

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 34 Number 11 - November, 2003

Seed Orchards At Ames Hold Future For Tennessee Forests



Top Photo - Dr. Houston at the site of the new headquarters for the Shackelford Hardwood Seed Orchard
Bottom Photo: Dr. Houston shows one of the new plantings of Burr Oak seedlings.

By Nancy Brannon

Dr. Allen E. Houston, Associate Professor and Director of the Ames Forestry and Wildlife Programs, has visions of future forests in Tennessee and the mid-south that could be the key to southern forest regeneration. Thanks to \$334,000, the first year's portion of a \$1.3 million grant from the Margaret Finley Shackelford Trust, a seed orchard complex of hardwood trees is being established at Ames Plantation. The project is being conducted in cooperation with the University of Tennessee Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries and the Georgia State nurseries.

The orchards will eventually produce locally adapted hardwood seedlings, mainly varieties of oak, for an array of species. These seedlings are being selected on the basis of genetic qualities that lead to superior timber production and wildlife habitats.

Collaborator on the project, Dr. Scott Schlarbaum, Professor, and Director of the UT Tree Improvement Program, has noted that the project is a "holistic" approach toward improving Tennessee's forests and truly addressing the needs of wildlife.

Dr. Houston notes how southern hardwood forests have diminished both in quality and quantity over the decades. There has been quite a bit of research on the development of pine trees for the forestry industry, but very little on oak and other hardwood forests. This project could serve the interests of land preservationists, conservationists, environmentalists, and the forest industry. It could be a real boon to the local economy in the long run - protecting land, reforesting it in a way that keeps the land rural while increasing real dollar land value and improving wildlife habitat at the same time.

A 60-acre tract has been set aside for the establishment of these orchards, with another 100 acres of support land. A 10-foot-tall electric, solar-powered fence had to be erected to protect the seedlings from deer, "who consider them salad," Dr. Houston explains. But even after the seedlings become mature trees, the fences will need to remain since the deer "consider the seeds to be like candy," he says.

The Seed Orchard headquarters is located on LaGrange Road just south of Rube Scott Road, where an existing building is being renovated for working space, office, shop and processing facility to sort and store the collected seeds. One main wall in the building will be installed with a screen for slide shows and power point presentations. Dr. Houston expects the project to attract school children, as well as researchers from all over Tennessee, for educational purposes.

An old metal silo next to the building will be insulated and converted into a cooler to hold the seedlings until they can be planted and for holding collected seeds. "We gather literally tons of seeds," Dr. Houston explains.

This work is important to the local economy and to private landowners as well. "It is essential to get the landowners interested and invested in maintaining forested land," says Dr. Houston. This project will give researchers the information they need to be able to go into places where there has been a selective cut and analyze where and how many seedlings to replant to improve the quality of forested land. This could prove to be an invaluable

service to land owners.

Dr. Houston hastens to quell common myths about trees in forested areas. It was once thought that trees of larger size in the forest were the oldest and, following that, it has been traditional practice to harvest the biggest ones. But research has shown that all the trees in a particular area, though different sizes, can be around the same age. The main factor accounting for difference in growth is the amount of sunlight a tree receives. The larger ones tend to require more sunlight and, therefore, grow taller faster than surrounding trees as they forage for sunlight. Trees in the second tier of the forest canopy evolve to be more shade tolerant. The others in the forest are more likely those not thriving as well.

Our Wetlands Under Siege

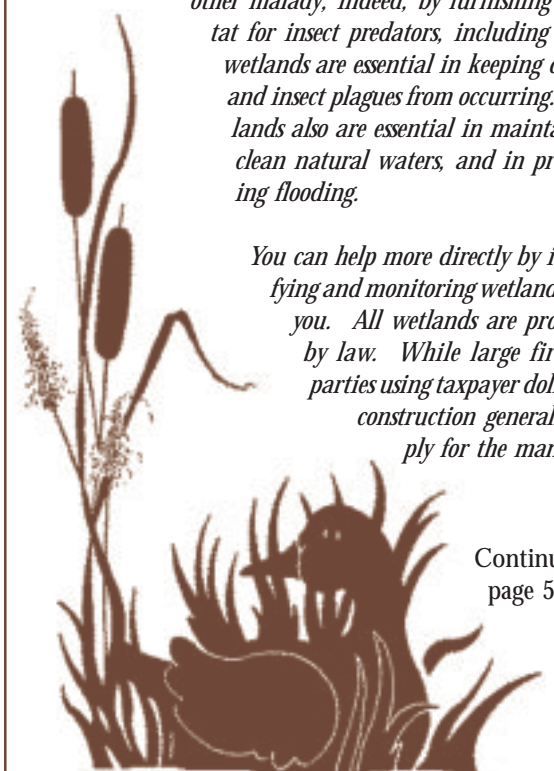
A Case of Marshaphobia

By John Harwood

Wetlands are important components of our ecology, providing beautiful landscapes which nurture diverse birds, amphibians and native plants. By providing habitat for insect predators, wetlands are essential in keeping disease and insect plagues from occurring. While all Tennessee wetlands are protected by law, we continue to lose these valuable resources.

You can help to protect our remaining wetlands. One way is to explain the benefits of wetlands to others. Our wetlands are not sources of West Nile Virus or any other malady; indeed, by furnishing habitat for insect predators, including birds, wetlands are essential in keeping disease and insect plagues from occurring. Wetlands also are essential in maintaining clean natural waters, and in preventing flooding.

You can help more directly by identifying and monitoring wetlands near you. All wetlands are protected by law. While large firms or parties using taxpayer dollars in construction generally apply for the mandated



Continued on page 5

Announcement

The Sierra Club's Environmental Quality Strategy Team (EQST) has voted to appoint James Baker as a new member of the Club's Water Committee, and he has accepted.

We thank you for sharing this Chapter leader



with us. His credentials were most impressive and we look forward to working with him.

James is part of the Sierra Club's Water Sentinel Team and has received several national grants for monitoring water quality on Tennessee streams.

Doris Cellarius, Co-Chair EQST

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail

*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:

Email: TennesSierran@aol.com

Snail Mail: Rachel Floyd, Tennes-Sierran Chief Editor
3223 Caldwell Road - Ashland City, TN 37015
(615) 792-2590

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 5th of the month preceding the new month's issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to TennesSierran@aol.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Mac users should embed text in body of an e-mail message only.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to e-mail or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten, or typewritten, articles may be accepted; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail can 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.

Moving?



Attach mailing address label in this box, or fill in current name, address & Membership ID#
Current Address:

Member ID# _____

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Mail to:
Sierra Club - P.O. Box 52968 -
Boulder, Colorado 80322-2968

Sierra Club 2003 Officers

Tennessee Chapter:

Chair: Liz Dixon (865) 693-4236
dixon@cs.utk.edu
Vice Chair: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
donrich@juno.com
Secretary: David Orr (865) 544-5892
davidorr@kornet.org
Treasurer: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
MaryMastinUSA@netscape.net
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 366-4738
GB1Nature@aol.com
Membership: Dick Mochow (901) 274-1510
dinimo@earthlink.net

TN Local Groups:

Cherokee Group - Chattanooga
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee

Chickasaw Group - Memphis
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
Chair: Charlie Rond (901) 452-8150
chasrond@bellsouth.net
Vice Chair: James Baker (901) 372-6717
aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net
Conservation: Allan Lummus (901) 722-9545
alummus@utm.edu
Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
Jhammond.tnpro@sdps.org

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
Chair: Roger Jenkins (865).690-3257
mcdonaldjenkins@twohikers.org
Vice-Chair: Temporarily Vacant

Conservation: David Reister (865)670-8991
dreister@bellsouth.net
Outings: Roger Jenkins (865).690-3257
mcdonaldjenkins@twohikers.org

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chapters/tn/mtg
Chair: Rachel Floyd (615) 792-2590
Rfloyd557@aol.com
Vice Chair: Katy Butcher (615) 347-1480
JLCLBUTCH@comcast.net
Conservation: Katy Butcher (615) 347-1480
JLCLBUTCH@comcast.net
Outings: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
adelicia1@aol.com

State of Franklin Group
- Bristol/Johnson City/Kingsport
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/sofg
Chair: Linda C. Modica (423) 753-9697
lmodica@aol.com
Conservation: Catherine Murray (423) 929-8163
Cfvcatherine@worldnet.att.net
Outings: John Arwood (423) 926-9876
Trail_Work_Play@hotmail.com

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg
Chair: Peggy Evans (931) 432-6680
maevans@twlakes.net
Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142
Jmcquail@tntech.edu
Conservation: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
MaryMastinUSA@netscape.net
Outings: John Harwood (931) 528-6395
jharwood@tntech.edu
Grp Newsletter Heather Hardison
nushu@citlink.net

Tennessee Sierra Staff:

Rita Harris, Community Organizer
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org

Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed



©Donald Muir Bradburn

Turn inspiration into preservation.

Like Ansel Adams before him, the work of Donald Muir Bradburn is intensely honest, reflecting the passion of his childhood memories of the Mississippi Barrier Islands, which his photography helped save. For millions of people, the Sierra Club turns that same passion for nature into something just as moving—successful protection of our natural treasures. Insure tomorrow is filled with scenes that inspire. Join us. You'll be in good company.

Join today and
receive a FREE
Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



My Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
Please charge my Mastercard Visa Amex
Exp. Date ____/____/____

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

| Membership Categories | INDIVIDUAL | JOINT |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| INTRODUCTORY | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | |
| REGULAR | <input type="checkbox"/> \$39 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$47 |

Contributions, gifts and dues to the 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 \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W4300**¹
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sign on to Save Our Smokies!

To subscribe to the Greater Smoky Mountains Coalition (a.k.a. Save Our Smokies - SOS) listserve, just send a blank e-mail to:
Greater_Smoky_Mountains_Coalition-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
You will receive a subscription confirmation message. Just reply to the confirmation message, and your subscription will be complete.

If you run into any difficulties, just e-mail Liz Dixon at dixon@cs.utk.edu

News from Chickasaw

Compiled by Various Members

Paddling the "Father of Waters"

In mid-September, James Baker, the Chickasaw Group vice-Chair and Tennessee Water Sentinels Project Coordinator went out on the Mississippi River in a two-seat sea kayak, courtesy of Joe Royer. Joe is a Chickasaw Group member, a past Group Chair, and is the President of Outdoors, Inc., which has three stores in the Memphis area that cater to outdoor enthusiasts. After a short lesson in paddling basics they paddled through Wolf River Harbor and out onto what the Native Americans called, "Messipi" ("Big River") or "Mee-zee-see-bee" ("Father of Waters"). The "Father of Waters" is an appropriate nickname for this great river. Of the world's rivers, the Mississippi ranks third in length, second in watershed area, and fifth in average discharge. James commented to Joe that he thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It is important to enjoy something in order to protect it. When one gets next to or on a stream and begins to interact with it, to learn its physical, chemical and biological nature, an enjoyment sets in. Our protective instincts kick in and what was once an anonymous body of water becomes a second home.

To learn more of what you can do to protect a stream in your area, please contact James Baker, the Project Coordinator for the Tennessee Water Sentinels at (901) 372-6717 or aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net.

Legislative Reception

The Chickasaw Group reception for the Shelby County Delegation to the Tennessee General Assembly was christened by several Tennessee legislators as "the best reception they had attended in Shelby County this year." The legislators were honored at a reception October 3rd at the Magnolia Room, Overton Square in Memphis. Special guests were the out-of-town speakers for the Sierra Club Environmental Justice Conference the following day. The gathering brought together 61 Sierrans and EJ neighborhood activists with their Tennessee legislators. The Tennessee Chapter's lobbyist, Mike Murphy, attended.

Legislators at the reception were State Senators Steve Cohen and James Kyle, and State Representatives Carol Chumney, Barbara Cooper, Mike Kernell, Joe Towns, Jr., and Larry Turner. Chumney was endorsed last month by the Chickasaw Group in her candidacy for a seat on the Memphis City Council.

The Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program Conference guests were Dr. Bunyan Bryant, keynote speaker from the University of Michigan; Kim Defeo, Manager of the Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program; Rhonda Anderson, Sierra Club EJ Organizer in Detroit, Michigan; Camilla Feibelman, Sierra Club EJ Media Specialist from Washington, D.C.; and Rita Harris, EJ Organizer in Memphis.

Members got a chance to engage in "one-on-one" conversations with their representatives on a variety of issues in an informal and friendly atmosphere. A good time was had by all to judge by the lively conversations and comments from legislators and members. For many members this was their first Chickasaw event. Among the "first-timers" attending were Si and Michelle Janna, Peggy and Bill Veaser, Mary E. Streete, Tim and Karen Soro, Patty McLaughlin, Myrna Bradley, Abbas Kitabchi, and Judy Johnson.

The Environmental Justice Program and the Sierra Club Tennessee Water Sentinels had displays of safe neighborhood and clean water activities in Memphis and Shelby County. Woody Pierce, Gene Allmendinger, Mike Sullivan, and James Baker made the rounds photographing legislators with their constituents.

Special thanks go to the Legislative Reception Committee, James Baker, Judith Hammond, and Irene Wade for making this event happen. Volunteers working with them on the event were Faith Barcroft, Harriett Boone, Sarah McGhee, Dick Mochow, Gwen Pospisil, Jill Johnston, and ExCom members, Stanley Abel, Clark Buchner, Allan Lumus, Carolyn Pierce, Don Richardson, Charlie Rond, and Teri Sullivan.

Others attending and enjoying the buffet of beef tenderloin and rolls; fresh fruit, veggies, and cheese; and jerk chicken were Margaret Dixon and Rex Felbe, Ed and Juliet Phillips-Jones, Barbara Standing, Karen Prosser, Roy Oglethorpe, Jody Patterson, Becky Barnhardt, Ernestine Carpenter,

Mondell B. Williams, Margaret Thomas, Guy Weaver, Jay Sparks, Kathey New, Bob Hayes, Dale Engleberg, Wanda Martin, Becky Long, Shannon Ivey, and Franklin Stentz.

Pat and Bert Merrill, Ken and Lois Kuiken, Diane Bowen, and Ward Smith, who are longtime members and stalwarts of the Sierra Club and other conservation groups were present as well.

Environmental Conference

On October 4, 2003, the Chickasaw Group and Rita Harris, the Sierra Club's EJ Organizer in Memphis held a conference entitled "Be Aware, Build Your Environmental I.Q.". The conference was held on the campus of LeMoyne-Owen College, which was also a cosponsor of the event. The 95 attendees browsed through the literature, viewed the displays and attended 16 workshops on issues ranging from air and water pollution, to using the Internet to gain knowledge of environmental issues, and to recreational enjoy-

Continued on page 5

Top Photo - Taking a break while paddling upstream, Water Sentinel James Baker observes a blue heron at close range. To paddle upstream, one stays very close to the bank to avoid the powerful current. Photo by Joe Royer

2nd Row Photo - Riding the runoff from a million square miles, Joe and James approach the Hernando DeSoto Bridge at about four miles an hour. In addition, pollutants in this great watershed will flow past this point on their way to the Gulf of Mexico. Photo by James Baker

3rd Row Photo - Legislative Reception attendees (Left to Right) Tim Soro, Rep. Barbara Cooper, Karen Soro and Ernestine Carpenter. Photo by Gene Allmendinger

4th Row Photo - Lively conversation taking place at Legislative Reception. (Left to Right) Barbara Standing Rep. Barbara Cooper. Photo by Gene Allmendinger

5th Row Photo - Newcomers (Left to Right) Michelle and Si Janna, along with Sierra stalwarts Pat and Bert Merrill discuss issues with Rep. Carol Chumney at Legislative Reception. Photo by James Baker

6th Row, Left Photo - Rhonda Anderson, the EJ Organizer from Detroit gives her presentation at EJ conference as Community People, Chickasaw members and Kim Defeo, the National EJ Program Manager listen. Photo by James Baker

7th Row, Left Photo - Camilla Feibelman (standing) discusses creating good media opportunities and relations. Photo by James Baker

Bottom Left Corner Photo - Dr. Bunyan Bryant gives the keynote address for EJ Conference attendees. Photo by Teri Sullivan



Meetings



HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, November 11, 7:30 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. For our November program, we welcome Terry Maddox, the Executive Director of the Great Smoky Mountains Association. Terry will be speaking about the Association, which is celebrating the 50th year of its formation. The Association is a nonprofit organization which supports the Great Smoky Mountains National Park primarily through publications for the Park, such as the Hiking Guide of the Smokies, and through operations of visitor center book stores. Call Priscilla Watts at 865-966-4142 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, November 25, 7:30 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. If you're interested in getting more involved or in finding out about what drives the Sierra Club in this area, this is the meeting to attend. Call Roger Jenkins at 865-690-3257 for more information.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, November 13 at 7:00 P.M.. At Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. The Faces of Melanesia - A Visit to Papua New Guinea and the Islands of the South Pacific. Michael Doochin and Linda Kartoz-Doochin will present a photographic travelogue of their recent journey to visit the diverse people and habitats of Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tikopia and New Caledonia. We will first travel to Papua New Guinea (PNG), to visit the people of Karawari River villages in the Sepik River area and to explore the fascinating cultures along the jungle fringed waterways. Then, we will venture into the southern highlands (over 7,000 feet), home of the unique Huli people. Between the two, we will see a range of habitats and an abundance of plant and animal life- from spectacular lowland rainforests of the coastal plains to the high peaks.

From PNG, our travel turns toward the cultures of the South Sea Islands of Melanesia as we continue to explore the cultures and environments of the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia. In addition, we visit the island of Tikopia, a beautiful Polynesian enclave destroyed by a cyclone only weeks after the visit. Expect to see a lot of color, traditional costumes, and dancing.

Our speakers, Michael and Linda, met while both were students at the Harvard Business School. For over 20 years they and their children have traveled the road less taken sharing their zest for learning and their interests in nature, anthropology and art. Their interests in indigenous cultures have propelled them to visit the stone age Asmat tribes of Irian Jaya, the Dogon of Mali, the Masai of Tanzania and many others. They have chased total eclipses of the sun from Hawaii to India, and trekked through the Bwindi Inpenetrable Forest of Uganda to catch a glimpse of the endangered silverback gorilla.

Both Mike and Linda work in business and are active community volunteers. Linda claims that her passion for cultures and travel was ignited when she had the

famous anthropologist, Margaret Mead as a college professor. Michael is an avid painter, writer and photographer. Thanks to his beautiful photographs, they are able to share their travels with others. Please plan to join us for this special program.

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, December 3 at 6:30 P.M.. Please note that because our usual meeting date falls on the night before Thanksgiving, it has been postponed until **December 3**. The usual 4th Wednesday meeting in December is postponed until **January 7**. Conservation issues are now 1st on the agenda! Come early, bring your sack dinner, or snack on refreshments provided by our group and get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting at 2021 21st Avenue South (the old St. Bernard's Academy Building). Look for the signs out front which will point the way. We welcome each of you to participate or just to be with us to learn of the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. Additions to the conservation agenda should be sent to Caty Butcher at JLCLBUTCH@comcast.net. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@aol.com, or call 792-2590.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Contact Peggy Evans at 931-432-6680 or maevans@TWLakes.net for more information on program meeting dates and times.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)
STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, November 10, 7 P.M. at Frances Lamberts home, 113 Ridge Lane, Jonesborough. From Johnson City and other parts east, take the old Jonesborough highway (W. Walnut) past Midway until you see the Jonesborough Town Limit sign. Turn left immediately past the sign onto Timber Ridge Road. Praise Chapel Church is on the far corner. Go to the first right, and park on the left side of the cul-de-sac. Frances's house is on the left behind the wrought iron gate at the end of this very short block.

From the north and west: At the stop sign at Boone & Main Streets in Jonesborough, turn left and go up the hill on East Main until Praise Chapel Church (1148 E. Main St.) is on your right. Turn right just past the Church onto Timber Ridge Rd. Go to the first right, and park on the left side of the cul-de-sac. Frances's house is on the left behind the wrought iron gate at the end of this very short block.

Frances Lamberts' phone number is 753-5288 if you get lost. Or you can call Linda Modica's cell phone at 676-2925 for directions.

PROGRAM MEETING: Monday, November 24. Dean Whitworth, forest activist and former Sierra Club End-Commercial-Logging Organizer, will speak on the "Bush Administration's Federal Forest Policies and their Impacts on the Cherokee National Forest." Dean's presentation will begin at 7 P.M. and will be followed by refreshments and a letter-writing session. This program meeting will be held at the site where the State of Franklin Group was first formed — Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 136 Bob Jobe Road, Gray. Take I-26 to the Eastern Star Road Exit. Turn Right (south) onto Bob Jobe Rd. which parallels the highway. Follow round white signs for the Church which is on the left as you head south on Bob Jobe Rd. Please call Linda Modica at cell number 676-2925 if you get lost.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Our next meeting will be Thursday November 6 at 6 P.M. It will again be held at Greenway Farm in Hixson. I will lead a short hike around the creek bend at 5 P.M. for anyone interested. The program will be on the pollution and issues surrounding the

Copper Basin mining legacy. Copper Basin is in extreme southeast Tennessee in Polk County and is a text book case for what results from acid rain and runoff. It should be very interesting. For more details, call Don Vanhook at 423-843-3244 or email vanhoeck@earthlink.net.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, November 6, 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.. - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "FIRST THURSDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston <jdjhstn@memphis.edu> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, November 10, 6:30 P.M.. - St. Louis Catholic Church, 203 South White Station, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Charlie Rond <chasrond@bellsouth.net> (by November 6 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150 for more information.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, November 19, 7:00 P.M.. - Memphis/Shelby County Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. Joe Royer, canoe enthusiast, promoter of kayak activity and a co-owner of Outdoors, Inc., the Memphis store of choice for those needing gear for wilderness adventures will present the Chickasaw Group's Program for November. This event will be held at the Memphis Central Library's first floor meeting room on Wednesday, November 19, 2003 at 7:00 PM.

This program should prove to be an entertaining visual review of canoe and kayak activity on our own great Mississippi River, the great mother stream that Royer has wholeheartedly embraced for nearly 35 years. Some of his early photographs will show paddlers on the Mississippi back in the 60's when many were afraid to venture out there. From there, he will take us to other waters, other places such as Yellowstone Lake, along the Pacific Northwest from San Francisco Bay to the waters of Seattle, and along the San Juan Islands where he has taken his ocean kayak. He will then show activity on the coast of Florida, near Captiva Island, and around the famous (made so by artist Walter Anderson) Horn Island off the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Then his canoe and kayak adventure will come back to Memphis, to demonstrate that the waters of our own city are just as wonderful (and readily available for great outdoor activity) as any of the other places that he has traveled far and wide to enjoy. Please join us for an evening that should prove inspirational to those just wanting to be on the water. Contact Clark Buchner <coyotem@usit.net> at (901) 327-2545 for more information.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: Every Tuesday at 4:00 P.M.. and Wednesday at 11:30 A.M., CST, The Library Channel, Memphis Cable 18, WVPL, "The Nature of Conservation" is sponsored by the Sierra Club. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the month. For November the discussion will be the city-wide event of "To Tree or Not to Tree" to educate citizens about how and why to replant trees after the city's devastating wind storm of July which destroyed so many trees.

Television program host and director Judith Rutschman will interview Mary Wilder, chair of the event and Dr. Mike Kirby, a professor of urban studies at Rhodes about the event. The Sierra Club will join with City Beautiful and the Vollenstone-Evergreen Community Association (VECA) in the tree planting effort. If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman <RUTSCHMAN@rhodes.edu> at (901) 767-5916.

News from Chickasaw

Compiled by Various Members

Continued from page 3

ment such as backpacking and sea kayaking.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Bunyan Bryant spoke on Environmental Justice as it relates to coal mining, coal fired power plants, and energy security. Among the workshop presenters were Sierra Club staff members Rhonda Anderson, EJ organizer from Detroit, Michigan and Camilla Feibelman, EJ media Specialist from Washington, DC. Chickasaw Group members giving workshops were Dr. Stan Abell on biological diversity, James Baker on water pollution, Joe Kyle on backpacking, Allan Lummus on sprawl, Bill Rehberg on greenways, Don Richardson on windstorm damage, Charlie Rond on web-based internet searches, Joe Royer on sea kayaking and Sue Williams on air pollution.

Kim Defeo, the new National EJ Program Manager based in Atlanta, Georgia, helped to welcome the attendees during the opening session. Everyone applauded our promise to offer this type of learning opportunity at least once each year.

Wolf River Harbor Litter Clean-Up

On October 11, the Chickasaw Group and the Tennessee Water Sentinels held its litter pickup on the shore of Wolf River Harbor. Tenne-Sierrans, other volunteers and personnel from the U.S. Coast Guard-Group Lower Mississippi River, totaling about 50 people recovered an estimated 2,000 pounds of litter from a 400-yard long by 50-yard wide swath of the shoreline of Wolf River Harbor. The litter collected in about two and a quarter hour's worth of work included 12 tires, numerous aluminum, plastic and glass beverage containers, fast food containers, a length steel cable, a length of polyester barge hawser, and many yards of snarled fishing line. Some of the more esoteric materials recovered included a fire extinguisher, an insulin syringe and a single size 10 hiking boot that was found by Scott Dye, the national Sierra Club's Water Sentinels Program Director, who assisted in the cleanup. After working, the group adjourned to Café Francisco, a downtown coffee shop, where a lunch buffet was provided and many valuable prizes were awarded.

In an article in the October 12th edition of The Commercial Appeal newspaper, James Baker was quoted as stating that Tennessee needs to become the 12th state in the Union with Container Deposit Legislation or a Bottle Bill. That important legislation is the most important step in keeping the world-class riverfront of Memphis clean.

Thanks to Charlie Rond, Jill Johnston, Karen Prosser, Karen Jarrett, Sue Williams, Kristen Hamre, Cole Maness, Gary Wilson and all the other "vols" who showed up and helped. Without them, the clean up would not have happened. Thanks also to Lieutenant Commander Michael Lopez, and Lieutenant Amy Bloyd and the remaining members of the U.S. Coast Guard for giving up part of their Saturday. To Joe Royer of Outdoors Inc., and Larry Smith of the Shelby County Environmental Improvement Commission, thank you for donating the prizes. Many thanks to Julie Ray of Café Francisco for the lunch buffet, and to Sharon Gordon of the City of Memphis' Public Works Department and her son Ian for bringing a cooler of drinking water and helping in the litter cleanup. Thanks as well to Director Jerry Collins and Tom Lawrence, also of the Public Works Department for supplying T-shirts, litter bags, and porta-johns. And last, but certainly not least, the Chickasaw Group thanks Scott Dye of the national Sierra Club, who has helped so much in making the Water Sentinels Program a success in Memphis and elsewhere around the country.

If you wish to conduct a stream or lake litter pickup in your area and wish to learn some of the "tricks of the trade", please contact James Baker, the Project Coordinator for the Tennessee Water Sentinels at (901) 372-6717 or aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net.

Attention Sierrans of Memphis and Shelby County. Here is your chance to dispose of old paint, solvents, used automotive fluids, and that pile of dead flashlight batteries from the power outages caused by July's "Hurricane Elvis". The House Hold Hazardous Waste Day this year is Saturday, November 15, 2003. The event will be held at the Liberty Bowl parking lot behind the Children's Museum at 2525 Central Ave. The event is from 8:30 A.M. to 2 P.M. For more information, contact the Shelby County Environmental Improvement Commission at 379-7020.



Top Photo - Tired but satisfied volunteers with many bags of urban flotsam and jetsam finish their day of clean up at Wolfe River Harbor. Photo by Scott Dye

2nd Row Photo - With the Coast Guard buoy tender, U.S.S.Kankakee and the homes of Harbor Town in the background, volunteers and Coast Guard personnel pick up litter on the shore of Wolf River Harbor. Photo by Scott Dye

3rd Row Photo - The last step in solving the problem of urban litter polluting a Tennessee waterway, the River Front Development Corporation's litter snagging boat on its maiden voyage. The first step is Container Deposit Legislation. Photo by James Baker



Our Wetlands Under Siege

A Case of Marshaphobia

By John Harwood

Continued from page 1

alteration permits, private contractors often simply ignore the legal requirements, filling and bulldozing without considering simple avoidance measures or fulfilling mitigation requirements. Such violations of law can be missed by our severely understaffed Department of Environment and Conservation. Report alterations of wetlands which you see to your local TDEC Environmental Assistance Center (1-888-891-TDEC).

Also, this is a good time to let our state administration know that you value wetlands, that you know they serve important ecological and societal functions in providing habitat for wildlife and helping purify water, and that they should be altered only in instances where there is a clearly demonstrated need and the alteration cannot be avoided. Our wetlands are under siege. The Bredezen administration is establishing its record in protecting our natural resources, and your input now can be helpful in guiding our state policy. Commissioner Betsy Child can be reached at TDEC, 401 Church St., 21st Floor, L&C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243; 615-532-0104. The UCRA case described in this article is a good example of how large amounts of taxpayer

money may be spent destroying an existing wetland resource in an irresponsible manner. You should also send a copy of your comments to Director Paul Davis (TDEC, Div. of Water Pollution Control, same address as the Commissioner; 615-532-0107).

By the mid-1980's, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that about 53% of the nation's historic wetlands had been lost; Tennessee had lost an estimated 59% of its wetlands. In 1780 an estimated 1,937,000 acres of wetlands existed in Tennessee. In 1956, Tennessee still had 447,600 acres of "high quality" wetland habitat, ranking the state sixth in this resource. USDA estimates that in 1994 we had 664,000 acres of palustrine wetlands (not associated with flowing water).

In 1997, Morgan and Roberts studied fifty ARAP wetland mitigation sites in Tennessee. "Mitigation" is the replacement of lost "resource value" when a wetland is altered, generally through creation of a new wetland area or reclamation of wetland area altered in the past. When compared to the 93.4 acres lost in their sampling, they found a replacement ratio slightly below 0.88:1, a net loss of about 12% of wetland. (This ratio excluded projects involving preservation and/or enhancement, i.e., those sites at which wetlands already were present and thus did not contribute to an actual gain in wetland acreage.)

All wetlands are protected by law, by the 1977 Clean Water Act, the TN Water Quality Control Act of 1977, and subsequent amendments. Procedures for alteration of wetlands smaller than one acre are described by a general permit; larger alterations require a specific permit. Mitigation of wetlands lost to filling or drainage is required whenever more than 1/4 acre is altered. Besides a State permit (ARAP), a Corps of

Continued on page 8

Outings

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiver.PDF>, or call 415-977-5630, for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Saturday, November 1, 2003, Day Hike, Schoolhouse Gap Turkey Pen Ridge, GSMNP - We will start this



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!

easy 4.7 mile hike on Schoolhouse Gap Tr. off Laurel Creek Rd. out of Townsend and continue onto Turkey Pen Trail. With leaves just past their peak and many fallen we should have beautiful views of nearby ridges as we circle back to Laurel Creek Rd. There will be a short 2 mile car shuttle back to the first parking lot. Meet in front of Books A Million at Walker Springs exit. Preregister with Priscilla Watts (865) 966-4142.

Saturday - Sunday, November 1-2, 2003, Backpack, Fork Ridge/Deep Creek GSMNP - After a short car shuttle from the Deep Creek Trailhead (Newfound Gap Road), we will begin our backpack at the Fork Ridge Trailhead (Clingmans Dome Road). We will drop 2880' over 5-miles to our campsite, #53, also known as Poke Patch campsite. The campsite located is just downstream from the junction of Fork Ridge and Deep Creek trails, along Deep Creek. Our return hike on Sunday will be on Deep Creek trail, which is one of the first trails constructed by the Park Service after it took possession of the land. The hike out is a 4-mile, 1600' climb to Newfound Gap Road and our cars. The hike is rated moderate. Preregister with Beverly Smith. Contact the leader no later than 3 days before the beginning of the hike. Evening phone number 865-531-8480; email blsmith1300@comcast.net

Saturday, November 8, 2003, Day Hike, Brookshire Creek, Upper Bald River near Tellico Plains, TN - This hike is in the Upper Bald River area which we hope to include in the National Wilderness System. We will follow old logging grades up Bald River and then Brookshire Creek, a tributary of Bald River, for some distance and then turn away from the creek for a short distance to a wildlife opening. This opening is in a "saddle" just below Beaver Dam Bald. Our return trip will be via the same route. Both Bald River and Brookshire Creek are very attractive streams in an area that was logged in the early part of the last century. Like most of the Appalachian Mtns. that were logged in those days, recovery has gone very well. Two former home sites will be seen. One stream crossing will require wading for sure and another may or may not depending on water level. Preregister with trip leader, Barbara Allen, (865) 558-9214 (H) or 215-5180 (W), email: b-tallen@email.msn.com.

Sunday, November 16, 2003, Cumberland Trail (LaFollette to Cove Lake Section) - The Cumberland Trail Association is in the process of developing what promises to be a truly outstanding long distance trail in Tennessee. Extending from Kentucky to Georgia, it is called the Cumberland Trail and several significant segments are complete. One of the best sections is a short drive from Knoxville, along the edge of the Cumberland Plateau escarpment (where there are numerous unusual rock formations and great

views) from LaFollette to I-75 and Cove Lake, where a newly constructed section leads down past the rock outcrops you see from I-75 known as Devil's Racetrack. Moderate. Preregister with Will Skelton (H) (865) 523-2272; (W) (865) 521-6200; email hshome@bellsouth.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday & Sunday, November 1-2 - Virgin Falls Backpack - Join us for a weekend of post-Halloween fun at one of the most spectacular waterfalls in the state. We will meet up with several folks from TTA and camp together. Total mileage approx. 8 miles and rated strenuous on the return trip out of the gorge. Beautiful overlooks on this trip. Bring a salad ingredient for a "trash bag" salad on Saturday night. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or email Adelicia1@aol.com

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, November 28-30 - GSMNP Backpack - Let's work off Thanksgiving dinner with a backpack in the Smokies starting at Cosby campground with the first night at Cosby Knob shelter and the second night if permission is granted at the Mt. Cammerer Fire Tower. If we cannot stay there we will camp at campsite #35 on the Lower Mt. Cammerer Trail. Rated strenuous. Reservations limited. For additional information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or email Adelicia1@aol.com

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

BACKPACKING TRIP - Appalachian Trail from TN Hwy 91 to Damascus, VA. Saturday the 8th & Sunday the 9th of November. This overnight trip, of moderate difficulty, will cover 21.8 miles. Experienced backpackers only. For more information & to sign up, call John Arwood @ 423-926-9876.

TRAIL WORK - As you may know, the State of Franklin Group has adopted the section of Appalachian Trail which winds through the beautiful Big Laurel Branch Wilderness (BLBW), just west of Watauga Lake. The use of power tools is prohibited in such designated wilderness areas and for this reason some members of trail maintenance groups actually oppose the protections that wilderness designation provides. We can show our support for wilderness by performing necessary and timely maintenance in the BLBW and perhaps, with enough support, adopt other wilderness trails. In addition to BLBW, we do trail work on other sections of the AT & in Johnson City Parks, as well as various other projects. Volunteers are needed. No prior experience is necessary and you may work at your own pace. As with all SOFG Sierra Club Outings everyone is welcome, so bring your friends. See the monthly schedule below.

1st Saturday- Appalachian Trail Maintenance at BLBW.

3rd Saturday- Appalachian Trail Maintenance at BLBW or other AT sections with the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club.

Last Saturday- Trail Maintenance at one of Johnson City's Parks, such as Buffalo Mountain Park, Winged Deer Park or Willow Springs Park.

3rd Wednesday - Various Projects.

For details & to sign up contact John Arwood 423-926-9876.

To be informed of upcoming outings via email send a brief note to: Trail_Work_Play@hotmail.com

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

First Aid /CPR - Prepare for leading Sierra Club fall outings. The American Red Cross is offering First Aid /CPR classes at its headquarters at 1400 Central Avenue in Memphis. The cost is \$45.00 and payment must be made to secure your reservation. However, if you lead two outings, the Chickasaw Group will reimburse you. For more information, contact Outings Chair Judith Hammond <JHammond@tnqio.sdps.org> at (901) 276-2819.

Saturday, November 15, 2003 - 9:00 A.M. - V & E Green Line Hike - The V&E Green Line is a 1.7-mile greenway developed by the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association (VECA) from the abandoned railroad right-of-way, north of Parkway. We'll see what this trail looks like in fall. The greenway has a neighborhood garden, flowerbeds, and crosses Lick and West Creeks. Bill Rehberg received the Chickasaw Group Urban Greenways Award for his leadership and work on this greenway. Meet across from the St John's Orthodox Church, 1663 Tutwiler Avenue, SE corner at Dickenson. You will see the greenway. Tutwiler runs west from Rhodes College north of Parkway. Bring water. We will hike about or 3.4 miles round trip. For more information Contact Bill Rehberg 775-5521(w) or 225-9747(h) or Judith Hammond 276-2819.

DISCLAIMER: The following activities are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. They are published only as a service to our members. The Sierra Club makes no representation or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of these activities. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Saturday, November 8, 2003 - 10:00 am - The Old Forest Trail. "Second Saturday Hikes" Explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America. Learn about the forest's history, identify big trees and wildflowers and observe firsthand the impact of natural and human forces on forests in an urban setting. Meet at the bridge next to the parking lot at the end of Old Forest Lane in the center of Overton Park. The informative and entertaining trail map to the self-guided mile-and-a-quarter mile loop hike with seasonal bird watching and wildflower-viewing guides is available for free at the Golf House in Overton Park at all other times. For additional information, contact Don Richardson <donrich@juno.com> at (901) 276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends.

Seed Orchards At Ames Hold Future For Tennessee Forests

By Nancy Brannon

Continued from page 1

The key component of the research is collecting the seeds from the most desirable trees and then growing seedlings from them. When these seedlings grow mature enough to produce seeds, their seeds are collected and then grown into seedling trees. By the time this second generation of trees becomes mature, the best of the two previous generations of trees have been selected. But the goal is to "keep genetic diversity broad so that a single disease or blight cannot wipe out a whole species."

Currently there are four groups of seedlings in the orchards, which represent two years of work. Seeds for these groups were collected from wild trees in the fall, grown in Georgia State nurseries during the following summer, and then shipped back to Ames plantation for planting. "Some of the seedling beds in Georgia are 700 feet long, but all contain the same family of seedlings," explains Houston. The seedling beds at Ames are not this large yet.

Dr. Houston took this reporter on a tour of the seedling orchard. One group has Southern Red Oak, "which are great for wild life, and Black Oak, which are good timber trees and good for wildlife." A second has "Pin Oak, which is fair for timber, but good for wildlife." A third has "Burr Oak, which is excellent for wildlife." And a fourth holds "Shumart, which is outstanding lowlands timber," as Houston describes.

Each of the seedling beds has to be protected from competition, as well as deer, as the seedlings grow and mature. Surrounding each seedling, a small area is sprayed with Roundup to control grass and weed competition, while areas between the rows, as wide as a pickup truck, are kept mowed.

One of the major tasks of the seed orchard program is to measure the amount

of light particular trees and seedlings are receiving. Ami Sharpe, a graduate student in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries at the University of Tennessee, will be measuring light intensity within each seedling's "micro-site" with a Photo Synthetic Active Radiation monitor. This will record the plant's ability to forage for light and help determine placement of a seedling within a canopy opening to receive the amount of light it needs for maximum growth.

Once the amount of light a tree receives and "forages" for is determined, then testing for how these new superior seedlings will thrive in new silvicultural areas begins. In one area, an upland timber stand was harvested using what is generally known as a "selection" cut, or thinning. Openings in the canopy are measured and sometimes additional trees are removed to make sure that the seedlings receive the amount of light that they require. Sometimes these openings are an acre in size.

Another important factor in the on-going forest research at Ames Plantation is to monitor what happens when ecosystems change. Dr. Houston notes the changes that have occurred in bottomland areas, such as can be seen from the bridge over the Wolf River on Highway 57 just east of Moscow.

A massive influx of sand from once-forested lands, now fields that have been plowed, eroded, and abandoned, has filled up the river, replacing both bottomland hardwood and wetland communities. When beavers repopulated the river, environmentalists lauded this as a good sign, but people in the timber industry saw this as problematic. But the sand invasion now thwarts the interests of both groups, filling up the river so that the water no longer flows, and bury-



Farm House Inn Bed & Breakfast

Peg & Tim Taylor, Inn Keepers
735 Taylor Branch Road
Parkers Lake, KY 42634
www.farmhouseinnbb.com

Located on Good Spring Farm, The Farm House Inn offers accommodations for small groups and families. Walk through a diverse forest to waterfalls, cliffs, wildlife areas, fishing ponds or relax and watch farm life and wild life from the Inn's porch. Surrounded by the Daniel Boone National Forest, the Farm House Inn is 20 minutes away from Cumberland Falls State Park and 45 minutes from the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

For reservations and information,
Call (606) 376-7383; 376-8042

ing tree seedlings, which prevents reforestation.

Ames Plantation provides a unique opportunity for hydrological study: tracing source sediments, keeping track of sedimentation rates, and monitoring ecosystem functions.

Another study centered on forest management techniques has attributes that can be highly beneficial to Tennessee landowners. Desirable hardwood forest regeneration is difficult to achieve, especially when oak is the primary tree to be grown. This study focuses on the reestablishment of oak stands in harvested stands.

When large openings are created in the canopy during harvest operations, it may be possible to enlarge these openings to plant highly selected, fast growing oak seedlings. The big tree gaps can be enlarged until their width is equal to twice the height of the tallest surrounding trees. "A 100-foot tall tree requires 200 feet of space," Houston explains.

It is well documented that without existing oak regeneration in the stand prior to harvest, a forest cannot become successfully established post-harvest. Otherwise, less desirable species will invade and capture the site.

The result of these operations will be value-added because the additional harvested volume will be merchantable and land values may be increased. "Forested lands need to be self-sustaining," Houston concludes.

The Seed Orchard Complex will require continuous maintenance to produce seedlings that will grow into producing hardwood seed trees and produce seedlings for additional research and further development. But Dr. Houston sees the most important aspect of this project in the distribution of hardwood trees on a landscape where they will make a very positive impact on the health and sustainability of forests, industry, and wildlife habitats.

THE
STATE OF FRANKLIN
GROUP
APPRECIATES

RUTH
GUTIERREZ

THE BEST TREASURER &
CLEAN WATER ACTIV-
IST
SIERRA HAS EVER HAD!

Ruth has been in the hospital since Friday. Doctors are still trying to determine causes of her illness. Get Well, Ruth!!

Join the
Nashville
Recycling
Team!



Any good friend of the earth who can donate 2 or 3 hours any Saturday morning can join the fun at our Kroger Elysian Fields Recycling Site. We need you! AND, your efforts directly contribute to the environmental campaigns of your local Middle Tennessee Group.

To volunteer call
David Bordenkircher at
333-3377 or email dabordenkircher@mindspring.com

Thank
You!!



State of Franklin Group (Tri-Cities) Needs Outing Leaders

SOFG needs volunteers to help with the effort to offer a schedule of year around outings. There are numerous possibilities for fun & informative outings, a great form of outreach to our membership & would-be members, such as:

- Day Hikes (leisurely to fast paced)
- Overnight/Multi-Day Backpacking
- Campground Based Camping
- Trips to Points of Interest
- Interpretative Walks (flora, fauna, geology, history, etc.)
- Family Oriented (with kids, single parents, etc.)
- Star/Moon/Meteor Gazing
- Development of Wilderness Skills
- Trail Work
- Tree Planting/Restoration Work
- [combinations of the above]

If you have an interest in helping to promote a love & understanding of our natural environment within others, through SOFG Sierra Club outings, please contact:

John Arwood - SOFG Outings Chair
423-926-9876 - Trail_Work_PLay@hotmail.com

Our Wetlands Under Siege

A Case of Marshaphobia

By John Harwood

Continued from page 5

Engineers permit is required when wetlands are not isolated from other waters.

No alteration is allowed when that alteration may impact a state or federal listed endangered species. In all cases, consideration of "practicable alternatives," or "avoidance," is a prerequisite of allowed alterations. Avoidance involves consideration of "practicable alternatives," i.e. those capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes. Even when wetlands of less than one acre are to be altered, the landowner must submit to the state documentation consisting of a map showing exact location of proposed activity; description of wetland, vegetation and hydrologic characteristics, construction plans, proposed pollution control methods, and, if larger than 1/4 acre, a proposed mitigation plan. These plans must be accepted by the State Division of Water Pollution Control before alteration can commence. A storm water permit is also required for construction activities larger than one acre. In June, the Upper Cumberland Regional Airport Commission (UCRA) requested an ARAP to fill a very unique wetland situated at the border of our local airport. This wetland is a large marsh, ten acres. It serves as unique habitat for migratory birds and a variety of plants not seen in other parts of the Cumberland Plateau. It also serves to help clean runoff water from the airport before it enters our groundwater system (and eventually our taps). UCRA has obtained a \$2.85 mil grant from U.S. DOT to expand the airport, with 10% matching funds collectively from Cookeville, Sparta, and Spencer.

The expansion plan would construct ten acres of hangars squarely over the wetland. The hangars would satisfy a stated need for private and corporate "T-hangar" (small plane) space, and a large hangar for an unnamed corporate entity.

The Sierra Club responded to the permit application by requesting denial of the permit.

The unsupported claim that the economies of the communities surrounding the airport will actually benefit from the expansion, made in the application, is highly questionable. We don't have a deficit of freight delivery capacity in Cookeville, and the previous expansion of the airport has failed to bring economic growth to our area. Unfortunately, while permit applicants argue economic benefit to justify their plans, economic counter arguments are not considered appropriate in reviewing ARAP applications.

The main argument we have raised against destroying

the airport marsh concerns the question of avoidance. There is land both north and south of the wetland, bordering the airport runway, which would serve as well for construction of hangars. The land north is said to be held by an unwilling seller. According to the ARAP application, the land south, sixty acres already held by the airport, is scheduled for "corporate development." Besides failing to show that the alteration cannot be avoided, the proposed mitigation plan is insufficient according to the standard mitigation guidelines used in Tennessee.

In response to our comments, the state permit officer gave us a tour of the two sites to be included in the proposed mitigation. The mitigation at one of the sites would involve a tremendous amount of energy and taxpayer money. One to two feet of soil would have to be removed or relocated over an area of about thirty acres. Material from the original wetland would be transported to the new site and strewn about it in an attempt to "seed" the original plant community of the airport wetland. A similar amount of soil would be moved to fill the original wetland. Apart from purchase of the mitigation site, additional expenditure of public funds for land purchase would be necessary as the wetland which UCRA proposes to destroy is presently owned privately. Finally, the airport expansion will increase storm water runoff, and a new runoff treatment facility will have to be constructed to replace the present wetland. A large sum of taxpayer money is planned to be spent to replace a resource which presently is serving the airport fine and is not hindering airport expansion in any way. A better example of "blind progress" would be hard to find. The proposed alteration more precisely appears to be the result of "Marshaphobia," a morbid desire to destroy nature's most productive areas.

As required by NEPA, the Airport Commission called a public meeting concerning the wetland issue, held August 28. There are a number of citizens questioned the need to fill the wetland; some questioned the need to expand the airport at all. Most surprising was the revelation that the sixty acres, which the airport presently holds beside the wetland, is actually not scheduled for development as had been stated in the permit application. The sole planned use of the sixty acres is now to provide fill dirt to destroy the wetland. This revelation led to several public comments noting that the new hangars should be built on this land instead of on the wetland. The hangars would thus be adjacent to the runway, actually more conveniently placed than if built on the wetland. This alternate placement of hangars would occur only a few hundred feet from the wetland, a position which surely would not pose any undo inconvenience to plane storage or freight unloading. By leaving the wetland intact, no mitigation would be required - a great deal of energy and taxpayer money would be saved.

The Sierra Club again has commented on the destruction of the wetland. The permit is presently in limbo, awaiting explanation by UCRA as to why the additional hangars cannot be built on the available acreage adjacent to the wetland.

Information used in this article is taken from "Tennessee Wetlands Conservation Strategy," Third Edition, Governor's Interagency Wetlands Committee, October 1998, "An Assessment of Wetland Mitigation in Tennessee," Kenneth L. Morgan and Thomas H. Roberts, June 1999 (both reports can be found at <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/nh/wetlands/>), and "General Permits, Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit Program," Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control, July 1, 2000 (<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/permits/arapgs.htm>)

Now 2 Shirts to Choose From!

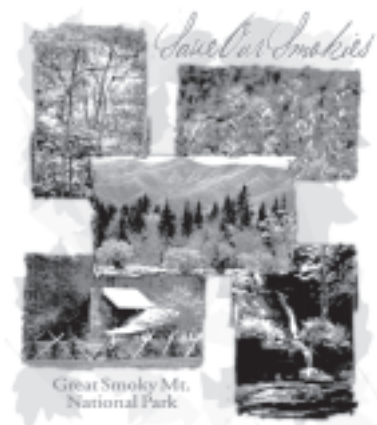


Sierra Club John Muir Quote T's - NEW!
Mountain stream picture with John Muir quote "There is nothing more eloquent in nature than a mountain stream"

Sizes:

Medium - Qty _____ x \$15/shirt = _____
Large - Qty _____ x \$15/shirt = _____
X-large - Qty _____ x \$15/shirt = _____
XX-large - Qty _____ x \$15/shirt = _____
Total \$ - John Muir quote t-shirts = _____

Save Our Smokies T's



Shirt features a montage of very special shots from our Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Sizes:

Small - Qty _____ x \$12/shirt = _____
Medium - Qty _____ x \$12/shirt = _____
Large - Qty _____ x \$12/shirt = _____
X-large - Qty _____ x \$12/shirt = _____
XX-large - Qty _____ x \$12/shirt = _____
Total \$ - Save Our Smokies t-shirts = _____

Total T-shirt order

Grand Total (from above) = _____
+ Shipping & Handling @\$3/shirt = _____
Total Enclosed = _____

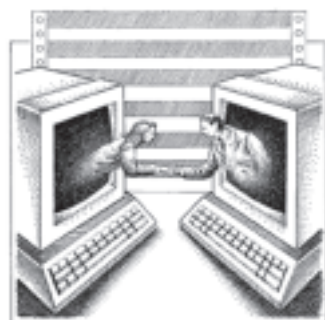
Ship to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Evening Phone _____

Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards. Please make check payable to Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club and mail to:
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club, 2021 21st Avenue South,
Suite 436 - Nashville, TN 37212

If you would like to be active in the Save Our Smokies campaign, please contact Beverly Smith at 865/531-8480 or blsmith1300@comcast.com
Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Want to get connected?
It's easy!



Tennessee Chapter's Internet Mail List

TENNESSEE-NEWS

for alerts, information & "inside" issue discussion
To subscribe, send the following message via e-mail to
LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG:

"SUBSCRIBE TENNESSEE-NEWS [Your First Name] [Your Last Name]"

Leave the subject blank.
Replace the variables omitting the brackets.

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group
Tennes-Sierran
2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Nashville, Tennessee
Permit No. 3225