



Protect

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MAY 2011

LETTER FROM JOHN MCFADDEN

Dear Friends,

Thanks for your continued support of the Council's work. You have helped us fix stream banks, plant trees, determine legislative priorities for TN and more. This newsletter brings you highlights of our recent work including:

- TN Tree Project
- DROP
- Green Tie Affair
- Community Shares
- Sustainable TN
- Upcoming Events

This issue also serves as our Annual Fund appeal. Your contributions support all of our work. Please use the enclosed envelope to donate to the Council today.

We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events,

John McFadden
Executive Director

Tennessee Environmental Council Celebrates 40 Years

The 20th Annual Green Tie Affair on April 2 Celebrated Long-Time & New Council Members, Supporters, and Friends

Tennessee Environmental Council celebrated 40 years of educating and advocating for the conservation and improvement of Tennessee's environment, communities, and public health at the 20th annual Green Tie Affair on April 2, 2011 at the Limelight entertainment venue in Nashville.

We presented the 2011 Sustainable Tennessee Award to Mayor Karl Dean and his wife, Anne Davis in recognition of their commitment to making Nashville one of the greenest cities in the Southeast.

The Mayor's accomplishments include creating the Office of Environment and Sustainability, the recent unveiling of a comprehensive open space plan to conserve 22,000 acres over the next 25 years in conjunction with the Land Trust for Tennessee, and much more.

The 2011 Green Tie Affair was also a celebration of the Council's 40th anniversary. The Council has accomplished much in the past 40 years. We won the 1996 Tennessee Trails Association Award in recognition for bringing a

\$1.125 million clean water suit against the Dana Corporation. The settlement money helped create the Duck Rivers Opportunity Project, and in 2009, the Council and Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA) received the Tennessee Governors Environmental Stewardship Award for the aquatic preservation efforts of the project.

representatives of private business and industry across the state. More than 750 participants and 250 organizations have helped draft and implement the Sustainable Tennessee Agenda. More information on Sustainable Tennessee can be found on Page 3.

A special thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, donated an auction item, purchased an auction item or simply sent us best wishes for a successful Green Tie Affair. We appreciate your support and hope everyone had as much fun as we did.



2011 Green Tie Affair Sponsors:

Steward

Green Power Switch
Horne & Associates CPA
Cedar City Consulting
Lightwave Solar Electric
Joe Prochaska & Catherine Sou-daplatoff

Supporter

Natural Awakenings
Jack Daniel Distillery
Mars Petcare
Thomas & T. Onalee Crocker

Please visit the Green Tie Website for a full list of sponsors, pictures from the event and more at www.tectn.org/greentie.php

Tiffany Wilmot, John Noel, Chris Bowles, Anne Davis, Mayor Karl Dean, Greer Tidwell, John McFadden, Gretchen Hagle

The Council has also worked to protect other important areas across the state including the Pigeon River, the Hatchie River and Rumbling Falls.

In 2007, the Council partnered with Tennessee Conservation Voters to launch Sustainable Tennessee, a coalition of citizens, conservation groups, environmental policy experts, students, educators and repre-

Tennessee Tree Project

Planting 1 million native trees in Tennessee



Employees from Mars Petcare Plant Trees in Lebanon. More info at www.tectn.org/tree

Trees provide thousands of dollars of benefits each year including oxygen, reducing air pollution, improving water drainage, and increasing property values. The benefits are countless, and our goal is to plant one million native trees in TN.

We have planted nearly 30,000 trees since 2007 by partnering with businesses, churches, schools and other organizations to host tree

events in the community. Here's how we might partner with your group:

- Host a tree planting event. Trees can provide valuable and cost saving improvements to your grounds including providing shade, cutting heating/cooling costs, helping with water drainage, and adding beauty. You might also wish to partner with a park, a non-profit organization such as Habitat for Humanity to plant

trees at their location. Or perhaps there is an environmentally sensitive area that can benefit from a tree planting event.

- Host a tree giveaway for your organization or in the community. Your group would give trees away for participants to plant at home, and you could collect donations for the Council and possibly for your non-profit organization as well.

Community Shares

Tennessee Environmental Council is a proud member of Community Shares. Community Shares is a federation of 53 member organizations who are dedicated to building social and economic equity as well as a healthier environment for all Tennesseans.

In order to fund their member organizations, Community Shares raises money through payroll deduction campaigns in the workplace. Here is where YOU can help.

If your workplace offers an employee giving campaign or would like to, please contact the Council at tec@tectn.org

so that we can work to provide a choice in employee giving campaigns. This will allow more individuals to support the work of Tennessee Environmental Council.

For more information visit www.communitysharestn.org



Mack Prichard, State Naturalist Emeritus and State Archaeologist Emeritus, and Don Safer, Council Board Chairman at the 2011 Earth Day Celebration in Nashville. The Council planted and gave away over 1,000 trees at various Earth Month celebrations!



John McFadden & 125 fifth graders from Chapel Hill Elementary School planted 200 native tree seedlings near the Duck River on February 16, 2011. The project is part of a watershed education project sponsored by the Friends of Henry Horton State Park and The Council.



Kevin Burke inspects revetments along a stream in Spring Hill as part of the Duck River Opportunities Project. The Duck River is one of the most biologically diverse in the U.S. The revetments prevent further erosion of the stream bank. The Council hosts monthly volunteer stream restoration projects in Spring Hill...join us!



Sustainable Tennessee

www.SustainableTN.org



Jennifer Smith, Lebanon Mayor Philip Craighead, Dwight Barnett, John McFadden and others plant a tree donated by TUFC at the 2010 Sustainable TN Summit

Sustainable Tennessee develops and implements the statewide Sustainability Agenda with the input of a broad coalition including citizens, conservation groups, environmental policy experts, elected officials, business, industry, and educational institutions.

The coalition met at the 2010 Sustainable Tennessee Summit in Lebanon to develop the 2011 Sustainable Tennessee Agenda. Nearly 200 individuals and 70 organizations have signed on in support of the 2011 Agenda.

In February 2011 we hosted Conservation Education Day at Legislative Plaza with more than 800 participants. A dedicated group of organizations and supporters met with their legislators to present the Agenda and discuss issues most important to them.

Actions & Accomplishments FOREVER GREEN TENNESSEE

Every \$1 invested in parks generates \$37 spent in the local economy. Keeping real estate transfer funds in the state budget will help generate approximately \$20 million per year to conserve Tennessee's natural treasures, bluffs, waterfalls, wetlands, rivers and wildlife areas and create jobs in farming, recreation and State Parks. The final vote to ensure this remains in the state budget is coming up soon.

For the latest updates and to take action today visit www.forevergreentn.wordpress.com

NUCLEAR WASTE & HAZARD

Tennessee is the nation's primary pathway for low level radioactive waste processing and disposal. We are the only state that routinely accepts materials from radioactive waste processors into landfills designed for household waste: 49 million pounds from 2004 through 2009. We are home to more radioactive waste incinerators and burners than all other states combined. Burning reduces the volume but not the amount of radiation, so the resulting ash has much higher concentrations of dangerous radiation. There is also a risk of particulate radiation slipping past the smokestack filters.

TVA considers nuclear power as an answer to the problems of coal and greenhouse gas emissions. It is trying to finish the controversial reactor at Bellefonte and lead the way in experimenting with "mini-nukes." The events in Japan solidify Sustainable Tennessee's position that clean, renewable energy and energy conservation are the solution to our future energy needs and that nuclear power is neither clean nor safe.

These are just a few of the radiation issues facing Tennessee today. For more information and to learn how you can take action today visit www.tectn.org.

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

TN Conservation Voters and Council Members helped stop a bill designed to kill the energy efficiency schools initiative in 2011. This program provides \$90 million for cutting K-12 operating costs, while increasing efficiency by upgrading insulation, heating and cooling equipment, and weatherization. The program was successfully preserved and will continue to create jobs in this sector.

Sustainable Tennessee Agenda

POLICY PRIORITIES

- 1) Green Jobs** - Promote green jobs including:
 - A. Clean Energy jobs in a new energy economy
 - B. Green jobs in solid waste management
 - C. Keep the real estate transfer fund in state budget to protect and create Tennessee jobs.
- 2) Comprehensive Land Use Plan** - Create a comprehensive land use plan that protects citizens from the devastation associated with flooding and other natural disasters.
- 3) Nuclear Waste** - Stop Tennessee from becoming the nuclear waste dumping grounds for the U.S.
- 4) Clean Water** - Protecting drinking water from siltation, the single largest cause of water pollution in Tennessee.

PRACTICE PRIORITIES

- 1) Evaluate, Reduce & Green Energy Use** - Conduct a home energy evaluation and act based on findings. Purchase at least one block of Green power and learn about, promote and participate as able in the TVA Generation Partners program.
- 2) Join Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership (TP3)** - We encourage all Tennesseans to become members and encourage cities, and county governments and local chambers of commerce to use TP3 as a framework for business recruitment. Empower our youth by pledging their schools to the TP3 program and engaging in peer-to-peer education opportunities.
- 3) Plant Trees** - Plant and care for one native tree in the fall of each year. Plant a deciduous tree on the east, south or west of your home to save on cooling cost during the summer. Plant a row of evergreens on the north to block the cold north wind. Learn more at www.tectn.org/tree. Empower our youth by engaging them in reforestation projects in local parks and schools.
- 4) Sustainable Transportation** - Use mass transit, bike or walk at least once per month instead of using the car.
- 5) Recycle** - Recycle and/or compost food and yard waste, paper, cardboard, plastic, metals and other materials to the greatest extent possible.

Read & Sign the Agenda at www.SustainableTN.org

Tennessee Environmental Council Upcoming Events



May 20 – Sustainable Garden Tour & House Party – La Vergne

The suburbs are a mental picture of comfort to most Americans, but the boom era of suburban growth in this country has created a pattern with some inefficiencies. The Guenther homestead in La Vergne, TN is a thoughtful approach to overlay a sustainable approach to suburbia. It was chosen by the Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™) to be one of the first pilot sites across the country to test the nation's first rating system for green landscape design, construction and maintenance. Join us May 20 from 6-8pm for a house party and tour of this incredible garden. For more information or to register, visit www.tectn.org

May 21 – American Lung Association Fight For Air Walk/Tree Giveaway – Nashville

Did you know that four of the top ten "Asthma Capitals" in the United States are in Tennessee? Top Asthma Capitals for 2011 include Knoxville (rank 2), Memphis (3), Chattanooga (4) and Nashville (10). Tennessee Environmental Council believes that clean air is important to healthy communities and trees help clean the air. We'll be giving away trees at the Annual Fight For Air Walk on May 21 from 8:30am-12pm. For more information or to volunteer, visit www.tectn.org

June 18 – Stream Bank Restoration – Spring Hill

Silt and sediment from erosion is a major contributor to water pollution in our Tennessee stream. We'll be working from 9am-1pm to stabilize the stream bank. Please join us for this monthly Duck River Opportunities volunteer project in Spring Hill. For more information or to volunteer, visit www.tectn.org

SAVE A TREE! Do you receive Council emails? Our action alerts and announcements come by email – don't miss out! Sign up at: www.tectn.org click the "Newsletter" link.

JOIN US! Membership offers many benefits including discounts on Council events. We also welcome your business or organization to join. Look inside for more information.



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