

Tennessee Conservation League
Executive Director Search
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Dear Friends,

As executive director of the Tennessee Conservation League, my first priority would be to double your membership in two years. If I am unable to increase your membership by 9,000 within one year, I will tender my resignation and suggest that you find new leadership.

The 90's, environmentally speaking, will be the most important and challenging decade of the past 200 years. Without people, we are not going to be able to alter the course we've been traveling. And if we don't alter the course, there won't be any people in another 200 years.

It is not exactly fresh news that over the past 100 years we have nearly destroyed our forests, not only in Tennessee and not only in America but all over the world.

It is not a new concept that everything is connected - our forests, our wildlife, our waters, the air that we breath - and necessarily, therefore, interdependent to the whole, and important if life itself is to continue.

Everyone wants clean air and water, and healthy forests teeming with wildlife. Most people would like to see our scenic beauty protected, and our cultural and natural resources preserved for future generations.

So what's the problem? I maintain that it is the great strength of life itself, which is the problem. Its been going on millions of years. Neither the common person nor the mass of humanity has felt a need to worry about it. Life goes on, as they say. That's not what they worry about. That's not what they work for day by day.

The problem for most people is to make a living. Without greed and without commercialism, and without the trickle down effect which allows the common people to raise their families and live out their lives in relative comfort and happiness, there would be no problem.

What's the solution? We must educate and guide the greedy into finding ways to increase their profits through sound husbandry and environmental planning. We must do the same for capitalism, commercialism and industry.

In order to accomplish this, we need people. And by people, I mean their minds, their hearts and their convictions. Education, by itself, is not enough. Only through the process of stimulation and motivation can a functional integration and working solution to the problem be brought about.

As a newspaper reporter, writer and grass roots activist in Chattanooga for the past twenty years I have seen the fruit of this philosophy bloom and blossom from Chickmauga Creek to the Grand Canyon of the Tennessee, from Moccasin Bend to the first reunion in history of the Eastern and Western Bands of the Cherokee, along with great cultural and economic revitalization in between.

I know Al Gore and I believe he and our new president, Bill Clinton, both realize the importance that government must play if we are to accomplish what we have to accomplish over the next seven or eight years, not only in Tennessee but throughout America and the world if we're to have a 21st Century.

In closing, if you can't find leadership with fire in its belly, there's a long, cold winter a-coming. Good luck and God bless you.

Sincerely,
Naman Crowe