

Tennes-Sierran

The bi-monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 52, Number 3 - May/ June 2019



Summer 2019 Retreat Friday July 26 -- Sunday July 28 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park

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Bi-Monthly Newsletter for the TN Chapter Sierra Club
Vol. 52, No. 1 - January / February 2019

Tennes-Sierran
3712 Ringgold Rd., #156
Chattanooga, TN 37412-1638

You're Invited! The Tennessee Chapter's Middle Tennessee group invites you to join other Sierra Club members from around Tennessee at beautiful, historic Cedars of Lebanon State Park for a weekend of outdoor activities and indoor entertainment. Cedars of Lebanon's ecosystem features a landscape of karst formations including limestone sinkholes and caves and one of the largest stands of Eastern red cedars in the United States. The Park has ten miles of hiking trails that range from easy to moderate, a butterfly garden, and a nature center that explores the ecological and cultural significance of the park.

State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath joins us once again to lead an afternoon tour of Jackson Cave and an evening walk in a cedar glade (bring your flashlights for both!). It will be summertime so you might want to break away for a cool swim in the outdoor pool or a round on the Park's 18-hole disc golf course landscaped through the Park's cedar woods.

On Saturday evening, we look forward to musical entertainment from Nashville's favorite acoustic duo Antoinette Olesen and Buddy Farler. If you love outdoor recreation and exploration, and enjoy good music, this is your chance to find out what a Sierra Club retreat is all about.

Cedars of Lebanon State Park, located approximately 31 miles east of Nashville in Wilson County and six miles south of I-40 on U.S. Highway 231 (State Route 10), has a fascinating history. High demand for cedar wood throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries left the area nearly cleared of its timber. Following reforestation and development for jobs, recreation and timber by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s, this land now contains one of the largest public stands of eastern red cedar in the United States. Not true cedars, these trees are actually junipers, a close cousin. Early settlers associated these evergreens with the dense cedar forests depicted in the biblical lands of Lebanon and began calling them 'cedars.' The original park, completed in 1937, is now listed on the National Register of Historic Districts.

Turn to page 3 for everything you need to know about the Retreat.

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
Snail Mail: Mail your new address AND the mailing label on page 1 to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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

Send Letters to the Editor to
TNSierran.editor@gmail.com

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Files attached to email are preferred. Send to wranglerSCTN@gmail.com. Files should be sent as a Word or Notepad document. Apple users may send articles in Pages.
- Articles should be single spaced. Don't space between paragraphs. Include a two-space indent at the beginning of each paragraph.
- Photographs should be sent in jpg or tif format and sent attached to email.
- Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted; however, pre-approval from the editor is required.
- Any materials submitted via USPS mail will not 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.

**Submission Deadline
for the July/August Issue
May 31, 2019**

**Send submissions to
Rita Bullinger
wranglerSCTN@gmail.com**

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TNSierran.editor@gmail.com

News Wrangler: Rita Bullinger
wranglerSCTN@gmail.com

E-Newsletter Editor: Allie Stafford
allie.m.stafford@gmail.com



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



**“Every good thing, great
and small, needs defense”**

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all
creatures, great and small.

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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 32141-6417
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Vice Chair: Antoinette Olesen 615-498-2778
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Treasurer: Charles High 615-500-5499
cahigh1722@aol.com
Conservation: Scott Heflinger 615-859-3553
sheflinger@aol.com
Outings: Craig Jervis 615-254-5301
cmjervis@comcast.net

MEETING SCHEDULE

Chapter Retreat	Location	Dates
Summer	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	July 26-28
Fall	Pickett State Park	October 25-27
Winter	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	January 24 - 26
Spring	Fall Creek Falls State Park	April 24 - 26

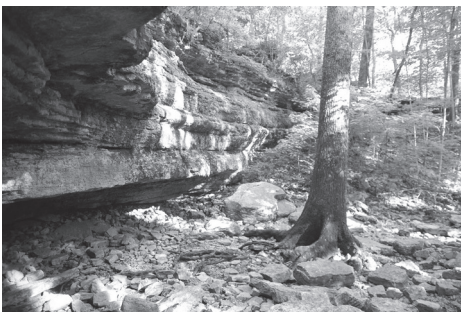
All about The Summer Retreat

Outings with Randy Hedgepath



9:00 AM, Jackson Cave Tour Join State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath for two relaxing and educational outings. First, a trip into the muddy but interesting cave behind the

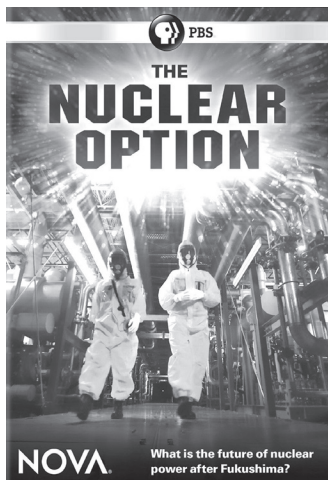
Nature Center. Bring clothes and shoes you don't mind getting muddy. Multiple light sources including a head lamp are recommended.



7:00 pm, Cedar Glade Trail On Saturday evening, join Randy for a stroll on the half-mile Cedar Glade Trail at the Park Office and the half-mile Dixon Merritt Trail at

the Nature Center in the cooler hours of the day. We'll be watching for birds, wildflowers, and nature surprises.

Afternoon Movie



3:00 pm, The Nuclear Option

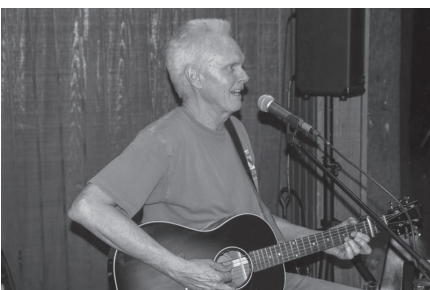
This highly educational documentary asks the question, "What is the future of nuclear power after Fukushima?"

There will be a discussion following the screening.

Acoustic Evening



Enjoy a relaxing and musical evening with acoustic duo Antoinette Olesen and Buddy Farler, a Nashville favorite playing Americana with a pop/folk edge. Making a special appearance will be an award-winning songwriter—stay tuned to find out who! This musical evening bringing Sierra friends together will surely be a week-end highlight!



WHERE

The summer retreat will take place at Cedars of Lebanon State Park, located approximately 31 miles east of Nashville in Wilson County and six miles south of I-40 on U.S. Highway 231 (State Route 10).

WHEN

Friday, July 26, 4:00 pm through Sunday, July 28, 2:00 pm.

WHAT TO BRING

- Linens or sleeping bag, pillow, towel
- Stuff for hiking: trail lunches, water bottle, daypack, rain gear
- Beverages, flashlight
- For the cave outing: Bring clothes and shoes you don't mind getting muddy. Multiple light sources including a head lamp are recommended.

FOOD

Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and a Saturday evening meal are provided. Vegetarian options.

REGISTRATION

Register by Friday, July 17, to receive early bird discount. Register online: http://bit.ly/Summer_2019_Registration or contact Charles High at cahigh1722@aol.com or 615-500-5499.

All Retreat participants will be required to sign the standard Sierra Club outings liability waiver when checking in at the retreat location.

RATES

Adult registration fee (16 years and older) covers lodging (women's dorms, men's dorms), 2 breakfasts, and Saturday dinner. Pay when you check in.

Early Bird Discount (register by July 17!) - \$50

Late registration (after July 17) - \$60

First Chapter retreat attendees - \$25

Students - \$15

Saturday Only (registration, dinner) - \$30

Sunday Only - ExComm meeting (registration, breakfast, no lodging) - \$10

Sunday Only – ExCom meeting (registration only, no lodging or breakfast) - \$5

Youth under 16 – No Charge

LEGAL STUFF

The Chapter retreat will begin at 4 PM on Friday and end at 2 PM on Sunday. All Tennessee Chapter Retreat participants will be required to sign the standard Sierra Club outings liability waiver when checking in at the retreat location. To review this waiver, please visit http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual_waiver.pdf

Any attendee under the age of 18 not accompanied by parent or legal guardian must have a signed liability waiver and medical authorization form upon arrival. To review these waivers, please visit

http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/individual_waiver.pdf

and

<http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/forms/local-outings-minor-release.pdf>

For more information, contact Grace Stranch, Middle TN Group Chair, at k.g.stranch@gmail.com.

Introducing the New Tennessee Chapter News Team

By Gary Bowers, Tennessee Chapter Communications Coordinator

We at the Tennessee Chapter are proud to introduce the members of our newly constituted News Team consisting of three volunteers, each new to her role: Emily Ellis, Tennes-Sierran Editor, Allie Stafford, E-Newsletter Editor, and Rita Bullinger, News Wrangler. Each comes to her new role with experience as described in the bios below. We look forward to the enhanced communication provided by a dedicated news wrangler and the addition of the e-newsletter to supplement the *Tennes-Sierran*.



Emily Ellis

A lifelong activist deeply committed to environmental conservation and social justice, Emily Ellis has called East Tennessee home for 30 years. She works as a reference librarian at Lawson McGhee Library in downtown Knoxville, where she founded the "Brown Bag,

Green Book" program series which continues now as "Books Sandwiched In." Emily learned to love nature as a child when camping all over the Southeastern United States with her family. As an active member of the Sierra Club, she coordinated a University of Tennessee non-credit class on environmentalism, worked on the production of the *Cherokee National Forest Hiking Guide*, and enjoyed hiking with fellow Sierra Clubbers. Her more-than-forty years of activism have included everything from trail clean-ups to campaigning for progressive candidates at both the local and national level. In 2008 and 2012, she took the initiative to recruit volunteers in the Knoxville area to travel to western North Carolina to canvass for a presidential candidate. She holds an MA in Counseling from the University of Alabama and an MS in Information Science from the University of Tennessee (UT), Knoxville. To the position of newsletter editor, Emily brings not only a range of research and technical skills but a commitment to writing that advocates for and celebrates our shared environment. Connect with Emily at eellis424@gmail.com.



Allie Stafford

Allie Stafford is an editor-activist-musician based in Chattanooga. She holds two undergraduate degrees from UT Chattanooga and has been a member of the Sierra Club for 12 years. She has served in roles both as technical editor for an archaeological firm and as a proofreader for

a Fortune-500 company. Allie has extensive experience in outreach and communications for non-profit and grassroots organizations and campaigns. Allie's writing has been published in *Communities* magazine and *71.5 Youth* magazine. Allie is also an accomplished musician—she performs violin in local ensembles and bands, and has served as a church pianist for over a decade. Allie also enjoys teaching group piano lessons to kids in the Salvation Army School of Music and Arts, accompanying the Chattanooga Choral Society for the Preservation of African American Song, and performing freelance gigs including for weddings and other events.

Allie currently works in the healthcare industry as an information technician. She is seeking career opportunities in communications and digital marketing and is excited to begin her tenure as the Chapter's e-newsletter editor. Allie brings to this position an exceptional passion for environmental justice, an interest in digital marketing and engagement, and a dependable and positive attitude. Connect with Allie at allie.m.stafford@gmail.com.



Rita Bullinger

Rita Bullinger, a member of the Middle Tennessee Group, is a writer and copy editor who worked in journalism and in education for 30-plus years. She's been an activist since her mid-twenties, working most recently with Transition Nashville and NOAH (Nashville Organized for Action and Hope),

and as a free-lance reporter. For thirty years she taught English and creative writing and is presently employed as an English language assessor with Metro Nashville Public Schools. Her passion is writing personal essays, creative non-fiction, and memoir. She lives in Tennessee's only co-housing community, Germantown Commons, where as a member of the process committee she facilitates community meetings within their consensus governance structure. With her company Mommacita Productions Limited she is currently working on an performance art piece titled, "You'll Be Missed: Letters to Mother Earth" which is focused on the idea that "There is no Planet B." She is the co-facilitator of "The Crone's Journey: Women Talk about Aging: A Salon" and a member of True Confessions writing circle. Her article, "Love and Lust at Sixty Plus" was published in *Unmasked: Women Write about Sex and Intimacy after Fifty* by Weeping Willow Books (Santa Barbara, CA). For information about any of Rita's (ad)ventures, or to join her performance troupe or salon (women only), please email her at ritabullinger@gmail.com.

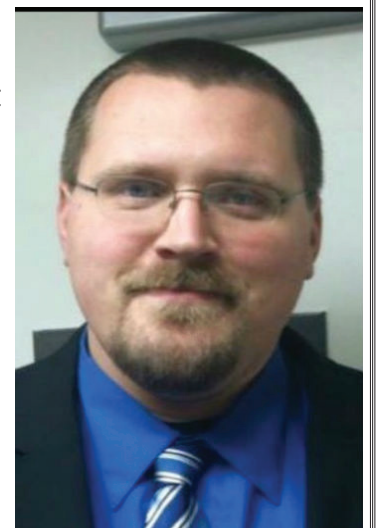
Chris Demetreon Tenure as Tennes-Sierran Editor Ends

by Gary Bowers, Chapter Communications Coordinator

Thanks to Chris Demetreon for his three years of service as *Tennes-Sierran* editor. Chris has chosen to retire. We also thank Darlene Gunther who for the last year has performed the service of reminding the group news wranglers to submit content for the *Tennes-Sierran*.

Chris began his career in printing as a sophomore in high school by creating a school website which led to assisting a teacher in writing a grant for a local school newspaper. When the grant was approved, Chris became the designer and editor for the *Rebel Reporter*. When word got out about what was happening with the high school paper, it sparked the interest of a retired Illinois State Representative named Jim Nolan. Nolan's father had run the local county newspaper for several years during Jim's youth and Jim had always wanted to restart his family's legacy. Jim supplied the money and Chris supplied the cheap high school labor which led to the second launching of the *Stark County News*. Both the *Rebel Reporter* and *Stark County News* continue to be published to this day.

Chris moved away from newspaper design and entered print production with Kingery Printing, formerly M&D Printing. He started in mail list data prep, formatting mailing lists for the United States Postal Service induction. After learning the ropes, he quickly advanced through the printing plant to serve in a variety of roles including purchasing, estimating, shipping, production planning, logistics management, business management, plant management, mailing operations, and finally management of IT infrastructure and development. Chris holds a seat on the Postmaster Generals' Mailers Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) for the United States Postal Service.



Chris Demetreon

Feet on the Ground in Nashville at Conservation Education Day



Photo by Todd Waterman

by Bill Moll, Conservation Education Day (CED) Coordinator

The 111th Tennessee General Assembly will be wrapping up when you read this. From the start of the session in January, the Tennessee Chapter, led by Conservation Coordinator Scott Banbury, has been working to persuade the Legislature to protect and defend our environment.

A key part of this effort was Conservation Education Day, March 5-6. This day-on-the-hill has been conducted by the Sierra Club, the Tennessee Environmental Council, and the Tennessee Conservation Voters for many years. This year, 57 constituents went to Nashville to meet with 45 legislators to testify to their concern for the environment. These meetings strengthen our other lobbying efforts. This year, Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light also participated.

"We hope that more of our conservation allies will participate next year," Banbury said. "The goal is to meet with all 132 legislators. For that, we need many more participants."

The Tuesday evening training was held in Nashville, but was accessible over the internet via Zoom. For a first-time effort, the remote access worked reasonably well and supports the Sierra Club efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. Fifteen people participated remotely.

Jen Hensley, State Lobbying Advocacy Director, conducted a training and Q&A session on how to meet with and lobby your legislators. Scott Banbury, Stewart Clifton, Brian Paddock and others discussed the issues that we would be highlighting in our legislator meetings and several other concerns.

"I'm very appreciative of the work done by members of Sierra Club TN Chapter, TN Conservation Voters, and TN Environmental Council to organize Conservation Education Day," JoAnn McIntosh said. "Five years ago, I would not have considered scheduling meetings with my state legislators; now I encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunity that CED has created for us to meet and establish relationships with our elected representatives."

Next year, we will publish the access information in advance, so that all Chapter members can participate, even if they can't come to Nashville for CED.

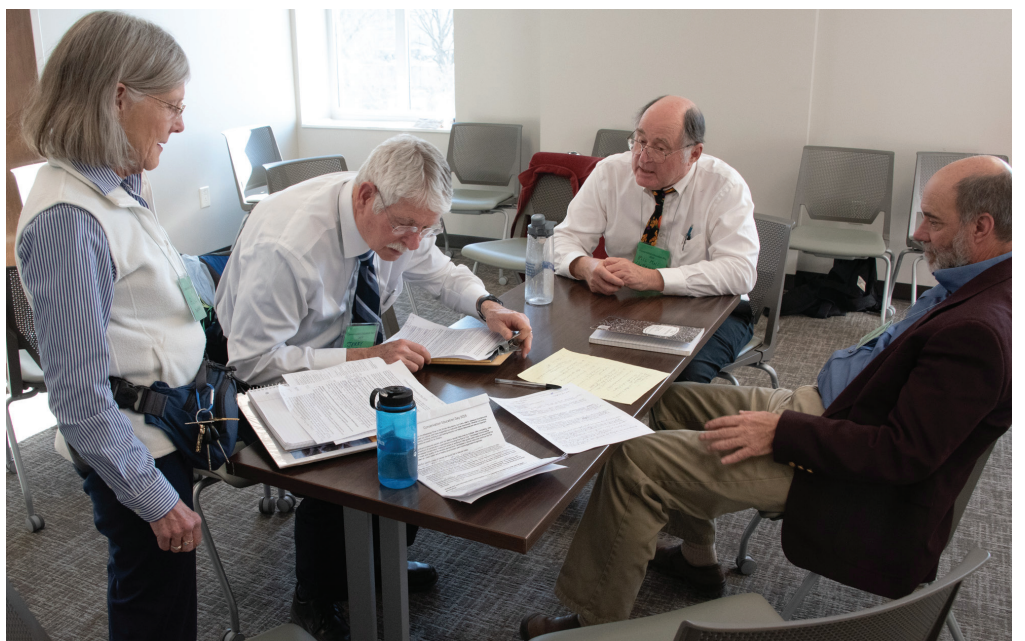
To follow the legislature throughout the session next year or to review this year, <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/> provides access to Legislature information and calendars, lists and texts of proposed bills and MyBills, which allows you to search for and follow bills of interest to you. You can also view the committee sessions which are recorded.

On Wednesday, the group assembled in a conference room in the Cordell Hull building to plan the individual meetings. (As an interesting side note, you can bring your pistol to Cordell Hull, but you must leave your pepper spray at home). This is an occasion for conservation activists from across the state and from several organizations to assemble and work together. In 44 of 45 appointments, the meeting established or continued a dialog with the legislator.

Next year, CED will have a larger meeting room to allow information and discussion sessions throughout the day and will have improved internet access for those who can't attend. More information on CED 2020 will follow.

The real impact from lobbying comes not from the first meeting, but from establishing a long-term respectful relationship with the legislator. That can be done in-district – no need to travel to Nashville. For more information on CED, contact Bill Moll (whmoll@aol.com) or Betsy Garber (garberb@hotmail.com).

"The support that the CED crew provided was invaluable," McIntosh said. "Research and up-to-date info on bills, fact sheets and talking points, organizing us into small peer groups for the scheduled meetings – all this preparation helped instill confidence as well as camaraderie among the participants, and demonstrated to our legislators that our views and asks were informed and reasonable. Now we need to keep the discussions going!"



Alice Thornton, Jerry Thornton, Bill Moll, Mac Post

Photo by Todd Waterman

TVA Integrated Resource Plan Public Meeting

by JoAnn McIntosh, Clarksville Conservation Committee

As part of TVA's process in drafting its 20-year Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), public meetings were held across the state of Tennessee in Murfreesboro, Knoxville, Memphis, Chattanooga, and Nashville, as well as in Alabama and Kentucky. TVA asks for public comment each time it drafts a new IRP which, because of rapidly-changing energy demands and technology, has occurred in 2011, 2015, and now in 2019.

According to TVA, "The IRP will consider many views of the future to help determine how TVA can continue to provide safe, reliable energy at the lowest feasible rate; support environmental stewardship; and foster economic development in the Valley over the next 20 years. The IRP process examines a variety of economic, regulatory and market-driven scenarios (outside TVA's control) and strategies (within TVA's control) to help TVA respond to changing energy demands while continuing to provide reliable power at the lowest possible cost. The IRP is like a compass, not a GPS, in that it provides a broad direction and not a direct route." (<https://bit.ly/2YEi4Dd>, Section 5)

That "broad direction" includes moving away from coal toward renewables, but also includes gas and nuclear. The various models created by combining the scenarios and strategies above reflect selective consideration of both economic and technological factors, and a general reticence

toward factoring in the 2018 International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) findings on impending climate catastrophe. Responding during the public comment period February 15 - April 8, Sierra Club (SC) took the position that TVA is moving in the right direction, but needs to *Do More and Do It Faster*. Action Alerts were sent out to SC members, encouraging public-comment submissions online as well as attendance at the scheduled public meetings.

The March 21 meeting in Nashville was attended by more than 150 people, and was added to TVA's original schedule at SC's request; there had been discussion at the SC Beyond Coal Campaign's regular conference calls about Nashville being omitted from the meetings line-up, and since SC is a representative environmental member of TVA's Working Group, the request to TVA for the Nashville meeting was made and graciously granted. Thanks go to Joe Schiller for taking the organizational reins for the meeting as well as transporting the Clarksville contingent, Paul Slentz of Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light for his call to action and shuttling service, and Dan Joranko and other members of the Middle Tennessee Group for their help in gathering the big crowd.

It was especially encouraging to see many Vanderbilt students and young members of the Sunrise Movement participating. (continued on back page)

Cherokee Group To Welcome Philip Pugliese

Program to focus on CARTA'S clean energy efforts

Philip Pugliese, Transportation System Planner for the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA), will speak about CARTA's clean energy efforts and its participation in a U.S. Department of Energy grant, at the Cherokee Group's program meeting, June 24, 7:00 PM at Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navajo Drive.

As reported in the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, "The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded \$760,868 (federal funds) to the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority together with SCOPE Lab at Vanderbilt University, the University of Houston, the City of Chattanooga Department of Transportation, the Enterprise Center, East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition,

and Green Commuter, for an innovative research effort to benefit Chattanooga and other cities. This project will enable the development and evaluation of tools to promote energy efficiency within a mobility-as-a-service transportation model in a mid-sized city."

Pugliese joined CARTA in 2017 as Transportation System Planner and has been actively involved in multimodal transportation projects in Chattanooga for over 15 years. Working under CARTA guidance, He has worked to expand CARTA's offering of transportation solutions for the community and is now actively engaged in the planning and evolution of our transportation network.

The Group will not have a program in May since it falls on Memorial Day.

MTG Program Chair Sought

The Middle Tennessee Group needs a Program Chair. Responsibilities include:

- Attend all program presentations. If unable to attend, find someone else to host
- Schedule speakers for program meetings
- Handle logistics of program meeting
- Publicize Program

Training will be provided. Programs are already scheduled through August.

For more information, contact MTG Chair Grace Stranch, at k.g.stranch@gmail.com.

Sierra-Beer-Friends & You!

Join the Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club for Happy Hour

Thursday May 16, 6:00-8:00
& rotating the location.

Please check the following and join us!
<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/middle-tennessee/program-and-socials-calendar>
on Facebook: [sierraclubmiddletennessee](https://www.facebook.com/sierraclubmiddletennessee)
or email: paulalennon615@gmail.com

What's Happening?

Find out what meetings, outings & gatherings are happening -- check your Sierra Club group's website!

Franklin Web Printing Company

A reputable company with green practices

by Gary Bowers, Tennessee Chapter Communications Coordinator



Chris Coyle

Readers may or may not be aware that the Tennes-Sierran is printed by Franklin Web Printing Company, owned Chris Coyle. Since 1977, Franklin Web Printing Company has operated as a non-heatset web printing company. Franklin Web is located outside of Nashville and serves the Southeast region and beyond, producing trade publications, newspapers, specialty tabloids, and magazines.

"The Sierra Club has been a long-time customer that we've been proud to partner with," Coyle said. "Although our accounting software only goes back to the early 2000s, based on several employee accounts and records we can find, we believe it's been 25 years or more that we've printed the newsletter."

Franklin Web Printing environmental ethics are in line with those of the Sierra Club – it recycles almost everything it uses and purchases materials that are friendly to the environment: the paper is recycled, its inks are soy-based, and it recently upgraded to a chem-free pre-press department. This business is recognized as a "Live Green Business Partner."

Franklin Web is a family-owned business. Matt Coyle, held the reins from the 1980s until recently when he retired after nearly 40 years. His son Chris came to work with his father in 2007. Thanks to Franklin Web for providing a valuable service to our Chapter and for being a good steward of the environment.

HEADS UP! HOLD THE DATE FOR FUN!

June 1, 2019 3:00 – 9:00 CST

Middle TN Group invites

THE ENTIRE STATE OF TENNESSEE

to come together for our annual picnic at beautiful Edwin Warner Park in Nashville.

Music, games, youth activities, door prizes & great food.

Bring your favorite dish to share.

Check the following for additional details.

http://bit.ly/MTG_Picnic_2019
<https://www.facebook.com/sierraclubmiddletennessee/>
or email paulalennon615@gmail.com

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Renewed

Partnering with Reenactors Was Key

by Cris Corley, Executive Committee: Delegate at Large, Chairman of State Forest Committee, and Alternate Council of Clubs Delegate

On September 30th, 2018, the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) expired and the Sierra Club's battle for re-authorization began. The LWCF was first signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965. The fund is intended for the acquisition, improvement, and protection of our natural treasures including forests, trails, parks, and national battlefields. The funding of the LWCF is assured by a small percentage of the royalties being paid to the government by exploration companies for offshore oil and gas leases. The revenues generated are almost 2.5 million dollars a day and for Tennessee the fund has provided over 200 million dollars since its inception. From Savage Gulf State Natural Area to the Smoky Mountains and beyond, we all have benefited from these monies.

Just last year, the LWCF became a political pawn in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), then Chairman of the House Resources Committee, blocked the reauthorization and referred to the LWCF as a "slush fund." Naturalists and environmentalists began to battle back against its demise.

Due to my past history of successfully persuading local, state, and federal agencies to protect our natural resources, I was drafted by the National Sierra Club and our Scott Banbury to lead the charge. Icky Hoover at the national SC Headquarters in Oakland, California, contacted me and laid out a simple plan to secure the Tennessee delegation of legislators' votes for reauthorization the LWCF. Vicky's constant bombardment of legislative offices with letters, telephone calls, and frequent visits to their Washington D.C. offices helped soften their opposition. Her assistance in helping me assemble a grassroots army was unmeasurable. Our early efforts were rebuffed and it appeared Tennessee legislators would vote on party lines.

I developed many personal relationships with members of Congress and their staff. Both having a bill that clearly made good sense and partnering with other groups and individuals were essential in turning the tide. Simply googling "TN LWCF Spreadsheet," I was able to find every local project that had received these funds. After realizing several different land acquisitions were connected to Tennessee's Civil War national battlefields, I partnered with Union and Confederate Civil War reenactors. With the help of friends, family, club members, and supportive groups, we were able to rally 14 of 16 house members and both senate members including Senator Lamar Alexander who co-sponsored the Senate bill (97 yes / 2 no).

The LWCF was signed into law March 12, 2019, by the United States President. A bonus was the permanent reauthorization, unlike other bills that sunset every 25 years.

I want to personally express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all who assisted in securing this most important piece of legislation. Please remember there will be numerous uphill battles in preserving and protecting our fragile ecosystem. Please start planting the seed today to grow a large grassroots network for protecting our beautiful state.

The Tree Agreement

by Elise Paschen

The neighbor calls the Siberian Elm
a "weed" tree, demands we hack
it down, says the leaves overwhelm
his property, the square backyard.

He's collar-and-tie. A weed tree?
Branches screen buildings, subway tracks,
his patch of yard. We disagree,
claim back the sap, heartwood, wild bark.

He declares the tree "hazardous."
We shelter under leaf-hoard, crossway
for squirrels, branch house for sparrows, jays.
The balcony soaks up the shade.

Chatter-song drowns out cars below.
Sun branches down. Leaves overwhelm.
The tree will stay. We tell him "no."
Root deep through pavement, Elm.

From *The Nightlife* by Elise Paschen (Red Hen Press, 2017)
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What Are You Planning In Your Neck of the Tennessee Woods?

The Tenne-Sierran can help you
get the word out!

Send announcements of your July &
August events by May 31st to:

News Wrangler: Rita Bullinger
wranglerSCTN@gmail.com

And we'll help you spread the word!



Group Business Meetings			
Group	Date	Location	Time
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Mon 5/6, 6/3, 7/1	Pilgrim Congregational Church, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chattanooga	6:00 PM
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Wed 5/1, 6/5, 7/3	Caritas Village, 2509 Harvard Ave. Memphis	6:00 PM
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 5/28, 6/25, 7/23	The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd. Knoxville	7:00 PM
Middle TN (Nashville)	Mon 5/20, 6/17, 7/15	House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville	6:30 PM

Group Program Meetings			
Group	Date	Location	Time
Cherokee (Chattanooga)	Mon 5/27	Spend some time enjoying nature with friends and family!	--
	Mon 6/24, 7/22	Unitarian Universalist Church, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga	7:00 PM
Chickasaw (Memphis)	Thu 5/16, 6/20, 7/18	Benjamin Hooks Public Library, 3030 Poplar Ave, Memphis	5:55 PM
Harvey Broome (Knoxville)	Tue 5/14, 6/11, 7/9	Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike	7:00 PM
Middle TN (Nashville)	Thu 5/9, 6/13, 7/11	Radnor Lake Nature Center, 1160 Otter Creek RD, Nashville	7:00 PM

Regional Conservation Committee Business Meetings			
Committee	Date	Location	Time
Clarksville	Tue 5/21, 6/18, 7/16	Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library, 350 Pageant Ln, Clarksville	6:00 PM
CareNET (Rogersville)	Thu 5/2, 6/6	St. Henry Catholic Church, 114 Highway 70 North, Rogersville	6:00 PM
Tipton County	Thu 5/9, 6/13, 7/11	Ward Law Firm, 99 Doctors Drive Suite 300, Munford	6:00 PM
Watauga (Mountain City)	Tue 5/14, 6/11, 7/9	R&D Campground 900 Minningtown Rd, Mountain City	5:00 PM

TVA, Keep Your Ash Out of Our Aquifer!

by Scott Banbury, Conservation Program Coordinator

Since the summer of 2014, Sierra Club (SC) has been deeply engaged in the closure of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) coal-fired Allen Fossil Plant and its replacement with cleaner energy sources.

In 2014, as a result of the seminal Sulfur Dioxide New Source Review lawsuit initiated by the SC and the National Parks Conservation Association, TVA conducted an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the closure of, or pollution controls upgrade of, the Allen Fossil Plant. Below is a timeline of the events that followed.

August 2014: TVA released a final EIS that led to closure of the coal plant and its replacement with a "state of the art" combined cycle gas plant that would be cooled by gray water from the nearby T.E. Maxson Wastewater Treatment Plant operated by the City of Memphis.

January 2016: The Sierra Club learned that TVA changed its mind about the cooling water and was considering using water from production wells drilled into the Memphis Sand Aquifer (the sole drinking water source of Memphis and surrounding communities) to the tune of 3.5-7.0 million gallons per day. The SC asked TVA about this and were told that a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) would be forthcoming sometime in April 2016.

July 2016: The SC learned that a Supplemental EA was conducted and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued in April with no public notice. The SC also learned that the Shelby County Health Department (SCHD) has received the first two of five applications for high capacity production wells. We received this from an SCHD insider as no public notice is required. The FONSI was issued by TVA despite insistence by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in their supporting document that it was beyond the scope of their study to determine whether any threat might exist. Specifically, the concern was that the cooling water wells might draw coal ash contaminants into the Memphis Sand Aquifer through likely breaches in the confining clay layer that separates the alluvial aquifer from the drinking water aquifer in the area.

September 2016: Sierra Club filed the first-ever appeals (in the public interest) of Shelby County well permits, arguing that groundwater regulations prohibit wells within a half-mile of any known Resource Conservation Act (RCRA) corrective action site. TVA's ash ponds are within this area. Our appeals were denied on technicalities but got the attention of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). A new non-profit organization, Protect Our Aquifer (ProtectOurAquifer.org), was started to support the Club's efforts.

January 2017: A bipartisan coalition of politicians introduced state and local legislation, and corresponded with responsible state and federal agencies, to address the now obvious threat that TVA's toxic coal ash poses to the Memphis Sand Aquifer. In May 2017, TVA finally admitted that arsenic was leaking out of their unlined coal ash ponds into the alluvial (shallow) aquifer at levels more than 300 times the allowable limits. TDEC immediately responded by requiring that TVA conduct a remedial investigation and prepare a corrective action plan to address the threat.

August 2017: The Shelby County Groundwater Board initiated a process to rewrite rules to avoid future problems. In December, the SC and Protect Our Aquifer successfully lobbied to pass a water rate increase to fund a five-year, \$5 million dollar study by the University of Memphis on threats to the Memphis Sand aquifer.

January 2018: the SC and Protect Our Aquifer retained the Southern Environmental Law Center. In March 2018, the University of Memphis and the USGS released results of TDEC-ordered tests that showed the operation of TVA's cooling water wells immediately caused drawdown of water from the contaminated alluvial aquifer. TDEC immediately restricted the use of the cooling water wells and TVA made arrangements to buy their cooling water from Memphis Light, Gas & Water.

December 2018: TVA applied for renewal of their cooling water well permits and the Shelby County Health Department responded by restricting their use to investigative or emergency purposes only. TVA also announced their intent to conduct an EIS on the disposition of coal ash at the Allen site, with the alternatives being closure in place (leaving it there), or digging it up and hauling it to an appropriately engineered landfill.

March 1, 2019: TVA released their annual groundwater monitoring report as required by EPA's "coal combustion residuals rule" in which it finally admitted that a big hole does exist in the aquifer's confining layer right under their coal ash ponds.

March 4, 2019: The EIP released a report identifying TVA's coal ash ponds in Memphis as being the 6th worst coal ash threat in the country (<http://bit.ly/2uFrXmI>).

March 26th: Congressman Steve Cohen wrote to TVA leadership expressing his concern with "the timeline and lack of urgency among leaders at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in regard to the clean-up of the coal ash at the Allen Fossil Plant (<http://bit.ly/2FQ6xcF>)" and Senator Brian Kelsey issued a Senate Resolution in which he urged TVA to "expeditiously remove the toxic coal ash from the containment ponds at the retired Allen Fossil Plant and reinter the coal ash in an appropriately engineered landfill (<http://bit.ly/2YIbTOH>)." In addition, the Shelby County Commission demanded that TVA get their ash away from the Memphis Sand aquifer as soon as possible.

March 27th: TVA announced their intention to remove their coal ash and reinter it elsewhere or beneficially reuse it. This follows TVA initiating a new NEPA EIS decision-making process in December 2018 to decide what to do about their coal ash in Memphis.



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TVA Integrated Resource Plan Public Meeting (continued from page 6)

Sunrise is a group committed to tackling the political obstacles that have prevented real discussion and action on climate change in this country; they support the Green New Deal and the U.S. School Strike 4 Climate inspired by 15-year old Greta Thunberg of Sweden, and have made national news confronting Members of Congress and demanding that they take action now. The young people at this Nashville meeting demonstrated that they were committed and well-informed during the one-on-one question period with TVA panel members at the end of the meeting: one conversation cited specific findings in the IPCC study and related these to projected TVA greenhouse gas emissions; another questioned why electric vehicles were figured into TVA's scenarios only as consumers of electricity and not as

potential energy storage; etc. It was unfortunate that these topics were not addressed during TVA's formal presentation at the beginning of the meeting, nor during the following group Q&A period; at that time, questions were collected on notecards from audience members, then sorted and selected for public response. The one-on-one question period was much more productive, allowing thoughtful interaction between TVA and their audience. Panel members repeatedly expressed appreciation for public input at these meetings and in online comments, and stressed that these would be factored into TVA's decisions going forward.

The final IRP and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is scheduled to be released in July 2019.