

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 42, Number 5 - September/October, 2011

Great New Grass Roots Environmental Action Develops at Border Between Middle Tennessee, Chickasaw Groups

By Keith Romig

Historically there has not been a strong Sierra Club presence in the communities along the lower Tennessee River. The area is a long way from both Memphis and Nashville. However, a few months ago, Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) Chair Keith Romig returned a call from Mike Melton, a Sierra Club member from Camden, Tenn., regarding a landfill about which his community had serious concerns. During the conversation Romig offered to contact Sierra Club members in his county to help address the concerns.

Melton replied, "You don't need to do that. I've already got my neighbors and I already have plenty of people and the city council on our side. We could use some help getting the attention of state officials."

Romig immediately contacted Chickasaw Group Chair Keven Routon so the two groups could coordinate activities.

The landfill in question handles aluminum dross, a material created when older processes for recycling aluminum are used; more modern processes do not create large amounts of waste. Aluminum dross is not officially classified as a hazardous waste, and as long as it stays dry it does not cause too many problems.

However when it gets wet, it gives off hazardous gases, including ammonia, acetylene and methane. Very high ammonia levels have been reported in Camden within a mile of the site.

"When I visited the site the ammonia smell nearly knocked me off my feet," said Routon.

Technicalities Used

In addition to the problems with the material, the landfill operator used some technicalities of Tennessee environmental law to be able to get the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to give it a permit for the aluminum dross without a public hearing.

At this year's Earth Day celebration in Nashville, MTG collected hundreds of postcards addressed to TDEC demanding a public hearing on the landfill operator's push to expand the site. Activists from Camden and from MTG contacted TDEC directly to push the point home. TDEC stated in May it would hold a public hearing on the landfill.

In May, Melton requested the Sierra Club Environmental Justice (EJ) office in Memphis be asked to work with the community on this project. Sierra Club EJ Organizer Rita Harris agreed quickly and traveled to the site the same week.

"Her involvement has really strengthened an already strong community effort," said Romig.

Rita helped the Camden residents with a flyer to distribute all over town, acquired poster board for signs, and sent out media releases to local TV and newspaper outlets. Efforts paid off because the public hearing was covered by WBBJ-TV station and the Jackson Sun newspaper. Check out the coverage here:

<http://www.wbbjtv.com/news/local/Residents-Sound-Off-at-Camden-Landfill-Meeting--126229318.html> and more, here:

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20110727/NEWS01/107270314/Benton-County-Hearing-land->



Chickasaw Group members support Camden, Tenn., residents and rally for environmental justice at the Benton County Courthouse. (Left to right) Keven Routon, Matt Farr, and Sue Williams....unidentified man in foreground. Photo Rita Harris.

fill-draws-over-150-people

Public Hearing

The hearing was held July 26 at the Benton County Courthouse in Camden. About 150 community members attended the hearing, many wearing black as a sign of solidarity. Contingents from MTG and Chickasaw were there as well.

At the start of the hearing Sen. Roy Herron (D-Dresden) made a passionate statement in support of the community. Strongly supportive statements were made also by Rep. Tim Wirgau (R-Buchanan) and John Tidwell (D-New Johnsonville).

After the official presentations by TDEC and the landfill operator, the floor was opened for

comments by the public. Numerous citizens spoke against the landfill expansion. They pointed out that the landfill may never have gotten properly approved by the city and county under Tennessee's Jackson Law, which gives county and local governments veto power over new landfills in their jurisdictions. They also detailed the massive health and nuisance effects of the landfill and discussed the poisonous gases it emits.

"It is my hope TDEC heard this community and will not grant the operator a permit to expand this landfill," said Harris. She joined many other local speakers against the landfill by giving strong oral comments, as well as submitting written comments.

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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!

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Tennes-Sierran

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

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SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: 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 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.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Friend or Foe?

America's water, rivers and lakes are at risk from giant, corporate-owned factory farms which are fouling our water with pathogens and chemicals. The air around these farms is contaminated with suspended dust particles, which have been linked to bronchitis and other diseases. Our government wants to pass legislation which would allow factory farms to be free from health and environmental laws. Support Sierra Club's effort to keep our water clean and our air friendly. The hogs have gone wild, now it's our turn.

Cause a stink. JOIN Sierra Club.

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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

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org F94Q 1

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

DEADLINE

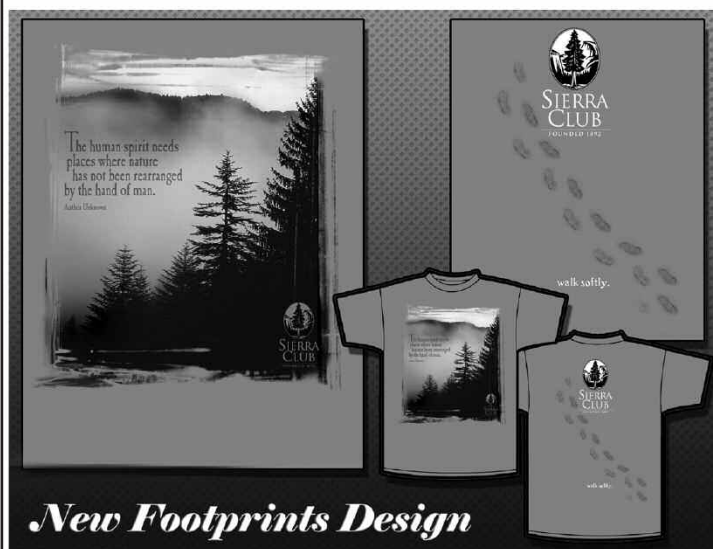
Deadline for election ballots, candidate biographies, meeting and outings listings, and articles is **October 1, 2011**. Send material to Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@comcast.net and Lynne Baker at lbaker@usw.org.

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.



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ANNOUNCEMENT

Enjoy beautiful autumn weather and fall colors!

Fall Family Chapter Meeting

Pickett State Park

Friday - Sunday October 21-23

Situated in a remote section of the upper Cumberland Plateau, Pickett CCC Memorial State Park is known for its geological, botanical, and scenic wonders. The park lies within the 19,200-acre Pickett State Forest and is adjacent to the massive 120,000-acre Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Both areas contain prime wilderness country.

Visitors to the park can explore large rock houses, natural sandstone bridges, scenic bluffs, and wild mountain streams. Spring brings dazzling displays of wildflowers, summer an abundance of blackberries and wild blueberries, and autumn a patchwork of colors to the countryside. The park memorializes and preserves the unique work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) who first developed the park.

The group camp is open year-round, and will accommodate up to 144 people. It consists of six bunkhouses, two bathhouses, and a large dining hall and kitchen. The kitchen is completely equipped for food preparation and serving: It features a walk-in refrigerator and freezer, icemaker, microwave, coffeemaker, dishwasher, and a commercial stove. Campers need to provide their own linens and sanitary supplies.

More than 58 miles of hiking trails meander through the wilderness of Pickett State Park and the surrounding forest. They vary in length and difficulty, from short day-use trails suitable for families, to longer multi-day backpacking trails. The trails afford views of sandstone bluffs, natural bridges, waterfalls and diverse plant life.

Early Registration Price by October 15: \$40

Regular Registration Fee: \$50

Single day only price with meals/no lodging: Sat-\$20; Sun-\$10 (children up to 15 attend free)

SPECIAL: 1/2 price for first-time attendees!

A limited number of partial scholarships are available by request to the Chapter Treasurer, Michael Varnell; contact him at rmvarnell@bellsouth.net

FOR ONLY \$40, YOU CAN ENJOY:

Hiking - good food - a program on Big South Fork National Recreation Area, and a bonfire with ghost stories and s'mores. Hikes are planned for both Saturday (short and long) and Sunday. Randy Hedgepath, State Naturalist, will join us to lead the Sunday hike.

PLUS,

A silent auction to benefit our chapter's lobbying and legislative program.

The Executive Committee will be meeting on Saturday morning through the afternoon as an experiment to see if business can be conducted in one day. Executive Committee members will then have Sunday free to recreate in the fashion of their own choosing. Those not on the executive committee may join in the activities, strike out on your own on nearby trails, or just enjoy the peace and quiet of a fall weekend.

Lodging is in cabins that accommodate about 20, and family cabins (accommodating more than one family) will be available. Camping among the surrounding trees is another popular option (the cost for the weekend is the same for camping as for staying in the cabins).

Bring your own bedding, towels and lunches. If you want additional beverages, you need to bring your own.

Breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, and Saturday night dinner are provided. You are on your own for Friday dinner and Saturday lunch.

Directions: I-40 to Exit 317. Hwy. 127 north (46 miles). Turn right on Hwy. 154, travel 12 miles to the park entrance. OR, I-75 north from Knoxville to Exit 141. Hwy 63 to Huntsville. Right onto Hwy 27 north to Oneida. Left onto Hwy 297 through Big South Fork NRRRA. Right onto Hwy 154, follow to Pickett State Park. The park's office number is 931-879-5821.

REGISTRATION FORM

To register, please clip out and mail this registration form by Saturday, October 15, to:

**Harvey Broome Group
c/o Robin Hill - Chair
11504 Mountain View Road
Knoxville, TN 37934-3919**

If you know you will attend but are unable to mail your registration by the deadline, please contact Robin at robin.hill8@gmail.com by the deadline date in order to be assured of meals.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail address: _____

Number of adults @ \$40: _____

Number of children under age 15 _____

Number of vegetarians _____ Number of omnivores _____

Total enclosed (Make check payable to Harvey Broome Group-Sierra Club) _____

Corner

The Chair's

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

During the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting held in July at Sterchi Lodge, the ExCom passed a motion for the Chapter Chair and Chapter Conservation Chair to conduct two experimental one-day business meetings during the quarterly Chapter retreats within the next 18 months. These experimental one-day meetings will take place on Saturday during the Fall 2011 Chapter Retreat at Pickett State Park and on Saturday during the Winter 2012 Chapter Retreat at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. No business will be conducted on Sunday morning of either Chapter Retreats.

There will be activities such as hikes available for those not serving as Chapter delegates to the business meetings. A Silent Auction will be held at the Fall 2011 Chapter Retreat. Hikes or other activities will also be planned for Sunday of each Chapter Retreat.

Please direct comments or suggestions regarding the design of these experimental business meetings to me at kdpendleton1@aol.com.

Many thanks go to Cherokee Group for hosting the spectacular Summer 2011 Chapter Retreat at Sterchi Lodge near Max Patch! The food was delicious and activities led by Tennessee State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath, Jeff Hunter, and Caara Stoney were enjoyed by many enthusiastic hikers. Bill Reynolds gave an informative presentation about "the electric car." Gary Bowers gave a stimulating presentation about media reform.

Barbara Kelly, Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway, Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway, Scott Kramer, and April Collins headed up the planning and execution of the many tasks associated with putting on the meeting. It was wonderful to see several members who attended for the first time! Thanks to everyone not named for making the Chapter Retreat an event to be remembered!

The Chapter Nominating Committee was appointed during the Summer Chapter Retreat. Robin Hill is the chair and committee members include Joel Gearhardt and Bill Terry. The Nominating Committee is urging Tennessee Chapter members to run for At-Large-Delegate to the Tennessee Chapter to serve for the 2012-2014 term. Please contact Robin Hill at robin.hill8@gmail.com, Joel Gearhardt at jgearhardt@yahoo.com, or Bill Terry at hikebike@comcast.net for more information if you are interested in serving as an At-Large-Delegate to the Tennessee Chapter.

Best Wishes for a Bountiful Autumn Season,

**Katherine Pendleton
Chair
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club**

The TEC Sustainable Tennessee Summit will be held at Lipscomb Univ. in Nashville Oct. 28-29. Scholarships are available to attend. Contact Mary Mastin, 931-268-2938.

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.

Complete Streets: Integrating Walking, Bicycling and Transit into a Greener Transportation Network. September 13, 7:00 PM, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church.

Ellen Zavisca, senior transportation planner for the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, is the presenter.

Across the nation, cities, states and towns are adopting Complete Streets policies to make the transportation system safer and more accessible for all users. Learn about what's going on in the Knoxville region and what you can do to help.

Spruce, Moose, and Microbes – the Vegetation of Isle Royal National Park. October 11, 7:00 PM, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church.

Mac Post, ecologist at the University of Tennessee, will present the program.

Cumberland Trail – Progress Toward Completion. November 8, 7:00 PM, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church.

Warren Devine, Cumberland Trail Commission Board vice-chairman and Cumberland Trail steward, will speak.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM—Walden's Puddle: Helping Wildlife in Need. Thursday, September 8, 7:00 p.m., at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.

Walden's Puddle is well-known for its dedication to the rehabilitation of sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in Middle Tennessee by providing treatment and care, as well as encouraging education which promotes a greater understanding and appreciation for wildlife and its habitat. Walden's Puddle is unique in being the only professionally staffed non-profit organization and wildlife rehabilitation facility in Middle Tennessee.

A representative from Walden's Puddle will share information about the organization and how individuals can work with them to obtain help for injured wildlife and support their mission through education and awareness. Learn and enjoy! In previous visits the speaker has brought an animal or two to demonstrate the work that Walden's Puddle does. While we can't promise that will be the case this time, children may enjoy seeing the animals, either "in person" or on the screen. Free and open to the public, and Club business is not conducted at these educational programs.

PROGRAM: Sandhill Cranes. Thursday, October 13, 7:00 p.m., at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.

Sandhill cranes are one of the most charismatic birds found in Tennessee. Virtually the entire eastern population of 60,000 birds either migrates through or stays for the winter in Tennessee. Recently, there has been a stormy controversy over a possible hunting season on Sandhills in Tennessee and Kentucky. Both the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS), as well as other conservation organizations, have been very involved in this debate. Currently, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has a two-year moratorium on considering a crane hunting season in Tennessee.

Melinda Welton, research associate with Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, has been intimately involved with these discussions. She will share information about the biology of these magnificent

birds, their history in Tennessee, and the status of the endangered Whooping Crane in the state. Please be sure to attend this timely program to find out how you can help protect Sandhill and Whooping Cranes in Tennessee. Free and open to the public, and Club business is not conducted at these educational programs.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: September 19 and October 17, 6:30 p.m. at the United Steelworkers Union Building, 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211. Follow the signs to the conference area. 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.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

September Strategy Meeting: September 19 (Board Meeting) 3rd Monday, 6:00 pm, at the Brainerd Bethlehem ReSource Center, 4413 Brainerd Road, next to the Balloon Factory. 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 Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway at 423-619-0379, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

September Program: Last Monday, September 26, 7 pm at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Topic: Watersheds: Why We Love Them and Why They Matter! A panel of presenters will be highlighting three watersheds in the Cherokee Group: North Chickamauga Creek, South Chickamauga Creek and the Russell Cave Watershed.

Environmental Engineer Maureen Handler will cover the restoration of the Russell Cave watershed by Sewanee Mountain Cave Club and the SERA/KARST Task Force. The North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy, represented by Exec. Director Gregory Vickory, and the South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Alliance will highlight these wonderful recreation areas, the aquatic wildlife they are home to, their environmental benefits and the work that is being done to protect and enhance them. Open to the public; healthy snacks provided!

October Strategy Meeting: October 17 (Board Meeting) 3rd Monday, 6:00 p.m., at the Brainerd Bethlehem ReSource Center, 4413 Brainerd Road, next to the Balloon Factory. All interested people welcome - this is where and when we plan our actions and activities! To place an item on the agenda, contact Elizabeth Tallman-Gazaway at 423-619-0379, preferably a week ahead of our meeting.

October Program: 4th Monday (not meeting on Halloween!), October 24, 7 pm at GreenSpaces, 63 E. Main Street, Chattanooga. Presenters: Tom and Pat Cory, photographers.

Tom and Pat will treat us to photographs of their recent trips hiking in Switzerland and Iceland, while sharing with us their tips and techniques on taking photographs while hiking. This couple lives on Signal Mountain, in-between their trips around the globe! Visit their website, www.tomandpatcory.com for a sneak peek at some of their travels and to learn more about their local classes and photographic travel tours. Their pictures have been in the Sierra Club calendars! Open to the public; healthy snacks provided!

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, September 1, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Otherlands, 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.

Strategy Meeting: Monday, September 12, 6:30 pm, Republic Coffee, 2924 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN.

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.

Thursday, September 29, 6:30 pm - Refreshments & Networking, 7:00 pm - Presentation. Presentation: Topic TBA. Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, Meeting Room A, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN.

Topic to be announced at a later date (see our Facebook page for updates; www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group). For more information, contact Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or (901) 413-3888.

Monthly First Thursday Gathering, Thursday, October 6, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Otherlands, 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.

Strategy Meeting, Monday, October 10, 6:30 pm, Republic Coffee, 2924 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN.

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.

Thursday, October 27, 6:30 pm - Refreshments & Networking, 7:00 pm - Presentation, Presentation: Topic TBA. Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, Meeting Room C, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN.

Topic to be announced at a later date (see our Facebook page for updates; www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group). For more information, contact Susan Routon at susan.routon@gmail.com or (901) 413-3888.

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

Days and times vary -- see <http://www.memphis-library.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 jcrutschman@gmail.com or (901) 767-5916.

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 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)

Sept. 17 (Sat). (This hike was originally scheduled for Oct. 29) **Take-a-Hike, Day hike, Schoolhouse Gap/Turkeypen Ridge/Finley Cane loop hike, GSMNP.** This 9-mile loop will hopefully give us some great opportunities to view the low elevation fall colors in the park. Rated moderate. One-way drive: 45 miles. Contact Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (email preferred).

Sept. 24 (Sat). Day hike, Honey Creek, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. This is a rather difficult 5.6 mile loop trail. Originally, it was one of the 10 Bowater Pocket Wilderness Areas. The trail is very rugged and requires crossing a number of small creeks, climbing a series of ladders up and down the bluff, scrambling through boulders, and hiking up the Honey Creek drainage. The trail includes a number of waterfalls, a spectacular rock house, and one of the best views from an overlook 250 feet above the South Fork of the Cumberland River. Quite simply it is one of the best trails on the Cumberland Plateau. The hike is difficult and requires about 5 to 7 hours to complete depending on how much time is spent enjoying the trail. The driving distance is about 75 miles from West Knoxville. One-way drive: 70 miles. Contact BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 675-7668.

Oct. 8-9 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Hyatt Ridge Trail, GSMNP. One of the very few high elevation tent campsites in the Smokies is Campsite # 44, located in the high country above the Oconaluftee area. We'll hike in on the Hyatt Ridge Trail to the McGee Springs campsite (4.5 miles), then out on Beech Gap Trail on Sunday (3.7 miles) (or vice versa). The campsite is just north of the now beech tree covered Hyatt Bald and is in a shallow cove shaded by hardwoods; it is remote, high and on the edge of the huge Raven Fork basin. We'll look for signs of an old historic trail that used to go on north to Tri-Corner Knob per Ray Payne. Rated moderate. One-way drive: 90 miles. Contact Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bell-south.net.

Oct. 15-16 (Sat-Sun). Gourmet Backpack, destination TBD. This fall trip has become a Harvey Broome Group tradition, with everyone trying to make the most outrageous, non-backpacking type food that one can imagine. If you can dream it up, you can cook it in the back-country. Frozen margaritas, Caesar salad, roasted Cornish game hens, seafood Newburg, hot fudge ice cream sundaes, cheesecake, blueberry pancakes. Seriously, this outing provides an opportunity to learn about eating well on back-country adventures, but also about the "leave no trace" wilderness ethic that permits having a good time, while protecting the wilderness experience for those that follow. Contact Barbara Allen: phone 558-9214; email allen745139@bellsouth.net (email preferred).

Oct 29 (Sat). (This hike was originally scheduled for Sept. 17) **Take-a-Hike, Two Castle Tour, Cumberland Trail (CT).** This 6.6-

mile loop is in Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area. We ascend on the park's CCC-built Bird Mountain Trail 2 miles and 1,500 ft. to Castle Rock (East), a popular feature. Joining the CT, we head west along the crest of Bird Mountain 2 miles to Ross Gap, then continue about a mile further to a little-known feature we've called Castle Rock West. After exploring, we retrace our steps to Ross Gap and descend via the old road and a new access trail to the park's athletic field and parking. Rated moderate. One-way drive: 50 miles. Contact Warren or Carol Devine, 483-7894 or wdevine@bell-south.net.

Nov. 5 (Sat). Day hike, Jeffrey's Hell, off Cherohala Hwy, and pizza lunch at Tellico Grains. "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. One-way drive: 80 miles. Contact Priscilla Watts at sigmtngirl@earthlink.net, or call 966-4142.

CHEROKEE GROUP

The Cherokee Group sponsors outings and hikes at least 1 or 2 weekends a month. Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway serves as our outings chair and point-man 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 Jeremy at 423-619-6548 or gazawaypainting@gmail.com

Sep. 10 (Sat) Hiwassee Canoe Trip @ 11 AM This is going to be a great time for a trip down the river with beautiful views of the Cherokee Forest. The Hiwassee State Scenic River is primarily Class I (moving water with small waves, few obstructions) and Class II (easy rapids with wide, clear channels; some maneuvering required). Certain sections may be considered Class III (rapids with high waves capable of swamping an open canoe; requires complex maneuvering). For more information or to register: contact Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway 423-619-6548 or gazawaypainting@gmail.com Please register 1 week in advance.

Sept 24 (Sat) 'Future River Fest-Connecting People and the River' at Renaissance Park. Volunteers needed (2 - 10 pm) as we table at the Festival, highlighting our rivers' clean water needs. We'll need both people willing to staff our table promoting clean energy and water, and others helping kids enjoy the river! Plan to attend! Contact Barbara Kelly for more information and to volunteer, 423-718-5009 or bk1rivers@comcast.net.

Oct. 7-8-9 (Fri-Sun) Foster Falls Car Camping and Day Hikes. This is a joint outing with the Middle Tennessee Group. We'll car camp at TVA's Foster Falls campground, and then do day hikes in the Fiery Gizzard on Saturday and Sunday. Register/details: trip leaders Barbara Kelly, 423-718-5009 or bk1rivers@comcast.net or Katherine Pendleton, 615-943-6877 or kpendleton1@aol.com.

Oct. 12 & 26, Nov. 9 & 23: Looking for Leaders for our Wednesday Walking -- please let Barbara Kelly know if you would be willing to lead a walk one of these Wednesdays. Our first will be on Wed., Oct. 12, 6 pm at Enterprise

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!

South Nature Park; meet at the visitor center and we'll go from there! You choose the destination of the next one—contact Barbara at 423-718-5009 or bk1rivers@comcast.net to volunteer. Further locations will be announced via our eNews and through our Facebook page.

Oct. 21-23 (Fri-Sun) TN Chapter Fall Family Meeting at Pickett State Park. Wonderful accommodations, great hiking and fall colors -- all for \$40, early bird registration by Oct. 15 (kids free!!) The Knoxville Group is sponsoring this—contact Robin Hill, robin.hill8@gmail.com.

Oct. 29th Signal Point Day Hike @ 2 PM Please join us for a beautiful day hike down to Rainbow Lake to enjoy the fall colors. We will be stopping for lunch at the falls, so please pack one, and be sure to bring plenty of water. Difficulty: moderate, Distance: 1.2 miles. The trail from Signal Point is part of the Tennessee River Gorge segment of the Cumberland Trail and goes to Rainbow Falls, Edwards Point, the Prentice Cooper State Forest and finally to the Cumberland Trail State Park. For more information or to register: contact Jeremy Tallman-Gazaway 423-619-6548 or gazawaypainting@gmail.com Please register 1 week in advance.

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/>
Cooper Young Festival, Saturday, September 17, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Join the Chickasaw Group at our booth for one of Memphis' most exciting and eclectic outdoor festivals. If you would like to volunteer to help out with CKG's booth, please contact Keven Routon at kwrates@me.com.

ADVANCE NOTICE:

The Tennessee Chapter's winter Chapter meeting will be held January 20 – 22, 2012 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. We'll explore this beautiful park with day hikes, walk among the cedar groves and learn from naturalists. Plan now for a relaxed weekend and plan on meeting and making new friends. Prices are low, bunk house accommodations. Details will be in the next Tennes-Sierran, but mark your calendars NOW! – sponsored by the Middle Tennessee Group

Watauga Group (WG) Nominating Committee calls for ExCom Nominations for the 2011 Election Cycle

The following WG members constitute the Nominating Committee and Election Committee for the 2011 ExCom election cycle:
Carol Walker, 1-423-727-0792
Dennis Shekinah, 1-423-727-6497
Dean Whitworth, 1-423-727-7214
Webb Griffith, 1-423-727-4797

Any WG member may self nominate by contacting any Nominating Committee member before Tuesday, Sept 20, 2011.

A total of four ExCom members, each serv-

ing two-year terms, will be elected to serve 2012 through 2013. Successful candidates will join returning WG ExCom members Mike Wiles, Dean Whitworth, Dennis Shekinah, Gloria Griffith and Carol Walker.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTS NOMINEES TO WG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE on Thursday Sept 22.

* Deadline to Submit Candidate Petitions is Thursday, Sept 29 via file document email at dshekinah@centurylink.net or US Postal Service mail to Dennis Shekinah 900 Mining Town Rd Mountain City, TN 37683.

Tennessee Chapter Call for Nominations for At Large Delegates (2012-2013 Term)

The Tennessee Chapter will elect four(4) at-large delegates for a term beginning Jan. 1, 2012 and ending Dec 31, 2013. Chapter members are requested to give serious consideration to running for these important offices on the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) which manages the fiscal, legislative, environmental and other appropriate responsibilities for our Chapter.

Requirements of the office of at-large delegate are as follows:

- Commit to attending the four chapter ExCom meetings each year. These meetings require an at-large delegate's presence for a two-day meeting each quarter.
- Commit to study issues confronting the ExCom from a Chapter or statewide perspective.

- Commit, for the term of office, to vote electronically by email on issues that require a Chapter ExCom vote.

- Serve on ExCom committees when appointed and as needed for the term of office.

If you are interested in being considered for nomination for the office of at-large delegate, please notify the Nominating Committee Chairman Robin Hill by email at robin.hill8@gmail.com or by US mail at 11504 Mountain View Road, Knoxville, Tn 37934 or by phone at 865-607-4542.

The office of at-large delegate will provide an opportunity to have an important role in the Chapter management of a large grass roots environmental organization having more than 6,000 members in the State of Tennessee.

Cherokee Group Nominations Sought for 2012

The Cherokee Group Nomination Committee is looking for nominations for Executive Committee Members for 2012. We will have four (4) openings.

What does an Executive Committee member do? They serve as our "Board," providing the leadership and vision of our Group while helping us promote the mission of the Sierra Club. Members attend both program and strategy meetings, promote the Outings program and conservation activities, participate in long-range planning, actively assist in fundraising activities or contribute financially, and contribute a sense of camaraderie and teamwork. A tall order to fill—but a rewarding one!

Please contact any one of the Nominating Committee to volunteer yourself as a candidate or to suggest a candidate: Barbara Kelly, chair, 423-718-5009 or bk1rivers@comcast.net; John Doyal, 423-304-7467 or baldie052@yahoo.com; Scott Kramer, 423-598-9516 or sk1.mtns@gmail.com. Nominations must be received by 9/26/11 for consideration.

Call for Nominations to Chickasaw Group Executive Committee

Have you ever wanted to be more involved in the environmental movement? Willing to volunteer your skills to help explore, enjoy, and protect the planet? Chickasaw Group seeks to fill a number of seats on its Executive Committee and welcomes your nominations.

Candidates should be interested in promoting environmental issues, willing to learn and develop action plans within Sierra Club policy, participate in Group activities and attend strategy and program meetings regularly. The term for this position is two years.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Scout Anglin at langlin@memphis.edu.

Our elections will take place by ballot in the Nov./Dec. issue of the Tennes-Sierran, with terms to begin in January 2012.



Take Action! Sign onto TENNESSEE-ALERTS Listserv

If you want to take action on the environment, join this TENNESSEE-ALERTS listserv.

To subscribe, send an email to: LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Put in the message area:
SUBSCRIBE TENNESSEE-ALERTS
YourFirstName, YourLastName

(Substitute your actual first and last name in the places indicated.)

You will receive a maximum of two alerts per month.

Middle Tennessee Group ExCom Nominations Sought

The Middle Tennessee Group of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club is seeking candidates for election to the Executive Committee (ExCom). The ExCom has oversight responsibilities* for the Middle Tennessee Group to ensure it is carrying out our mission productively. If you know someone you wish to nominate or you are interested in serving, contact any member of the Nominations Committee by September 28, 2011.

Contact:

John Pigg, j.t.pigg@comcast.net or 615-851-1192

Adele Wood, adelleintn@juno.com or 615-665-1010

Deanna Bowden, deannabowden@netscape.net or 615-584-0567

*Oversight Responsibilities

- Understand and promote the mission of the Sierra Club
- Attend Executive Committee and general meetings as necessary
- Attend programs when possible
- Lead and provide educational training and conservation opportunities to the general membership
- Promote group and chapter outings
- Participate in long range planning
- Actively assist in fundraising activities
- Ensure financial stability and solvency
- Modify and allocate resources consistent with the opportunities, the abilities and the commitment of the group and chapter
- Monitor, question and evaluate club activities
- Provide leadership and vision for the group and chapter
- Contribute a sense of camaraderie and teamwork

Here's your opportunity to make a difference. Make your nomination today!

Chickasaw Group Lends a Hand in McKellar Lake Clean-up

By Keven Routon

In two short hours, about 40 volunteers, lead by Colton Cockrum, assistant director of the Hardin honors program at the University of Memphis, picked up two truckloads of recyclable plastic, glass, aluminum and other non-recyclable trash that washed up on the shore of McKellar Lake during the high waters this past May.

Joining Cockrum was the Helen Hardin Honors Student Council, Cyndy Grivich Tucker with Memphis City Beautiful, and James Baker, Scout Anglin, Keven Routon of the Chickasaw Group. Special thanks to Amelia Mayahi (University of Memphis sustainability coordinator) for coordinating the efforts to get as much of the material recycled as possible. A few days after the event, Amelia reported that 1,240 pounds of plastic was recycled.

McKellar Lake is positioned on the east side of Presidents Island and prior to closing of the Tennessee Chute (narrow area of water between the island and the city of Memphis) in the late 1940s, Presidents Island was an actual island. Today it is a peninsula and the lake no longer receives flows from the north end of the island to aid in emptying its contents.

Nonconnah Creek flows from east to west along southern Shelby County and with a watershed of roughly 280 square miles, roughly half the storm water from Memphis and Shelby County flows out into McKellar Lake from this body of water. The storm water carries litter that was carelessly tossed out onto the streets or otherwise improperly disposed and deposits it into the lake. The litter – mostly plastic and glass bottles – remains there until it is picked up by volunteers or slowly flows with the water out into the Mississippi.

The litter could be significantly reduced before it is released into and dispersed throughout the lake. The City of Memphis/Shelby County could make major efforts in reducing litter at its source: through



Photo by James H. Baker

environmental education in the schools from pre-K to 12th grade, using various incentives to increase the level of recycling, increase awareness of and enforcement of existing anti-litter laws and city council/mayoral support for container deposit legislation. The Shelby County Commission is already on record as supporting container deposit legislation.

Dr. Marge Davis has proposed legislation year after year that could greatly assist in reducing litter in our state. Do you remember as a child how you collected bottles and turned them in for a refund? In the simplest terms that's what Dr. Davis has proposed. Customers routinely spend a dollar for a bottle of water; would anyone even notice the increase resulting from the deposit? The Tennessee legislature has yet to approve this simple bill to reduce litter across the state and especially at McKellar Lake. See the following webpage for more information: www.tnbottlebill.org.

Chad Pregracke of Living Lands and Water visited Memphis with his crew for a month in March to assist in cleaning McKellar Lake and

plans to return to Memphis for the next three years to continue cleanups here. Dr. Cockrum plans to continue leading cleanup events at McKellar Lake each month. And James Baker, director of the TN Water Sentinels, has been calling for actions on this issue for years and continues to sound the alarm.

Get involved in whatever way you can to reduce or collect litter.

If you are able and willing to assist in cleaning McKellar Lake please monitor Chickasaw Group's Facebook page for scheduled cleanups:
www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group

Fracking Rules Sought for Tennessee Oil, Gas Drilling

(From Channel WBIR TV-10 in Knoxville)

The Tennessee Sierra Club and its allies are pushing for "fracking" rules to protect the state's residents and its waters from the controversial oil and gas drilling practice.

"Fracking" is a common term for hydraulic fracturing, also known as hydrofracking. It is a process used in drilling for oil and natural gas where companies drill deep below the surface and then horizontally through areas of shale. A pipe is then filled with about 98 percent water and a few other chemicals at a very high pressure to fracture the earth below to allow small bubbles of natural gas to be released and flow back up the water pipe.

The chemicals in the other two percent concern many people, since the Environmental Protection Agency has stated the practice sometimes includes carcinogens, acids, and other toxic materials.

One of the primary concerns is potential pollution to groundwater. The drilling process pen-

etrates the water table en route to the shale deep below. Fracking generally includes several protective layers around the pipe to prevent leaching into groundwater. However, there are still concerns about the water that comes back up the pipe and how it is then disposed of via land application.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation estimates the process for proposing and approving new "fracking" rules could take another six to eight months. It usually takes a year or two before state environmental rules and regulations are complete.

"But in the meantime, there is a lack of regulation and oversight for hydrofracking," said Axel Ringe with the Sierra Club of Tennessee. **"Once we do get regulations in place, we are concerned the state will still fall short in terms of overseeing drilling companies. There will only be three employees overseeing every drilling operation in the state."**



Photo by James H. Baker

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

By Josie McQuail

T. C. Boyle is the author of 12 novels and nine short story collections. I reviewed one of his novels, *Friend of the Earth* (2000), several years ago in the *Tennes-Sierran*, and even gave a copy of the book to all group chairs because I thought it was so terrific—a scathing commentary on the consequences of neglecting to deal with global warming, set in our near future.

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.”

Boyle is one of America's best novelists, if not the best (though I also love John Irving). He is definitely a chronicler of America, obsession by obsession, eccentricity by eccentricity, greed by greed. In his novels, there are usually two characters involved in a class of values, ethics, wills and souls. Often there is a character whose ambitions are as big as his ego.

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.

The novel pits LaJoy against Takesue, love against hate, and life against death. It is not the extermination of the rats that Boyle condemns, though. LaJoy, as more than one critic has noted, is ironically named, because he takes no joy in life. He is a misanthrope, full of hatred for everyone.

Takesue, on the other hand, may be behind the extermination of rats, but she is on the side of the life force in other ways. The novel has an interesting frame story which involves Alma's grandmother, Beverly Boyd, who is shipwrecked and makes her way to the very same islands, in this case, West Anacapa, where her granddaughter will eventually exterminate rats. The rats are Beverly's nemesis, as well. The only survivor of the shipwreck that kills her husband and brother-in-law, Beverly washes up alone on the island. It turns out that Beverly is pregnant at the time, without knowing it, and her child is, of course, Alma's mother.

Besides rats, snakes are a theme in the novel. Alma has done work in Guam, on the invasive brown tree snake. Descriptions of this snake are frightening:

The snakes were whips of muscle, powerful enough to raise three-quarters of their length up off the ground and hold it there for minutes at a time, but her muscle, a primate's muscle, was superior. She killed thousands of them. She was bitten half a dozen times. She

became intimate with the peculiar dry pickled odor of the brown snake's intestines. And she found, contrary to popular opinion or the first law of amateur snake collectors, that this snake did not require live prey or even prey at all. It was so adaptable as to be frightening. When the birds were gone, it ate rats and lizards. And when it couldn't find a rat or lizard, it came into the yard and the house and snapped up what it could, whether animate or not. Twice, while slitting open the bellies of snakes, she came across the pale greasy twists of the plastic raw hamburger is packaged in. . . . (97).

With Guam and the Anacapas, Boyle is obviously playing with images of an Eden, and snakes are the curse. This is an Eden where Eve does not necessarily need an Adam, however.

LaJoy is one of Boyle's eccentric fanatics. He is aligned with PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), since it was a PETA pamphlet from an employee in one of his electronics stores which turns him into an animal rights activist. One would perhaps think that this would make LaJoy a hero. But it is his fanatical obsession with “saving” species like the rats at the expense of loving other people that condemns LaJoy, whereas those who kill the rats and the snakes – Beverly and her granddaughter Alma -- are shown to be in tune with life.

LaJoy will do anything to subvert Alma and the National Park Service plan to eradicate the rats. He and his cohorts spread cat food and vitamin K out for the rats on the islands to serve as an antidote for the poison which is meant to kill them.

LaJoy traps errant raccoons from his yard and releases them, to the puzzlement later of Alma and the Forest Service workers on the Anacapas. But the most bizarre touch is the animal which causes LaJoy to be “hoist by his own petard” – 10 rattlesnakes which he has brought in order to drop off on the island. Even on his boat on the way to the islands to drop off the creatures, LaJoy doesn't tell his companions at first about them, but when he does his pal Wilson wants to handle one of the snakes which are contained in burlap bags. LaJoy forbids it but Wilson beats him to it, and it is then that LaJoy has an epiphany -- as it turns out, too late:

There it is, the snake, his snake, the one he's bought with his own private funds to possess it and free it again because that's his pleasure and it's not secreted in a bag anymore, not wrapped in burlap and hidden from sight, but right there in his face, coiling and uncoiling, rattling its tail in a high furious buzz like a stirred-up hive of bees, thick, potent, menacing, revealed in its essence. A snake. A rattlesnake. *Crotalus viridis*. Its mouth is open in outrage, the fangs yellow-white and slick with wet, with venom. The cabin closes in. The sea moves. And he understands, for the first time, how wrong this is, how wrong he's been, how you have to let the animals – *the animals* – decide for themselves. (358)



Moving?



Attach mailing address label, or fill in current name, address & Membership ID#

Current Address: _____

Member ID# _____

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Mail to:
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041,
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041.

Upcoming Fall Events

September 24: Moving Planet—a day for moving beyond fossil fuel

http://connect.sierraclub.org/project/Moving_Planet/blog or

<http://www.350.org/> Find an event near you www.moving-planet.org/map

October 1: National Solar Tour of homes and buildings

See how solar energy, energy efficiency, and other sustainable technologies reduce monthly utility bills and help tackle climate change.

<http://nationalsolartour.org/location/directory/TN>

For more information contact Mary Mastin, marymastin@twlakes.net or (931) 268-2938.

October 28-29: Tennessee Sustainable Economy Summit

www.tectn.org

November 5: Memphis Environmental Justice Conference

Hold the date November 5th for our all-day environmental grassroots conference! There will be a dozen workshops on a wide variety of subjects including two workshops about the radioactive waste threats to our Tennessee communities. Come and join us to celebrate our 10th annual conference with expert presenters. As always, lunch will be compliments of the Sierra Club. Pre-registration is required and once all details are final a brochure will be distributed on the listserv and via email. The public is invited to this free learning event. For more information contact Sierra Club Field Organizer Rita Harris at the Environmental Justice Program office in Memphis, rita.harris@sierraclub.org, (901) 324-7757.

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group

Tennes-Sierran

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