. Duncan.

Please take a moment to let your Congressman and Senators know that it has been 25 years since the last wilderness bill was

passed in the State of Tennessee, and the time for more wilderness is now. Together, we can protect nearly 20,000 acres of Tennessee's natural heritage for future generations.

*(Jeff Hunter is the director of the Tennessee Wilderness Campaign for the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition in Chattanooga, TN)*

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

# Tennes-Sierran

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

## SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

\*Email: [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)  
\*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon 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:

Email: [lbaker@usw.org](mailto:lbaker@usw.org)  
Snail Mail: Lynne Baker, Tennes-Sierran Editor  
PO Box 1504, Antioch, TN 37011  
(615) 831-6782

## ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 1st 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.

**Deadline for  
January-February 2012  
Issue is November 28,  
2011. All meetings and  
outings notices, arti-  
cles and photographs  
must be in by then.  
Send material to Lynne  
Baker at  
[lbaker@usw.org](mailto:lbaker@usw.org).**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



## 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.

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

Join today and receive  
a FREE Sierra Club  
Weekender Bag!



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

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
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 32142-1041.

F940 W 4300 1

# Sierra Club Officers

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Chair: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877  
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[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)  
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[bk1rivers@comcast.net](mailto:bk1rivers@comcast.net)  
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[bpaddock@twlakes.net](mailto:bpaddock@twlakes.net)

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### Cherokee Group

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Vice Chair: Jami Brown (423) 255-3014  
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[bk1rivers@comcast.net](mailto:bk1rivers@comcast.net)  
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### Chickasaw Group - Memphis

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[hooverkw@yahoo.com](mailto:hooverkw@yahoo.com)  
Don Richardson (901) 276-1387  
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### Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

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Chair: Robin Hill (865) 966-9435  
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Vice-Chair: David Reister (865) 670-8991  
[dreister@bellsouth.net](mailto:dreister@bellsouth.net)  
Secretary: VACANT - Volunteer Wanted  
Treasurer: Bob Perlack (865) 675-7668  
[perlack@aol.com](mailto:perlack@aol.com)  
Conservation: Axel Ringe (865) 397-1840  
[onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net)  
Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518  
[ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net)

### Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg)  
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[krsp@aol.com](mailto:krsp@aol.com)  
Vice Chair: Dave Bordenkircher (615) 333-3377  
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[garberb@hotmail.com](mailto:garberb@hotmail.com)  
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[katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:katibug1959@aol.com);  
[kdpendleton1@aol.com](mailto:kdpendleton1@aol.com)

### Watauga Group - Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington Counties

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga)  
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[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)  
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### National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:

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

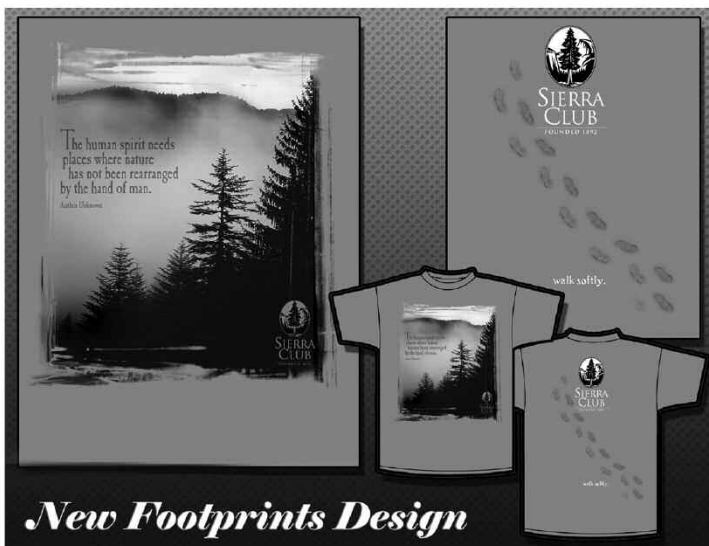
Please notify the Editor when changes  
are needed

## New Design

# Footprints T-Shirts

Black print quotation:

"The human spirit needs places where  
nature has not been rearranged by the  
hand of man on gray background - Unknown Author"  
on gray background.



**New Footprints Design**

Size	Qty	Unit Price	Total
Small	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
Medium	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
Large	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
1X-Large	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
2X-Large	_____ X	\$16.00	= _____
		Sub-Total	_____
Shipping - Enter			
Total # of T-Shirts	_____ X	\$5.00	= _____
		Grand Total	= _____

Please make checks payable to:  
TN Chapter Sierra Club

Mail To:  
T-Shirt Order Fulfillment  
P. O. Box 290306 - Nashville, TN 37229

OR

Visit us on-line at:  
<http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/footprints.htm>

To pay by e-check or credit card  
(sorry, credit cards only accepts via on-line orders)

# The Tennessee Chapter's Winter Retreat January 20-22 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park

We will explore this beautiful state park, learn from naturalists and relax in the company of good friends, old and new. Plan for a relaxed weekend close to nature and feel free to participate, if you choose, in the chapter executive committee meeting. Prices are low, and there are bunk house accommodations. Please bring your own linens, towels, toiletries and other personal supplies.

Saturday evening will feature the music of **Antoinette Olesen**, an award winning songwriter who has toured internationally and performed with numerous world class artists. Her songs feature big choruses and picturesque melodies on the Sheryl Crow / Jack Johnson side of pop. She describes herself as "environmentally friendly, 0 pollution." It will be a real treat to hear this gifted performer.

## Friday January 20

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Registration / check-in

## Saturday January 21

7:00 am – Breakfast

8:00 am – Chapter conservation meeting begins

9:00 am – Morning hike (to be announced)

12:00 pm – Lunch

1:00 pm – Communications Committee meeting

2:00 pm – Budget Committee meeting

2:00 pm – Afternoon hike (to be announced)

3:00 pm – Chapter administrative meeting begins

7:00 pm – Dinner

8:00 pm – Program: Musical with an environmental flavor with Antoinette Olesen

## Sunday January 22

7:00 am – Nature devotional with Dr. Cliff Cockerham

8:00 am – Breakfast

9:00 am – Sunday morning hike (to be announced)

**Early Bird Price: \$40; must register by January 6.**

**January 7 and after: \$50**

One-day only price with meals (no lodging), Saturday \$20.

Special: One-half price for first-time attendees! Free for Age 15 and under.

A limited number of partial scholarships are available by request to Michael Varnell, Tennessee Chapter Treasurer: [rmvarnell@bellsouth.net](mailto:rmvarnell@bellsouth.net).

To register: Contact Katherine Pendleton, 615-943-6877, [kdpendleton1@aol.com](mailto:kdpendleton1@aol.com). Registering before January 6 gets you in at the Early Bird Price!

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How does it work? Monthly you will receive an email notification and download link for your new Tennes-Sierran in a special email alert. All you will have to do is click on the link and presto, your Tennes-Sierran will appear in an Adobe Acrobat PDF format. View it, download it, save it but whatever the case you will be saving trees, and freeing Tennessee Chapter club funding to work for other conservation efforts. A double whammy win situation!

**So Join the Crowd  
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## Corner

The Chair's

## Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

Many thanks to Harvey Broome Group for hosting the fall quarterly Chapter meeting at Pickett State Park. The Chapter ExCom held an experimental one-day business meeting on Saturday. The ExCom will hold another one-day meeting during the winter quarterly Chapter meeting at Cedars of Lebanon State Park in January, 2012 with Middle Tennessee Group hosting.

I attended the Georgia Chapter retreat the first weekend in October. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with Sierra Club members from Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia. I had the opportunity to meet and speak with Sierra Club president Michael Brune. The Georgia and South Carolina chapters will be combining efforts next year to host a retreat and our Chapter has been invited to help in the planning.

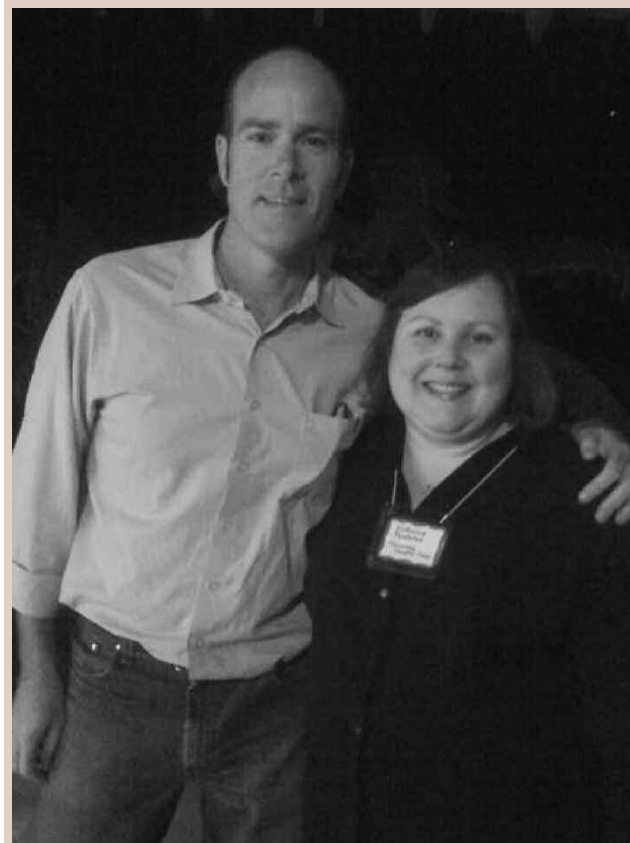
In August, I attended chapter personnel training at the Sierra Club headquarters in San Francisco. The training is a requirement for chapters to oversee staff. Our chapter is looking into the possibilities of hiring a chapter director. A committee was formed at the beginning of this year with Allan Miller as chair.

Brian Paddock and I attended the Sierra Club Council of Club Leaders (CCL) annual meeting in September. Brian is our Chapter's CCL delegate and I am our CCL alternate delegate. Brian gave a report to our Chapter ExCom at the fall quarterly meeting. You can contact Brian or me if you have questions about the annual meeting.

Ballots for group and Chapter elections are included in this issue of the newsletter. Please be sure to take time to vote. One vote can often make a difference in the outcomes of these elections.

Best wishes for a healthy and merry holiday season!

**Katherine Pendleton, Chair**  
**Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club**



Sierra Club President Michael Brune and Tennessee Chapter Chair Katherine Pendleton at the Georgia Chapter Retreat October 1, 2011.



## Be on the Home Team

**By Louise Gorenflo**

August was the driest month ever for Chattanooga. Oklahoma's July average statewide temperature was the highest recorded for any state. Farmers along the Mississippi River and its tributaries lost their fields to floodwater. The Groundhog Day Blizzard dumped 21 inches of snow in Chicago. April spawned 875 tornado reports – the thirty year average for April is 135 – killing 327 people. A wildfire spread across an area of Texas that hasn't seen rain in over a year. The national economic toll for extreme weather this year is estimated at \$42 billion, more than five times the average annual loss. Much of that damage is uninsured.

### The Call to Action

The time has come for those who see climate change unfolding with every season to press for policies that will reduce the chances of ever worse consequences. If not now, when?

We start with ourselves and then reach out to others we know who share our alarm. Tennesseans who want to do something to reduce the harm people are inflicting upon the Earth and life on it are called upon to be the change they want to see.

A September 2011 Reuters poll found that 83% of Americans believe the Earth has been warming, up from 75% last year. The extreme weather events have provoked the American public to think about climate change in a way they have not before.

### The TN Climate Action Campaign

The TN Climate Action Campaign enlists those already alarmed about climate change and who want to do something real about it. A majority of people are already concerned about climate change. Now we must mobilize that majority into action. In 2012 the TN Climate Action Campaign will find and connect climate protection activists within our communities and across Tennessee.

In 2013 the TN Climate Action Campaign will press TVA to adopt an annually compounded 1% energy efficiency target. A 1% target may sound insignificant, but with the power of annually compounded rates, over a ten year period, the demand for TVA power would be reduced by 4,000 MW, the equivalent of about three nuclear plants. These energy savings will allow many more TVA coal plants to close and build upon the historic Sierra Club clean air settlement with TVA.

### What You Can Do – Step One

Get a TVA In-Home Energy Evaluation

In the United States, GHG emissions associated with household consumption have been estimated to account for over 80% of total U.S. emissions and upward of 120% if emissions

embodied in imports are adjusted for the carbon-intensity of production. Motor vehicle fuels account for 20% of the average household emissions, and electricity is another 15%, the two largest GHG residential sources. Most of the electricity used in a home is for heating and cooling. Step one in protecting our climate is for you to get your home weatherized so that your home uses less energy.

This is easy to do. Call your power distributor and ask for a TVA In-Home Energy Evaluation. (All but four of the 159 TVA distributors offer this program.) An auditor schedules a convenient time to come to your home and conducts the evaluation, about one hour. The auditor leaves you with recommendations for what you can do to make your home more energy efficient. From a list of Quality Control Network contractors, you choose one to do the work (or you can do the work yourself.) After the work is completed, the auditor returns to ensure the work's quality.

TVA will repay the cost of the initial In-Home Evaluation (\$150) when you follow through with recommendations and will match up to \$500 in the weatherization costs.

### Then Take Another Step

Once you have reduced the amount of carbon your home emits through weatherization, consider doing more for climate protection:

- Visit the TN Climate Action Campaign's website to learn more about the Campaign and way you can reduce your carbon footprint: [sc.org/tn-climate](http://sc.org/tn-climate)
- Join your Local Climate Action Team to

act locally while thinking globally. Presently we have teams forming in Memphis, Spring Hill, Nashville, Chattanooga, Cookeville, Crossville, and Johnson City. Our website has local contact information. We need more communities. Maybe yours?

- Consider becoming a Climate Protection Advocate to encourage others to reduce their carbon footprint just like you.

### What is a Climate Protection Advocate?

Climate Protection Advocates act out of their concern for climate change. These volunteers have already had a TVA In-Home Energy Audit and followed through with at least some of the recommendations. Climate Protection Advocates ask others also concerned about climate change to get their home audited and weatherized to reduce carbon emissions. The Campaign uses this strategy to identify climate protection activists. Go to our website for more information: [sc.org/tn-climate](http://sc.org/tn-climate)

### Who We Are

The TN Climate Action Campaign is a team of organizations and individuals acting on the urgent need to implement effective climate protection policies. Statewide partners include TN Chapter of the Sierra Club, SOCM, TN Environmental Council and TN Interfaith Power and Light

Contact the TN Climate Action Campaign  
Phone: 931-484-2633  
Email: [lgorenflo@gmail.com](mailto:lgorenflo@gmail.com)  
Website: [sc.org/tn-climate](http://sc.org/tn-climate)



Tennessee Chapter Chair Katherine Pendleton presented Scott Kramer with a certificate of appreciation at the Cherokee Group's program meeting in Chattanooga Oct. 24. Scott had served as the Tennessee Chapter's treasurer.



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

*It's  
Election Time!*

## Election Ballot for At-Large Delegates for the 2012-2013 Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee

Please vote for four (4) of the following candidates.

**Membership**

Single	Dual	Candidate
_____	_____	Joshua (Josh) U. Galperin
_____	_____	Barbara Kelly
_____	_____	Axel Ringe
_____	_____	Keven Routon

\*Only members in good standing can vote.

\*Seal your ballot in an envelope and write "ballot" in the outside. Place that envelope in another, with your name, return address and membership number (found on the mailing label of the Tennes-Sierran) on the outside of the envelope. Mail this, by the close of business December 15, 2011, to:

Sue Williams, Elections Committee Chair  
1678 Overton Park Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38112

*(Other members of the Elections Committee include Clark Buchner and Don Richardson.)*

### Candidate Statements: (alphabetically)

#### Joshua (Josh) U. Galperin

I have been a Club member off and on for the past 15 years throughout high school, college and law school. Most recently I rejoined in 2011 after working frequently with Brian and folks in the National group. I am a licensed Tennessee attorney, working as a policy analyst and research attorney for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. In that position I work almost exclusively on coal-power policy and litigation, with a focus on TVA and other southern utilities. I've worked on issues from coal ash to clean air. Beyond the coal and energy work, the environmental issues I am particularly interested in is land use and food/agriculture policy.

I went to law school at Vermont Law, I received a masters degree in environmental management from Yale University, and my undergraduate degree in political science and wildlife conservation from University of Delaware.

I am married to Sara Kuebbing who is a doctoral student in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

#### Barbara Kelly

Hi! I'm Barbara Kelly, a school counselor from Chattanooga. I've been a Sierra Club member for a long time, held a variety of leadership positions and worked on many issues including water quality, wild lands protection and strip mining/mountain top removal. Recently I've helped in the reactivation of the Cherokee Group, and serve as the Communications Chair for the Chapter. I love meeting members from across our state, getting people involved, and incorporating new and interesting things, like electronic communications, as we work to move our Chapter into the 21st Century using all we can to advance our cause!! I'd be honored to serve as an At-Large Delegate for the Chapter.

#### Axel Ringe

I would like to be re-elected to the Chapter ExCom as an at-large delegate. I have served on the ExCom continuously since 2001 and currently serve as Vice-Conservation Chair, Wild Legacy Supercommittee Chair, Water Quality Committee Chair, Population Committee Chair, and Biodiversity Committee Chair. I also chair the Chapter Litigation Committee, and consider myself to be a committed activist. If elected, I believe I can continue to be an asset to the Tennessee Chapter.

#### Keven Routon

I received a BS in Liberal Studies from the University of New York (1995). While studying with Webster University I earned an MA in Human Resource Management (2003), an MBA (2005), and in May of 2011 an MS in Environmental Management. I retired from the U.S. Navy in 2006 and now work as an analyst for a defense contractor. I have been actively involved with the Sierra Club since August of 2009. I was appointed to the Chickasaw Group (CKG) ExCom to fill a vacancy in the Fall of 2009. I was elected to the CKG ExCom 2010 and served as the Group's Conservation Chair and Group Delegate to the Chapter in that year. I currently serve as the CKG Group Chair. I recognize that local and global environmental issues are connected. Too often in today's political arena corporate interests take precedence over public and environmental concerns. This must change. It is imperative that environmental activists hold fast to their principles and select strong leaders to serve.

# Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) Election Ballot

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

1. Enclose your marked ballot in a smaller envelope marked "Ballot" on the outside;
2. Place that envelope inside another envelope for mailing; and
3. **Write your membership number**, which can be found on the address label of your newsletter or on your membership card, on the outer envelope with your return address. **ENVELOPES WITHOUT A MEMBERSHIP NUMBER CANNOT BE COUNTED.**

**Please vote for five (5) of the following candidates. Your ballot must be received by Dec. 15, 2011.**

## Membership

Single	Dual	Candidate
_____	_____	Carol Dulaney
_____	_____	Joel Gearhart
_____	_____	Clay Hardy
_____	_____	Joy Mayfield
_____	_____	Katherine Pendleton
_____	_____	Keith Romig

Mail your ballot to: Adelle Wood  
4641 Villa Green Drive.  
Nashville, TN 37215

## Candidate Statements: (Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

### Carol Dulaney

I am a retired lawyer with coursework at Colorado State University, Columbia University and University of Montana. I am a member and supporter of a number of environmental organizations including the Sierra Club. I am particularly interested in renewable energy, wildlife protection, and biodiversity as well as environmental justice. I recently started volunteering with the Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club. With Betsy Garber I have drafted letters of welcome to new members which include a current calendar of events and a request that the new members join our email list. I have assumed responsibility for the processing and mailing of the letters and am looking forward to further serving the Club and the Group.

### 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 bring this experience and expertise to the Sierra Club. I have been active in the Middle Tennessee Group and the chapter for the last year. Currently, I am the web master for both the state and group, Conservation Chair for MTG, and a member of the chapter communication committee.

### Clay Hardy

- I started understanding the importance of environmental issues while living in the Blue Ridge Mountains of South Carolina. I started unaffiliated trips along the Chattooga and Chauga Rivers to clean up litter and preserve the natural habitat.

- I have volunteered with Nashville Hiking Meet-up for flood clean up. I have also worked with this group assisting Second Harvest Food Bank.

- I am bike commuter, and am working to increase bike commuting safety and availability. I believe there are great possibilities with commuter biking in Middle Tennessee through education of the benefits and possibilities.

- I have worked with Joy Mayfield and Betsy Garber, ICO, assisting hikes. I am also currently pursuing Outing Leader status with the MTG ICO. I believe I can add to an amazing ICO group.

- I volunteer with Whites Creek High School Students and Dr. Cliff Cockerham on environmental issue projects. This has been a great opportunity to educate high school students and allow them the opportunity to research their own environmental interests.

- I would truly appreciate the opportunity to give my knowledge and resources to the greater good of Middle Tennessee and our Mother Earth.

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike." – John Muir

### Joy Mayfield

I've been a member of the Sierra Club most of my adult life. I became active locally 12 years ago when Betsy Garber asked if I'd volunteer at the recycling center. It was an enjoyable monthly outing. The Elysian Fields recycling site evolved into a platform for all kinds of Sierra Club causes including petition signing, membership recruiting, political debates, seedling and flower seed giveaways, and engaging the neighborhood in all kinds of local environmental issues.

This activism became a springboard for volunteering in other ways within the club. Over the years I've planted trees, worked the Lawn and Garden show booth, the Earth Day booth, spoken to local schools about our club, been a certified hike leader, a newsletter article writer, been on creek cleaning expeditions, trail building crews and recently volunteered to be MTG's education chair. Oh, I answer the office phone too. One can learn a lot by doing this!

For the past four years I've been delighted to be part of a team of really selfless people who lead hikes on behalf of Inner City Outings. This program is near and dear to my heart. I heartily believe our children are impoverished by their lack of contact with the natural world and I feel it is our responsibility as Sierra Club members to feed their spirits by getting them outdoors. This has been the richest experience of my adult life.

My passions otherwise include planting trees for the many benefits they provide us all and gardening. I am a member of the Sumner County Master Gardeners Association. I have been an organic gardener for 40 years and enjoy canning and freezing the fruits and vegetables we grow. I am interested in farming issues - CSAs, locally grown food, healthy food in our school cafeterias, fighting CAFOs and doing demonstration gardening any chance I get in hopes of introducing others to the security of home-grown food and the calming effects of having one's hands in the good earth.

### Katherine Pendleton

My name is Katherine Pendleton. Please vote for me as a continuing Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) Sierra Club executive committee (ExCom) member. Over the past several years, I have served MTG wherever needed. The past 2 years I have organized bi-annual membership/outings retreats for MTG at the Millhouse at Cumberland Mountain State Park which have been instrumental in bringing new members into our group. I have been a reliable and enthusiastic team player to our ExCom and group. I catered the summer 2010 Chapter meeting that MTG hosted. Having served MTG as outings chair, group chair, membership chair, treasurer, and program chair in past years, I am familiar with Sierra Club policies and can serve as a resource to our ExCom. I want to continue to serve MTG on our ExCom as one who will strive to both provide guidance related to Sierra Club policies and move our Club's conservation initiatives forward. Thank you for your vote!

### Keith Romig

I work in strategic research and public policy for the United Steelworkers, and am the union's Green Jobs contact in Tennessee. I also serve as a member of the executive committee and chair of the Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club. During my term as chair MTG has provided strong support for grassroots campaigns against industrial pollution and problematic landfills in rural Tennessee. Also this year the group has become active in Metro Nashville politics, endorsing a slate of Metro Council candidates, nearly 75 percent of whom were elected to office. Additionally for the past five years I served as fundraising chair of the Sierra Club's Tennessee Chapter and brought in over \$80,000 to support the chapter's many environmental efforts. Prior to 2005 I directed international affairs and public policy for PACE International Union after serving as the union's communications director. I received a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado in 1987.

## Chickasaw Group ExCom Election Ballot

**Chickasaw Group BALLOT** To assure privacy, place your ballot in a plain unmarked envelope, the place it in another envelope. Your return address information should include your membership number. Send to "Elections Committee" at 8123 Mistywood Lane, Germantown, TN 38138.

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

**The ballot must be postmarked by Dec. 15.**

Vote for no more than 4 candidates.

Individual members should vote in Column A, and joint members should vote with the first member's vote in Column A and second member's vote in Column B.

A	B	Candidate
_____	_____	Susan Routon
_____	_____	Keith Hoover
_____	_____	Sue Williams
_____	_____	Keven Routon

### Candidate Statements:

#### Susan Routon

Susan joined the Sierra Club in 2009 with a concern for community awareness of pesticides in our waters. She attended a conference sponsored by the Sierra Club and the Clean Water Network in New Orleans focusing on the "Dead Zone" which is an area of the Gulf of Mexico that suffers from hypoxia primarily due to Nitrogen and Phosphorus run off from agriculture. Her forte has been in gathering the facts and sharing her passion to stimulate change.

Susan attended Memphis State University and William Rainey Harper College with studies in accounting and business communications. She currently holds a lead position in accounting, has a successful history in non-profit grant writing, and has chaired many event-planning teams.

Susan is currently a member of the Chickasaw Group's (CKG) ExCom and has been the Group's Treasurer and Program Chair for the past two years. Susan was the recipient of the CKG's Volunteer of the Year award for 2010.

#### Keith Hoover

Keith is a scientist with over 25 years of experience in environmental laboratories and hazardous waste facilities. Keith has volunteered with the Chickasaw Group by participating in group outings as an outings leader, coordinating tabling events, editing the monthly events emails, and serving as Vice Chair (2009-2010) and Membership Chair (2009-present). Keith welcomes the opportunity to continue to serve the group in his current roles, with the objectives of increasing membership activity and addressing local conservation issues, including water quality, toxics, recycling, and parks/greenways.

#### Sue Williams

Sue A. Williams is a former Executive Committee member and a Sierra Club member for over twenty years. Sue has served as both group Political Chair and Conservation Chair. She is especially interested in air and water quality, environmental justice, sustainability, and other issues. Sue is a certified Sierra Club outings leader who has led hikes at Reelfoot Lake, Meeman Shelby State Park, T. O. Fuller State Park, Lucius Burch State Natural Area, and on the Memphis Riverfront.

#### Keven Routon

Keven received a BS in Liberal Studies from the University of New York (1995). While studying with Webster University Keven earned an MA in Human Resource Management (2003), an MBA (2005), and in May of 2011 an MS in Environmental Management. Keven retired from the U.S. Navy in 2006 and now contracts as an analyst. Keven has been actively involved with the Sierra Club since August of 2009. He was appointed to the Chickasaw Group (CKG) ExCom to fill a vacancy in the fall of 2009. He was elected to the CKG ExCom 2010 and served as the Group's Conservation Chair and Group Delegate to the Chapter in that year. Keven currently serves as the CKG Group Chair. Keven recognizes that local and global environmental issues are connected. Too often in today's political arena corporate interests take precedence over public and environmental concerns. This must change. It is imperative that environmental activists hold fast to their principles and select strong leaders to serve.

## Cherokee Group ExCom Election Ballot

Please vote below for the election of four (4) members to the Cherokee Group Executive Committee, each having a two-year term of office beginning in January, 2011. They will join the other ExCom members in guiding our Group's activities.

Your ballot must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, December 20, 2011 to be valid.

**Vote for four (4) ballot candidates during this election cycle:**

Membership		Candidate
Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Emily Marr Davis
_____	_____	Barbara Hurst
_____	_____	Davis Mounger
_____	_____	Angelia Stinnett

**Submit Your Ballot:** Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write the word "Ballot" on it. Place that envelope inside another envelope, seal, and write your Sierra membership number (found on the label of the Tennes-Sierran), your name and return address in the upper left hand corner. **Mail your combined envelopes to: Barbara Kelly, Election Committee, 3524 Pinellas Lane, Chattanooga, TN 27412. Must be postmarked no later than December 20, 2010.**

### Candidate Statements:

#### Emily Marr Davis

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for a couple of years now, since moving back to the Chattanooga area after finishing a master's in outdoor education. I have been a lover of nature and an outdoor enthusiast since childhood and became an environmental activist in college, working with various groups through the years and the moves, largely on anti-mountaintop removal campaigns and clean water issues. I am an exceptional education teacher, an urban homesteader, a paddler/hiker/backpacker/biker/forager and a believer in making the earth a better place to live, work, and play.

#### Barbara Hurst

A speech therapist, I'm a native of England, I've travelled widely through 50 countries, lived in five, and been settled here in Chattanooga for many years. I love to hike, and I currently serve as Group Treasurer. I've been a Cherokee Group member for many years, and helped reestablish the current Group. My husband Bill and I love hosting the annual Holiday Party!

#### Davis Mounger

I am a Hamilton County science teacher, currently teaching chemistry at CSAS; I have one son, now a teenager. I moved to Chattanooga from the Mississippi delta, bringing my interest in forestry protection to the Cherokee Forest, where I continue to monitor timber sales and the regulation and protection of our National Forest. I also serve on the Executive Committee of Heartwood, a regional network that protects forests and supports community activism in the eastern and southern forests (Heartland + Hardwood = Heartwood.)

#### Angelia Stinnett

My husband and I, and our Cub Scout son, came to the Chattanooga area with Volkswagen. I am working with the North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy. I am the chairperson for the Tennessee Voter Assistance Coalition, attend the Unitarian Universalist Church, and am a community activist. I graduated from UT Martin with a degree in political science and communications. I love to hike and look forward to bringing my energy to help the Cherokee Group promote its mission!

## Watauga Group Election Ballot



Please vote for four (4) ballot candidates during this election cycle:

Membership		Candidate
Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Catherine Murray
_____	_____	Sandy Crawford
_____	_____	Marilyn Hall
_____	_____	Larry Kizer

**Election Closing Date:**

Election ballots must be **received** by Dennis Shekinah **no later than Monday, Dec. 26th.**

Mail ballots to:  
 Dennis Shekinah  
 WG Election Committee  
 900 Mining Town Road  
 Mountain City, TN 37683

Place your Sierra Club membership number on the outside envelope with your return address. Note: your number is located on the TS mailing label. Place TS newspaper WG ballot in a sealed envelope, within the outside envelope.

Election Committee Counts Valid Ballots and Notifies Candidates, ExCom, and Other Interested Parties of Election Results:

Date: Tuesday, Dec. 27th  
 Time: 6:00 PM  
 Place: TBA (date & time & place depends on weather)  
 Contact Dennis Shekinah, 423-727-6497, for particulars

## Harvey Broome Group Election Ballot



**Election Ballot for HARVEY BROOME GROUP Executive Committee Candidates for the 2012-2013 term.**

**Please vote for six (6) candidates:**

Membership		Candidate
Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Allan Miller
_____	_____	Ray Payne
_____	_____	Angela Pollock
_____	_____	Mac Post
_____	_____	Axel Ringe
_____	_____	Ron Shrieves

Only current members may vote. Please put your ballot in an envelope and seal. Place that in another envelope, on which you write your membership number (found on the mailing label of the Tennes-Sierran) and your name and return address, and **mail by close of business on December 2, 2011.**

**Mail to: Elizabeth Dixon  
 10417 Victoria Dr. Apt C  
 Knoxville, TN 37922**

**Candidate Statements:** (Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

**Allan Miller**

I am a graduate of the University of Tennessee and a resident of Knoxville. I have been a member of Sierra Club since 2000 and I am active in the Harvey Broome Group (HBG). I am co-founder and co-owner of the "Disk Exchange", now in its 24th year, which sells new and used CD'S and DVD's. My priorities for HBG include increasing the number of HBG members and improving the financial strength of the HBG. I am also interested increasing the involvement of our members in HBG activities and environmental issues within the HBG boundaries. I believe that enlarging and activating the membership and strengthening our finances will position the HBG to be more influential in making our views known on environmental and other related issues that are important to us.

**Ray Payne**

I have a member since 1967. I am a former Chapter Chair, Chapter Vice Chair, Chapter Conservation Chair, member of the HBG ExCom for several years, and HBG delegate on the Chapter ExCom for several years. I currently chair the Chapter's Smokies Committee and HBG's Smokies Committee. I love to hike, backpack, and canoe local and distant mountains, rivers, and canyons, and perform volunteer work in the Smokies.

**Angela Pollock**

I joined the Sierra Club this year, and I immediately accepted the position of secretary. I am also on the Transportation Committee. In our area there are many transportation issues that need to be addressed including the proposed rail/intermodal facility, improved mass transit, and smart/alternative transportation.

**Mac Post**

I became a Sierra Club member while a graduate student in Ecology at the University of Tennessee about 30 years ago, and have recently become a lifetime Sierra Club member. The Harvey Broome Group has been an important voice in East Tennessee for wilderness protection, environmentally sound land-use, environmental protection regulations, and promotion of education and enjoyment of natural resources especially wilderness. I am currently serving as the Program Chair for the Harvey Broome Group.

**Axel Ringe**

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for 15 years, have served on the Harvey Broome Group ExCom since 2001, and have served as Group Chair for many years. My particular passions are water quality, surface coal mining, forests, and biodiversity, and I actively advocate for those issues. I am currently serving as an At-Large Delegate on the TN Chapter ExCom, chair of the Wildlife Legacy Super-Committee, the Water Quality Committee and the Biodiversity committee. The HBG needs to build up its cadre of active, committed members who will undertake the advocacy and organizational challenges that lie before us.

**Ron Shrieves**

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1988 and of the Nature Conservancy since 2000. I have been involved in outings since joining the Club, a member of the HBG Executive Committee and served as HBG Outings Chair for the past seven years. I am used to committee work, and to working in a team setting, and feel that I can contribute to the critical work of the executive committee. I also feel obligated to contribute in a meaningful way to the environmental goals that the Sierra Club has articulated so well.



# Meetings

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**Strategy Meetings:** Fourth Tuesdays of each month, 7:00 pm, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN. For more information contact Robin Hill, 865-966-9435, robin.hill8@gmail.com. All members are invited to attend to get the news on what's happening in our Harvey Broome Group.

**PROGRAM: Cumberland Trail – Progress Toward Completion,** Warren Devine, CTC Board Vice-Chairman and Cumberland Trail Steward. November 8, 7:00 pm, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church.

**The Cumberland Trail** is a hiking trail following a line of ridges and gorges along the eastern escarpment of the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee. The trail begins at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and ends at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and Prentice Cooper Wildlife Management Area just outside Chattanooga, Tennessee. The trail travels through 11 Tennessee counties.

Over 300 mi (483 km) of trails are planned and approximately 175 mi (282 km) of hikeable trail are ready for hiking now. The Cumberland Trail became Tennessee's 53rd state park in 1998 and the state's only linear park. The park is named for Justin P. Wilson, in honor of his work to help make the vision of the Cumberland Trail a reality. The CT is designed for hikers by hikers being primarily a hiking trail, designed and built to minimize the potential environmental impact on sensitive wildlife habitat, unique aquatic or terrestrial habitats, or endangered/threatened species.

The Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC) and the Friends of the Cumberland Trail are most active in assisting the State of Tennessee in the development and construction of the Cumberland Trail. The CTC is currently actively assisting the State of Tennessee in on-the-ground construction and maintenance of the trail. The CTC is principally a volunteer organization, focusing on trail building and trail maintenance. For more information contact Mac Post mpost3116@aol.com.

**PARTY: HBG Christmas Photograph Show.** December 13, 7:00 PM, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

Everyone is invited for an evening of fun, food, and sharing. Bring a USB flash drive with some pictures from your favorite trips of the year to share. For more information contact Mac Post mpost3116@aol.com.

**PROGRAM: Ghost Birds.** Lyn Bales, stephenlynbales@gmail.com **January 10, 2012, 7:00 PM,** Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

Ghost Birds. Not just a book about the ivory-billed woodpecker, though that would be quite enough, it is the story of conservation's beginnings in a rapidly changing, war-torn world, a time when sound recordings, movies, and still photography were barely versatile enough to be used "in the field" and field observations were new and uncharted territory.

With his expert storytelling skills, Bales sets a vivid stage, giving not only sensory detail, but the deeper context of history and prevailing mood of the time when James Tanner, a young biologist faced an enormous challenge--learn everything there is to know about ivory-billed woodpeckers.

*Lyn Bales is a writer/photographer/artist Tennessee naturalist and natural historian, with Ijams Nature Center Knoxville, Tennessee. For more information contact Mac Post mpost3116@aol.com.*

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**PROGRAM: FRACKING! November 10, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.**

Fracturing! Coming to a shale gas or coal bed methane formation near you! Come learn about this controversial process that has been used in other states to recover "unconventional" natural gas. *This*

*process is a threat to our groundwater, surface water quality, and air quality.* Learn what areas of Tennessee are ripe for exploration and production, where the gas boom (no pun intended) has already begun in our state, what the current state of regulatory oversight is in Tennessee, lessons learned in other states and on the ground here in Tennessee, and life cycle considerations for the environmental impact.

Our speaker, Mark Quarles, is a hydrogeologist and owner of Global Environmental, LLC. He is a public advocacy geologist and environmental consultant with over 20 years experience in (among other areas of expertise) hydrogeologic investigations, water quality assessments, petroleum exploration / production waste management standards, chemical contaminant migration, and health effects due to chemical exposure, soil and groundwater remediation. We will also have environmental lobbyists Mike Murphy and/or Stewart Clifton there to answer questions from a legislative perspective. Find out what you can do to help protect Tennessee's water and air quality.

**THERE WILL BE NO PROGRAM IN DECEMBER. Be sure to put our Holiday Party on your calendar: December 10, 6:00-9:00 pm.** We'll gather at Betsy & Steve Vining's home (call 615-370-9454 for directions.) Bring your friends, kids, your beverage and a side dish or munchies!

### PARTY: YOU'RE INVITED!

**What:** Middle Tennessee Group Sierra Club's Holiday Party

**When:** December 10, 2011, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Where:** The home of Betsy and Steve Vining (call for directions – 615-370-9454)

**Bring:** Your beverage, kids, and a side dish or munchies.

**STRATEGY MEETINGS: November 8 and December 13, 6:30 p.m. at the United Steel Workers Union Building, 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211.** Follow the signs to the dining room on the 2nd floor. If you arrive late, please ring the bell at the side door on the left, and someone will come down to let you in. 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. **NOTE: This is a recent change of our strategy meeting date – from the 3rd Monday to the new 2nd Tuesday every month. Please change your calendars!**

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

**November Strategy Meeting: November 14 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6:00 pm,** at the Eastgate Town Center on Brainerd Road, at the south end near the indoor waterfall. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome -- this is where and when we plan our actions! To place an item on the agenda, contact secretary Barbara Kelly at 423-718-5009, bk1rivers@comcast.net, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

**November Program: Last Monday, November 28, 7 pm at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: Youth Speaker Night --** 3 extraordinary young people will share their passion for the environment:

**Mirel Cerulean Crumb** - an honor student at the Center for Creative Arts, will tell us about "Plan B," innovations in solar energy, an alternate plan for energy. An activist in the fight to stop mountain-top removal, she founded the CCA's Earth Club.

**Berke Baehr** - his topic is "Food for Thought," detailing his story of discovery about the industrialized food system, and mindless vs. mindful eating. Berke was the youngest presenter at TEDx Next Generation Asheville (August '10) where his talk on the food system became the most watched TEDx

talk of all time, with over 3500,000 views.

**Ragan Foley** - *YES! Magazine* featured her essay on living simply, written in response to the documentary on No Impact Man Colin Beavan and his article "Christmas with No Presents." She'll discuss her essay and her philosophy concerning happiness vs. extravagant living.

We are very fortunate to have these gifted young people speaking to us. The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Come and be inspired!

**December PARTY: Holiday Covered Dish Get-Together, Sunday, December 11, 5:00 p.m.** In lieu of a December Program, we'll gather at the home of **Barbara and Bill Hurst** on Signal Mountain for a dinner together, time for socializing and meeting friends of like mind! Bring your friends, your kids and something to share. For directions, contact Barbara Hurst at 423-886-9503 or barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com

**December Strategy Meeting: December 12 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6:00 pm,** at the Eastgate Town Center on Brainerd Road, at the south end near the indoor waterfall. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome -- this is where and when we plan our actions! To place an item on the agenda, contact secretary Barbara Kelly at 423-718-5009, bk1rivers@comcast.net, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

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

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

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

**Monthly First Thursday Gathering: Thursday, November 3rd, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN.** Sierra Club members, activists and friends meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Emily Schwimmer at eschwimm@gmail.com.

**10th Annual Sierra Club Environmental Justice Conference, Saturday, November 5th, Lindenwood Christian Church, Memphis, TN** This daylong event is an opportunity to learn from experts on a wide variety of subjects and network for future strategies all at the same time. Eleven workshops will cover a wide range of topics such as; health effects of toxics, urban gardening, protecting our groundwater, attacking neighborhood blight, understanding genetically modified foods, nuclear waste, embracing native plants, and much more. The conference is free and a hot lunch is included; pre-registration is required. Register by phone or email to (901) 324-7757 or rita.harris@sierraclub.org Register today! For more information: <http://www.sierraclub.org/ej/programs/tn.aspx>

**Strategy Meeting: Monday, November 14th, 6:30 pm, Republic Coffee, 2924 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN. (NOTE: New Location!!)** The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. For more information or to place items on the agenda, contact the group chair Keven Routon at kwrats@me.com -- agenda items must be submitted at least three days before the meeting.

**PROGRAM: Thursday, November 17, Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, Meeting Room A, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN. Refreshments & Networking, 5:30 pm. Speaker, 6:00 p.m.: Kyle Wagenschutz, City of Memphis Bikeway/Pedestrian Coordinator**

Kyle Wagenschutz has quietly been improving life for Bluff City cyclists, one mile at a time. Under his new position we have come from worst city for

# Outings

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

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiverPDF>, 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)

**5 Nov (Sat). Dayhike, Jeffrey's Hell, off Cherohala Hwy, and pizza lunch at Tellico Plains.** "Hell" because a man named Jeffrey went looking for his hunting dogs there and never returned! We'll encounter dense rhododendron and mountain laurel (not to worry - there is a trail). Some colors should still be pretty. Doris Gove wrote about this hike in her 50 Hikes of Tn. Mtns. Rated moderate. Distance, 4.4 miles. Rated moderate. One-way drive: 80 miles. Contact Priscilla Watts at [sigmtngirl@earthlink.net](mailto:sigmtngirl@earthlink.net), or call 966-4142.

**19 Nov (Sat). Dayhike, Abrams Fall, GSMNP.** We will hike to Abrams Falls the "back-way" starting from the Abrams Creek Ranger Station in Happy Valley. To reach Abrams Falls we will start on the Cooper Road Trail (1.3 miles), hike the Little Bottoms Trail (2.3 miles) to the junction of the Hatcher Mountain Trail, follow the Hatcher Mountain Trail (0.2 miles) to the junction of Hannah Mountain and Abram Creek trails. The falls are about 1.7 miles up the Abrams Creek Trail. Abrams Falls drops more than 20 feet into a pool more than 100 feet wide. If water levels are low, we will hike back to the Abrams Creek Ranger Station by crossing Abrams Creek using the Hannah Mountain Trail (1.9 miles) to Scott Gap. From Scott Gap we will take Rabbit Creek (2.7 miles) to the Ranger Station. Total hiking distance is 10.1 miles. Rated moderate. The driving distance is about 35 miles from West Knoxville. Contact BJ and Bob Perlack: [perlack@aol.com](mailto:perlack@aol.com); 675-7668.

## Meetings (continued)

cycling to League of American Bicyclists honorable mention! He has a vision for changing Memphis into a bikeable liveable place where people WANT to live, raise families and bring business. Watch Facebook and our web page for more information to come. Contact Susan Routon at [susan.routon@gmail.com](mailto:susan.routon@gmail.com) or (901) 413-3888 for further information.

**Monthly First Thursday Gathering, Thursday, December 1st, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN.** Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Susan Routon at [susan.routon@gmail.com](mailto:susan.routon@gmail.com) or (901) 413-3888.

**CHICKASAW GROUP HOLIDAY PARTY and ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION: Friday, December 9, 7:00-9:30 p.m.,** at Burch, Porter & Johnson Law Firm, 130 N. Court Ave., Memphis, TN (located across from the NE corner of Court Square.) **Join us for our annual awards event and celebration!** Street parking is free at meters in the evening and in the private parking lot behind building. (Entrance to the parking lot is from the alleyway on N. Court just west of the Burch, Porter, Johnson building (gate will be open from 6:30 to 7:30 pm only.) Please bring an appetizer or dessert with serving utensil. Beverages provided by Chickasaw Group with a donation.

**3 Dec (Sat). Dayhike, Laurel-Snow segment of the Cumberland Trail.** Originally one of the ten Bowater Company Pocket Wilderness Areas and named after two waterfalls -- Laurel Falls (80 feet) and Snow Falls (35 feet). In addition to the falls, the area features a couple of overlooks, steep gorges, boulder strewn creeks, and remnants of mining activity. Our hike starts up Richland Creek where we will pass an old mine tunnel and Dayton reservoir. After crossing a 50-foot metal bridge over Laurel Creek (1.5 miles), we will take the east trail to Laurel Falls (2.5 miles) and Bryan Overlook (3.5 miles) where we will have a view of the Tennessee Valley from a height of 1700 feet. Bryan Overlook is named after William Jennings Bryan prosecutor in the Scopes Monkey Trial held in nearby Dayton. The hike is 7 miles round trip. Rated moderate to difficult. The driving distance is about 70 miles from West Knoxville. Contact BJ and Bob Perlack: [perlack@aol.com](mailto:perlack@aol.com); 675-7668.

**3 Dec (Sat). Rankin Bottoms Cleanup.** Those of us who have floated Rankin Bottoms appreciate the area as a gem for wildlife viewing. Designated as an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society, Rankin deserves our efforts to eliminate the trash that accumulates. We'll spend a day picking up and hauling out plastic bottles and other litter that bespoils the area. Wear work clothes and bring gloves. Drive: 50 miles each way. Contact Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

**14 Jan 2012 (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Old Sugarlands Trail, GSMNP.** This trail ultimately climbs about 1,000 feet to its junction with the Bullhead Trail, but we may not get that far, as there are several interesting historical relics to examine along the way. These are mostly remnants of CCC facilities used during the construction of park infrastructure in the 1930's and 40's. And with any luck, we'll encounter a bit of snow and you'll get a little exposure to winter hiking in the Smokies. Distance 6-8 miles total, depending on how far up the trail we go. Rated moderate. Drive: 45 miles. Contact Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net) (email preferred).

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

The Cherokee Group sponsors outings and hikes at least 1 or 2 weekends a month. Leslie Jakobs

For more information contact Emily Schwimmer at [eschwimm@gmail.com](mailto:eschwimm@gmail.com) or Susan Routon at [susan.routon@gmail.com](mailto:susan.routon@gmail.com) **SEE YOU THERE!**

**Strategy Meeting: Monday, December 12th, 6:30 pm, Republic Coffee, 2924 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN. (NOTE: New Location!!)**

The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of every month. This is a business meeting but members are welcome to attend. Come and see exactly what we are planning. For more information or to place items on the agenda, contact the group chair Keven Routon at [kwrates@me.com](mailto:kwrates@me.com) -- agenda items must be submitted at least three days before the meeting.

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

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

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

## 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.

## 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!

serves as our outings chair and point-person for outings information for our Group. Our activities are always open to the public and to members of the Club from across the state! We explore interesting and unique parts of Tennessee, gaining an appreciation of how wonderful, and sometimes threatened, our area is -- while having fun. Outings are planned to take in the interests and skill levels of the participants. For more information, contact Leslie at 423-886-2465 or [lesliejakobs@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliejakobs@yahoo.com)

**Nov. 5 (Sat) Piney Falls State Natural Area/Cumberland Mtn. State Park Dayhike, 10 am.** Come and join me for a short hike in an old growth forest. This is a joint outing with Heartwood. Register with trip leader Sheryl Campbell, 423-693-4729 or [campfamily63@gmail.com](mailto:campfamily63@gmail.com)

**Nov. 6 (Sun) South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Walk.** We'll explore the newly opened section -- easy, great for families with children. 2 miles each way, with beautiful scenery along the creek. Meet at 1:30 pm at the East Chattanooga Station parking lot of the Railroad Museum on North Chamberlain (close to the old Buster Brown factory.)

**Nov. 9 & 23: Wednesday Walking, 5:00 -6:00 p.m.** Locations, meeting places will be announced via our eNews and through our Facebook page. Wednesday Walking will break for December, and resume in January. Happy New Year!

**Nov. 19 (Sat) Marshall Forest, Rome, GA, Dayhike, 10 am.** Come join me -- we're going on a short hike to check out this cool old growth forest right in the middle of town -- the only virgin forest within a city's limits in the US, preserved for "preservation's sake," much never cut by humans. [For more information on this unique forest, check this out: <http://www.romegeorgia.com/marshall.html>.] It was preserved by Maclean Marshall, naturalist and philanthropist, who inherited it from his family who bought the forest in 1880; before his death in 1976 he gave the land (100 acres of forest and 120 additional areas of fields and woods) to the Nature Conservancy. 5 nature trails exist; the forest is home to over 300 species of plants, as well as mushrooms, numerous animals and other living organisms. This is a joint outing with Heartwood. Register with trip leader Sheryl Campbell, 423-693-4729 or [campfamily63@gmail.com](mailto:campfamily63@gmail.com)

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Contact Matt Farr, outings chair, at 901-517-8879 for a list of the outings or go to the Group's Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

## ADVANCE NOTICE

The Tennessee Chapter 2012 Spring Retreat and ExCom Meeting will be held at Sterchi Lodge on April 27-29. In the Highlands of Tennessee, Spring will be only beginning to flush out leaves and wildflowers. Prices are low with bunk house accommodations, including breakfasts and Saturday Night Dinner. Details will appear in the next Tennes-Sierran. Hosted by Watauga Group Sierra Club.

# How So-Called “Free Trade” Eliminated Dolphin-Safe Tuna Labeling

## *Dolphin Stocks are Being Depleted*

**By Joan Jones Holtz, Sierra Club Responsible Trade Team**

Between 1959 and 1972 millions of dolphins drowned when they became ensnared in mile-long fishing nets used to catch tuna. Fishermen in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean, which includes southern California, Mexico and South American, would deliberately chase schools of dolphin to encircle them in these huge purse seine nets. Since dolphins tend to congregate above schools of tuna, the fisherman knew they would lead them to the tuna.

In 1972, in response to an outraged American public who had refused to buy tuna, Congress passed the Marine Mammal Protection Act. That Act prohibited U.S. fishermen from using the purse seine fishing nets to catch tuna.

In 1988 Congress passed amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act which banned tuna imports from countries whose fishermen used purse seine nets to catch tuna. Studies had verified that at least three species of dolphin had been severely depleted due to this method of fishing.

In 1990, Congress passed the Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act and created the popular “dolphin safe” label for cans of tuna. That label could be displayed only on cans which certified that the tuna had not been caught using purse seine fishing nets. Sales for tuna without the “dolphin safe” labels suffered. During this period dolphin deaths dropped dramatically—from 423,678 deaths per year in 1972 to 15,550 per year in 1992.

In 1991, Mexico challenged the U.S. ban on tuna caught in Mexican waters. They contended that the provisions in the Marine Mammal Protection Act were not necessary to protect tuna. A GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) panel backed them up. That panel ruled that a policy which treats physically-identical goods differently based on their production or method of processing violated GATT rules. GATT rules require agreement of all GATT nations to adopt a new ruling—this time, in regard to dolphin safety. However, both the U.S. and Mexico agreed to drop the matter.

Why did both Mexico and the U.S. decide to stop the controversy? Because the North American Free Trade Agreement was about to be introduced to the U.S. Congress and its passage was in doubt. Both countries knew that the publicity generating from the dolphin safety controversy would likely doom NAFTA.

In 1995, soon after the U.S. entered the World Trade Organization (WTO), Mexico again challenged the U.S. Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act by threatening a WTO enforcement case against the U.S. for refusing to implement the 1991 GATT ruling.

Anxious to be on good terms with our Mexican neighbors and new NAFTA partners, President Bill Clinton promised Mexican President Ernest Zedillo that weakening the dolphin protection standard would be a top priority for his administration. After intensive lobbying by the Clinton Administration, Congress passed the Dolphin Conservation Program Act (DCPA) which permitted imports

of tuna from other countries, even those using the purse seine nets for catching tuna.

This new law, DCPA, allowed the newly imported tuna to use the “dolphin safe” label—even if the tuna was caught by the use of purse seine nets. If monitors stationed on sighting boats did not actually see dolphins killed or injured during the setting of the lines, then that tuna could be labeled “dolphin safe.”

The original champions of the Dolphin Consumer Protection Information Act, joined by the Dolphin Safe Fair Trade Coalition, fought against the weakening of the law saying that a monitor on a fishing boat the length of a football field could not possibly monitor all activities surrounding the boat.

In March, 1999, President Clinton’s Secretary of Commerce Bill Daley (now President Obama’s Chief of Staff) determined that there was insufficient evidence that “chase and encirclement” by the tuna purse seine fishing method had any effect on the safety of the depleted dolphin stocks.

On February 2, 2000, the dolphin safe tuna label regulations were formally changed to allow tuna caught with purse seine nets to carry the dolphin safe label as long as the monitor on a tuna vessel did not observe dolphins being killed or seriously injured during the netting.

On April 11, 2000, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California rejected the Department of Commerce’s attempt to

weaken standards on dolphin-safe labeling. This decision was hailed by environmental groups and lawmakers who had worked to establish the dolphin-free label. They rebuked the Clinton Administration for “selling out” dolphin protections to accommodate a handful of foreign fishing companies.

However, corporate fisher groups have never given up trying to weaken dolphin safety rules. In 2008, Mexico again filed, this time through WTO, a new attack on the Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act. This new attack alleged that U.S. dolphin protections standards violated the WTO agreement on “Technical Barriers to Trade.” The WTO agreement states that “technical regulations are not prepared, adopted or applied with a view to or with the effect of creating unnecessary obstacles to international trade. Technical regulations shall not be more trade restrictive than necessary.”

Eyes on Trade reported on May 20, 2011 that: The U.S. dolphin-safe tuna labeling rule was deemed a WTO violation. Purely voluntary dolphin-safe labeling might impede non-labeled tuna from marketing opportunities in the U.S. Tuna consumers in the U.S. who prefer to buy dolphin-safe tuna will no longer have any means of determining which tuna was caught by dolphin-safe methods.

Is this what “the race to the bottom” is all about? Does U.S. trade policy affect environmental protections? You bet it does!



Tennessee Chapter CCL Delegate Brian Paddock delivers the 2011 CCL report to the ExCom during the Fall 2011 Chapter meeting at Pickett State Park

## Book Review—Part Two

### Extremists in Action: Review of T. C. Boyle's *When the Killing's Done*, (2011) Viking, 369 pp. hardback \$26.95.

By Josie McQuail

*When the Killing's Done* is definitely a novel relevant to issues that the Sierra Club takes up, since it considers invasive species, sustainability, "management" of environmental resources, and "eco-terrorism."

Alma Boyd Takesue is our heroine in *When the Killing's Done*. Her nemesis is Dave LaJoy. Alma is a biologist with a doctorate from Berkeley who is trying to preserve the unique animals and plants on a few small islands in California called the Anacapas. Alma's concern is, in order to preserve the unique species on the Anacapas, to exterminate the rats on the islands, which are non-native and destroying the fragile ecosystem. Dave LaJoy, on the other hand, is an animal rights activist in the FPA— For the Protection of Animals.

Besides rats, snakes are a theme in the novel.

No particular beauty is seen in the brown tree snakes or *Rattus rattus*, though, except maybe in the pure drive towards life shared by these invasive species. It is the rattlesnake that is the vehicle for LaJoy's realization of his meddling.

Ironically, Alma debates whether the raccoons could have arrived on the island on their own and refuses to let them be killed just in case they have made their own way to the Anacapas.

Though perhaps we cannot expect pure philosophy from a novel, there are many philosophical questions raised by *When the Killing's Done*. For one thing, perhaps, by definition, the worst invasive species on earth is humanity. For another, there is the question of when is it OK to kill and when is it not? One character in Boyle's novel considers an abortion and rejects the idea. Alma and the National Parks Service selectively kill animals. Another character (Dave LaJoy) refuses to. Yet Dave LaJoy is the villain.

The philosopher Peter Singer would not agree with Boyle's judgment on his characters. Singer is famous for his unpopular but reasoned judgments on ethical behavior. In a lecture entitled Peter Singer: Ethics and Animals given to the Korean Animals Rights Society, he asserts:

"My view is that all sentient beings are enti-



led to equal consideration of interests. By "sentient beings" I mean beings with interests, and the capacity to feel pain is sufficient for a being to have interests – such a being has, at least, an interest in not feeling pain. But which beings have that capacity?

... Add the knowledge that we have a common evolutionary origin – animals are not clever little robots built by toy companies to mimic animal behavior – and it becomes reasonable to assume that they have conscious experiences as we do. So it seems clear that all mammals can feel pain, and there is little doubt about birds either. There has been some controversy about fish, and also about invertebrates. But a recent study of the behavior of fish strongly suggest that they are capable of feeling pain. With crustacea and insects it is more difficult to be confident of this. In some respects, their behavior appears to be more rigidly programmed, in a way that may not require consciousness. But we cannot be sure, and therefore the most ethical course of action is to give them the benefit of the doubt, and avoid, where possible, doing things that will cause them to suffer if

they are capable of suffering."

<<http://animalrightskorea.org/essays/peter-singer-ethics-and-animals.html>>

Finally, what Singer concludes is that it is not killing living things that is wrong, but whether they experience suffering. In this, on the question of the extermination of the rats by poison, LaJoy agrees.

Singer would probably conclude that Boyle is Speciesist -- he privileges human beings over anything else. Boyle does show Alma working in a reasonable way to preserve native species on the Anacapas, though. But according to Singer's way of thinking, LaJoy would be following the ethical course of action: vegan, "[no] leather because leather just allows the killers to profit all the more" (228), dedicating his life to defense of animals. He may be a law breaker, a trespasser, a defacer of vehicles, but he does not deliberately harm other human beings. Alma herself thinks of overpopulation at one point in the novel, sitting in a traffic jam on the way to address the public about the National Parks campaign to eliminate the rats from the islands:

All she can see, though the gaps in the bushes, is the discontinuous flash of light from the coruscating bumpers and chrome wheels and streaming rocker panels of the endless line of carbon-spewing vehicles inching by, thinking Seven billion by 2011, *seven billion and counting*. And where are we going to put them all?(39)

The dilemma facing humanity is a huge one. The Sierra Club does not condone violence or breaking the law in achieving our environmental agendas. But will we sit back and watch as polar bears and tigers suffer extinction in the wild? Is this a moral or ethical thing to do? What are humanity's responsibilities to the planet?

Unfortunately, most people, even if they think about these issues, do not take a stand while others raze forests, mine and drill for oil while destroying nature. We drive cars and eat food grown through industrial processes which are also not good for the environment. Is humanity's endless appetite for products of the earth a fair tradeoff for irrevocably altering the earth? In the end, Boyle does not consider this question. That is not, after all, his job as a novelist. He shows two peoples' fight, in different ways, to preserve nature.

### Moving?



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## Become Volunteer Editor of Tennes-Sierran

Due to time constraints and an increased workload I am no longer able to edit the Tennes-Sierran beyond the January-February 2012 edition.

This is a volunteer position. As editor you would be responsible for checking the spelling, grammar and punctuation of material submitted to the bimonthly newsletter. You need to be able to use a computer and do email. The editor needs to work well with Tennes-Sierran contributors and be able to handle deadlines.

If you're interested in being a volunteer editor, contact Tennessee Chapter Communications Chair Barbara Kelly at [bkIrrivers@comcast.net](mailto:bkIrrivers@comcast.net) and Tennessee Chapter Chair Katherine Pendleton at [kdpendleton1@aol.com](mailto:kdpendleton1@aol.com) or [katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:katibug1959@aol.com).

**Thank you all for your contributions to the Tennes-Sierran.**  
Lynne Baker Hancock  
Tennes-Sierran Editor