

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 35 Number 2 - February, 2004

TDEC's Little Secret A True X-file

By James H. Baker,
Tennessee Water Sentinels
Project Coordinator

This statement is from the 1st draft of the 2002 303(d) list, which is a list that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) is required to publish, as mandated by the Clean Water Act. ¹ The 303(d) list is a compilation of the streams and lakes in Tennessee that are "water quality limited" or are expected to exceed water quality standards in the next two years and need additional pollution controls.

If a stream is on the 303(d) list, the Division cannot allow additional loadings of the same pollutant(s). In extreme cases, it may mean that dischargers will not be allowed to expand or locate on 303(d)-listed streams until the sources of pollution have been controlled.

Here is the same statement from the 2nd draft of the 2002 303(d) list. ²

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locate on 303(d)-listed streams until the sources of pollution have been controlled.

Here is another version of this statement that is in Chapter 3 of the entire Group 1 and Group 2 watershed management plans. ³

If a stream is on the 303(d) list, the Division of Water Pollution Control cannot use its regulatory authority to allow additional sources of the same pollutant(s) for which it is listed.

These are simple, but powerful sentences that have enormous political and economic repercussions as well as environmental impacts for locating or expanding on 303(d)-listed streams.

What are these sentences saying? This is language to comply with the Clean Water Act. In a nutshell, a section of the Act {40 CFR 122.4 (i) (1) and (2)} states that no permit may be issued to a new source or new discharger if the discharge from its construction or operation will cause or contribute to the violation of water quality standards, UNLESS the State or Interstate Agency (EPA) has performed a "pollutants load allocation" for the pollutant to be discharged. Another name for a pollutants load allocation is the Total Daily Maximum Load. ⁴

States are required to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for 303(d)-listed waterbodies. The TMDL process establishes the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate without exceeding water quality standards and allocates this load among all contributing pollutant sources. The purpose of the TMDL is to establish water quality objectives required to reduce pollution from both point and non-point sources and to restore and maintain the quality of water resources.

Here is the little secret:

TDEC may say they cannot use their "regulatory authority" to allow additional sources of the same pollutants in 303(d)-listed streams, but they do use that authority, by issuing discharge permits. The discharge permit most often issued in violation of these powerful sentences is the storm water construction general permit. The instant TDEC issues the Notice of Coverage of this permit they are running afoul of 40 CFR 122.4 (i) (1) and (2). They are also running afoul of their own language as listed

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Mooning Planet Earth

Mother Nature is from Venus;
George Bush is from Mars

By Ron Castle - January 14, 2004

President George W. Bush unveiled today his vision for manned space travel to the moon, Mars and beyond proposing to spend \$12 billion over the next five years on the effort. President Bush attempted to create a new image of himself as the greatest space visionary since John F. Kennedy. Recalling Lloyd Bentsen's "you're no John F. Kennedy" retort to Dan Quayle in 1988, ditto certainly applies to President Bush.

The probable motivations for the scope and timing of this announcement are many: a distraction from the premeditated war with Iraq; a counter to Democratic primary thunder; a got to do something about his decision to forgo re-certification of the space shuttle fleet which puts NASA out of the manned flight business beyond 2010; a jump start on the 2004 campaign by gifting government contacts and jobs to the aerospace industry in the key states of Florida, Texas and California. Funding new visions is one of the benefits of incumbency - not a visionary idea.

The most glaring faux pas about this new heaven bound vision is the total lack of worldly insight of the environmental demise of planet earth as evidenced by the dismantling of over 300 environmental regulations during President Bush's time in office in exchange for corporate campaign contributions, ignoring global warming and accelerating the consumption of fossil fuels while reducing investment in renewable energy technologies, plans made in secret with corporate contributors. Historians will regard this combination of intentional misdeeds as the most stupendous idiocy of any American president.

Regarding the Bush Administration's mandate to debase the environment, Bill Moyers recently said, "I am strongly on behalf of saving the environment [in no small part] because it is the source of our wealth. Destroy it and the pooh-bahs of Wall Street will have to book an expedition to Mars to enjoy their riches. I don't understand why they don't see it. I honestly don't. This absence of vision as to what happens when you foul your nest puzzles me." Perhaps this is what President Bush has in mind for his corporate contributors for his corporate contributors with manned space travel to Mars?

Considering the accelerating rate of global warming and the impending demise of the world economy through the destruction of the natural capital that makes life on earth possible, it is likely that American taxpayers will not be able to afford the lunar missions planned no later than 2014. Mars by 2030 will certainly not happen.

While President Bush distracts our attention to the heavens, the moon and beyond, Mother Nature is making her own plans to have her way with the President and the rest of us right here on planet Earth. Why what President Bush is doing to Mother Nature is not a more impeachable offense than Bill Clinton's White House peccadilloes is a total mystery to me? The corporate media is mute to the coming melee, and the *moon* the President is boldly showing to all of us blinds the American public.

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Top Photo - Brunswick Farms-Phase 2 is a 47 acre development that has the potential to discharge mud and silt into the already impaired Oliver Creek. Should this development have been approved if TDEC had followed its own rules? Photo by James Baker

Bottom Photo - Oliver Creek is listed on TDEC's draft 2002 303(d) list as being partially impaired due to siltation. The TMDL priority is low and will be done within the next 12 years. Photo by James Baker



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Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter of the
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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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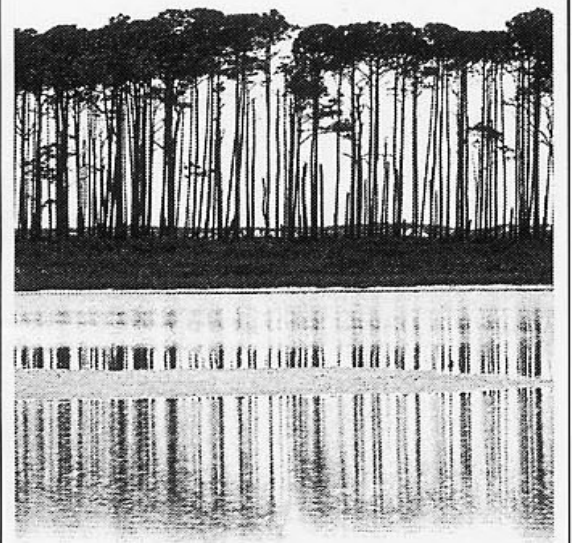
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TDEC's Little Secret A True X-file

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in both drafts of the 2002 303(d) lists and the Watershed Management Plans.

Government planners and elected officials that approve new development sites, as well as the developers whose sites discharge to these 303(d)-listed streams would also be running afoul of the Clean Water Act. Right there, is the problem of what I stated earlier; these sentences have enormous political and economic repercussions. What government planners and elected officials are going to be known to the public as opposing "economic growth and development?" I know of none that want the stigma of being "anti-economic growth." Re-election is not likely to an elected official with that as a plank in the platform. In addition, what developer is going to quit the business over not being able to develop in certain areas?

As to being "anti-economic growth", I am not, nor wish to be known as a member of the "traveling hordes of environmental anti-everything, build-nothing extremists." ⁵ As such, I ask this question in an attempt to find common ground. How can government agencies in charge of approving development, development interests, and TDEC comply with the law...AND...continue development activities on 303(d)-listed streams with no TMDL in force? It is a tough question, and maybe unanswerable, but I will try to answer it.

Government planners, elected officials and development interests must become cognizant of the reality of 40 CFR 122.4 (i) (1) and (2), and plan accordingly. It might involve restrictions as to the type of development, and/or how, where and when it is done. TDEC is going to have to get dead serious about compliance to the permits they issue; especially those on 303(d)-listed streams that have no TMDL in force. I submit that some of the streams now on the 303(d) list are there because TDEC has NOT been dead serious about enforcing permits in the past. TDEC must also get all of the TMDL programs up and running on those streams that are water quality limited and are on the 303(d) list. They must not insist on waiting up to 12 years to complete the TMDLs, as is proposed for some streams on the 2nd draft 2002 303(d) list.

How can we Sierra Club members help out? First, we can attend meetings of the local land use planning board, City Council and County Commission and educate them about 40 CFR 122.4 (i) (1) and (2) when a development is planned to impact a 303(d)-listed stream. Members can write the Commissioner of TDEC, Betsy Child and urge her to get the TMDL program moving along. Members can also become volunteer Water Sentinels and inspect construction sites from the closest public access for proper erosion and sediment controls. We can assist an understaffed TDEC as their eyes and ears, then write letters to the local TDEC office and report our findings so that TDEC's water pollution regulators become aware of the problem(s) and take appropriate action(s) for permit non-compliance.

Do you or your group needs some training in interpreting the 303(d) list, watershed management plan, and/or the Code of Federal Regulations? How about training in inspecting erosion and sediment controls? Planners, developers and TDEC can do better at protecting the quality of the waters of Tennessee. We citizens have a right to unpolluted waters, as guaranteed by the Clean Water Act. We citizens may not have the tools needed to take action. If you need assistance with equipping your toolbox, please contact James H. Baker, the Tennessee Water Sentinels Project Coordinator at (901) 372-6717 or by e-mail at: aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net We have a responsibility to assist planners, elected officials, the developers and TDEC in the best way we can to insure that our rights to unpolluted waters are protected.

Footnotes:

¹ <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/publications/2002303dpropfinal.pdf>

² <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/publications/2002303dsecondpropfinal.pdf>

³ <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/>

⁴ <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>

⁵ From the article: *Playing By A New Set Of 'Rules'* by Kent D. Starwalt *Tennessee Road Builder* magazine, September/October 2003 issue, p. 4-bullet point # 3



The Diversity of Life

A Book Review

Edward O. Wilson, Author
W.W. Norton & Co., New York
and London. 1999 (2nd ed.), 1992.
Paperback, ISBN: 0393319407

As Reviewed by RICHARD SIMMERS'

The earlier book, *Biodiversity*, is a collection of essays on different facets of biodiversity and its significance to humanity. Here we can read Hugh Iltis on the importance of his collecting serendipitously two new kinds of wild tomatoes years ago in Peru, also the chance find of a diploid perennial relative of maize (or corn) in Mexico. And Mark Plotkin on the value of various hardly known tropical plants including a palm (babassu, *Orbignya*) that can yield up to 1000 lb. per tree of fruits high in edible oils and protein. Terry Erwin discusses his samples of beetles in the Amazon forests suggesting millions of undescribed insect species. Other authors discuss ecological restoration, also in situ and ex situ conservation. And so forth.

The second book explores such subjects as vulnerability to extinction of fragmented populations, such as from inbreeding depression; the area effect, from the theory of island biogeography (see pp. 220-223); species packing, with more in the tropics where climates are less extreme; human threats, including the postglacial extinction of many large animals; "hot spots" (map pp. 262-262). Both books are well worth reading. I thought I would illustrate or demonstrate some of the points made in the later book. Tennessee is moderately rich in biodiversity compared to other "temperate zone" areas, but not a "hot spot" as is the mountainous region of SW China (especially rich in plants). There are 21 species of frogs and toads, plus at least 44 species of salamanders (most of these in or near the Smoky Mts.), for a total of 65 species of amphibians known from Tennessee [our state]. This compares with only about 5 or 6 species (representing 3 genera and families) known from Britain. In the 6 New England states (taken together), 24 species of amphibians occur wild, 6 of them true frogs (*Rana*), and 12 of them salamanders. (Primary reference: maps in Conant and Collins, *Reptiles and Amphibians, Eastern/Central North America*, Peterson Field Guides, Houghton Mifflin Co. ([Boston and New York], 1991.) According to Conant and Collins, nearly 3,700 species of frogs and toads are known worldwide, plus about 380 species of salamanders (plus some caecilians). About 216 species of amphibians (131 of these are salamanders) are known from North America north of Mexico; however, several have been discovered only recently, such as the large Red Hills salamander in 1960 in Alabama. At my 150+ acre property E of Monterey, I have so far identified 16 species of amphibians (4 of them salamanders) as being present.

Butterflies have been well-studied most everywhere; on the island of Britain, 70 species are listed in *The Butterflies of Britain & Ireland* (Thomas & Lewington, 1991; Dorling Kindersley, £16.99, hardcover), of which 57 are residents or regular visitors, 8 are fairly rare visitors, 2 are reintroduced after native populations became extinct, and 3 are extinct or apparently so. Ireland, a bit farther away from continental Europe and smaller, has 35 species of which 4 are rare visitors (all these occur on Britain). In contrast, Putnam County, TN has listed for it 84 species of butterflies so far, with several others likely (source: Stedman, *Butterflies Identified in Putnam County, Tennessee*, 2002). For eastern North America (excluding south Texas) Glassberg (1999) lists 283 species of butterflies. In the tropics, huge numbers of butterfly species can occur, such as over 1,200 species at the 55 sq. km. Tambopata Reserve in Amazonian Peru (*The Diversity of Life*, p. 197.).

I have been doing a but of "browsing" on the Internet and have located a couple of websites of possible interest. The first one is <http://csssrrv.entnem.ufl.edu/~walker/handbook/cklstwww.html>, which has a checklist of katydids and crickets for North America N of Mexico. As

of the fall of 2000, T.J. Walker's checklist has 127 species of crickets (7 of them mole crickets) and 256 species in the katydid family. (These lists do not include camel crickets, in another family, so these hideous zebra-striped nocturnal household prowlers aren't included.) Maps and songs for many of the species are included. At least 39 species of crickets are known in TN, and at least 30 species in the katydid family. By using the calls, I could identify one frequent cricket (calling on warm overcast afternoons from trees, even in towns) as the "Columbian trig" (*Cyrtixipha columbiana*) and another common species (which calls a dull metronomic "anh-anh-anh . . ." as the Japanese burrowing cricket (*Velarifictorus micado*), a range extension. (An exotic!) As for Britain, I know of only 3 species of crickets found on the island; there is perhaps one katydid.

Ants, the main research focus for Wilson (who has recently published a monograph on the genus *Pheidole*), are abundant insects nearly everywhere, and very significant in most ecosystems. Wilson estimates over 10,000 species in *Biodiversity* (p. 7), but in *The Diversity of Life* (p. 5) this number has doubled; he estimates that for the Amazon rain forest, almost half the insect biomass overall and over 10% of the biomass of all animals is composed of ants, and is not much less in temperate areas. There is an antweb.org, based at the California Academy of Sciences, which has available some figures. For California, 270 species of ants are known, 245 of them native, and 25% endemic (not known outside the state).

Three of the *Lasius* species listed reappear in *The Butterflies of Britain & Ireland* as having important interactions with some blue butterflies (see pp. 83, 84, 96, 99); these ants protect these butterflies. The imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*) is listed for California, as is an interestingly named *Solenopsis tennesseensis* (native hereabouts, I presume?). No lists available yet from antweb.org for any SE state. They do have a Madagascar list; currently 418 species and subspecies are recorded from Madagascar, of which 379 are endemic; ongoing field work suggests that many more native ants may be described here. Madagascar is a "hot spot" with large numbers of endemics (see *The Diversity of Life*).

I have an interest in millipedes. Recently I found while collecting tree seeds at Barnes Hollow 2 dark brown millipedes about 2" long that wriggled like worms when disturbed. There is no field guide to millipedes, so I will have to be patient. Millipedes are among the earliest known land animals, and fossils from the Carboniferous indicate that they could attain a size of about a meter long. Most are poisonous or distasteful (some secrete cyanide); they are significant in the recycling of dead vegetable matter such as leaves. They are most numerous in limestone areas (their exoskeletons have calcium included), but do occur elsewhere.

FIELD NOTES - Autumn 2003 - Richard Simmers

September 2003 turned out to be considerably wetter than normal, as at Crossville, which had 7.01 inches; there were a few dryish periods, however. Notable rains fell on Sept. 3-4 (total over 4" at my place E of Monterey, hereafter "G"), 14, 21-22 (over 2-1/2") and 27. The end of the month had chilly dawns in the 30's, patchy frost reported on the Cumberland Plateau (very local frosted tomato and sweet potato foliage seen at my garden ([at G] on 30th). October was much drier at Crossville, with only about 1-1/2" reported; more rain fell at G and Barnes Hollow (BH hereafter), mainly on the 14th and 26th-27th. Patchy frost occurred Oct. 2-3, then not until the 28th. A general killing frost did not occur until Nov. 14; I still had blooming nasturtiums at G Nov. 8, but a heavier frost finally killed them Nov. 9. Rainfall in Nov. was heavier, at least 5-1/2" at Crossville; heavy rains fell Nov. 12, 15-19 (break on 17th) and 27-28. Temperatures fell into the low 20's in places with the freezes on Nov. 14 and 25. Snow flurries fell Nov. 24 and 28.

I missed seeing the spectacular display(s) of "northern lights" (aurora) recently. Out of the usual sunspot cycle, the sun's surface this year has had unusually intense flares and such. This is likely to affect the earth's weather, not just telecommunications.

This was a good year for autumn foliage colors, except on the most wind-stressed slopes; colors lasted well into Nov. in sheltered areas (as Brotherton Mt. Road and Hwy. 70 E of Dry Valley). East of Monterey the colors peaked around Oct. 21-24, though a few red maples and tulip trees had some green foliage still; by Nov. 5 hardly any trees except some scarlet oaks had any color. Towards Nashville from Cookeville there was plenty of color Oct. 28 on sugar maples, white ashes and sweet gums, with some left even by Nov. 18. A little foliage remained Dec. 2. In Dry Valley, there was color on willow oaks and sweet gums Nov. 23. The kudzu vines along Brotherton

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Meetings

<http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/groupnews.htm>
for details or contact Rachel
Floyd at 615-406-9204;
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rfloyd557@aol.com

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)

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday, February 2nd, 7pm at the Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. All Sierrans interested in winning the 2004 Presidential Election for the environment are more than welcome to attend the SOFG's new Political Committee meetings.

On the agenda for 2004 are voter registration outings, as well as voter education at various events. Until election day, the SOFG will hold political committee meetings on the first Monday of every month. For more information, please contact Dan Grace at 926-7035 or dangrace@worldnet.att.net or Mary Gavlik at mlgav@yahoo.com.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, February 9th, 7pm at Frances Lambert's house, 113 Ridge Lane, Jonesborough. All Sierrans and members of the public concerned about specific environmental issues confronting NE TN are invited to SOFG strategy meetings which are held the second Monday of every month. For more information, or for directions, please contact Frances Lamberts at 753-5288 or frances@ecoisp.net or Linda Modica at 753-9697 or lcmodica@aol.com.

PROGRAM MEETING: Monday, February 23rd, 7pm at Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Mary Olsen of the Nuclear Information Resource Service will talk on "The Bush Administration's Nuclear Ambitions for Tennessee". Mary is a lively, knowledgeable and entertaining speaker who will help us understand how Nuclear Fuel Services and the TVA nuclear power and military tritium project fit into this government's nuclear power and nuclear arms promotion programs. The SOFG's program meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month at the HVUUC. For more information, or for directions, please contact Linda Modica at 753-9697 or lcmodica@aol.com.

VOTER EDUCATION FORUM: Thursday, February 5th, Science Hill High School, Johnson City, 6pm. Co-sponsored by the SOFG with the NAACP, AARP, Central Labor Council and St. Mary's Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Ministry, this forum of major presidential candidates has been organized for the purpose of voter education prior to the February 10th Tennessee primary. This forum will be the first location at which the SOFG's new Political Committee will do voter registration! Call Dan Grace at 926-7035 if you want to help with voter registration. For more information on the forum, or for directions, please contact Linda Modica at 753-9697 or lcmodica@aol.com.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, February 5, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "FIRST THURSDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston <jdjhstn@memphis.edu> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, February 9, 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 February 5 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150 for more information. (Note: This is a new meeting site.)

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, February 25, 2004 - 7:00 p.m. - Memphis and Shelby County Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. Ms. Kelli Dover of the SCEIC will go over what SCEIC does and focus on the need for advocacy from the community to get a Household Hazardous Waste facility started here in the Memphis/Shelby County area. In addition she will discuss the tire recycling facility for Shelby County, which SCEIC operates.

Program Meetings are scheduled every month on the fourth Wednesday. Contact Tom Lawrence <tom@thecave.com> at (901) 274-2829 or Clark Buchner <coyotem@usit.net> at (901) 327-2545 for more information.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: Every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., CST, The Library Channel, Memphis Cable 18, WVPL, "The Nature of Conservation" is sponsored by the Sierra Club. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the month. 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.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

PROGRAM MEETING: For additional information, contact Rick Gehrke 423-843-9625 or email rick.gehrke@comcast.net

The Diversity of Life

A Book Review

Continued from Page 3

Mt. Road were still largely green Nov. 22 but had frozen on the 25th.

This is a great year for many tree fruits and nuts, including sugar maples (often more than 1 per square inch on ground at BH), tulip trees, sweet gums, walnuts, hickories (fewer squirrels helped), Carolina buckthorns (enormous crop), flowering dogwoods, sumacs, boxelders, red cedars, hemlocks, green ashes (and some white ashes), and black gums. It was a fairly good season for beechnuts, some acorns and basswood fruits.

Butterflies were somewhat less numerous this fall in many instances, notably cloudless sulphurs (though I still saw quite a few). I observed only 3 gulf fritillaries locally I could be certain of, such as 1 at G on Oct. 3 (with monarchs, a variegated fritillary, a painted lady and 3 other species), a fresh brilliant male. Monarchs were quite numerous, noticeable in the towns, as 4 in Cookeville Oct. 6; one was seen heading S on Nov. 11 at G. Painted ladies and little yellows were occasional, buckeyes infrequent (one at G Sept. 19 and Nov. 1). I did not see any common checkered-skippers this season. There were plenty of orange sulphurs, question marks, and eastern commas this autumn. Latest observations include Sept. 20, common wood nymph; Oct. 24, red-spotted purple (G); Oct. 20, great spangled fritillary (BH); common buckeye and pearl crescent, Nov. 21 (G).

There was a reasonably good fall migration of warblers locally; I noted good flights at G Sept. 10th (with a Blackburnian warbler) and 26th (about 50 birds in mixed flock). A blue-headed vireo was heard singing Nov. 3 and 10 at G. The winter residents drifted in slowly, with some purple finches appearing by early Nov. at both BH and G. A large hawk, seemingly red-tail size, which had dark streaks on its underparts and behaved like an Accipiter, was seen briefly twice Nov. 10 at BH.

Sandhill cranes had a decent flight in Nov.



HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, February 10, 2004, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. The HBG's own Duane Simmons, backpacker, world traveler and mountain climber will present the February program. Duane will give a digital slide presentation about his climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro and subsequent African safari. Call 966-4142 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, February 24, 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 690-3257 for more information.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Plan to attend "Alice's Adventures in Canada". Part-time nature photographer Alice Klingshirn will present a slide show featuring images made on two of her recent trips to Canada - the Canadian Rockies and Churchill, Manitoba, the "Polar Bear Capital of the World". Alice's favorite subjects are wild animals. This program will include images of mountain goats, bighorn sheep, and elk as well as scenic views of some of the beautiful lakes, waterfalls and wildflowers found in Banff and Jasper National Parks. The second part of the program will feature the polar bears on their annual migration through Churchill while waiting for Hudson Bay to freeze. This promises to be an educational as well as an entertaining program, and we hope you will come and bring a friend or two.

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, February 25 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 Caty Butcher at JLCLBUTCH@comcast.net. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877 or email adelicial@aol.com.

PLANNING RETREAT: Friday, February 20 to Sunday, February 22. Dave Muhly, Sierra Club Regional Rep will lead our planning sessions. Cabins are reserved at Standing Stone State Park. Check out

CAFO/Clean Water Campaign Committee Report

Chickasaw Group member Dick Mochow, who is on the CAFO/Clean Water Campaign Committee and James Baker attended this meeting in Covington,



Kentucky. James was attending in his role as the Water Sentinel for Tennessee. Plans for the CAFO/Clean Water Campaign Committee for 2004 will lay stress on the theme of educating the public about stopping the Bush Administration's interpretation of wetland jurisdiction based on the United States Supreme Court's SWANCC decision in 2001. Although the December 2003 White House decision on not to proceed with a Clean Water Act rule-making that would have narrowed jurisdiction over

**Photo - CWCC Meeting
Volunteer members of the
CAFO/Clean Water Campaign
Committee and Sierra Club staff
plan for 2004.
Photo by James Baker**

headwater streams and wetlands is a significant victory, much work remains to be done to fully implement the 31 year old Clean Water Act. Therefore, the Committee will be busy in 2004, with issues ranging from water pollution from Confined Animal Feeding Operations, mountain-top mining/valley fill, sewer overflows and other issues. There was some training on the issues of sewer overflows and sewage backups in basements. Cincinnati has had many thousands of sewage backups in basements over the years. Thanks to some excellent grassroots organizing by Katie Danko-Cincinnati Water Sentinel, who put a human face on the problem with a short video entitled, "MSD's Hidden Secret", and several public meetings that were well attended, the Sierra Club lawsuit on the issue gained traction and now the Cincinnati Metropolitan Sewage District (MSD) has entered into a Consent Decree to fix the problems.

In addition, this Committee said "good-bye" to Ken Midkiff, who is retiring from his position as the Staff Coordinator for the Clean Water Campaign. However, the Sierra Club will not be losing Ken as an active volunteer.

Chickasaw Group News

Compiled by various members

Webmaster and Newsletter Training at Phoenix

Group Chair Charlie Rond was the sole representative of the Volunteer State at Webmaster and Newsletter Editor training offered recently at Phoenix by the National Sierra Club staff. He was among a group of 50 webmasters and newsletter editors who were selected from throughout the U.S. for the intensive training that began on Thursday evening and concluded just before noon Sunday.

The trainees were pre-selected and divided into four teams that competed throughout the weekend, creating for each team a web page, a newsletter and an e-mail version of their newsletter. The web sites and newsletters were then evaluated by all of the other teams and a winning team was selected to conclude a 14-hour session Friday and 10-hour session Saturday.

National Sierra Club President Larry Fahn lectured the group Friday morning on the abuses of the Bush administration, and, in particular, his experiences as a protester at the recent American Free Trade Area of the Americas treaty meeting in Miami. His descriptions of heavy-handed authorities who sealed off the auditorium as "full" with 5,000 seats remaining were amplified by Kim Haddow, Communications Consultant, who explained how the difficulties in communication can play into the hands of opponents or be used to benefit, depending on how our messages "resonate" with readers and listeners.

A stellar cast of National leaders tutored the group. John Barry, Managing Editor of the Planet and Planet Senior Editor Tom Valtin and Associate Editor Brian Vanneman led the newsletter editor training. Barry showed how to improve newsletter design, Vanneman how to improve photos and Valtin how to write compelling headlines and photo captions. Webmasters Adrian Cotter and Local Affairs Editor Jennifer Coyle showed new techniques including two "self-designing" web-authoring tools, that permit making effective web pages without knowing HTML.

Noelle Baroody did an excellent job of comparing and contrasting "c3" and "c4" monies, complying with rules on their use, and how to get more of your publications paid for with "c3" charitable funds. Noelle is Coordinator of Chapter and Group Educational Projects.

Jon Zilber, Senior Communications Executive, and John Barry described print to web migration and Publishing Services/Web Site Producer Jim Bradbury conducted an excellent session on how difficult it is to comply with copyright requirements.

It was an extremely productive session, where along with

skills and techniques taught by National staff, some of the best designing and editing techniques were those shared by fellow webmasters and newsletter editors.

Toxic Tour for Tennessee Clean Water Network's Staff

In early December, James Baker-2003 vice-Chair, the Water Sentinel for Tennessee and a Board Member of the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN) gave a toxic tour to Renée Hoyos-Executive Director, and Kim Ransom-Policy Director for TCWN. James took them to various water pollution sites that he has been targeting as the Water Sentinel. James concentrated on those sites that are covered by a "general permit", yet continue to be significant sources of water pollution in Memphis. This is due to inherent weaknesses in the permit itself, lack of compliance by the permit holders as well as lax enforcement by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Renée and Kim came away with an appreciation that these general permits are slipping through the cracks in regards of compliance and enforcement. For more information on what you can do to address water pollution in your hometown, please contact James H. Baker-Tennessee Water Sentinel at (901) 372-6717 or aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net. As a side-bar, the toxic tour was conducted in Renée's new 2004 Toyota Prius, which gave James a chance to make an extensive test drive of this hybrid car. James thought the car handled and drove quite well.

NEPA Roundtable

In 2002, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which is part of the Executive Office of the President of the United States established a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Task Force to review current NEPA practices and recommend ways to make NEPA work better and count for more in decision making. The Task Force published a report, Modernizing NEPA Implementation, with recommendations to CEQ on improving NEPA implementation designed to make the NEPA process more effective, efficient, and timely. Additional information is available at: <http://ceq.ed.doe.gov/nft/>. The CEQ asked The Clark Group to organize expert roundtables around the country to inform the public about the work and recommendations of the Task Force and to seek views on the recommendations made by the Task Force. The roundtables are open to the public. ¹

In early December, the Chickasaw Group was invited to have a seat at a roundtable that was facilitated by The Clark Group. Allan Lummus-2003 Conservation Chair and James Baker attended. We had few comments, but the comments we made concerned public participation opportunities. Of the four roundtables, ONLY ONE, the first one in Washington State, had a 30-day public notice, printed in the Federal Register. The other three had as little as nine days, (Memphis), and the rest had two and a half to three and a half weeks notice. Of note, not many people read the Federal Register. James brought up the issues of public participation; the time this meeting was held (on weekdays), with little public notice (Federal Register, and a small article in the Memphis Commercial Appeal Newspaper, and that a majority of the ma-

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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!

Continued on Page 8

Outings

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiver.PDF>, or call 415-977-5630, for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Saturday-Sunday, February 28 - 29, 2004, Spring Breakout Backpack, GSMNP - Hey, it may snow, it may rain, or it may be blue skies and sunshine. But whatever the conditions we are desperate to start the spring backpacking season. Our trip will give us a



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!

chance to stretch those winter-atrophied muscles with a climb to Shuckstack, where 360 degree views of the SW corner of the Park await us. We will descend to a lovely, large, but little used campsite on the Lost Cove Trail. The next day, we will head back to Fontana Dam. The hike is rated moderate although it is not advised for children under 15, due to potential bad weather. Please call to pre-register not less than 3 days in advance of the hike and not more than 60 days in advance. Please pre-register with Roger Jenkins (865) 574-4871, or Susie McDonald (865) 425-5184, both during the day. Or email us at mcdonaldjenkins@twohikers.org.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Fri./Sat./Sun. February 6-8 - **Savage Gulf Backpack** - Join us for another weekend adventure as we explore the woods at Savage Gulf. We'll spend Friday night at the campsite near the Stone Door Ranger Station. Saturday our hike will be on the Big Creek Rim Trail to Alum Campsite. After setting up camp, we will take a dayhike to Greeter Falls. Sunday, our hike will involve the Big Creek Gulf trail, taking us down and up the gorge and through the great stone door and then back to the ranger station. Total mileage Sat. 4.1 miles with optional 2.8. Rated easy to moderate. Sun. mileage 5 miles and rated moderate to strenuous. Bring food to share for a potluck supper on Friday night. For additional information and to register contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Adelicia1@aol.com.

Saturday, February 7 - **Eagle Watching Dayhike** - Join Heloise for an educational easy seven mile dayhike in

Guntersville Lake State Park in Alabama as we look for eagles. For additional information contact Heloise at 615-896-6278 or email heloisew@bellsouth.net.

Tuesday, February 17 - **Dinner Outing at Rainforest Café** - Meet at the Rainforest Café at Opry Mills for a fine dinner and pleasant company of other like-minded folks. Members and non-members welcome. Ask for the Sierra Club group in the non-smoking section. PLEASE call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 if attending.

Sat./Sun., February 28-29

Charit Creek Lodge Overnight - Join us for our second annual trip to Charit Creek Lodge in Big South Fork near Jamestown, Tennessee. We will be hiking a loop trail starting and finishing at Bandy Creek and spending the night at Charit Creek Lodge. Cost is \$16/person. Bedding not provided. Bring your own food as well. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Adelicia1@aol.com.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

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

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
TrailWorkPlay@msn.com

Why Do 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 of the Appalachian Trail 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 above.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

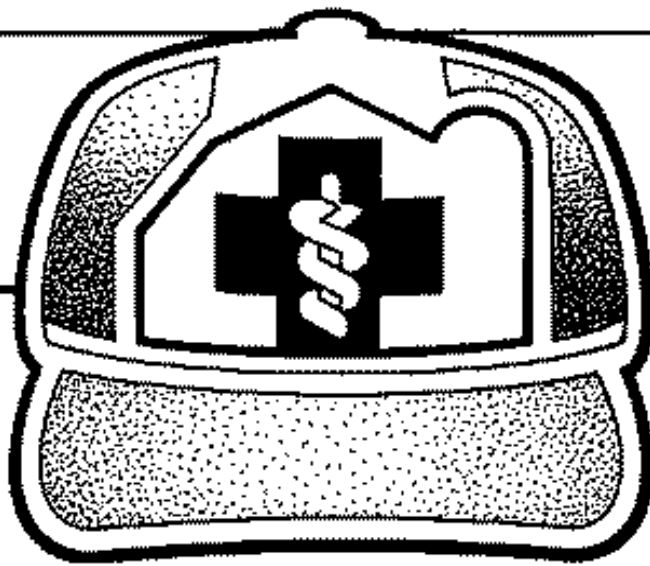
First Aid /CPR - First Aid Class/CPR Class for Chickasaw Group Sierra Club Members is February 21, 2004, at the American Red Cross Headquarters, 1400 Central Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. You will learn Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and some First Aid. Time is 8:30 - 3:30 p.m. with an hour for lunch. Space is limited. If you lead two outings, the Chickasaw Group will reimburse you. Your check made out to the Chickasaw Group, Sierra Club for \$51 is your reservation. Send your checks to Judith Hammond, 481 No. McLean Blvd., Memphis, Tennessee 38112. Your check is your reservation.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

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, February 14, 2004 - 10:00 am - **The Old Forest Trail** - "Second Saturday Hikes" Explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America. Learn about the forest's history, identify big trees and wildflowers and observe firsthand the impact of natural and human forces on forests in an urban setting. Meet at the bridge next to the parking lot at the end of Old Forest Lane in the center of Overton Park. The informative and entertaining trail map to the self-guided mile-and-a-quarter mile loop hike with seasonal bird watching and wildflower-viewing guides is available for free at the Golf House in Overton Park at all other times. For additional information, contact Don Richardson - donrich@juno.com or (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

When:	April 24 th and 25 th
Where:	Fall Creek Falls State Park
What is included:	Training by highly qualified instructors, mid-morning snacks, lunch, mid-afternoon snacks
What is not included:	Breakfast, dinner, lodging
Lodging:	We plan to camp in the state park. Make your own arrangements.
Cost:	\$125, non-refundable (we commit to Landmark, you commit to Sierra)
Payment due:	March 31 st
Other:	Membership in Sierra is required. You can join on line at https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/ or Katherine can send you a membership form. Introductory memberships are \$25.
Questions:	Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email at Adelicia1@aol.com

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, so enroll now. To enroll, please complete contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email at Adelicia1@aol.com. Katherine must receive your check by March 31st to insure your reservation in this *top notch* training program.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Join the **DEFENDERS OF TENNESSEE**

Many, many thanks to all those who have contributed to the Defenders of Tennessee fund. January contributors include:



- Ann Yates
- David Bate Parsons and Theresa Ball
- Deborah Narrigan
- Don Getty
- Don Scharf and Teri Davis
- Helen Stewart
- Jack Lyle and Mary Buckner
- Jeff and Anne Carr
- John and Chris McCarthy
- Karen Bourg
- Ken Brame and Judy Mattox
- Kevin and Emily Barry
- Lois Knight and Dr. William Schaffner
- Marcene Larkin
- Mary Lynn Dobson
- Nancy and Nick Fariello
- Peggy and Eston Evans
- Phyllis and Tandy Brannon
- Richard and Sherry Loller
- Robert and Elizabeth Peelle
- Sharon Boyce
- Stewart Clifton
- Tom Gatti
- Will Skelton
- Anonymous

The Defenders campaign is a special annual fundraising effort that supports our legislative and lobbying activities. We are proud of the progress we have made. The Sierra Club has become a stronger and more visible presence in the state legislature, which allows us to work more effectively towards passage of legislation that protects our air, water, and forests and promotes environmental justice and smart growth.

We depend on you, our members and other supporters, to help us continue our strong environmental presence on Capitol Hill. You can help by contributing to the Defenders Fund. Any amount will be appreciated, but please give as generously as you can. Donations are NOT tax deductible. Please return the form below with your check made out to Sierra Club Defenders Fund, to Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. **THANK YOU!**

Amount of donation: () \$50 () \$125 () \$250 () \$500 () Other

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May we publish your name in the Sierra Club newsletter as a donor?

Yes _____ No _____

(Optional) Your e-mail address, if you prefer to receive acknowledgment of your donation electronically. No database of e-mail addresses will be maintained.

Chickasaw Group News

Compiled by various members

Continued from Page 5

materials were on the Internet, making an effective filter between those citizens that had computers and were computer literate and those citizens that were neither. Horst Greczmiel-Associate Director for NEPA Oversight at the CEQ, stated \$10,000 had been spent paying for public notices for at least two of the four planned meetings. Ray Clark-President of The Clark Group and Facilitator of the meeting stated that in the two previous meetings, ONLY ONE member of the "true public"-not associated with any agency" attended. James stated, "I rest my case." The Memphis meeting had three members of the "true public" in attendance, Allan, Steve Sondheim-Friends of Shelby Farms, and James.

A staff member of The Clark Group used a laptop computer and took notes of what the participants said at the roundtable, but there was no taped record made. This staff member stated that was done so that the participants would not feel uneasy while making their comments.

¹ December 5, 2003 letter from Horst Greczmiel-Associate Director for NEPA Oversight-Council on Environmental Quality

Almost Solstice Walk:

Two days before the winter solstice-James Baker led an "almost solstice walk" in the Mississippi River Greenbelt park and across the Auction Street bridge to look at Wolf River Harbor. The group, consisting of Sue Williams, Karen Jarrett, Ed and Juliet Jones, their daughter Liz Palomo, Teri Sullivan and James, discussed the plans for the Memphis riverfront and other issues as they walked. It was beautifully clear day, a bit windy and nippy, about right for the winter solstice. As the small group of Sierrans looked over the Mississippi River-the Father of Waters, the motion of paddles on the Arkansas side of the river proved that two hardy souls were enjoying the water and the fabulous sunset from a two-seat sea kayak. The group watched the sunset, then turned east and watched the earth's shadow, topped by the pink glow of the "belt of Venus" rise quickly above the homes of Harbor Town. Afterwards, several walkers joined James at Café Francisco, a downtown coffee shop for dinner. Karen's thoughts concerning the walk said it best, "what with work, pre-holiday shopping and other running about, this was a chance to just walk and decompress."



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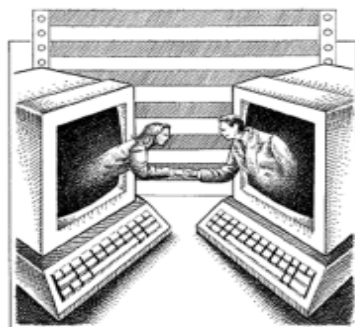
Any good friend of the earth who can donate 2 or 3 hours any Saturday morning can join the fun at our Kroger Elysian Fields Recycling Site. We need you! AND, your efforts directly contribute to the environmental campaigns of your local Middle Tennessee Group.

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

Thank You!!



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