

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 35, Number 4 - April, 2004

Update on UCRA Wetlands ARAP

By John Harwood

In a previous article in the Tennes-Sierran we've detailed the Sierra Club's opposition to the planned filling of a wetland next to the Upper Cumberland Regional Airport. In summary, the wetland is a unique resource! It is a total of ten acres, which contains a very rare (for our area) marsh habitat. It is also a beautiful place that would much better serve as a park than as ground under hangers. Permits for destruction of aqueous resources, including wetlands, require that the condition of "avoidance" be addressed. In this case, the planned construction could conveniently utilize thirty acres directly be-

holders are not. Contesting these permits is presently a lengthy and complicated process that has little chance of success.

The Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, Tennessee Environmental Council, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and the Tennessee Clean Water Network, are investigating means of contesting this permit. They have filed an administrative Petition before the Tennessee Water Quality Control Board challenging the ARAP issuance because of the failures.

Those failures being:

1. Failure to show a practicable alternative to filling the wetland.
2. Failure to have adequate mitigation.
3. Failure to follow recently enacted (negotiated in the Spencer/ Rumbling Fall's court case) anti-degradation procedures for public participation when the state allows degradation of a high quality tier II water, such as this wetland.



Photo compliments of Mary Mastin

side the wetland, land already owned by the airport. Not only is the doctrine of avoidance being ignored, the planners seem to be going out of their way to destroy this wetland. Purchase of the wetland scheduled for destruction, paying for wetland mitigation elsewhere, required by law, and replacement

of the storm water runoff treatment function of the wetland would require an estimated cost to taxpayers in excess of \$100,000 dollars.

We thought there was a good chance that our comments and those of others, written and given at the public hearing on the issue, would bring reason to the permitting decision. Very simply and inexpensively, the location of the planned hangers could be moved a couple of hundred feet, thus saving much taxpayer money and effort while allowing the proposed expansion of the airport facilities to be realized. For reasons that continue to be unclear, the permit to destroy the wetlands has recently been issued.

In Tennessee, ARAP permit applicants are given a chance to appeal a permit decision but citizens and other stake-



Photo compliments of Mary Mastin

At present the Federal Aviation Administration is performing an environmental study of the project under the National Environmental Policy (NEPA) Act. When delivered, the findings of this study will require a thirty-day public comment period.

There is also a possible challenge to the Army Corps of Engineers to assert Section 404 jurisdiction because they say this is an isolated wetland.



Sierra et al Awarded NRC Hearing on NFS BLEU Project

by Linda C. Modica,
Group Chair - State of Franklin Group

NFS has been operating since the late-1950s as a fuel supplier to the US Navy's nuclear fleet. But, over the past couple of years, it has been applying for amendments to its nuclear materials license so that it could handle tons of highly enriched uranium from dismantled US nuclear weapons, and then downblend the HEU into LEU for use as fuel for TVA's Browns Ferry #1 plant.

Our US Senator, Lamar Alexander, who is also chair of the TVA Congressional Caucus, believes that "new nuclear power is clean energy that will reduce our dependence on foreign gas and should be cost-effective." ... "The whole country is watching TVA as it completes Browns Ferry." ... "All early indications are that it is going well, on time and within budget. I want to focus on that and use it as an example for the rest of the country." Sen. Alexander's interest in restarting Browns Ferry 1, which was closed in the late '70s (just before Three Mile Island, I believe) after a fire caused what was then the worst US accident since Fermi, jibes with the Bush/Cheney plan for at least a new reactor per year.

NFS, a privately-held company that has fed at the military contract trough for over 40 years, continues to play the "national security card" and wrap itself in secrecy even though this new downblending process ("BLEU") is being conducted for the sole purpose of manufacturing commercial fuel for commercial TVA reactors at a rate of commercial profit of (we've been told) at least 50%. NFS also plays the "national security card" when it doesn't want to spend the time to analyze the human and environmental health effects of the proposed BLEU process, whining that an EIS will delay the immobilization of weapons-grade uranium.

But, twice burned, twice shy. NFS is the company that dumped the West Valley, NY waste problem on upstate New Yorkers and on US taxpayers after the company walked away from its uneconomic plant. And while NFS was fouling NY's air, water and soil — and not paying for the cleanup — it was fouling Tennessee's air, water and soil and moving as slow as molasses (literally, since the EPA has allowed the company to pump molasses into the ground as a type of bioremediation) on the cleanup of its burial grounds.

Despite the fact that NFS has yet to finish its superficial removal of low-level waste at its burial grounds, and despite the fact it hasn't even started tackling the deep groundwater contamination problem of TCE & PCE concentrations thousands of times safe drinking water standards, and despite the fact that the town of Erwin supplied its public drinking water from wells (one of which is less than a quarter mile from NFS) and from groundwater springs, the NRC has awarded NFS two of the three licenses it needs for the BLEU process.

An Environmental Assessment fraught with errors and omissions and two Findings of No Significant Impact & accompanying, piddling EAs are all the environmental analyses the NRC has done with respect to NFS's application to perform a new

Continued on page 8

Tennes-Sierran

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

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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. Email and email 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 email message only.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email 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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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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State of Franklin Group

- Bristol/Johnson City/Kingsport

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

by James H. Baker
Project Director, Tennessee Water Sentinels

Time Flies ! It has been an eventful year for the Tennessee Water Sentinels. This is best shared with you gentle readers in this photo-montage that highlights just some of TWS's many activities. Go to:

<http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/>

...to download and read the reports that Tennessee Water Sentinels has done.

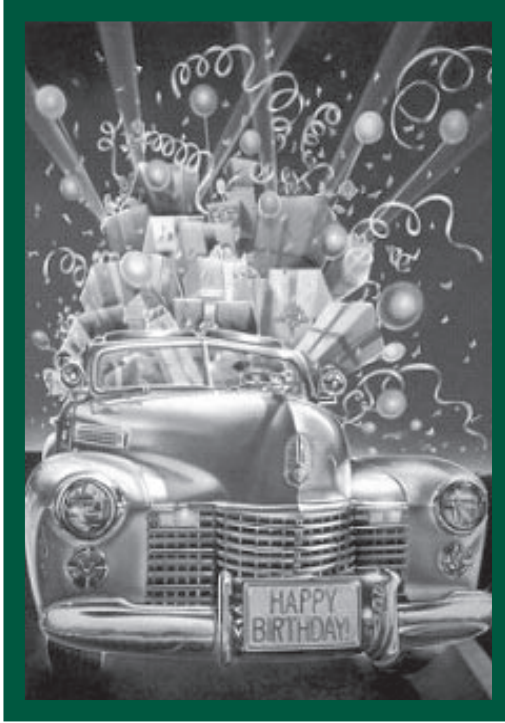
To read what is being done at other Water Sentinels sites around the nation, go to:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/watersentinels/>

1. Director of the National Sierra Club's Water Sentinels program makes the official announcement at the Chickasaw Group's program meeting in March 2003 that the Tennessee Water Sentinels project is a "go". Photo by James Baker
2. A "toxic tour" of water pollution sources in Memphis conducted in March 2003. From left to right: Charlie Rond - 2003 Chickasaw Group Chair, James Baker and Scott Dye inspect Cypress Creek and one of its many industrial dischargers. Photo-tripod mounted camera
3. On Earth Day, 2003, the Tennessee Water Sentinels and the Chickasaw Group held a press conference to release the findings on storm water pollutants in the Wolf River Harbor. From left to right: James Baker, Scott Dye, Allan Lummus - 2003 Conservation Chair and Teri Sullivan - 2003 Publicity Chair, await the arrival of the press. Photo by Don Richardson

Tennessee Water Sentinels

Is One Year Old!



"muddy water blues" and he lets the appropriate agencies know about these sites via letters and photos. Photo by Bill Griffin

5. While clear cuts on the Cumberland Plateau are observed best from an aircraft, the devastation from ground level is very obvious as well. At the Summer Chapter Retreat in August 2003, Cielo Sand - a Tennessee Forests Council member showed James and other interested Sierrans several clear cuts. Note the erosion channel in the center foreground of this photo. Clear cuts impact streams with mud and silt, often for years after the cutting is completed. Photo by James Baker

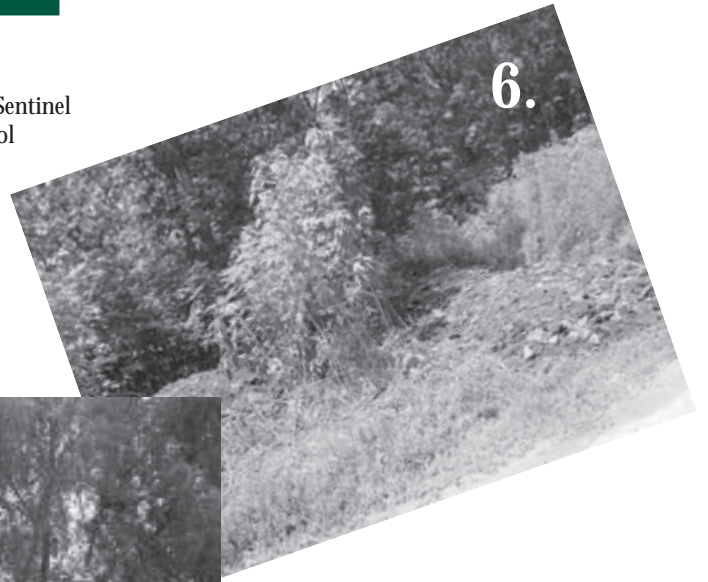
6. While touring the clear cut sites at the Chapter Retreat, Cielo and James came upon these piles of manure beside the road. They appeared to be recently dumped and the stench was incredible. Photo by James Baker

7. The Tennessee Water Sentinels and the Chickasaw Group held a successful clean-up along the shores of the Wolf River Harbor in October 2003. As one can see, the Sierra volunteers and members of the Coast Guard collected many bags of urban flotsam and jetsam that had been washed out of the storm drains into the harbor. Photo Scott Dye

8. On a very cold and windy morning in January 2004, these frozen folk gathered on the banks of the Mississippi River as James gave a short press conference regarding the release of the latest Tennessee Water Sentinels report, "Fouling the Father of Waters." Left to right: Steven Sondheim - Friends of Shelby Farms, Sue Williams - League of Women Voters, James Baker, Charlie Rond and Gary Bridgman - President of the Board of Directors of the Wolf River Conservancy. Photo by Don Richardson.



4. In early May 2003, Tennessee's Water Sentinel teaches at an International Erosion Control Association seminar in Memphis. At left: James is demonstrating to the seminar's attendees how a "construction exit" is to be installed and maintained. Badly maintained erosion controls on construction sites gives James a case of the



Meetings



HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, April 13, 2004, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. For our April program, we welcome Lisa Stewart from the Appalachian Bear Center in Townsend. The center is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to rehabilitate orphaned and injured bears for release to the wild, to educate the public about black bears and the regional threats facing them, and to research bear attributes which may help solve other environmental or health related issues. Call Priscilla Watts at 865-966-4142 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday April 27, 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 Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840 for more information.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING on Thursday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) For more information on this program, contact Shelli Dimarco at globalpeace04@hotmail.com or leave a message for her at 615-386-3640.

Think mountaintop removal (MTR) mining isn't a problem in Tennessee? THINK AGAIN. Zeb Mountain is Tennessee's first MTR site. Don't know what mountaintop removal is? MTR is a technique used to mine coal, in which up to 600 feet of mountaintop is blasted away, with valleys and mountain streams being filled with the resultant rock, rubble, and sludge. Think it can't get any worse? It can; the Bush Administration has proposed a change that will further loosen extant regulations and which will give coal companies free rein to destroy streams and fill valleys with hundreds of millions of tons of mine waste. JOIN US for a slide show about MTR, presented by Vanderbilt University graduate Dave Cooper, a former coal-field organizer and current MTR activist. Along with Dave will be a West Virginia resident who will describe what it's like to live in close proximity to an MTR mine site

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are first 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 Academy Building). We try to have signs out front to point the way, but, just in case, we meet on the 4th floor. 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 Christopher Anderson at sustainurworld@comcast.net or 615-478-0596. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Katherine Pendelton at Adelicial@aol.com or 615-943-6877 evenings.

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: Until further notice, the State of

Franklin Group will hold its Strategy Meeting on the second Thursday of every month. Program meetings will continue to be held on the fourth Tuesday. Unless otherwise advertised, all Sierra Club meetings are held at 7:00pm at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, 2620 South Roan Street, Johnson City. Please contact Linda Modica at lcmodica@aol.com, 753-9697 (H) or 676-2925 (cell) to confirm a meeting or to place an item on the agenda.

PROGRAM MEETING: No Program Meetings the months of June, July or August. Watch for announcement of the State of Franklin Group's program in our local papers. All Sierra Club meetings are held 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 @ lcmodica@aol.com or 753-9697.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday April 22nd @ 7:00 p.m. - Greenway Farms in Hixson - Our April Program will be a potluck/social to celebrate Earth Day (Thursday April 22nd). We will meet at Greenway Farm (just off Hamill Road) in Hixson for the 7:00 PM celebration. Bring a dish and enjoy food, fun, and fellowship with fellow Sierrans from across southeast Tennessee! The night of our monthly programs was changed from the third Thursday of each month to the fourth Thursday of each month.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monthly strategy meetings are generally held prior to the program meetings and everyone is welcome to attend. The strategy meetings begin at 5:30. For additional information, contact Rick Gehrke 423-843-9625 or email rick.gehrke@comcast.net

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, April 1, 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 jdjhnstn@memphis.edu at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, April 12, 6:30 p.m. - University of Memphis Alumni Center, 635 Normal Street, 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 April 8 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150 for more information. (Note: This is a new meeting site.)

THIRD THURSDAY GATHERING: Thursday, April 15, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Café Francisco, 400 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "THIRD 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 jdjhnstn@memphis.edu at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 - 7:00 p.m. - Memphis and Shelby County Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. Steve Sondheim from the Friends of Shelby

Farms will lead a presentation and discussion about the proposed road to be constructed through Shelby Farms. The presentation and discussion will look at the proposed roads, how they will affect Shelby Farms, and how accurately the newspapers have depicted the recent discussions. Program Meetings are scheduled every month on the fourth Wednesday. Contact Teri Sullivan tsullivan5@midssouth.rr.com at (901) 320-7191 for more information.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: Every Monday at 1:30pm, Tuesday at 4:00pm and Wednesday at 11:30am, CST, The Library Channel, Memphis Cable 18, WYPL, "The Nature of Conservation" is sponsored by the Sierra Club. For April, Program Host Judith Rutschman will interview James Baker, Tennessee Water Sentinel for the Sierra Club on efforts to clean up the water in Memphis. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the month. 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.

Don't Forget, Spring 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 7 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 Spring Meeting (see below 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 dollars to buy all the good stuff!

Tennessee Chapter Spring Meeting

April 30-May 2, 2004

Fall Creek Falls State Park

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/parks/>

Hosted by the Middle Tennessee Group. Join us at Fall Creek Falls State Park. We will occupy the Group Lodge where bunks are provided, but bring your own bedding, pillow, and towel.

Activities will include early Saturday morning bird watching (Spring warblers should be in the park), and then mid morning to "lunch hike" (to the Falls overlook, then down to the base), or mid morning to "lunch mountain bike" (Chinquapin trail, moderate). You could probably count on a longer afternoon hike too! Saturday evening we will enjoy a Silent Auction, and maybe a short evening program.

The cost for the entire weekend is only \$30.00 per person (1/2 price for children under 12 years old). This includes lodging, Saturday breakfast and dinner, and Sunday breakfast.

Please RSVP to:
Rachel Floyd
email: rfloyd557@aol.com
telephone: 615-406-9204

Registration Info Needed:
Number of Attendees & Names
Number of carnivores
Number of herbivores

Tennessee Chapter Earth Day Efforts Focus on the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

By Gary Bowers
Conservation Chair-TN Chapter

The TN Chapter Executive Committee voted at the January Chapter meeting to make the Great Smoky Mountains National Park the focus of all six member groups Earth Day events. The proposed North Shore Road, which would be built thru the largest wilderness area east of the Mississippi River, will be the specific issue that each group will be focusing on.

Working with the Sierra regional staff, we have been able to obtain post cards for each group's Earth Day tabling events. These cards give you, the concerned public, an opportunity to voice their opposition to the destruction of this wilderness area. Please show your support for your local Earth Day event by attending. Please be sure to voice your opinion regarding the building of the North Shore Road by signing one of these post cards. While you're at it take a couple for your friends, family, or neighbors to sign.

Middle Tennessee Group & Earth Month, 2004

By Christopher Anderson, and
Shelli Dimarco

The Sierra Club Middle Tennessee Group will be participating in at least three Earth Day events this year. The first event will be over a period of three days at the Grassmere Nashville Zoo, on April 3, 4, and 18. The second event will be Earth Day in Nashville at Centennial Park on April 17. We will also be at the Murfreesboro Earth Day event, which takes place on April 22, which is the actual day on which Earth Day is being celebrated this year. The Murfreesboro event will take place at the Murfreesboro Civic Plaza. For details on hours for all three events, please see the end of this article.

We welcome anyone wishing to be a part of, or wishing to broaden, our efforts at celebrating our beautiful planet and helping us spread the word on how important taking care of Mother Earth is. We can use assistance in a variety of ways at all three locations, so please contact us if you would like to participate. In addition, the Metro Earth Day Board is seeking individuals to help with certain tasks at the Centennial Park Earth Day event, such as setting up and tearing down the stage, tables and chairs, helping with the straw bale construction, and assisting the recycling folks (as our own Jeremy Doochin and his Hume-Fogg student group are already doing). Of vital concern is that we assist Sherri Sloan, the Metro Earth Day Board Chair, in cleaning up after the Centennial event. Given her enthusiasm for, and assiduousness on, the event, and the assistance she has provided our organization, I committed us to making sure the park is left in better condition than that in which we found it! I hope you will consider pitching in to help restore the park after the thousands of Earth Day attendees have gone.

One possible new Centennial Earth Day event, which is an exciting one with the potential to reach a great number of attendees is an event-wide raffle. Organizers have currently gathered donations from several garden centers and nurseries to be raffled off to folks who finish a short survey/quiz, (similar to the one we had at the recent Lawn and Garden Show, for those of you who were there). However, the possibility exists of giving other groups the potential to broaden this survey / raffle by turning it into a scavenger hunt, which would proactively engage more of the folks who might attend Earth Day simply to see a headline band or win a prize. The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy is a contributor to this idea, and I anticipate that we will be working closely together on it. A scavenger hunt would require participants to visit several booths and investigate the respective booths' information in order to answer the questions and obtain a raffle ticket. Ideally, participants would decide on their favorite group / area, and prizes (group memberships, products, and such) would be awarded according to participants' interests.

While the Centennial event will no doubt include a diverse audience, the Murfreesboro event, partly due to the fact that it takes place on a weekday, will most likely have fewer adults in attendance. As such, children are the main target audience of the Murfreesboro event. The organizers are hoping that inviting teachers and schools to bring field trips will be an excellent way in which we can increase attendance and reach out to a younger audience. So, please spread the word to your local schools about the Murfreesboro event!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Christopher Anderson, Conservation Chair (in-training), Middle TN Group, (615) 478-0596, sustainurworld@comcast.net.

Earth Days at Grassmere Zoo:
Sat., April 3 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sun., April 4 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sun., April 18 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Earth Day at Centennial Park:
Sat., April 17 Noon – 7:00 p.m.

Earth Day at Murfreesboro Civic Plaza:
Thurs., April 22 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Another Nashville Earth Day Event

Earth Day event April 24 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thought Concert at the eARTH Food Park at 10th Avenue South (Leland Avenue) and Gale Lane at the I-440 overpass. Music provided by Mustafa Abdul-Aleem, Stephen Gaskin and Steve Earle. \$20 donation with sliding scale and family cap- youth under twelve \$5. Earth friendly food and booths.



Sign on to Save Our Smokies!

To subscribe to the Greater Smoky Mountains Coalition (a.k.a. Save Our Smokies - SOS) listserv, just send a blank email 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 email Liz Dixon at dixon@cs.utk.edu

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:
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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

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, April 3 at 9AM, Thirteenth Annual Greenways 5K Race. - The HBG cosponsors (with the Knox Greenways Coalition and Knoxville Track Club) an annual 3.1 mile race on the Third Creek Greenway to support the development of greenways in Knox County. Registration is at West High School on the day of the race; by mail before race day. Cost is \$15 if pre-registered (\$3.00 discount for KTC, Coalition and Sierra Club members), \$20 on race day. West High School is on Tobler Lane (from west Knoxville, go east on Kingston Pike to the Bearden area and, ¼ mile past Western Plaza Shopping Center, turn left on Forest Glen, then right on Tobler Lane;



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!

from east Knoxville and UT, go west on Kingston Pike to Forest Glen and turn right). A

greenways T-shirt with original design, lots of food, and live music by Danny Gammon and Don Cassell are provided. Contact Will Skelton for information/applications: Home 865-523-2272, Work 865-521-0363; email whshome@bellsouth.net.

Saturday-Sunday, April 17-18. Upper Bald River Backpack (Cherokee National Forest). The CNF's new Management Plan, released on February 15, recommended most of the Upper Bald River Watershed as their only new "stand-alone" wilderness. We are going to explore the heart of this potential new 9,112 acre wilderness and will hopefully gain some proponents for its wilderness designation. Our route is up the Brookshire Creek Trail, across the mountains at the head of the watershed on the State Line Trail, and returning on the Kirkland Creek Trail. Rated Moderate. Pre-register with Will Skelton: H 865-523-2272; W 865-521-6200; whshome@bellsouth.net.

Saturday, April 24. Annual Earth Day Celebration at World's Fair Park - For the past few years this event has been located at Concord Park, but this year it moves to downtown Knoxville at the World's Fair Park. The Harvey Broome Group will have a booth and will need volunteers to man the booth as well as help set up and take down the exhibit. There will be exhibits, activities for children, music, food and fun! Contact Barbara Allen: W 865-215-5180, H 865-558-9214.

Saturday, April 24. Day Hike, Max Patch, Cherokee National Forest - This will be a 4 mile loop around and to the top of this famous bald for a 360 view of the Smokies and Cherokee National Forest. Rated easy to moderate. There is a shorter 1 & 1/4 loop for those wishing to take it easy, but you will miss the view of the mysterious "crop circles" on the other side of this bald. We will meet in front of Books A Million Walker Springs at 8:30. Please pre-register with Priscilla Watts at 865-966-4142.

Saturday-Sunday, April 24-25. Backpack Lakeshore trail, GSMNP - Think you've hiked "all" the trails in the Park? Well, if you haven't hiked the new stretch of the Lakeshore Trail from Hazel to Eagle Creek, it is time to keep your status up to date. Using a shuttle across Fontana Lake, we will start near the mouth of Whiteside Creek, and after a small portion of off-trail scrambling, we will reach the Lakeshore Trail, east of Hazel Creek. Once we reach Hazel Creek, we will be on "new" trail, hiking a little over 4 miles to the mouth of Eagle Creek, where we will camp. The next day, we will finish our journey on the Lakeshore Trail, heading towards its terminus at Fontana Dam. Trail distances are about 7 miles on Day 1 and 6 on Day 2. Sign up early, as space is limited. Leader: Roger Jenkins: 865-690-3257 (H), 865-574-4871 (W), mcdonaldjenkins@twohikers.org.

Saturday, May 1. Cades Cove Night Hike, GSMNP - Springtime nights beneath a nearly full moon are the ideal time to "cruise the Cove" in search of active wildlife, good conversation and a relaxing evening. Come join us for a pleasant 8-mile stroll during the least crowded and quietest time for this particular area, bringing a snack to enjoy midway through the walk. Boots, flashlight w/ extra bulb and batteries, and raingear are needed. Pre-registration required via phone, 865-689-3151 (W) or 865-922-3489 (H) or e-mail CraigSdyerCDT@msn.com.

Saturday-Sunday, May 1-2. Backpack, Mt. Mitchell State Park, NC. - Join us for a climb to the top of Mt. Mitchell, the tallest mountain east of the Mississippi (6684'). We will start our ascent at the base of the mountain in Black Mountain Campground and climb through virgin stands of hickory and oak. As the trail passes above 4500', the vegetation

becomes a northern deciduous forest of birches and other high altitude hardwoods and finally, above 5500' enters the red spruce and Fraser fir zone. During the first 4.0-miles of the trail, we will ascend approximately 3000'. At this point we will stop and set up camp near the old site of Camp Alice, the old 1920's logging camp. If time permits, we will continue on to the summit of Mt. Mitchell (3.2-miles roundtrip), climb the tower and enjoy the incredible 360° view. If not, we will explore the area around our campsite and make the summit on Sunday. We will retrace our steps back to Black Mountain Campground on Sunday. We may stop in Asheville for a late lunch or early dinner if anyone is interested. Pre-register with Beverly Smith, 865-531-8480 (Evenings), blsmith1300@comcast.net.

MIDDLE TN GROUP (Nashville)

Sat. April 3 - Full Moon Hike - Join us for an evening hike under an almost full moon before we change to daylight savings time! Location to be determined. Contact Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com for more information. The group may go to dinner beforehand.

Saturday, April 3 8:30 a.m. - Sellers Farm Spring Volunteer Day - The Sellars Farm Friends Asso. will once again be joining together at the Sellars Farm Site in Lebanon, TN for a work day preserving one of the best kept secrets in Tennessee known as the Sellars Farm State Archaeological Area. Volunteers are asked to bring tools such as brush cutters, chain saws, good gloves, sturdy work boots, drinking water, and a desire to be part of history! Please bring a picnic and join us in the afternoon on the banks of the Spring Creek. Enjoy fellowship with others who share your same spirit and relax as you hear more about one of the best kept secrets in Middle Tennessee. For safety concerns, please do not bring children to this event. Rain Date April 10-8:30 a.m. For more information and directions email: nativemound@yahoo.com

Fri./Sat./Sun., April 9-11 - GSMNP Backpacking Trip - We will start our hike at Cosby Campground on Friday, spending the night at Cosby Shelter on the AT. Saturday, we'll go north on the AT and then take the Lower Mount Cammerer Trail to campsite 35 and spend the night there. Total mileage Friday approx. 3.5 miles. Sat. mileage approx. 10 miles including side trail to Mt. Cammerer Fire Tower. Rated moderate to strenuous. Trip size limited and trip itinerary subject to change if unable to get park permit for this area. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Adelicia1@aol.com

Saturday, April 10 - Wildflower Dayhike - Cedars of Lebanon (between Murfreesboro and Lebanon on 231) wildflower hike with Heloise. This is just a five mile hike but boots are required due to the terrain. We will hike in the early afternoon. Last year the timing was just right to see dozens of Cedar glade flowers. Call Heloise at 615-896-6278 or email her at stillwild@bellsouth.net

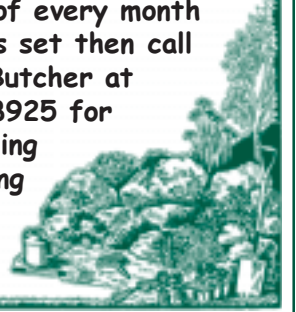
Tuesday, April 13 - Dinner Out - Join us at 6:30 p.m. for a social dinner somewhere in the Opry Mills area. Location to be determined. Contact Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com for more information.

Saturday, April 17 - Earthday Sinking Creek Clean-up in Murfreesboro - 9 till noon. Join the Stones River Watershed Association in cleaning up along Sinking Creek in Murfreesboro. This little creek runs all the way from MTSU, through neighborhoods, to the Stones River West Fork at Nice's Mill. (This is NOT a float!) Call Heloise at 615-896-6278 or email her at stillwild@bellsouth.net

Saturday, May 8 - Dog Walk at Murfreesboro Greenway - Want to socialize while giving your dog and/or cat their daily morning walk? Join us at the Murfreesboro Greenway to walk your dog. Even if you are dogless (as I am!) join us anyways for conversation and enjoy-

Come join the Sierra Club & EarthMattersTN

For outings of a different sort, come join our community garden project in East Nashville! Planning meetings are held the first Monday of every month and dates set then call Caty Butcher at 226-8925 for bed building and planting times in April.



ment of a wonderful spring morning. Walk will be between 2 - 5 miles on pavement at 8 am. (Distance determined by capability of dogs and which portions of the Greenway are open.) Contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com for more information and to register.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

SOFG Outings offers a variety of year around outings & events, which include:

Day Hikes; Full Moon Hikes; Meteor Shower Gazing; Overnight Backpacking; Trail Maintenance; Gear Swaps; Basic Backpacking Workshops; Trail Construction Workshops; Appalachian Trail Days Support.

- 1st Saturday - Trail Maintenance.
- 2nd Saturday & Sunday - Overnight Backpacking.
- Middle of the Month Wednesday - Hike or Trail Maintenance.
- 3rd Saturday - Trail Maintenance.
- 4th Saturday - Hike.
- 5th Saturday (if there is a 5th Saturday) - Hike or Trail Maintenance.
- Every Full Moon - Enjoy a sunset followed by hiking a few moonlit miles.

For details & to sign up call John Arwood: 423-926-9876. To be informed of upcoming SOFG outings via email send a brief request to: TrailWorkPlay@msn.com

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

For those of you that missed it...we had a beautiful outing to Laurel-Snow Wilderness on February 14th. Temperatures in the sixties, whitewater, waterfalls, warm rocks, good conversation, and some wonderful insights into plant identification (provided by Mary Lynn Dobson) made for a truly wonderful outing.

Sunday March 28th @ 1:00 p.m. - Hike Cherokee National Forest/Conasauga River - We are going to be going on a flat 5.2 mile hike along a beautiful section of the Conasauga River in Cherokee National Forest. It's only a 40-minute drive to the trailhead...it's basically flat...and it's a beautiful stretch of trail. We'd really like to have a big turnout for this hike. Thursday April 22nd @ 4:00 p.m. - Urban Hike-River-walk in Chattanooga - Our Earth Day outing will be an urban hike along the riverwalk in downtown Chattanooga. Susan Faidley of the Chattanooga Hiking Club will be leading this walk, which is scheduled to start from the UTC campus. Enjoy and celebrate Earth Day with a walk along the river. Then join us for an evening of fun at Greenway Farms in Hixson.

Saturday April 24th @ 7:00 a.m. - Hike Fontana Lake/Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Join us for a joint Sierra Club/Chattanooga Hiking Club Outing to Fontana Lake in Western North Carolina (Great Smoky Mountains National Park). Come see what all of the fuss is about regarding the proposed Northshore Road. Our 8.5 mile hike

will take us through tunnels and along the lakeshore for some spectacular views. Join the Sierra Club for a day of exercise, fellowship, and a little bit of activism, as we explore this precious area and discuss the possibility that it could be lost forever.

For information on upcoming outings, contact Chris O'Connor at chris_o77@yahoo.com or visit our web site at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee/index.htm>

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Saturday April 3, 7:00pm - Meeman-Shelby Forest Full Moon Hike - Join the Sierra Club and Tennessee Trails. Ranger Samantha Morouney will lead us on a 2-mile hike on the paved trail down toward the river bottoms where many barred and great horned owls live. You won't find wilder night life than this on a Saturday evening! Meet at the Visitors Center. Entrance fee is \$3.00/car. Information: Norma McMinn 901-785-1479.

Sunday April 4, 2004, 11:00am - Signs of Spring Walk - Memphis Botanic Garden, 750 Cherry Road, Audubon Park, Memphis. This is the second in a series of strolls that will let us see how the plants and garden look in the winter and see Spring arrive, as early wild flowers begin to bloom. We will walk through all the special areas of the garden. Free admission. Snow or Shine. Leader Judith Hammond 901-276-2819.

Sunday April 4, 4:30 p.m. - Downtown Walk - Discuss the Riverfront Development Corporation proposed changes to the Public Promenade and Friends for Our Riverfront's alternative plans for this area as we walk. We may also include a 2 1/3 mile loop walk on the Bluffwalk and Tom Lee Park to enjoy the sunset over the River. Meet at Riverside Drive and Union Ave. For information: Sue Williams 901-274-0524.

Saturday April 17, 10:00am-12:00pm - Wolf River Harbor Clean Up, Memphis, Tennessee - Meet at 10:00AM at the public boat ramp under the Auction Street Bridge, just north of the Pyramid. The closest major intersection is North Front Street, look for the Sierra Club signs and volunteer. Join members of the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Water Sentinels program as we pick up trash and litter along the banks of the harbor as we help make Wolf River Harbor cleaner. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Participants are advised to wear sturdy shoes that they do not mind getting muddy and clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. Participants will be eligible for a drawing to win door prizes from Out Doors, Inc. After the event, please join us at Café Francisco at 400 North Main Street, at North Parkway for snacks and drinks. Contact: James H. Baker @ 901-372-6717 or aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net for more information.



Above Map: Location of Wolf River Harbor Clean-Up
Base map courtesy of MapQuest.com

Sunday, May 2, 2004, 9:00AM - Wolf River Cleanup & Float - Bateman Bridge east of Moscow. With Bluff City Canoe Club. The clean up will begin at the Gun Club past the Bateman Road Bridge down to the bridge where the trash bags will be left for the county to pick-up. Then we'll float down to Moscow. We'll see a little of the West Tennessee swamp land as we begin. Must have river canoeing experience. Bill Rehberg 901-725-9747.

Saturday - Sunday, May 8-9, 2004 - Sylamore Creek Backpack - Ozark National Forest, Arkansas. Limestone bluffs, waterfalls, and a gentle, easy trail are featured on this easy laid-back trip. This is a good beginning backpack overnighter. It's also an opportunity for seasoned backpackers to try out new boots or equipment. The hike is about 3 miles and goes up creek from Blanchard Springs. Depart Memphis early Saturday morning. Back in Memphis by 8:00PM Sunday. For reservations call Jill Johnston 901-278-2713.

Saturday, May 8, 2004, 10:00am-12:00pm - McKellar Lake Clean-Up - Memphis, Tennessee. Meet at 10AM where Jack Carley Causeway goes across to President's Island. Driving directions: get on Riverside Blvd. going south until it becomes

Interstate 55. Stay on Interstate 55 southbound till exit #11 (McLemore Exit). Exit and go west a short distance until one gets to Riverside Blvd (look for Sierra Club sign). Turn right and go a short distance till the road turns left, this is Jack Carley Causeway (look for Sierra Club sign). Stay on Jack Carley till one sees Sierra Club sign being held by a volunteer. Park on the south side of Jack Carley. (See maps). Join with the Memphis City Beautiful Commission and Storm Water Departments as we help make McKellar Lake cleaner. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Participants are advised to wear sturdy shoes that they do not mind getting muddy and clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. Participants will be eligible for a drawing to win door prizes. Contact: City Beautiful at 901-522-1135, Memphis Storm Water at 901-576-6721 or James H. Baker at 901-372-6717 or aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net for more information.



Above Map: Location of McKellar Lake Clean-Up
Base map courtesy of MapQuest.com

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, May 7-9, 2004 - Car Camp - Blanchard Springs Campground, Sylamore Creek, Arkansas, Car Camp. Cost \$7.00/car. Leave Memphis Friday late afternoon. We'll meet up with the backpackers on Saturday morning for the Sylamore Creek hike. Saturday night potluck and for those who want, a trip after dinner into Mt. View for the ole' timey pickin' and singin' in the square. There are trails to hike, swimming, and at the Visitor's Center spelunking with the rangers (you'll need your head lights) and tours of Blanchard Springs Caves. The Ozark Folk Center is nearby. Reservations, Judith Hammond, 901-276-2819.

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, April 14, 2004, 10:00 am - Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. "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.

2nd Annual Wilderness 1st Aid Training April 24th and 25th

By Katherine Pendleton and Gary Bowers, Co-organizers

Please join us for the second annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training (WFA) the weekend of April 24th and 25th at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Landmark Learning, LLC, a long term partner with SOLO (Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunity) will perform the training again this year. Landmark's WFA training as described on their website:

WFA - Wilderness First Aid - 16 hours / 2-yr certification. Originally called Backcountry First Aid, this course was the first wilderness medical training to be taught anywhere in the world. WFA covers the basics and the most common traumatic, medical, and environmental issues that occur in the backcountry.

This class includes: the anatomy of a crisis; the correct procedure to protect yourself and others on your trip while caring for the injured; the patient assessment survey; vital signs; the physical exam; shock; blisters; burns; hypothermia; frostbite; lightning; allergies; muscular skeletal injuries (ie, sprains and strains); fractures; splints; dislocations

Please join us for this educational weekend that features top notch first aid training in an outdoor setting by instructors that have actual in the field experience. Last year's training featured hands on learning, fellowship, group dining and just plain fun. Here are some quotes from last year's participants.

"An excellent course-very informative-very knowledgeable creative instructors-a must for all trip leaders or anyone who hikes outside organized trips." — Miram McClendon

"There is no way that anyone should venture into the backcountry without a basic level of competence in first aid. The WFA course should be at the top of everyone's skill acquisition wish list. Simply outstanding." — Tim Scholl

"A highly recommended course...essential learning for anyone who ventures into the backcountry, and a great group of folks with similar interests. I thoroughly enjoyed it." — Robin Johnston

Wilderness first aid classes of this caliber often cost at least twice this amount. Sierra's goal in providing this training is to help insure the safe enjoyment of the great outdoors and we price this course accordingly for our members. Space is limited, and enrollment may already be full, but if interested, please do not hesitating contacting Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email at Adelicia1@aol.com

Book Reviews by Richard Simmers

Charles Walter, *Unforgiven: The American Economic System Sold for Debt and War Revised second edition, 2003*. Acres USA, Austin, TX., ISBN# 0-911311-67-X.

Wendell Berry, *The Gift of Good Land*. North Point Press, San Francisco, 1981., ISBN# 0-86547-052-9.

Publius Vergilius Maro (Virgil), Georgics (4 "books"). In: Virgil, I, Loeb Classical Library, Harvard University Press, 1999. ISBN# 0-674-99583-X.

F.H. King, *Farmers of Forty Centuries, 1911*. Reprinted by Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA., ISBN# 0-87857-867-6.

Sir Albert Howard, *An American Testament, [1940] 1943* by Oxford University Press. Special Rodale Press edition, 1972, 1976, 1979. (No ISBN# -Available from Acres USA)

Why do I write so often on subjects of agriculture and gardening? First of all, I like to garden. More importantly, it is because food, source of most human energy and without which all human life would cease, is becoming a worldwide crisis, due largely to agribusiness mismanagement. According to Charles Walters' book *Unforgiven*, agriculture is a vital (but too often neglected) underpinning of the American economic system. Walters interviewed Carl Wilken in 1968 shortly before the latter died; Wilken, who consulted congressmen in at least the F.D. Roosevelt and Truman years, understood as well as anyone the economic importance of agriculture, and occasionally had some impact on farm parity matters. Charles Roy was another source of data for this book; Roy could calculate six months in advance how well the American economy would do, merely by knowing "annual physical farm marketings" (pp. 254-255). John Lee Coulter, former chairman of the U.S. Tariff Commission, filled in details for Wilken (see Ch. 16).

Unforgiven is the economics book I wish I had had 30 years ago (it was first printed in 1971). In his book, Walters mentions nearly all important economic thinkers from the French physiocrats to Milton Friedman, including Adam Smith, Ricardo, Marx, Veblen, Soddy, and Keynes. He considers Ben Franklin our first important economics thinker in America; Ben stated that there were 3 ways a nation could become wealthy: (1) plunder other countries thru war and colonialism, (2) trade (limited by buying cheap and selling dear), and (3) agriculture (dealing with renewable resources; think of how many offspring a plant or animal can have during its lifetime or from its seeds.) Mining and such deal with non-renewable resources. Adam Smith (*Wealth of Nations*) stated that a nation had to develop its agriculture first, then industry, then trade. It proved essential historically that the U.S. needed a protective tariff in order to develop its industrial strength. The french physiocrats, who influenced Franklin, Jefferson and others, originated the slogan "all new wealth comes from the soil." Wealth, not money (too easily confused); money is just a medium of exchange.

Chapter 13 of *Unforgiven* has several tables of economic data which tend to support the argument of Wilken and Walters, drawn from official figures from 1929 to 1953. Keep in mind, though, that the 1 in 7 ratio appropriate for the thirties may be considerably higher now, though certainly not 1 in 50. (Ratio between farm income and whole economy).

Because family farmers, the backbone of the American economy before 1914 at least, lacked market clout, they have had to take whatever price for their crops or products they could get. After World War II, the CED - Council for Economic Development (stupidly, apparently) directly favored starving the farm sector so that industry could thrive. (See Ch. 29, etc.) CED

favored free trade and such (the result of "free trade" seems to be cheap food and cheaply paid laborers, therefore not enough money to pay for enough food, hence lots of starving or malnourished people in the world, more than there would be otherwise. The result is that nowadays, the subject of farm parity (a balance, not a subsidy, between economic sectors) rarely appears.

Since the bankers and other "drones" (see the account on pp. 161-163 on Vickers, a former governor of the Bank of England) are/were mainly concerned with lending money at interest, and because of our funny Federal Reserve System money (try to understand debt being a thing of value!), debts have accumulated enormously (4.7 trillion dollars of corporate debt alone, according to the account in the Feb 2004 Acres USA (p. 28; must reading about our money and banking system) and cannot realistically be retired. Credit injections of funny money have been stimulating our economy since at least the Eisenhower years; inflation is one result.

Farming nowadays, especially by agribusiness, is highly dependent on petroleum to do the work of cultivation and transport (see the lead article, "The Oil We Eat," in Feb. Harper's). Before 1914 most of this work was done by draft animals (horses, mules, oxen, etc.) and people. Authors such as Wendell Berry are advocating at least a partial return to draft animals; others contemplate using alcohol or biomass "diesel" fuels. Berry's book, *The Gift of Good Land*, is a joy to read; stewardship of the land is the main theme.

I bring in Virgil's *Georgics* partly because it, too, is an excellent read. The edition I have has facing pages in Latin on the left, English on the right. Reading Virgil, you may understand some aspects of farmers' lives in the early years of the Roman Empire; little changed for almost 2000 years. Virgil mentions returning dung and ashes to the soil (pp. 104-105) and letting fields rest (lie fallow) occasionally. He foreshadows Murphy's Law (pp. 112-113, lines 197-200). He and Cato were certainly right in recommending small farms (p. 165); agribusiness and Earl Butz types, take note! However, it is the splendid nature poetry in the *Georgics* that I appreciate reading the most, whether it is shorebirds bathing, a swallow flitting about, crows (rooks) returning to their broods, or such pagan erotica as "Omne adeo genus in terris . . . amor omnibus idem" (lines 242-244, book III, p. 192). [A good answer to those snooty types who consider themselves above and separate from animals.]

I have finally been able to purchase copies of F.H. King's *Farmers of Forty Centuries*, a sort of travelogue and tour of farms in China, Japan and Korea about 1908-1910, and Sir Albert Howard's *An Agricultural Testament*, both available thru Acres USA. Howard has an account of the decline of Rome on pp. 7-9 of his book which fits well with my discussion of the Walters book (*Unforgiven*). Despite the efforts of Cato and other reformers, most Roman farms became worked by slave labor owned by the upper classes; originally Rome's farmers were small freeholders. The attempts at agrarian reform by Tiberius Gracchus changed



little. Howard states (p. 9) that the Romans failed "due to inability to realize the fundamental principle that the maintenance of soil fertility coupled with the legitimate claims of the [farmers] should never have been allowed to come in conflict with the operations of the capitalist. The most important possession of a country is its population. If this is maintained in health and vigor than everything else will follow; if this is allowed to decline nothing, not even great riches, can save the country from eventual ruin. It follows, therefore, that the strongest possible support of capital must always be a prosperous and contented countryside. A working compromise between agriculture and finance should therefore have been evolved. Failure to achieve thus naturally ended in the ruin of both." (Guess where America stands now. This was written over 30 years before *Unforgiven*.)

Sierra et al Awarded NRC Hearing on NFS BLEU Project

by Linda C. Modica,
GroupChair - State of Franklin Group

Continued from page 1

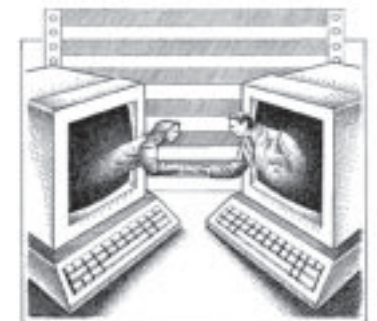
process never tried in the U.S. with HEU from U.S. weapons. The insufficiency of the NRC's oversight of our environment, our health, and our safety has motivated the Sierra Club, the Friends of the Nolichucky River Valley, the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, and the Tennessee Environmental Council to petition for a hearing and an Environmental Impact Statement on NFS's BLEU process.

In mid-March, Sierra et al was awarded standing and the hearing before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that we've sought for over a year and a half!

Now, we move into the interesting phase of research and discovery and of working with a world-recognized nuclear expert, Arjun Makhijani, and with the best attorney in the nuclear field, Diane Curran.

All our petitioning partners appreciate the continued support of the Tennessee Chapter which is committing \$10,000 to this case, and for any other donations from the public and from our fellow Tennessee Sierrans who want to help us mount this challenge. Tax deductible donations can be sent to the Sierra Club-NFS Litigation Fund, c/o Ruth Gutierrez, SOFG Treasurer, 232 Spring Street, Jonesborough, TN 37659. Any amount will be appreciated and will offset our \$50-75,000 expected expenses.

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