

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 34 Number 10 - October, 2003

Hummingbirds Rule in Tennessee!



Compiled by various members of the Chickasaw Group in Memphis

Members of the Chickasaw Group joined a score of members from the Tennessee Trails Association (TTA) for an amazing look at hummingbirds at the Audubon Society's Strawberry Plains sanctuary near Holly Springs, MS September 6.

Judith Hammond, who arranged the outing, was accompanied by Sierra Club and TTA members Woody and Carolyn Pierce, Dick Mochow and Charlie Rond. Several hiked about a mile of the 15 miles of trails available in the sanctuary, and perused grave-stones at a family cemetery and a slave cemetery along the way.

It was the peak of the hummingbird migration from the Eastern and Southern states and the tiny birds were feeding (drinking nectar) frantically en route to the Gulf of Mexico and the 16-hour flight across the Gulf to Central and South America. A few of them were trapped in nets, weighed, wings and tails measured, age determined by bill erosion, and then they were banded with leg bands before continuing their journey.



Don't be concerned about the weight of the leg bands; it takes more than 5,000 of them to weigh an ounce. The bands enable scientists to learn more about the migration routes and habits of the colorful miniature birds.

A special treat for the children - and some of the not-so young - came after the banding. If you held your hand flat and outstretched, a hummingbird would be gently laid in your hand, to rest a few seconds - its heart softly fluttering - until it decided to buzz away. Handlers were so gentle there was no frantic fluttering

or attempts to escape. The birds calmly endured weighing and measurement and sat calm and relaxed on children's hands - sometimes for half a minute - before flying away.

There was an expert botanist who described the plants, in a tour, around the beautiful brick ante-bellum home that is central to the 2500-acre sanctuary. The sanctuary and home were given to the Audubon Society several years ago by two sisters who established

Continued on page 7



Top: Carolyn Pierce (left) and Judith Hammond (right) stand behind hummingbird banders at the recent outing to the Audubon Society's Strawberry Plains Sanctuary, Mississippi.

Bottom Left: A fascinated child holds a newly banded hummingbird as it prepares to take flight at the Audubon Society's Sanctuary at Strawberry Plains, Mississippi.

Bottom Right: Members of the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club and members of Tennessee Trails Association listen as Strawberry Plains' leader Jim Nolen talks about the Strawberry Plains Sanctuary.



Sierra Club and SOCM File Suit on Zeb Mountain Mining

By Mary Mastin

The Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, SOCM, the Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project, and Appalachian Voices filed suit in federal district court in Knoxville against the Office of Surface Mining (OSM). The suit asks that the permit issued July 3 to the Robert Clear Coal Corporation be revoked until OSM complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and completes a full Environmental Impact Statement.

The Zeb mountain mining operation permit area is one of the largest strip mining operations ever permitted in Tennessee - over 2000 acres. It is mountain top mining. We say that it's mountaintop REMOVAL mining - tho OSM call it "cross-ridge mining" and we do not want it coming to Tennessee.

The permit area is within a quarter mile to a mile of 100 homes and businesses, mostly in the Elk Valley community of Campbell County, Tennessee. There is an elementary school within 4000 feet of the mining area.

Residents fear damage to their ground water wells. They have health and safety concerns from the 110 coal truck trips projected to go through the community on narrow winding roads that even OSM acknowledges at some places are too narrow for a school bus and coal truck to pass safely.

Already one stream that is home to the federally listed as threatened blackside dace has an excess of sediment and is on its way to becoming biologically dead.

The plans for the mining operation rely on numerous - over forty - sediment basins that are set on the shoulder

of the mountain - on an old mining bench that contains toxic material from pervious mining. Many homes and ground water wells are just below this bench. It is a very dangerous situation.

This mine is projected to be in operation for 9.9 years. Yet, with all the above factors documented, OSM found that the mining operation would have No Significant Impact. OSM issued the permit without a comment period on their (preliminary) environmental assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The suit was filed September 4. A Preliminary injunction has been requested, but the hearing date has not yet been set. Gale Norton, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, which oversees OSM, was also named as a defendant. Advocates see this as a test case for what OSM can let mine owners get away with in Tennessee. We don't want what has happened in West Virginia to happen here.

The Tennessee Chapter wishes to thank Bill Price, the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice organizer for Central Appalachia, for his assistance in making this happen.



Tennes-Sierran
The monthly newsletter of the
Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

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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.

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Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed

The Tragedy of the Commons

By Carl Leathers

The most reprinted article in the history of journalism was an essay by Garrett Hardin which appeared in 1968 in the Atlantic Monthly. It was entitled, "The Tragedy of the Commons," and I am paraphrasing it as best I can:

In many New England towns during the 1700's it was usual to pasture individually owned cattle on an area of land which was owned by the town as a whole. The was called the "Commons," for obvious reasons. As a matter of fact several of our 50 major political entities are popularly called states, but legally they are "Commonwealths."

Assume for example that there are 10 individuals in the town who each pasture 10 cows on the commons. The prudent, or ambitious, headman might reason in this way:

If I add 5 more cows to my herd, I will incur no additional cost in feeding the animals but I may increase my profit by 50 percent. Another herdsman might also attempt to double his profit by adding 10 more cows. However, because the size of the grazing area is fixed, the individual enterprise results in overgrazing to the point where all of the hear starves, bringing ruin to every herdsman.

The moral of this scenario may be clear to most, but to clarify, the Earth is a Commons. We share the life support system, including the air, the water, and much of the land. We share the infrastructure, the diversity of life, parks, wildlife refuges and the frustrations involved when things are abused. So if we don't take care of our planet, it will simply mean ruin for everyone.



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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.

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Do we need Nature?

by Ron Castle

Royal Dutch Shell Oil and the Economist Magazine from the UK have sponsored an international essay writing contest the past 4 years. The purpose of the contest is "to encourage future thinking." You can see previous winning entries at www.shelleconomistwritingprize.com.

The question for this year's competition, which closed at the end of August, was "do we need Nature?" Considering the ongoing exponential human domination of our planet I think this a worthy question that most of us don't really think about. We are so preoccupied with the short term and day to day hectic pace of life that the long term doesn't get much consideration. Our domination of Nature is a subject that I have written about previously and I decided to make my strategy for my entry a very personal one based on what I see happening in my regional home of Middle Tennessee.

In the required synopsis to my essay, I stated the following: In 1998, I made a deliberate decision to change my life by moving to a remote area in Middle Tennessee to be more closely connected to Nature. I have reduced my dwelling space by 60%, improved my fuel efficiency by 40% and am attempting to minimize my human footprint on the planet, a personal human response to living adequately in cooperation with the rest of life on the planet. Personally, I have never been happier or felt more at home anywhere. My Mountain Song reports my observations of man made problems resulting from our attempts to dominate Nature as seen in the area of my home in Middle Tennessee in the United States of America. Do we need Nature? The question should be, "Does Nature need man?"

How will I fare in the competition? We shall find out before the end of November. In any event, the writing was and is good catharsis for me, and hopefully for you, too. My entry:

My Mountain Song

By most American standards, I live in the wilderness, about as close to Nature as one can get. My modest home is in Middle Tennessee on the side of the heavily forested north escarpment of the Cumberland Plateau, 3 miles off the pavement and at the end of the electric and telephone lines. The nearest pay phone is 6 miles away. My water comes from a mountain spring. I am surrounded by deer, turkey, raccoons, possums, coyotes and huge trees. Grey tree frogs and barred owls sing in the trees at night and this morning on my bird feeders I have goldfinches, cardinals, summer tanagers, Carolina wrens, a red bellied woodpecker and a ruby throated hummingbird.

The mountain constantly reminds me that I am an interloper here. The tulip poplars and sugar maples are crowding my narrow view to the valley. Raccoons rob my tomatoes. Ants, the greatest physical mass of life on the mountain other than plants, frequently scurry across my desk and caravan their way to the kitchen counter. They are unstoppable so I have resorted to creating food diversions that keep them mostly outdoors. A few rattlesnakes and copperheads, scorpions and hornets are always nearby. I am at the top of the food chain in this part of the world, but hazards abound to keep life interesting.

I moved here from the big cities of my past life, Houston, Dallas, Chicago and Los Angeles, because I figured out I cannot be whole without being closely connected to Nature. I have written a poem that sums up my reason for being, and for being here:

My Mountain Song

The mountain has lifted me up
Swallowed me whole
Captured my heart
Opened my soul
Poured in God's images
Of my small role

For Nature's grand vision
Millennia old.

The mountain and I have become
Brothers as one
Spirit, sky, earth
Wind, water, sun
At home with our love
Space for our spirits to run
Holding me higher
Till God's work is done.

When I read the question "Do we need Nature?" I thought this frivolous for most 21st century men or women. How do you know if you need something you have never experienced? Man has made more technological progress in the past 100 years than in all of human time. Concurrently, we have disconnected ourselves from the rest of life on the planet. We are apart from Nature.

The question would be a total absurdity for an 18th or 19th century American Indian or indigenous native elsewhere on the planet. Our aboriginal predecessors survived by living in cooperation with Nature. No longer do we revere the spirits of sky, earth, wind, water and sun. Our new gods are horsepower, computers, financial markets, television, the Internet, air conditioning, urban sprawl and most of all, good old filthy lucre. Nature is no more than a backdrop for TV ads marketing products and services: SUV's chew up and spit out the little remaining wilderness; nearly extinct tigers sell gasoline and oil tanker disasters; ducks and elk sell insurance; snow capped mountains hawk cold beer. Madison Avenue understands man's subliminal connection to Nature. Most of the rest of us are clueless.

Middle Tennessee was settled between 1790 and 1820, when 99 percent of the country here was naturally forested in stands of virgin timber as far as the eye could see. Two hundred years later, less than 1 percent of Tennessee's native forests remain. Every year in Tennessee we are converting 80,000 acres of open space, farms and woodlands to development. We are 7th in the nation in loss of open space to roads, subdivisions, shopping malls and industrial sites. About 1 percent of the land in Tennessee is being developed every 3 to 4 years. In another hundred years there will be no open space. Nature and wilderness, historically essential parts of American and Tennessee culture, is an increasingly rare commodity today and will disappear altogether unless we change.

Development and sprawl have had an impact on Middle Tennessee's transportation network. We have no public transportation in the region. In 1990, Middle Tennessee was one of the least congested areas for its size. In the past ten years the amount of driving per capita has increased dramatically, from about 30 miles per person per day to 37.5 miles per person per day, the highest for a major metropolitan area in the United States. We have sacrificed much of the Natural landscape in our part of the world and spend more time sitting in traffic looking at concrete and disposable buildings. We are "home from nowhere" according to the title of a popular book about American sprawl. We have paved the wilderness.

Vehicle miles driven combined with a decrease in vehicle fuel efficiency plus our reliance on coal fired electricity in this region makes us abundant contributors of fossil fuel emissions and culprits of climate change. The effects of climate change are beginning to show here: less snow in the winter, greater intensity and frequency of tornadoes and damaging wind storms, higher average temperatures. Air quality in metropolitan areas is poor. Respiratory illnesses such as asthma in children are on the increase.

In May 2002 the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency issued the Toxic Release Inventory for 2000. Tennessee, still one of the most scenic places in the world, has a lot to be proud of but toxic releases aren't one of them. We ranked 9th out of the 50 states in toxic releases totaling 162 million pounds of pollutants

that foul our air, poison our waters and contribute to debilitating illnesses. This is an increase of 20 million pounds over the previous reporting year. Specifically, Tennessee was: 1st in the nation in land releases - 47 million pounds, 3rd in the nation in air releases - 104 million pounds, 4th in the nation in dioxin releases and 23rd in the nation in water pollutants - 32 million pounds. Mercury pollution makes most of the fish in our rivers and lakes unsafe to eat. Blood analyses of average middle aged Tennesseans reveal traces of more than 90 persistent manmade chemicals in our bodies.

What most Tennesseans want, I believe, is an opportunity for meaningful and gainful employment close to home, clean air, clean water and foods that are grown on healthy soils free from toxic chemicals. Our desires and our actions are counter intuitive. We have disconnected our understanding of Nature.

When something bad happens to Nature, like the loss of habitat or the extinction of a species, we have little idea of the real meaning or the ultimate result. What difference does it make? We understand much about nothing and nothing about much. We are experts at everything except living in harmony with the rest of life on our planet. Those of us who live close to Nature, who have studied connections and love our planet, know that everything is connected. Life on our planet is an interconnected web, more amazing than the Internet ever will be. If Tennesseans are to be successful in preserving our long-term place on planet Earth, we must learn to mimic the web of Natural systems by:

- Creating no waste that is not food for some other living organism. Man is the only being on the planet that does not do this. The only one.
- Valuing natural capital that provides us with clean air, clean water, healthy food, shelter and habitat, that makes life on earth not just possible but enjoyable. Natural systems provide these services at no cost. We cannot replicate the services of Nature at any cost. If we destroy the natural capital of Tennessee we also destroy ourselves, our hope and our future.
- Investing in natural capital by restoring ecological diversity, respecting all living species, preserving habitat for other living things, using only what we need to live adequately and respecting all life, human and nonhuman.
- Finding our place in the world not based on our ability to dominate, but by our ability to cooperate. Our ability to dominate is unquestionable. Humans are dominating our planet to the extent that we are now the major cause of change, to the demise all other living things and the quality and quantity of the bounty of Nature and support system on which all life depends. Our ability to understand the erring result of human domination is highly questionable.

If we are to have long term success and survival, I believe we have a very short time to start making changes. We need leadership. Politics in Tennessee, and especially at the national level in the USA, belong to the corporate and moneyed elite. The issues they debate and the resulting maintenance of the corporate status quo will not soon enough address the pending environmental problems which are all peaking at the same time: climate change, water scarcity, collapsing fisheries, population explosion, shrinking forests, desertification, the leveling off of agricultural productivity, species disappearance and the exponential escalation of climate change that has the potential to disrupt established ecosystems everywhere within my lifetime, or certainly within the lifetime of my adult children.

Traditional education will not be able to act and react fast enough to the educational challenge required to inform the populace about what we need to be doing and why. Considering that General Electric owns NBC, Westinghouse owns CBS, Disney owns ABC, NewsCorporation owns FOX, and Time-Warner owns CNN, we are not likely to see the big picture reported much on TV news. One of the shortcomings of the media is the failure to convey the big picture and put local happenings into a global perspective. This is cer-

Continued on page 7

Meetings

day of every month. The October meeting will be held on Monday, October 13th at 7pm @ Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site. To add an item to the agenda, or for directions to Tipton-Haynes, please contact Linda Modica at LCModica@aol.com or (423) 753-9697.

All SOFG meetings are held on the 2nd & 4th MONDAYS at 7pm at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, 2620 South Roan Street, Johnson City — unless otherwise announced in the media. To confirm meeting or topic, or for directions, please contact Linda Modica @ <lcmmodica@aol.com> or 753-9697.



HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, October 14, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. For our October program, we welcome back Arthur McDade, Naturalist with the Obed Wild and Scenic River. Arthur will present a slide show and talk about the Obed, covering what the Obed WSR is and giving some history of the conservation battles waged in the 1960s and 1970s to get the area in the Wild and Scenic River system. Call Priscilla Watts at 865-966-4142 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, October 28, 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, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. James Lockert lives on a cliff overlooking the Cumberland River, across the river from where a pair of eagles has been nesting for many years. Out of curiosity and an interest in nature, he purchased a telescope, hooked it up to the TV and VCR and directed it towards the nest. For about 3 years now, he, his family and friends have watched the eagles nest, mate, hunt and raise their babies. Last year they were privileged to watch the family raise triplets! His videos of the eagles in their natural habitat are up-close and personal – he has video tapes of eagles more intimate than you can imagine. James, a native of Cheatham County, will show some of the videos and narrate the revealing lives of the birds, with which they became so familiar that they named them (but you'll have to come to the program to find out their names!). Please come and bring a friend to this special presentation.

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, October 22 at 6:30 p.m. 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 Jim Deming at jdeming49@aol.com, and 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: October 23, 2003, 7:00 p.m., lower level meeting room of the Putnam County Library. Our guest speaker will be James Mills, Cookeville City Planner, who will speak about the city's plans for greenways. Cookeville's mayor, Dr. Chuck Womack, is chairman of the TN Parks and Greenways Foundation - so greenways are getting a lot of attention in the city now. Please plan to attend and come with questions and/or comments.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

PROGRAM MEETING: On Monday, October 27, 7pm @ Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Botanist Jamie Donaldson will speak on Tennessee's endangered plant species and especially on endangered populations along the Appalachian Trail. Sierrans and others interested in learning how to monitor endangered plant populations should attend this meeting. For more information or for directions to Tipton-Haynes, please contact Linda Modica at <LCModica@aol.com> or (423) 753-9697.

STRATEGY MEETING: State of Franklin Group Conservation Strategy Meetings have been moved to the second Mon-

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, October 2, 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 at (901) 278-2713 or jdjhstn@memphis.edu for more information.

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION: Friday, October 3, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Legislative Reception for the Shelby County Delegation and Opening Reception for the Environmental Justice Conference. Magnolia Room, NW corner of Florence and Monroe in Overton Square (1 block west of Cooper and 1 block north of Union). Come and support our conservation goals. For more information call James A. Baker at (901) 327-6717.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE: Saturday, October 4, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program Conference, "Be Aware: Check your Environmental IQ." LeMoyné Owen College, 807 Walker Avenue, Memphis. The free conference is an opportunity to learn more about environmental problems that affect health and safety and disproportionately affect the lives of persons of color. There will be workshops on such topics as organizing for action, toxic hazards, air pollution, illegal pesticides, biological diversity, emergency management, and urban sprawl. The key note address will be by well-known environmental justice advocate, Bunyan Bryant, Distinguished Professor, University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment. You can also learn about outdoor activities such as sea kayaking, backpacking, and creating neighborhood greenways. Lunch is complementary, but you must register to be counted. To register call Rita Harris 901-324-7757 or rita.harris@sierrclub.org.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. - St. Louis Catholic Church, 2000 North Parkway, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Charlie Rond (by September 4 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150 or charond@bellsouth.net for more information.

PROGRAM MEETING: The next program will be in November. Program Meetings are scheduled every other month. Contact Clark Buchner at (901) 327-2545 or coyotem@usit.net 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 October 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 Vollenline- 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 at (901) 767-5916 or RUTSCHMAN@rhodes.edu.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

STRATEGY MEETING: Thursday, October 2 - This is the first meeting in a long time for the Cherokee Group! It will be held in the house at Spangler Farm in Hixson at 7 pm. The Spangler Farm (Greenway Farm) is located a few miles down Hamill Road from Hwy 153, across the street from Bethel Bible Village. We want to meet other members in the Chattanooga area and find out what you're interested in. The Tennessee Chapter Chair, Liz Dixon, will be there to answer any questions you might have about state wide programs. If you are interested in helping with the group but cannot attend this meeting, please contact Don Vanhook at 423-843-3244 or vanhoeck@earthlink.net.

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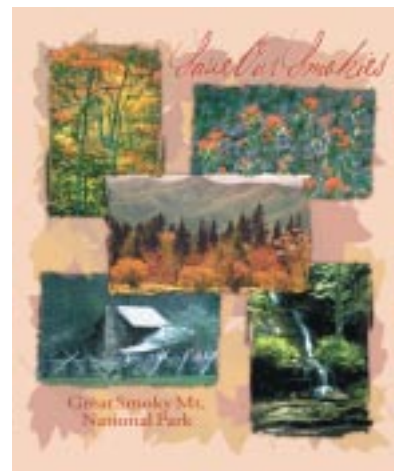


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Mountain stream picture with John Muir quote "There is nothing more eloquent in nature than a mountain stream"

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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!

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@yahoo.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



The Two Hour Activist

By James H. Baker, Chickasaw Group

Two hours a week, equals 17 minutes a day...

Our lives are a balancing act. We balance the needs of our families, the demands of our jobs, the time involved in caring for our residences and possessions with how we spend our leisure and other "off hours" time. If we are involved with the Sierra Club, we add our activities with that group to the mix, and then we juggle it all and strive for balance. In that time that one does "Sierra Club" activities, how much of that involves activism? That is where my concept of "Two Hours per Week Activism" comes into play. By taking small "bite size" pieces of a larger task, less effort will be expended by each individual, yet more ambitious goals may be achieved.

How does one begin to be a two-hour Activist? My suggestion is to look at the National Sierra Club's web-site for the Priority Campaigns to see where your interests and talents mesh best. Then look at the Tennessee Chapter and your local Group web-sites. Again, see what are the focus campaigns and see where you could best put that hour to its best use.

Contact your Group Conservation Chair to coordinate efforts and to eliminate unneeded duplication of efforts. The Conservation Chair may wish to have you contact the Issue Leader for further direction and/or training. Example:

You are interested in water quality and you are a two-hour activist. You have been placed in contact with the water quality Issue Leader. There may be a large construction site on a route you go by on Sunday on your way to or from church and you see that mud is washing into the streets when it rains. The Issue Leader agrees to train you in the basics of erosion control and what one can see at this site from the public road or sidewalk and the techniques of documenting poor erosion control practices. Every Sunday, you stop, take some brief notes and photos and forward that information to the Issue Leader. If the site is not brought into voluntary compliance by the developer and the mud keeps washing off-site, the Group Conservation Chair may need to write a Formal Complaint letter to the regulators charged with enforcing the water pollution laws. Your notes and photos become part of that Complaint. Your time on this task is less than two hours a week. You become the eyes and ears of the Group for that issue, and as you are already in the area, no one else has to expend precious fuel and time resources getting to the site in question. Another person can be working another site.

Here are some additional suggestions for two-hour activists. Contact your Group Conservation Chair for help and advice.

Checking the Legal Notices section of the newspaper. Often, this is the only "Public Notice" there is for target issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Group Conservation Chair or Issue Leader. Legal Notices should be checked daily.

Checking the web-site of the United States Army Corps of Engineers to look for Public Notices for wetlands alterations and Public Comment periods. Wetlands alterations mean that a site may be slated for development in the near future. Check weekly.

Checking the web-site of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for various permit application/renewal notices. Check weekly.

Checking the web-sites and bulletin boards for the meeting agenda of the City Council/County Commission/Land Use Control Board/Air Quality Board and other bodies. The two-hour activist that likes to do this may need to be placed on their mailing lists. Check weekly.

The web-site of the Local Emergency Planning Committee should be checked monthly.

Checking the Right to Know web-site to research on toxic chemical releases to the land, water and air.

Tennessee Chapter Fall Meeting Pickett State Park

October 24th and 26th

Come join us Friday evening, October 24th until Sunday, October 26th, 2003 at one of Tennessee greatest state areas, Pickett State Park, near Jamestown, Tennessee. The cost for the entire weekend of fun is only \$30.00! This fee includes lodging, Saturday breakfast and dinner, and Sunday breakfast. Bring your own food for a Friday night cookout and a trail lunch for Saturday.

Childrens' nature programs will be organized if you contact Linda Modica telling her you want a naturalist to take your kids on hikes &/or give them a special presentation on Sat. evening after supper. You can reach Linda at <LCModica@aol.com> or (423) 753-9697. If fewer than 5 families express an interest in programs for kids, the State of Franklin Group will not be able to offer any.

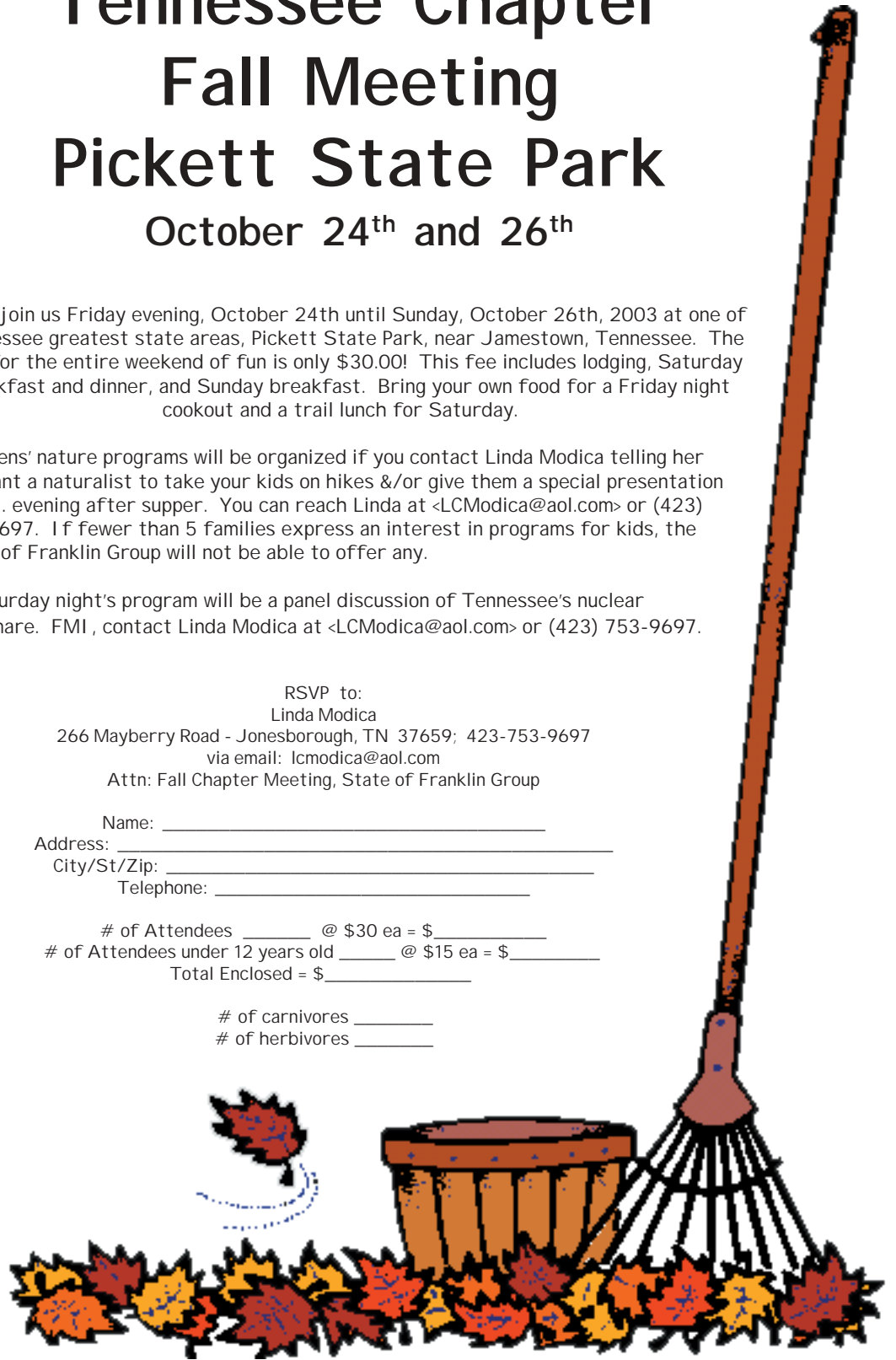
Saturday night's program will be a panel discussion of Tennessee's nuclear nightmare. FMI, contact Linda Modica at <LCModica@aol.com> or (423) 753-9697.

RSVP to:
Linda Modica
266 Mayberry Road - Jonesborough, TN 37659; 423-753-9697
via email: lmodica@aol.com
Attn: Fall Chapter Meeting, State of Franklin Group

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/St/Zip: _____
Telephone: _____

of Attendees _____ @ \$30 ea = \$ _____
of Attendees under 12 years old _____ @ \$15 ea = \$ _____
Total Enclosed = \$ _____

of carnivores _____
of herbivores _____



Check monthly. One could collaborate with others to report those releases in an article in the Tennes-Sierran.

In this Internet Culture, Public Notices of meetings and Public Comment periods are on the Internet as a matter of course. There are paper copies on bulletin boards and there are mailing lists for some of this, but the Internet is far more convenient.

It has been my experience, if one sees an issue early enough, one has a far better chance of resolving that issue with success than letting it get so close it will be inside of one's ability to react to a successful resolution. That is why these notices and web-sites should be checked, and regularly and make regular reports to the Issue Leader(s) and Conservation Chair.

Speaking of meetings. To my knowledge, all of the above meetings are Public Meetings, as required by law. Big problem, in Memphis, and maybe elsewhere, these meetings are held in the early afternoon, when most people are at work, doing the "8-5". Here is where retired and self-employed two-hour activists come into play. They may have the more flexible schedule, without having to take vacation time or other personal leave. These meetings last often more than two hours, but that is the price to pay. These members have the best chance of attending these meetings and reporting back to the Issue Leader and Conservation Chair what transpired. Then if additional mobilization is needed, then it can be done in a systematic fashion.

What are the benefits of two-hour activism? "Many hands make light work." The Tennessee Chapter has slightly over 6,000 members. If each member did two hour's work a week as an activist, that means that 12,000 hours a week of activist work would be generated. Now instead of a core group of activists working many hours on a limited number of issues, a larger group can work on a larger number of issues, with less time per person being expended. Go back to the first

**Don't Forget,
Fall means Silent Auction!**

The Defenders of Tennessee is a Sierra Club program that was formed for the purpose of funding our own lobbyist in the Tennessee Legislature. For the past 6 years, our lobbying efforts have paid off in getting good legislation passed and bad legislation stopped. One of the ways we fund this program is through a silent auction at our Fall Meeting (see above ad).

We need your donations of new, or good old things, such as crafts, outdoor equipment, gift certificates, plants, books, handmade items, homemade jam, home brews, etc. If you are not able to attend the meeting but want to help, please contact someone you know who is going, or call your local chair listed on page 2 of this newsletter to arrange for someone else to take your donations to the meeting. AND, if you are coming to the meeting, don't forget to bring money to buy all the good stuff!

sentence in the article, "Our lives are a balancing act." When too much is being balanced, something may or will fall, or one person who over commits, will experience "environmental burn-out." Another benefit is that group members who participate in two-hour activism will feel ownership of the issue and the self-esteem that will result. A more active membership is another benefit as the word spreads that one is needed just two hours a week...17 minutes a day.

The clock is ticking; won't you join us for a two hour a week activism?

Outings

starting at Betty Gap and the River's headwaters. Plan on lots of water crossings but the water level should be doable this time of year. This backpack is rescheduled from last year. Rated Moderate. Preregister with Will Skelton: Home 865-523-2272, Work 865-521-0363; email whshome@bellsouth.net.

Sunday, October 26 - Murfreesboro Greenway Dayhike - Join us for an easy, 5 mile walk on Murfreesboro's paved Greenway system, which follows the Stones River. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Stones River National Battlefield Visitor's Center (3501 Old Nashville Hwy), and we'll carpool to the Cannonsburgh trailhead. Along the way we'll see remnants of Civil War fortresses plus a pioneer village, ending at the National Battlefield site, where you can drive through portions of land fought on during the Battle of Stones River. For additional information and to register, contact Diane at Diane@Propson.com or 615-895-1236.

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.

Friday, October 31 to Sunday, November 2 - Halloween Backpack on the Fiery Gizzard Trail - We'll start this weekend on Halloween at the CCC campsite 0.6 miles from the Fiery Gizzard Trailhead on the Grundy Co. side. Sat. we will hike the Fiery Gizzard Trail spending the night at Small Wilds campsite. Sun. we'll finish our hike at the Foster Falls trailhead. Friday night we'll share a campfire and a pot-luck camp supper. Bring your favorite ghost story to share and come in costume if you wish! For additional information and to register contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Adelia1@aol.com

Saturday, November 8 - Frozen Head State Park Dayhike - Join Heloise on another exciting trip exploring Old Mac Mountain in Frozen Head State Park near Wartburg, TN. This hike to Tubbs Springs will be approx. 7 miles. Parts of it will be strenuous but most of it will be moderate. It is usually chillier on OMM due to the elevation, so dress accordingly. The plan is to use the South Old Mac and Panther Branch Trails, so we'll run a short (mile) shuttle to avoid the last mile on a jeep road. Call Heloise to pre-register at 615-896-6278 or email stillwild@bellsouth.net. Hiking boots required, hiking sticks helpful, and bring water and a snack.

Saturday & Sunday, November 15-16 - Fall Creek Fall Backpack - Last year we backpacked the Upper Overnight Loop, so let's explore the Lower Overnight Backpacking Loop. Total mileage approx. 13 miles. Rated moderate to strenuous. For additional information and to register contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Adelia1@aol.com

Friday, November 28 to Sunday, November 30 - GSMNP Backpack - We will meet at Cosby Campground

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Saturday-Sunday, October 4-5, 2003, Backpack, Cohutta Wilderness (GA) - The Cohutta (Ga) and adjacent Big Frog (TN) Wildernesses together total 45,059 acres, the east's largest protected National Forest Wilderness areas. Using a car shuttle, we will hike about 13 miles along much of the length of the Conasauga River in the heart of the Cohutta Wilderness,

Saturday, October 11, 2003, Angel Falls Overlook Night Hike. - If you missed this hike in the spring, you get a second chance. Our easy fall trek to Angel Falls Overlook is timed to coincide with cooler temperatures and the diminished chance of rain associated with the season. Moonlight hopefully will light our way where our trail will parallel the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River for about 2 miles, before ascending the final quarter mile or so to the rock precipice that offers an outstanding view of the surrounding plateau and the river gorge below. Bring a snack to enjoy during our stopover. Rain is ALWAYS a possibility; raingear, boots (snakes are active), good flashlight w/ extra batteries and bulb are required. Pre-register with: Steve Dyer 865-689-3151 / 865-922-3489, CraigSDyerCDT@msn.com

Saturday, October 18, 2003, Day Hike, Smokemont Loop Trail GSMNP - A chance to enjoy fall colors in the Oconaluftee area of the Park. A hike of about 5.5 miles with possibility of adding mileage along Bradley Fork Trail. With elevations ranging from 2200' to 3500', the hike is rated moderate. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Kroger's on Northshore Road just off of Pellissippi Parkway. Call Linda Smithyman at (615) 822-1979 by Thursday night, Oct 16.

Saturday - Sunday, October 18 - 19, 2003, Fall Color Backpack, Sheep Pen Gap via Wolf Ridge, GSMNP - A long gradual climb through fall colors leads us to Parson's Bald and on to one of the finer high elevation tent sites in the Park. On Sunday, if the weather cooperates, we should have great views down into Cades Cove from Gregory Bald. We will return to the Twenty Mile Ranger Station via the Long Hungry Ridge Trail. Because of the elevation gain, we have to rate the hike as difficult, but the well graded trails make this an easy "difficult." There is a limit of 8 on this trip, so sign up early. Pre-register with Roger Jenkins, (865) 690-3257 (h), (865) 574-4871 (w); email: mcdonaldjenkins@twohikers.org.

Saturday, November 1, 2003, Day Hike, Schoolhouse Gap Turkey Pen Ridge, GSMNP - We will start this 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. Pre-register 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 Trail head (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. Pre-register 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

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday October 11 to Friday October 17 - Smokies Backpack on the AT - Several folks associated with Sierra Club and TTA are planning to backpack the AT in the Smokies from Fontana Dam to Newfound Gap. Rated Strenuous. Experienced backpackers only. For additional information, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Adelia1@aol.com

Sunday, October 19 - North Chicamauga Creek Pocket Wilderness - Come out for another adventure with Heloise on the Stevenson Trail. Four miles one way (eight miles total). NCCPW, near Soddy Daisy north of Chattanooga, is one of the areas set aside by Bowater. It is a challenging (as opposed to strenuous) dayhike. Fall colors should be good. Hiking boots required and wearing bright colors good idea just in case a poacher is in the area. Bring water and a snack. For additional information and to register contact Heloise at 615-896-6278 or email stillwild@bellsouth.net



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!



Join the Nashville Recycling Team!

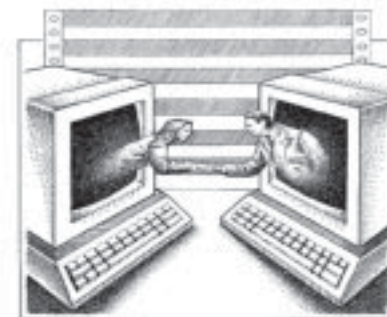
Any good friend of the earth who can donate 2 or 3 hours any Saturday morning can join the fun at our Kroger Elysian Fields Recycling Site. We need you! AND, your efforts directly contribute to the environmental campaigns of your local Middle Tennessee Group.

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



Thank You!!

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TENNESSEE-NEWS

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Replace the variables omitting the brackets.

on Friday and hike the Low Gap trail to the AT spending the night at Cosby Shelter. Saturday, we will hike the AT and the Lower Mt. Cammerer trail spending the night at campsite 35. We'll hike a side trail off the AT to Mt. Cammerer Fire Tower to see the 360 degree view of the northeastern section of the Smokies. Rated strenuous. 15.3 miles total. Reservations limited. For additional information and to register contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Adelicia1@aol.com

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

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 Trail_Work_Play@hotmail.com

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

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Saturday, October 4, 2003 - Dayhike, 4 miles, at the North Chickamauga Greenway. If you are interested, please contact Don Vanhook at 423-843-3244 or vanhoeck@earthlink.net.

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 at (901) 276-2819 or at JHammond@tnqio.sdps.org.

Saturday, October 11, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Wolf River Harbor Clean-Up, Memphis - Meet at 10AM at the public boat ramp under the Auction Avenue bridge, just north of the Pyramid, North Front Street. Help make Wolf River Harbor cleaner. Join Chickasaw Group members and the new Sierra Club Water Sentinels program as we partner with the City of Memphis' Public Works Department to pick up trash along the banks of the Harbor. Scott Dye, Director of the national Sierra Club Water Sentinels program will be joining us. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Participants will receive a Water Sentinels t-shirt and an appreciation gift. Participants will be eligible for a drawing to win door prizes from OutDoors, Inc. After the event, please join us at Cafe Francisco at Main and Jackson for snacks and drinks. Contact James A. Baker @901-372-6717.

Sunday, October 18, 8:00 a.m., Fort Pillow State Park Fall Hike - This is the site of a Civil War battle on the Mississippi River bluff. The river has moved, but the bluff and the battlements are still there. The flora of the Eastern hardwood forest is interesting, as is the Visitor Center history of the African American troops who fought Gen. NB Forrest here. Bring lunch and we'll eat on the trail. The hike is about 5-6 miles RT and will be slow-paced, as the trail is a tad bit hilly in some places. If there is interest you can visit Alex Haley's boyhood home on our return. Meet at the old Penny's parking lot, north end of Raleigh Springs Mall. We'll depart at 8J0 AM and return mid-afternoon. Contact Judith Hammond @ 901-276-2919 or Stanley Abell @375-0239.

Friday-Sunday, October 24-25, Pickett State Park. Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter Meeting - Join us for the beauty of fall in the Park and the adjacent Big South Fork of the Cumberland National Recreation Area. The club goes here every fall and every fall is an enjoyable adventure. There are many trails through the forest. Twin Arches trail will be on the agenda. Officers will meet Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Cabins and restrooms/showers are heated. Leave Memphis on Friday morning or mid-day. Bring your own bedding. Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings and dinner Saturday night is included. You volunteer once to cook or clean up. Bring a few bucks for the auction on Saturday night to raise money to pay our lobbyist in Nashville. See the TenneSierran for registration and payment information (\$30.00 for the weekend). For ride share and other information call Charlie Rond 452-8150 or Don Richardson 276-1387.

DISCLAIMER FOR THE FOLLOWING OUTINGS: 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, October 11, 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 at (901) 276-1387 or donrich@juno.com. Sponsored by Park Friends.

Do we need Nature?

by Ron Castle

Continued from page 2

tainly true in Tennessee where environmental issues go largely unreported or underreported except in the context of a specific news event. I am not personally aware of any specifically "environmental reporters" at any of the major newspapers in our state. Reporting on the environment apparently doesn't make big advertisers happy and the prime mission of most corporately owned newspapers today is to make advertisers happy.

So, if we are not getting leadership from our political representatives and we are not getting leadership from the press, where do we get our leadership? Poorly paraphrasing Pogo, "We have met the leadership and he is us." Its grassroots time in Tennessee and elsewhere. Things are starting to change from the bottom up. I am an example of that change. I have made a deliberate decision to cooperate with Nature as best I know how.

In reality, we are all interlopers wherever we live. Do we need Nature? The question should be, "Does Nature need man?" We see all around us the long term results of man made attempts to dominate Nature. Our Natural support systems are collapsing. If we are to be a successful species, we must demonstrate the results of learning all over again how to cooperate with Nature. When that happens, I can come down from my mountain and be at peace and at home anywhere. That will be the time to write a new song. I hope for all of us that the time is soon.

Hummingbirds Rule in Tennessee!

Compiled by various members of the Chickasaw Group

Continued from page 1

a trust for the perpetual support of the historic facility. The sisters are descendants of Eb Davis, the original owner who established the cotton plantation and, in addition, once owned 40,000 acres in Alabama and 40,000 acres in Arkansas.

Bats were also a feature of the Saturday event, with an expert showing the audience three varieties of bats including the giant fruit bat of South America. As he walked through the audience holding the bat, an electronic converter allowed you to hear the echo location sounds the bat uses to catch insects and to avoid obstacles. Many myths were exploded: bats are not blind, they will not become entangled in your hair, although they can become infected with rabies, they are no more prone to it than any other animal.

Another expert talked about alligators which have returned from a threatened species situation a number of years ago to thrive now in the Mississippi Delta. He also taught the recipients about threatened species of turtles and beetles, which could go the way of the extinct passenger pigeon.



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

Tennes-Sierran's Visit the World with Sierra Club



Top Right: A tripod being used with a wench to extract a large root.

Top Left: Beautiful view from a short hike we took up from a campsite and work area.

From Tennessee to Machu Picchu!

By Barry Faust - Knoxville, Tennessee

My wife, Debbie and I just returned from from a 17 day Sierra Club trip to Peru with John O'Donnell. We left on July 10th returning July 27th. The trip was the vacation of a lifetime! We visited the Wildlife Refuge in Paracas, spent 5 days in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, 3 days at Machu Picchu, 5 days in the rainforest, and we even flew over the Nazca Lines in a small piper cub. We visited Lima, Cuzco, Puerto Maldonado, the Tambopata Research Center, Chinchero, hiked part of the Inca Trail, and visited several local markets. It was the most beautiful and wonderous trip or our lives. The people of Peru and the country were beautiful beyond words. We had zero problems and loved every day of the trip. Even when I had to get out and help push the dugout canoe up the river 5 times. Our guides were excellent as were the food and lodging. Special thanks to Pepe, Jackie, Nilton, Hans, Lucretia, and everyone who helped make our journey so memorable. We will go back to Peru again. The Inca were right when they said it was the Center of the Universe. Thank you Sierra Club for the opportunity. Thank you Peru and your people for your Spiritual Healing, Wisdom, love, and respect for the planet.



Above: Tamara Naumann, National Park Service Botanist stands beside a pile of freshly extracted bush.

To the Right: A classic view of the Dinosaur Monument area.



To the Left: This is an example of one of the large roots we tackled -- not the largest one though!

Top set of photos by Linda White

leader for all things pertaining, and best of all, a genuine person who works tirelessly on keeping the "Center of her Universe" in the order as it was meant to be, had the answer. It seems that in the very early 1900's it was brought in from the middle east as an ornamental plant. After that around the 30's-40's it was thought by the government to be of great benefit in holding the banks of the rivers together. Unfortunately, the real history is that this plant, that grows rapidly into a large tree, has a massive root system and because of the caustic effects of it, kills all things around it. AND, it's not an easy "system" to extract. When digging, pulling, or getting rid of this "system", you have to completely remove it's entire tap root. I observed, through working, that even the smallest tree on top of the ground would have a very long tap root. Fortunately, we were furnished with the best of tools. We had shovels, primers, extractors, and for the very large and deep, there was a tripod with a wench. As a group of individuals, we really worked as "one." And together, we Sierra Club individuals made a BIG difference!

As for the pure pleasure of this trip.....the scenery was beautiful. We actually only rafted about 50 total miles in the 6 days, but we experienced beauty that I cannot describe, and the pictures I took do no justice to.

Tamara Naumann's center of the universe is in the Dinosaur Park and down the Green River, and now it has become a part of my world too!

Below First Row Left: Barry and Debbie Faust stop to pose for a quick photo taken by very nice French lady who was also visiting the area.

Below First Row Right: Inca Jamming -- Barry Faust plays his harmonica with a local flute player in a market in Chinchero. He I traded harmonicas for pan flutes on two occasions, and says the people were wonderful.

Below Bottom Row: The Sacred Valley of the Incas



Sierra Club Working in the West

By Linda White
Goodlettsville, Tennessee.

On September a group of Sierra members, including myself, gathered at Split Mountain in Dinosaur, Utah to begin a week of work on the Green River. After loading all the gear we were driven by van into Colorado and embarked at the "Gates of Ladore." This was the actual beginning place for our crew to get on rafts and start down the river.

Along with our 12 members of the Sierra Club, were 3 NFS employees and also 3 volunteer boatmen. All were from different states such as Colorado, Wisconsin, Michigan, California, New Mexico, Virginia, and our Sierra leader was Lee Bowen from Virginia.

I first heard of this trip via the Sierra Club Magazine. After being accepted on January 2, 2003 for the trip the planning began and the excitement on my part mounted.

The personal reward from this trip is not measurable. Instead of being served in some capacity, we all became the servers ourselves. Each day we were in the rafts a while, and then on land either learning about what we were doing and why, or actual at work. The mission was to extract the "Tamarisk", or "salt cedar" tree, but those of us new to it just called it a "pain-for-our-rivers."

Of course the question was asked, "where did this come from?" Tamara Naumann, botanist, educator, cheer-

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