

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

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Realizing A 100% Clean Energy Future: Transforming the TVA From A Dirty Energy Provider to A Clean Energy Provider

Chris Ann Lunghino
Tennessee Organizing Representative
Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign
(714.369.9280 - please feel free to call with questions or ideas)

I'm back to work with the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign (BCC) in Tennessee and we have an exciting year ahead of us! I am thrilled to be a part of the BCC team because the Sierra Club's breadth and depth of membership and staff capacities offer the opportunity to have a huge impact on the health of our planet and our children's future. I am confident that we can transform the Tennessee Valley Authority from a polluting fossil fuel- and nuclear-based power provider to a clean wind, solar, and energy efficiency power provider. We can create a 100% clean energy reality.

Read on to learn about the key Tennessee BCC goals for this year, how you can help achieve them, and our key tactics for to achieving them.

Key 2014 Tennessee BCC Goals

- More power produced from solar and wind and more coal plant closings in TVA's long-term strategic plan – what they call their Integrated Resource Plan. As you may already know, last November, TVA announced major coal plant retirements - over 3000 megawatts, enough to power about three million average homes.
- A 1% annual energy efficiency target in TVA's long-term strategic plan so that we achieve a 10% energy savings by 2023.
- Widespread public support for strong and just climate pollution rules from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The climate pollution rules will put a cost on car-

bon pollution from coal-fired power plants and lead to more coal plant closings.

- Increased public belief in the reality of a 100% clean energy future. We want candidates for office in 2016 to be able to speak with confidence about the viability of a 100% clean energy future.
- Increased diversity and inclusiveness in the Sierra Club and the BCC.

How You Can Help Achieve the Goals

email me at chris.lunghino@sierraclub.org for details and to sign up.

1. Join a team to organize and deliver the Climate Festival in your city (details below)
2. Phone bank to recruit volunteers (from the comfort of your own home)
3. Do data entry
4. Be available to sign a letter to the editor or an op-ed
5. Attend TVA Board Meetings and participate in other relevant community forums (opportunities and dates to be announced)
6. Send an email to TVA Board members telling them you want increased investment in energy efficiency and renewable power sources and why – include your personal story: board@tva.gov
7. Create your two-minute powerful personal story to engage others in the energy transformation effort and build Sierra Club membership. Share your story with three people a month. Your story should tell
 - Why you are concerned about climate change (e.g., kids' future, saw devastation of Hurricane Sandy)
 - Why you take action with the Sierra Club (e.g., participating in Sierra Club has a big impact because we're well organized, have

a huge passionate membership, and are well funded; we can make TVA a clean energy power provider)

- What one thing the person you are talking to can do to make a difference (e.g., share email addresses so that we can let them know when there's something happening locally)

Key Tactics for Achieving the Goals

- **Building climate coalitions of diverse partner organizations in Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Nashville** to promote the EPA carbon pollution rules and an environmental justice policy and to hold large Climate Festivals in each city. A Climate Festival will promote a 100% clean energy vision, strong and just EPA carbon pollution rules, the environmental justice policy, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. We hope to include headline music, headline climate speakers, politicians, faith leaders, business leaders, academic/science speakers, renewable energy displays, energy efficiency displays, and sustainable food trucks, among other wonderful things.
- **Keeping up a strong drumbeat in the media**, through editorial board meetings, op-eds, and letters to the editor, highlighting TVA opportunities for increased investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy power sources and supporting the EPA carbon pollution regulations.
- **Consistent presence at and participation in TVA meetings and other relevant community forums**, including local power companies, to highlight TVA opportunities for increased investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy power sources and supporting the EPA carbon pollution regulations.

Protecting Those Who Protected Us

From the blog of executive director Michael Brune: February 5, 2014

It's not hard to understand why the Sierra Club has had a long and proud relationship with the men and women who serve our country in the armed services, as our history shows, a passion for exploring and enjoying the outdoors is a natural complement of both the skills and the spirit of the military.

After all, it was our first executive director, David Brower, who used his mountaineering and outdoors skills to help found the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division during World War II, a unit that has since distinguished itself from the Dolomites of Italy to the Hindu Kush of Afghanistan. Brower isn't an isolated example -- thousands of veterans are Sierra Club members and supporters. That's because their commitment to protect our country doesn't stop when they take off their uniforms. And their sense of duty extends from protecting our freedoms overseas to protecting our air, water, and natural legacy here at home.

So it's more important than ever that those who have sacrificed for our nation be given every opportunity to succeed here at home and receive

every benefit they have earned. Incredibly, though, not everyone in Congress or in Washington, D.C., seems to agree. In fact, the recent omnibus budget bill would deliver harsh cuts to veteran's benefits.

That would be a slap in the face to all of the men and women who have put their lives on the line for our country. No veteran should receive anything less than every benefit to which he or she is entitled. That is the least we can do for those who fought to preserve our democracy.

That's why the Sierra Club is standing shoulder to shoulder with our partners, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and Blue Star Families, as well as with veterans, active duty service members, and their families nationwide, in opposing any cuts to veterans' pensions or benefits.

Our nation's budget should not be balanced on the backs of those who have fought to protect it. If we care about raising our voices to protect our nation's clean air, clean water, and wild places, we must stand with those who have sacrificed to ensure we have a strong nation. This is not an ideological issue or a partisan issue. It's common sense.



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

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: gvanhorn26@gmail.com
USPS: Gene Van Horn, Editor
895 Red Cloud Trail
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ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is March 25 for the May-June issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to gvanhorn26@gmail.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files. Attached files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in Pages.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or a .tif file format then either attached to e-mail or mailed via U.S. Postal Service on a 3 1/2" diskette or CD RM. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.

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

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

5. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Barbara Kelly, Communications Committee, bk1rivers@comcast.net.

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.



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

Add your voice to protect the planet.
Join Sierra Club

Name: _____
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Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
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Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 471041, Palm Creek, FL 32740-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org #242 W43M

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

**Target Date for
May-June Issue is
March 25, 2014.**

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

**Send material to
Gene Van Horn at
gvanhorn26@gmail.com**

Winter Retreat Recipes

At the Winter Retreat there was fun, there was training, there was even music and dancing! And there was great food, thank YOU Alice Demetreon.

Alice has contributed 2 of her recipes, downsized for families:

Pumpkin Apple Muffins

Ingredients:

2 1/2 Cups All-Purpose Flour
2 Cups Sugar
1 Tbsp. Pumpkin Pie Spice
1 tsp Baking Soda
1/2 tsp Salt
2 Eggs, lightly beaten
1 Cup Canned Pumpkin
1/2 Cup Vegetable Oil
1 Cups Chopped Apples

Combine dry ingredients, add and mix wet ingredients.

Bake in 350 degree oven, approx. 20-35 minutes, depending on size.

Western Beans

Brown together in skillet:

1 lb. hamburger
1 lb. bacon (cut up)

Place in crock pot with:

Large can Busch's Original Baked Beans
1 can butter beans (drained)
1 can chili hot beans
1 can northern beans (drained)
1 jar salsa (approx. 16 oz.)
1 tsp. garlic powder
1-2 cups brown sugar
(start with 1 cup, add more according to taste)

Simmer on either low or high -- tastes best minimum of 2 hours; like chili, it's better the longer it simmers!

TVA should keep investing funds in renewable energy, skip natural gas

Mary Anne (Peine) Hitt
November 2013

At its November 14 board meeting in Oxford, Mississippi, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors voted to retire units at three of its coal-burning power plants: the Colbert and Widows Creek plants in Alabama and the Paradise plant in Kentucky. As a life-long environmental advocate who grew up in the Smoky Mountains and graduated from the University of Tennessee, I want to take a moment to celebrate this big announcement and talk about what it means for the people of the Tennessee Valley who have been working for years for cleaner air and a healthier environment.

First and foremost, this announcement confirms that TVA is coming to the same conclusion as utilities around the nation – coal is a dirty and increasingly expensive way to produce electricity. That's especially hard to justify as we all pay the price for coal pollution, from climate change to the Kingston coal ash spill, while clean energy like wind and solar can now compete head-to-head with coal in the marketplace.

Across the country, the coal industry is facing unprecedented setbacks. The cost of coal continues to rise as its share of electricity generation plummets, and TVA's announcement signals that the utility sees the handwriting on the wall. The Board's decision will protect public health by creating a cleaner environment for our families. According to the Clean Air Task Force, pollution from the Colbert plant in Alabama alone contributed to 940 asthma attacks, 83 heart attacks, and 57 deaths per

year. Moving away from coal will also protect ratepayers from rising energy bills and reduce TVA's contribution to climate disruption.

Tennessee Valley residents, businesses, and industries have made clear that they want TVA to provide reliable, affordable, and clean power -- and we know TVA can deliver. TVA was founded during the Great Depression to bring low-cost power and innovation to the Valley and address a wide range of environmental, economic, and technological issues. Thirty-five years later, in the late 1970s, the utility found itself in a similar position as it is in today: sagging demand, declining sales, and contracting revenues. TVA responded by increasing its investment in energy efficiency. The results were predictable: customers saved money, pollution decreased, and the economy rebounded.

As the nation's largest public power provider, TVA can carry on its legacy and be a model for other utilities if it responds to coal's decline by seizing the opportunity to become a clean-energy leader. Thursday's announcement is a step in the right direction, and we urge TVA to continue that progress by leapfrogging over natural gas. TVA plans to build at least one and possibly two new power plants in Kentucky, but it doesn't have to replace coal with another dirty source of energy that will only exacerbate environmental and public health issues.

Contrary to industry spin, natural gas contributes to climate disruption through the release of carbon dioxide and methane -- both potent greenhouse gases -- into the atmosphere. Further, the toxic brew used in fracking pollutes groundwater and damages communities. The better solution for TVA is to invest in ener-

gy efficiency and renewable technologies, which are rapidly scaling up. Electricity generated from wind power has more than doubled in the U.S. over the past four years, and solar power has increased by a factor of five. Both technologies are meeting the electricity demands of communities across the country, and they can do the same in the Tennessee Valley.

TVA's CEO and Board have a track record of taking economic development seriously, and the utility should continue to work to find ways to provide a just and responsible transition for workers and communities affected by the coal plant retirements. There are numerous examples from around the country where coal plants have retired with adequate provisions made for transition of the workforce, and the same can and should happen here.

I applaud TVA's decision to move away from coal, and I'm thankful to President and CEO Bill Johnson for his leadership. A commitment to deepen TVA's investment in renewable energy and improve the energy efficiency of homes, business, and industries in the Tennessee Valley is the quickest way to achieve long-term energy savings, protect public health, and do the right thing for the planet and the people of the Valley.

Mary Anne (Peine) Hitt is director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, which is working to eliminate coal's contribution to climate disruption and repower the nation with clean energy. She received the 2008 Notable UT Woman Award from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where she was a Whittle Scholar and founder of Students Promoting Environmental Action in Knoxville (SPEAK).

Spring Chapter Meeting

May 2 - 4, 2014

Fall Creek Falls State Park

Arrival Time will be after 2:00 P.M. May 2 and departure time will be 12:00 Noon on Sunday May 4. We have reserved Group Lodge No. 2.

The following prices will prevail:

All three Days \$40
Saturday only Breakfast and Dinner \$25
Sunday Breakfast only \$10.
Children 15 yrs. and younger free
First-Timers get 1/2 off

● Please also send an e-mail confirming registration to Robin Hill (robin.hill8@gmail.com), so that we can count heads for meals. Be sure to specify vegetarian or omnivore (meat eater) Payment will be accepted when you check in at the Group Lodge.

● Scholarships are available; contact Barbara Kelly, 423-718-5009 or bk1rivers@gmail.com

● We will serve a continental Breakfast on Saturday morning and a full evening meal on Saturday May 3 and a hot breakfast on Sunday morning May 4. Lunch will not be served on Saturday May 3 or Sunday May 4.

● There will be a hikes available with a leader on Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon and on Sunday morning. Wildflowers should be present in abundance on both days.

● The Program after the evening meal on Saturday will feature the work of the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC). Our Chapter Conservation Chair Axel Ringe arranged this program. The SELC organization is Southeast-wide with offices in Asheville, Nashville, Atlanta and Birmingham. Our Chapter often partners with SELC for projects in East and Middle Tennessee and for review and comment on proposed legislation and proposed changes in regulations by State of Tennessee regulatory organizations.

Meetings

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

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga) -- 2014: Learn Globally, Then Act Locally

Act: DIY Solar Panel Workshop, March 1 (Sat) led by Davis Mounger. This will be from 10:00-12:30 at Chattanooga School Of Arts & Sciences (CSAS); come to the cafeteria entrance in the back and go to the lobby on the second floor. Our two part solar workshop covers two areas: learning the basics of a grid-tied system and building a stand-alone system. We'll walk you through the popular Enphase system, where solar panels are tied directly into a breaker box, and a routing system called Envoy logs solar performance and sends it to a website for you to view at any time. We'll discuss layout, expenses, skills, and the latest in solar tech. The DIY stand-alone shows how you can build a solar panel from the cell up using silicone encapsulation. The discussion then moves to charge controllers, inverters, and battery arrays. For more information, call Davis at 423. 877. 4616 or wdmounger@yahoo.com

Strategy/Business Meetings: March 10 and April 14 (2nd Monday) 6:30 P.M. - Held at Second Presbyterian Church, at the corner of E. 7th Street and Pine, 700 Pine Street - parking is free in their Pine Street lot, across the street from the church, next to the old Blue Cross (orange) building. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome -- this is where and when we plan our actions! Come add your ideas and share your concerns. To place on item on the agenda, contact Secretary Barbara Kelly at 423. 718. 5009 or bk1rivers@comcast.net, preferably a week before our meeting

March Program: 4th Monday, MARCH 24, 7:00 P.M. at Outdoor Chattanooga, Coolidge Park, 200 River Street, Chattanooga.

Learn: Rain Water Collection Systems, presented by Joseph Sumpter. Joseph will talk about the different rainwater collection systems for different purposes and their benefits, which help the homeowner/gardener reduce runoff and pollution and take the stress off aging municipal systems. We will hear about his travels to Australia to study their innovative practices, and his work on third-world applications in Venezuela as well.

A general residential contractor and Green Certified Builder in Sewanee, Joseph has worked on a wide variety of projects -- for small and large homes as well as whole-house stand alone applications, and commercial buildings like St. Andrew School's Science Building, where the rain water collection is a focal point for collecting/using non-potable water and provides learning for the students at the same time. Come for a very interesting program!

The Energy Watchers will have a practical how-to tip to cut your home energy bill!

Act: Build Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop in April 26, 12 noon, at Outdoor Chattanooga. Get ready to catch your own rain water! Co-sponsored by the Master Gardeners, we'll have details and sign-ups at the meeting and later on-line. Charge for the materials is \$35; you will need to transport your barrel home that day. Watch our Facebook Page (Cherokee Sierra) for more details, and catch our E-News.

The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Bring something along to share if you'd like. Parking is free in the driveway and parking lot behind the building, or paid parking is available in the Theatre lot. Invite your friends!!

April Program: 4th Monday, April 28, 7:00 P.M. at Outdoor Chattanooga, Coolidge Park, 200 River Street, Chattanooga.

Learn: Edible Landscaping. In his presentation on Edible Landscaping, John Evans will offer ideas and practical tips for integrating edible plants into the home landscaping. Learn how to make

your own yard nutritious and delicious as well as aesthetically pleasing.

John is a skilled botanist and plant ecologist who has been formally studying the plant communities of eastern Tennessee since 2002. His research includes identifying the pollinators of native orchids in the Smoky Mountains, studying the characteristics of invasive exotic plants in eastern Tennessee, and documenting the plant species composition of the Sequatchie Valley. He also has a keen interest in organic farming and sustainable agriculture. He has a passion for preserving the native plant species of the eastern United States as well as promoting sustainable living on local scales.

Also, The Energy Watchers will have a new how-to tip to cut your energy bill!

Act: Wildflower Outing to the Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail, May 10, at the base of Pigeon Mountain just down the road in Georgia. John Evans will be our guide to view spring ephemeral wildflowers. They bloom profusely in early May, then fade quickly from the scene. This trail is brilliant with native flowers that many people never get to see. To register, and for details of time and meeting place, contact Barbara Kelly, bk1rivers@gmail.com or 423. 718. 5009.

The public is very welcome and healthy snacks are served. Parking is free in the driveway and parking lot behind the building, or paid parking is available in the Theatre lot. Invite your friends!!

Want to subscribe to Cherokee Sierra's monthly E-News? Contact Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

<http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/> for meeting information.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

March 11, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville: Preview of Harvey Broom Group 2014 Outings Program Ron Shrieves, Harvey Broome Group, Sierra Club, Outings Coordinator

The annual outings program provides a preview of the HBG's outings program for 2014 and a slideshow from past outings. Included in this year's program are 12 backpack trips, 22-day hikes, 4 canoe/kayak day trips, and 1 snorkeling adventure. This year we will again offer the HBG "Take-a-Hike" program, a series of day hikes that will increase the skills and confidence of first time hikers. A special feature of these beginner day hikes is that they will provide a guided tour of all the major ecosystem types in the biologically diverse Great Smoky Mountains. Invite anyone who is interested in exploring the outdoors to come and find out more about HBG outings.

April 8, 7:00PM, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville: Three Dimensional Stream Mapping Paul Ayers, Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Paul Ayers, University of Tennessee biosystems engineering professor, has developed an underwater video system that, in combination with surface videos, gives a complete picture of the stream - the underwater features, depth, and materials along the bottom. His team completed a river habitat-mapping project that took place in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The data this equipment collects has been digitized into computerized maps that help biologists locate suitable habitat for the park's endangered fish and mussels.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM: March 13, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center (always enter from Granny White Pike)

America's National Parks, Forests, and Wildlife Heritage: Mack Prichard narrates a program on the roots of American conservation from the gospel of Thoreau, Muir, both Presidents Roosevelt, and latter day saints and sinners. Also

highlighted will be the value of volunteer efforts to shape our governmental agencies to respond to increasing "population, technocracy and greed".

Mack, the Tennessee State Archaeologist Emeritus and the State Naturalist Emeritus, will illustrate his presentation with the best of his 50-plus year photo archive from Tennessee and the U.S.A. Mack has been involved in co-founding about 30 Tennessee coalitions, including our Sierra Club Chapter. Through "benevolent manipulation" he helped save over 30 parks, natural areas, and historic sites, including Radnor Lake and Savage Gulf.

If you enjoyed Ken Burns's recent videography of "The National Parks - America's Best Idea," you'll like Mack's version, peppered with quotations and his "stories behind the scenery." For many years Mack's program was voted the best of university recreation consortiums at Camp Tremont in the Smokies because he used Forbes's maxim, "The truth doesn't hurt, unless it ought to." We hope to see you at this special program.

Please note that because of a family health issue, Mack Prichard MAY not be able to present on March 13. If this happens, we will find someone to fill in, and Mack will be here later in the year. If you want to subscribe to MTG's monthly e-newsletter, contact Adelle Wood at adelleintn@juno.com.

PROGRAM: April 10, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center

Coal's Alternatives - Friendly to Air, Climate, Water, and Economy: Chris Ann Lunghino, Tennessee Organizing Representative for the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign, will present this informative program on coal and it's alternatives. Coal fired power plants are dirty, expensive, and risky. But can we meet our energy needs in Tennessee without them? Many people today would say absolutely not! This program will provide information about the clean energy alternatives to burning coal for power and a summary of the impacts of burning coal for power on our air, climate, and water. You'll hear about the planning process the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is currently undertaking to guide power generation for the Tennessee Valley into the next decade, and how you can have a voice in that process. The program will also explore the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources on both the national and the Tennessee economies and jobs markets, as well as success stories from around the county of just and responsible transitions for workers in communities impacted by coal-fired power plant closures. Come hear how you can help transition TVA away from coal, nuclear, and natural gas, and toward reliable and affordable energy efficiency, wind, and solar - a move that will slow climate change, lower utility bills, and create thousands of high value Tennessee jobs!

This program is free and open to the public.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: March 18 and April 15, third Tuesdays at 6:30 P.M.

Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Meetings are usually held at the Mad Platter Restaurant, 1239 Sixth Ave. North, Nashville 37208 (near the Nashville Farmer's Market), but there may be times we meet elsewhere. *If you are not a regular attendee*, please contact Betsy at 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com in case the meeting location has changed. Come a bit early because we start the meeting at 6:30. The Mad Platter is not open on Tuesday evenings, so be sure to eat before you come or bring something with you. We look forward to seeing you.

MTG OUTINGS: To check out our outings, please click on the outing of choice at <http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures/events/calendar/>

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

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Emily Marr Davis is our Outings Chair, and point-person for outings information for our Group. Our activities are always open to the public and to members of the Club from across our state! Outings are planned to take in the interests and skill levels of the participants. For more information, contact Emily at emily.marr.davis@gmail.com. Please check our Facebook page, Cherokee Sierra, for the latest on our outings.

March 1 (Sat.) Build Your Own Solar Panel Workshop, presented by Davis Mounger. This will be 10:00-12:30 at Chattanooga School Of Arts & Sciences (CSAS); come to the cafeteria entrance in the back and go to the lobby on the second floor. Our two part solar workshop covers two areas: learning the basics of a grid-tied system and building a stand-alone system. We'll walk you through the popular Enphase system, where solar panels are tied directly into a breaker box, and a routing system called Envoy logs solar performance and sends it to a website for you to view at any time. We'll discuss layout, expenses, skills, and the latest in solar tech. The DIY stand-alone shows how you can build a solar panel from the cell up using silicone encapsulation. The discussion then moves to charge controllers, inverters, and battery arrays. For more information, contact Davis at 423. 877. 4616 or wdmounger@yahoo.com

April 26 (Sat) Build Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop, 12 noon, at Outdoor Chattanooga. Charge for materials, \$35; you'll need to transport your barrel home after! Sign-up and further details at our meetings--places go fast. Co-sponsored by the Cherokee Group and the Hamilton Co. Master Gardeners. For further information contact Alice Demetreon, demetreon1981@gmail.com

May 10 (Sat.) May Wildflower Walk on the Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail, at the base of Pigeon Mountain just down the road in Georgia. John Evans will be our guide to view spring ephemeral wildflowers. They bloom profusely in early May, then fade quickly from the scene. This trail is brilliant with native flowers that many people never get to see, and has a long section that is fitted with boardwalk for anyone who might have accessibility issues. To register, and for details of time and meeting place, contact Barbara Kelly bk1rivers@gmail.com or 423. 718. 5009.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

1 March (Sat). Dayhike, Rich Mtn. Loop Trail, GSMNP. Starting from the Rich Mountain Loop Trailhead on Cades Cove Loop Road (park at Loop entry station, or Cades Campground parking lot if necessary), we will hike up Crooked Arm Ridge Trail, across Indian Grave Gap Trail, then back to the starting point via Rich Mtn. Loop Trail. Good views of the Cove before foliage grows. Distance about 8 miles. Rated difficult due to elevation change. One-way drive: 50 miles. Pre-register with Conrad Ottenfeld, co11505@charter.net; 865-288-097.

8 March (Sat). Dayhike, Piney Falls and Stinging Fork State Natural Areas, Grandview and Spring City. This dayhike combines two short spectacular waterfall hikes – Piney Falls and Stinging Fork. Both hikes are in the Walden Ridge section of the Cumberland Mountains, near Spring City, and are separated by a distance of about 10 miles. Each trail is about 3 miles

roundtrip; however, there are some slippery trail sections and some elevation changes. The Piney Falls hike features the 80-foot upper falls with a concave ledge circling behind and around the falls. Below the falls is a large pool that drops over the 40-foot lower Piney Falls. This hike also features gorges, overhangs, and old growth forest. Stinging Fork Falls is a segment of the Cumberland Trail. This hike features the overlook into the Stinging Fork Gorge and the creek cascading over a 35-foot fan-shaped fall into a blue-green pool. This area was one of the original Bowater Paper Company Pocket Wilderness Areas. Rated moderate. The drive from West Knoxville is about 50 Miles. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 229-5027.

15 March (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Knoxville Urban Wilderness, William Hastie Natural Area. This will be a get-acquainted session for those interested in the Harvey Broome Group Take-a-Hike program, and includes a short, easy hike for folks who do not have any wilderness hiking experience, but would like to try it. This will be the first in a series of increasingly challenging hikes for those who have always wanted to find out what it's like. No special equipment, not even hiking boots, is required for this outing. In fact, we'll talk about what you should have in order to hike safely in the Smokies or other nearby wilderness areas. Handouts will be provided with details on information sources and equipment. So if "you always wanted to know, but were afraid to ask," this is your chance. There is no charge. Participants are expected to be in reasonable shape for a three-mile walk on a paved path, and to have aspirations for advancing to a level where they are comfortable with taking a five-mile hike in the Smoky Mountains. The Urban Wilderness Loop is in South Knoxville. Contact: Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com

22-23 March (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Virgin Falls Trail, Virgin Falls State Natural Area. We will visit what was formally known as Bowater Corporation's first pocket wilderness on this 9-mile "lollipop" route. Sights include Big Branch Falls, the Caney Fork Overlook, Big Laurel Falls, Sheep Cave and the 110-foot Virgin Falls, who's stream disappears into a sinkhole at the base of the falls. The trail is rocky and has some steep areas. Rated moderate. The driving distance is about 90 miles each way. For those preferring a dayhike, see the 10-Jan-15 outing. Pre-register with Rob Davis at 865-202-6661 or hikinrob@charter.net (email preferred).

5 April (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity Tour, Cove Hardwood Self-guiding Nature Trail, GSMNP. We will first stop at the Morton Overlook on the way up US-441 and survey the array of ecosystem types on display on the north-west side of Mount LeConte. We will then proceed to the Chimneys Picnic Area 4.4 miles south of Sugarlands Visitor Center on the Newfound Gap Road (US-441) to spend time in an uncut cove hardwood forest – the most biodiverse ecosystem type in the Smokies. On this 1.5 mile loop trail that begins at Chimneys Picnic Area, we'll spend time to learn about the structure and dynamics of this forest. Rated easy. One-way drive: 50 miles. Contact Mac Post: 938-3116, mpost3116@aol.com.

6 April (Sun). Dayhike, Eagle Rock Segment of Cumberland Trail (Cove Lake State Park to LaFollete). The Cumberland Trail extends from Kentucky to Georgia, and one of the best sections, Eagle Rock, is a short drive from Knoxville. It's one of the most geologically varied trails in east Tennessee, which we'll learn about as the trail follows the edge of the Cumberland Plateau. We'll start hiking at the Bruce Gap Road Trailhead near Cove Lake State Park and finish at the Tank Springs Trailhead near

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!

LaFollette. Along the way the wildflowers should be great and there's a wonderland of rock ranging from a "Great Wall of China" to a stone arch and lookouts, with long vistas, and at the south end is the Devil's Racetrack, visible from I-75. Total hiking distance 11.7 miles and rated Moderate. One-way drive: 39 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

April 12-13 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Piney River Segment of the Cumberland Trail. This segment of the Cumberland Trail is located near Spring City. The trail was one of the ten original Bowater Company Pocket Wilderness Areas. It is a linear trail alongside Duskin Creek and the Piney River, about 10 or 8.5 miles depending on whether one starts at the Newby Branch or Duskin Creek trailheads. The trail includes a number of interesting features – steel suspension bridges, an old narrow gauge railroad bed, waterfalls and cascades, and rock houses. The trail is also noted for its wildflowers and at this time of the year they should be incredible. We will begin the backpack at the Duskin Creek parking area, hike downstream, crossing a couple bridges and passing White Pine Cascades and Hemlock Falls, camp near Rockhouse Branch to allow exploration of the old lumber camp and the creek, hike out over a 100-foot suspension bridge, see lots of amazing wildflowers, and end the backpack at the Piney River trailhead (Shut In Gap Road). Rated moderate. We will do a car shuttle. The driving distance is about 60 miles from West Knoxville. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perlack: perlack@aol.com; 229-5027.

19 Apr (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Black Mountain Section, Cumberland Trail. This hike is unique in that it has dramatic overlooks, yet is almost entirely downhill. We begin atop Black Mountain near Crossville, and first follow an easy 1.5-mile loop that provides views of the Appalachians, Cumberlands, and Grassy Cove. Then we descend via well-graded switchbacks to a junction with a side trail to Windless Cave. The next portion of trail was just completed in 2013 by Cumberland Trail Conference volunteers, and winds up near our shuttle vehicles on TN-68. Total hiking distance is about 5 miles. Rated easy to moderate. One-way drive: 65 miles. Pre-register with Warren or Carol Devine, 483-7894 or warrendevine@comcast.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

March 1, 2014 Hall Spring and Woodlands Shelter: Montgomery Bell State Park Join State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath for a moderate walk on the MB Trail. He will lead you to the Hall Spring, an impressive water feature, the Woodland Shelter backcountry campsite, and perhaps show you the earliest of the spring wildflowers thru nice oak-hickory forest of the Western Highland Rim. Meet at the park office at 10 A.M. where we will organize and carpool to the trail access.

The 5 Worst Foods for Environmentalists to Eat

Spoiler alert: Stop reading now if you can't live without Quarter Pounders, packaged pastries, or expensive sushi. —*Avital Andrew*

We'll let Pulitzer Prize-winning food critic Jonathan Gold get on his soapbox for this one: "People need to stop eating BLUEFIN TUNA. Period. It'll be difficult because bluefin is uncommonly delicious and tends to be served at high-end sushi bars, where the fashion is to say 'omakase' and submit to the chef's will. But the numbers of these magnificent fish are dropping fast. If we don't stop eating them now, we'll stop in a few years anyway because there won't be any more." Carl Safina, who founded the Blue Ocean Institute, adds, "Because they're long-lived, bluefin populations don't stand up well to heavy fishing pressure—that's why they're so depleted. It's just too sad to eat them. Plus, big fish are high in mercury." To rein in your share of the overfishing disaster currently unfolding—bluefin stock is down by more than 96 percent from unfished levels—order a vegetarian roll instead.

The problem with CONVENTIONAL COFFEE, according to Stephen Madigosky, an environmental science professor at Widener University, "stems from manipulating this shade-loving plant into one that's grown in full sunlight and requires substantial use of herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, and fertilizers." He adds that biologically rich forests are cleared in favor of coffee crops, which devastates tropical species, especially migratory birds. Order organic java to cut out the pesticides, and choose shade-grown to protect rainforest biodiversity. Marc Lash, sustainability ambassador for FrontStreet Facility Solutions, points out that how you take your coffee makes a difference: "At Starbucks, a black cup of coffee has a carbon footprint of about 30 grams, whereas a venti caramel latte has one of



about 420 grams."

"Cheap burgers are environmental assassins," says Logan Strenchock, Central European University's sustainability officer. Feeding cows to turn them into FACTORY-FARMED BEEF often requires replacing tropical forests with fields of genetically modified corn and soy, which are laced with pesticides that pollute local waters. "It takes 10 to 14 pounds of grain-based feed for a cow to gain 1 pound of flesh," Strenchock says. "Once harvested, that flesh needs to be kept cold, consuming massive amounts of energy." If you must eat a dead cow, eat a grass-fed one, but even then, consider these words from Mary O'Brien, who directs the Utah Forests Program for the Grand Canyon Trust: "In the western U.S., cattle have the single most pervasive impact on public lands, depleting native biodiversity, increasing invasive exotics, diverting water, fouling streams, and baring the soil."

"GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN vio-

lates so many sustainability boundaries—destroying habitats, depleting soils, breaking nutrient cycles, polluting air and water, contaminating native maize varieties, and on and on," says Douglas Fox, a professor of sustainable agriculture at Unity College. Terry Walters, author of *Clean Food* (Sterling Epicure, 2012), says that such monocrops "put our bee population at risk and are creating superpests." She adds that corn's unhealthy offspring, high-fructose corn syrup, "takes a huge toll on the land, requires more pesticides and fertilizers over time as soil is depleted, and requires extensive processing." Lee Greene, who runs heirloom-food company Scrumptious Pantry, adds that relying on genetically modified crops "will continue to dramatically reduce biodiversity and drive historic fruits and vegetables to extinction."

"PALM OIL is one of the largest causes of rainforest destruction," says Laurel Sutherlin, a Rainforest Action Network spokesperson. According to RAN, U.S. palm oil use has ballooned by 500 percent over the past 10 years—it's now in about half of all packaged foods. Christy Wilhelmi, author of *Gardening for Geeks* (Adams Media, 2013), points out that this oil can be produced only in tropical areas—so huge swaths of ancient rainforest in Indonesia and Malaysia have been bulldozed to plant new palms. "Eight million acres have been cleared and burned already," Wilhelmi says, "and as a result, the orangutan is on its way to extinction." In Indonesia, deforestation-related carbon emissions—most of which are from expanding palm plantations—surpass the amount of pollution caused by all U.S. cars, trucks, planes, and ships. To avoid palm oil, read the ingredients on packaged goods, especially cookies, crackers, and instant-noodle soups.

Outings

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

May 3, 2014 Eastern Highland Rim Outing: *Edgar Evins State Park* and Cummins Falls State Park State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath will lead a pair of hikes on the Eastern Highland Rim at two state parks. First, meet at the Edgar Evins State Park office for a walk on the 2.5-mile Millennium Trail. After lunch we will travel up the road by vehicle for a 2-mile walk and swim at the Cummins Falls State Park. These walks are challenging because of hills but are still rated moderate.

Join us on one of our "Spring Creek Paddles." Led by Craig Jervis, we explore area waterways that are only navigable in spring or winter.

March 2	Jones Creek
March 9	Big Swan Creek
March 23	Turnbull Creek
March 30	Sycamore Creek
April 6	Yellow Creek
April 27	West Harpeth

Mill Creek and White's Creek in Davidson County will also be on the schedule for short paddles and possible 'cleanups'.

Spring Wildflower Strolls and Waterfall Hikes are on the agenda as well!

Check us out on Meetup for times and details....
<http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures>

Some Sierra Club Activities, 2004-2013

2004 Club and allies block proposals to allow oil and gas development in Montana's Rocky Mountain Front and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Club also blocks attempt to lift moratorium on offshore oil leases for California, Florida, and the East Coast.

2005 Club legal victory forces Bush administration to abandon plans for a logging project on the Grand Canyon's north rim. Club holds first-ever Sierra Summit — a national convention and exposition. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast with major devastation and loss of life. The Sierra Club works with Gulf communities on sustainable restoration. Sierra Club de Puerto Rico is formed as the Club's first Spanish-speaking chapter. Sierra Club de Puerto Rico works to gain protection for the island's Northeast Ecological Corridor — nesting ground for the endangered leatherback sea turtle.

2006 Club lawsuit succeeds in protecting Giant Sequoia National Monument from Bush administration plan to allow commercial logging.

2008 Club stops construction of 68 new coal-fired power plants. Club wins injunction to block the killing of wolves in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The Club endorses Barack Obama for president.

2009 Sierra Club successfully advocates for Omnibus Public Land Management Act — protecting more than two million acres of wilder-

ness, three new national parks, and 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers — in largest public-lands conservation effort in 20 years. More than 200,000 kids discover the joy of the natural world through the Sierra Club's outdoor programs and Water Sentinels program.

2010 The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign helps retire 80 of the country's 500 dirty coal-fired power plants and begin replacing them with clean energy. Over the past decade, Sierra Club chapters drive the establishment or expansion of renewable energy mandates in 28 states.

2011 The Sierra Club wins a campaign to preserve one million acres around the Grand Canyon as off-limits to new uranium mining. In addition, the Club achieves the milestone of defeating 150 proposed new coal-fired power plants, and reaches 1.4 million members and supporters.

2013 On February 13, Sierra Club President Allison Chin and Executive Director Michael Brune join dozens of environmental, civil rights, and community leaders from across the country for a historic display of civil disobedience at the White House, where they demand that President Obama deny the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline and address the climate crisis. Four days later, the Sierra Club and its allies take to the streets, hosting the largest climate rally in U.S. history at the Washington Monument.

A Note from Keven Routon, Tennessee Chapter Chair

Hello Sierrans,

2013 was an excellent year for our Chapter in many ways. There were many changes as it was the first year for me to serve as Chair, Scott Banbury's first term as Conservation Chair, and first term for Angela Garrone as Vice Chair. Fortunately we had many more experienced folks around to lend advice.

We kicked things off quickly by chartering two buses last February for the Keystone XL Pipeline Rally at the National Mall in DC. The Buses departed Memphis and we filled them up as we traveled across the state.

The Chapter experienced high Treasurer turnover in the early part of last year until Mary Mastin (a former Chapter Treasurer) stepped forward to serve once more as Treasurer for the remainder of the year. While this position may often be overlooked, it is vital to our organization and I cannot adequately express my gratitude to Mary. Perhaps another first for the Chapter was to contract with another former Chapter Treasurer as our bookkeeper. Rachel Floyd provided valuable assistance to Mary and will be of greater assistance to our new Treasurer in 2014, Alice Demetreon. My thanks to Alice for stepping forward this year. I think we have a great team in place and thank you all. We participated in flotillas to attract attention to TVA's use of coal and hosted a well-attended conference to network and promote awareness of the hazards of Hydraulic Fracturing, better known as "Fracking." We investigated remote gas wells

(but didn't visit all 12,000+ sites), and Cross-Ridge coal mining sites (think Mountain Top Removal). We also strengthened our partnership with the Beyond Coal Campaign Staff and participated in the selection of Chris Lunghino, who is the second full-time staff member working for the campaign in our state. Chris, welcome to the team!

While this year is still young, we've already had some firsts. At our January meeting the Executive Committee (ExCom) authorized for the first time a staff position. We recently received approval from the National HR Office for a Conservation Program Coordinator. Anticipating the likelihood of this approval, the ExCom voted overwhelmingly to select Scott to serve in this role during the January ExCom meeting. As Scott departs the Conservation Chair position, I cannot think of a better-qualified individual to lead our Conservation Program into the future than Axel Ringe. I was extremely pleased when he accepted this critical position within our Chapter. He and Scott worked very closely last year and I have extremely high expectations for 2014.

Other leadership changes for the year include Charles White serving as Vice Chair and Alternate CCL delegate. Charles recently graduated from MTSU and is among the most likable individuals I've ever met. Charles continues to serve on the Chickasaw Group's ExCom and as I expect great things from Charles, you will undoubtedly be hearing from him often this and

coming years.

Another first, or at least in recent memory was the extensive training at the January meeting. First we held Red Cross Basic First training at the Chapter Meeting. Phil and Emily Davis, Outings, and Outing Education Chairs provided the training with their son Patrick (our youngest attendee in recent memory). Expect to see additional Outings Leadership training at each of the Chapter meetings in 2014. Please come join us.

Then Christopher Anderson and Lynette King led us out to Middle Point landfill where we trained on the water testing equipment the Chapter recently purchased. Christopher and Lynette are working to revive the Water Sentinels program in our Chapter and acquiring additional test equipment and get members across the state trained to properly use the equipment.

I cannot say enough about our first meeting of the year, the music, the dancing, the diversity of attendees. What a great start to a new year! A big thank you to the Cherokee Group for hosting an incredible event.

There are many more who I did not address by name working hard for us every day, and I thank each of you as well. Please continue to make our world a better place.

In closing, I am sincerely proud of all that we achieved working together this past year and I have expectations of ever more greater accomplishment in this and coming years.

Thank you for making a difference! Keven

Success with Smith Mountain Fire Exclusion

By Davis Mounger

We're pleased to report that the Forest Service has agreed to exclude some of the proposed multi-burn project that it is proposing in the Ocoee District of the Cherokee National Forest. The project includes Smith Mountain, one of the declining areas in the forest that has been spared the frequent controlled burn regime that the Forest Service began some decades ago. With a third of its budget devoted to fire management, the Forest Service has embraced a theory that Eastern forests have varying degrees of fire dependency in the manner of Western forests. Many in the conservation community are becoming increasingly concerned that this theory is perhaps too broad-based and that its long term application could have deleterious consequences for our forests.

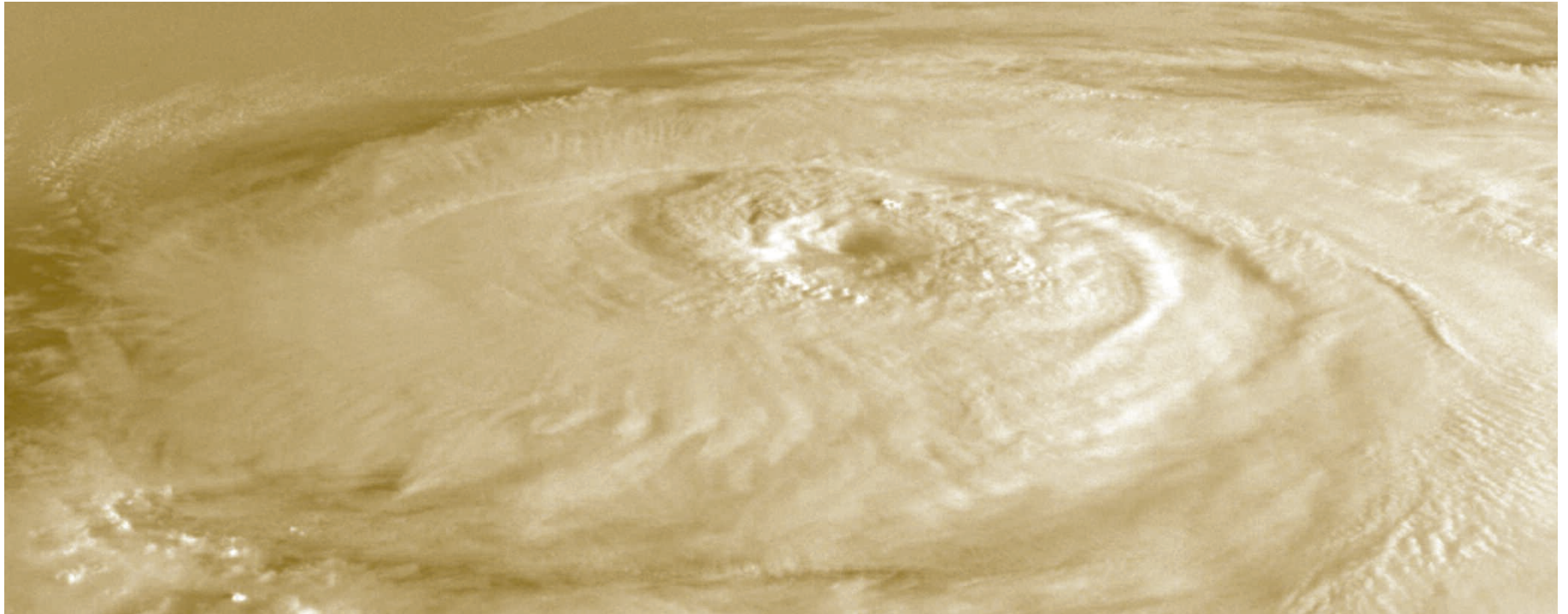
We recently hiked around Smith Mountain with some rangers and discussed the need for some areas to have natural processes occur, both in the interests of biodiversity and so that these areas could act as an ecological baseline against more managed forests. Ocoee District Ranger Michael Wright was receptive to our ideas, so he brought with him Forest Manager Bob Lewis and Fire Manager Stephen Carlson. Because the northeast portion of Smith Mountain is bounded by a road to the east and a permanent stream to the west, the rangers agreed that there would be a greater chance of being able to keep fire out during their controlled burns than in similar areas.

Most of the 250-acre area is either mixed mesophytic, dry mesic oak, or upland dry oak forest. Almost all of it dates from 1912-1925,

though their database lists some spots as having possible old growth remnants. We stressed the importance of including some upland/more xeric forest types, since those are the areas the agency focuses on burning, and unburned examples of that habitat are running out in this forest. Fortunately, there are a couple of mixed upland pine/oak stands included, so this parcel has a range of forest communities. There's also plenty of rhododendron thickets that local forest activist Kirk Johnson has pointed out to the agency is one of the reasons that Smith Mountain is prime deer and bear habitat.

Fire issues and fire ecology are not often discussed in forest conservation, but as fire's effects become more pronounced on the landscape, it is important that we become engaged in this discussion.





Super Typhoon A Wake-Up Call on Clean Energy

By Dan Byrnes, Sierra Club Media Team

Off the charts. Strongest of the season. Super typhoon.

These are the descriptors media reports have given to Typhoon Haiyan one of the strongest storms in recorded history, which made landfall in the Philippines on November 8, 2013.

With winds of up to 147 miles per hour, this typhoon might be stronger than any other of its kind to touch land in history. But even worse, the storm brought massive destruction to communities in the Philippines. At least four people were killed, and nearly 720,000 people were forced to evacuate their homes.

Just days after the first anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, which destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes and properties in the north-eastern United States, this super typhoon reminds us that increasing erratic weather has indeed become the new norm worldwide.

But we don't need to keep hearing these wake-up calls. We know what is fueling these superstorms, and there's something we can do about it. Climate disruption and its associated warmer temperatures are aggravating our weather patterns. Warmer ocean water pumps more energy into tropical storms, making them more intense and potentially more destructive. And warmer temperatures could increase the probability of drought and wildfire.

What can we do to slow these storms and save other communities from threatening blows? The U.S. must lead on global climate action by reducing and ultimately eliminating the number-one cause of climate disruption – carbon pollution.

True, the U.S. has made progress within its borders to reduce carbon pollution. A grassroots-led effort to move beyond fossil fuels like coal and oil and the advocacy of thousands has led us into a clean energy revolution with wind, solar, and other energy-efficient solutions. And the Environmental Protection Agency has proposed the first-ever standards to clean up dangerous carbon emissions from new power plants in the U.S., the biggest unchecked source of climate-disrupting pollution.

But we need to scale these efforts up to a worldwide top priority if we want to see fewer weather-related catastrophes. The U.S. Department of Treasury has said it would no longer fund dangerous coal projects abroad, and other international financial institutions in the U.S. government, like the U.S. Export Import Bank, will issue similar guidance. This momentum must pick up steam, because runaway climate disruption won't begin to subside until fossil fuels are left in the ground.

The situation is not hopeless -- we're moving toward clean energy at a record pace. But we have to do whatever it takes to protect families and communities around the globe from extreme weather fueled by the climate crisis. That's why, as our thoughts go out to the communities and families affected by Typhoon Haiyan, we must urge our leaders to move forward on clean energy and break the chains held by the fossil fuel industries that are taking us backward into a dark place. A world fueled by clean energy with a stable climate is possible. We're on the right path, and we can't afford to slow down.

Progress With Toxic Coal Ash

It's been over five years since a massive coal ash dump in Tennessee burst through a dam, destroyed dozens of homes, poisoned

thousands of fish and other wildlife and flattened 300 acres of river-front property. Since then, toxic coal ash has continued to contaminate our waters, threaten nearby communities and kill local wildlife.

But just this week, the EPA finally committed to a deadline for protecting citizens from this deadly waste.

This is a huge victory for those of us like you who spent years demanding help from our elected officials. Your voices were heard, and by December of this year, the EPA has promised to act.

When the EPA proposed the first-ever federal safeguards, you told them why it mattered. When some members of Congress tried to block the EPA, you wrote your elected officials and asked them to back off. When communities rallied in Washington, you gave them your support. And when Earthjustice lawyers went to court to force the EPA to set a deadline for these protections, they knew they had your support!

Our fight continues as we push the EPA to set the strongest protections under the law for toxic coal ash. The power industry wants to avoid cleaning up their mess.

This year, let's continue telling the EPA to set the strongest, federally enforceable safeguards from coal ash. Together, we can protect our waters and our communities from coal ash pollution.

Sincerely,
Jared Saylor, Campaign Director for **Earth Justice**

Moving?



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