

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 36, Number 12 - December 2005

The Southern Appalachian Highlands Ecoregion Taskforce Meeting sets

focus on National Forests, Energy and Transportation

by Catherine Murray

Tennessee Chapter SAHE delegate

The Southern Appalachian Highlands Ecoregion (SAHE) Taskforce met August 26-28, 2005 at Valle Crucis, North Carolina. We reviewed our work in 2005, focusing largely on the SAHE-sponsored Ten-City Tour of the film Kilowatt Ours, highlighting energy solutions. We also reviewed and critiqued our work on National Forest protection issues.

As a product of a detailed analysis of local issues identified by our Chapter representatives to which we could apply a regional character, an evaluation of our resources and a vision of what we would like to see happen in the SAHE region to which we might provide support, we identified three priority areas for 2006, focusing on National Forests, Energy, and Transportation. The following outlines some of the highlights of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Ecoregion plan for 2006:

1) National Forests:

Key to this effort will be to establish active National Forest Committees, at least in each Chapter and ideally on an even a more local level. SAHE will work closely with each of these Forest Committees, to support the Chapters' work of our National Forest Protection goals. Additionally, SAHE will develop, publicize, and make available to activists an 'online tool kit' which will be posted on the SAHE website: <http://sierraclub.org/ecoregions/SAHE>

We will continue to provide support to our national campaign priorities of ending the commercial logging program on National Forests and protecting roadless areas.

Along with our additional staff support as part of the Southern Appalachian National Forest Campaign, SAHE will provide support for training on the new National Forest Management Act regulations, especially as it applies to the forests going through plan revision, Uwharrie and Nantahala-Pisgah (NC) and the George Washington (VA).

We will make more effective use of our database of already-identified National Forest activists in the region by distributing monthly e-newsletters. Since August, one e-newsletter has already been distributed and a hard-copy version mailed to those without email addresses.

Finally, the SAHE Taskforce, through the efforts of its Chapter representatives, will continue to explore and advocate for true science-based restoration project in our Southern Appalachian Nation Forests, ideally

focusing on the reintroduction of the American Chestnut on decommissioned roads.

2) Energy:

We are committed to following up on our successful Kilowatt Ours Tour, which in 2005 included showings in Richmond, Virginia, Northern Virginia, Atlanta, and Early County, Georgia. We will be working closely with producer Jeff Barrie on developing additional outreach materials and web-based support. We are exploring the possibility of partnering with Habitat for Humanity in sponsoring/supporting a Net-Zero energy home, possibly in the Charleston WV area. Finally, we will continue to support our Environmental Justice program in providing support for mailings and other materials in support of the 'Streamside Buffer-Zone Ruling' as it relates to mountaintop removal mining.

how it can assist efforts to oppose I-3 and desires to coordinate its efforts with related efforts by the Chapters and affected Groups."

SAHE will work with the Chapters and Groups in the path of I-3 to develop a coordinated response to the I-3 proposal, which may include mailings, the production of educational materials, and/or hosting planning meetings. Since August, SAHE has already hosted one conference call for Club leaders and activists in four Chapters on the I-3 issue. SAHE will also explore the potential for coordinating with activists on a regional solution for a proposed I-81 expansion in VA and TN, focusing on organizing around a rail solution for that project.

There are other components to SAHE's work over the coming year, and we look forward to working with the



3) Transportation:

The Southern Appalachian Highlands Ecoregion passed the following resolution at the August meeting:

"SAHE is concerned that I-3 represents a serious threat to the rural character and environmental integrity of the Southern Appalachians, and we urge GA, NC, SC and TN Chapters and affected Groups to work with the Stop I-3 Coalition to oppose this road. As a regional entity of Sierra Club, SAHE will be exploring

Chapters and Groups in providing opportunities for Club activists to get involved in a range of regional issues. For more information, contact your Chapter's representative to the Ecoregion taskforce Catherine Murray, or contact Dave Muhly at dave.muhly@sierraclub.org, (276) 688-2190.



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

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SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: tn.sierra@gmail.com
or street address: Shanna Petersen, Tennes-Sierran Editor
2703 Adobe Hills Place
Thompson Station, TN 37179

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 10th of the month preceding the new month's issue.

1. Email text submissions, or PDFs are preferred. Send to tn.sierra@gmail.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files.
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 CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your disk 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 cannot 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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My new address is:

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Sierra Club Officers

(List in Transition for 2005)

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donrich@juno.com
Vice Chair: Catherine Murray (423) 929-8163
Cfvcatherine@worldnet.att.net
Secretary: Position Available

Treasurer: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 366-4738
GB1Nature@aol.com
Membership: Dick Mochow (901) 274-1510
dinimo@bellsouth.net

TN Local Groups:

Cherokee Group - Chattanooga
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
Chair: Terry Miller (423) 842-5053
trmcha@comcast.net
Vice Chair: Henry Spratt, Ph.D.
Henry-Spratt@utc.edu
Conservation: Rick Gehrke (423) 843-9625
rick.gehrke@comcast.net
Outings: Chris O'Connor (423) 867-4957
chris_o77@yahoo.com

Chickasaw Group - Memphis
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chasrond@bellsouth.net
Vice Chair: Carolyn Pierce (901) 755-5635
cedpierce2000@yahoo.com
Conservation: James Baker (901)826-2448
kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com
Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
Chair: Axel Ringe (865).397-1840
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Vice-Chair: Beverly Smith (865) 531-8480
Blsmith1300@comcast.net
Conservation: David Reister (865)670-8991
dreister@bellsouth.net
Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518
rshrieve@utk.edu

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chapters/tn/mtg
Chair: David Bordenkircher (615) 333-3377
dabordenkircher@mindspring.com
Vice Chair: Jeremy Doochin
Doochers87@aol.com
Conservation: Diane Perschbacher (615) 895-1236
Diane@Propson.com
Outings: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com

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

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg
Chair: Peggy Evans (931) 432-6680
maevans@twlakes.net
Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142
Jmcquail@tntech.edu
Conservation: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
zeblady@twlakes.net
Outings: Mary Jane Ware
mjhike@blomand.net

Tennessee Sierra Staff:

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

**Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed**



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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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Happy Planet

elf



Seven gift ideas that won't destroy the planet

This is the time of year where consumerism runs rampant and the planet suffers most. Here are some ideas for curbing the craziness and making the holidays a little more earth-friendly.

1. **Create a gift coupon** to be redeemed later for a nature hike with a child, a weekend away with a sibling, or a special date with a loved one.
2. **Donate money or time** in the recipient's name. This can be done many ways, check with your favorite organizations.
3. **Memberships** to museums, zoological societies, health clubs, etc. make excellent gifts that last throughout the year.
4. **Memberships to the Sierra Club are always a great gift!**
5. **Whatever you give, buy it locally.** What special things do your neighbors make, grow or sell? Help them grow their business while you help the planet by not shipping items.
6. **Gifts from the heart** mean more than anything purchased. Give a photograph, painting or baked treat created by you personally.
7. **Gift certificates** - allow recipients to purchase things they actually would anyway. Remember, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle actually starts with "REDUCE".

The Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2005

Inslee/Boehlert Bill

by **Catherine Murray**
Tennessee Chapter
Cherokee National Forest Chair

"In July, Members of Congress once again announced their opposition to the administration's policy to repeal the 2001 Roadless Rule, "...one of the most important and popular land preservation initiatives of the last 30 years."
(New York Times, 7/18/04)

More than 150 Democrats and Republicans, led by Representatives Jay Inslee (D-WA) and Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives, The Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2005 (HR 3563), which would provide permanent protection for 58.5 million acres of pristine forest land in 39 states, including 9.3 million acres of North America's only coastal temperate rain-forest -- Alaska's Tongass National Forest. Tennessee's Representatives Jim Cooper and Harold Ford Jr. are both original co-sponsors of this bill.

Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and John Warner (R-VA) also introduced a companion bill in the U.S. Senate.

The bill codifies the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, one of the most sweeping land conservation meas-

ures in a generation, which was overturned by the Bush Administration in May. The legislation would protect the remaining nearly one-third of undeveloped forests from most commercial logging and road building, including 86,805 acres in Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest.

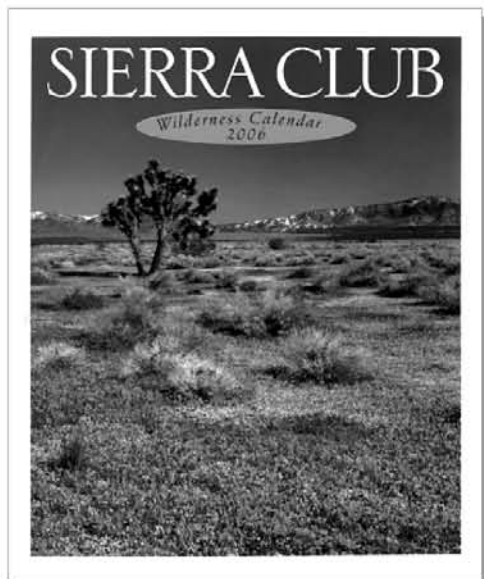
The original rule was approved in January 2001 following years of scientific study, more than 600 public meetings across the country, and 1.6 million official public comments. While protecting the last one-third of our threatened national forests from most logging and road-building, the original rule allowed new roads to be constructed in order to fight fires and ensure public health and safety.

From high-altitude aspen wilderness to low-lying grasslands, roadless areas encompass a cross section of pristine forest land, and are the last remaining strongholds for grizzly bears, wolves, elk, salmon, and trout. Every year millions of Americans hike, fish and hunt in our national forests and live off the clean drinking water from the forest headwaters and streams.

For more information:
www.sierraclub.org/forests

SIERRA CLUB 2006 CALENDARS

Sierra Club 2006 Engagement Calendar— Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.



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Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: December 13, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church at 2931 Kingston Pike. Join us for the annual slide show and social event. Bring slides or send digital photos to Ron Shrieves at rshrieve@utk.edu. Also bring your favorite holiday treat to share with the group during the social following the slide show.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING:

Thursday, December 1, 2005, 5:30-7:00pm - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "FIRST THURSDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, December 12, 2005, 6:30pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Group Chair Charlie Rond (by December 9 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 409-8150.

MONTHLY THIRD TUESDAY: Tuesday, December 20, 2005, 6:00-8:00pm - Cafe Francisco, 400 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "Third Tuesday" monthly gatherings where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713.

PROGRAM MEETING: THERE WILL BE NO PROGRAM MEETING IN DECEMBER. Come to our Holiday Party instead at the law offices of Burch, Porter & Johnson on Saturday, December 10, 2005. For more information, contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: Mondays 1:30 pm; Tuesdays 4:00 pm and Wednesday 11:30am, Wednesday 11:30 am, 11:00pm, Thursday 7:00am WPYL-Channel 18 - "The Nature of Conservation," is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. In November the program will cover the development and construction of the Cumberland Trail with its director, Paul Freeman. If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: In lieu of a program meeting in December, please join us for our annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 17 from 6-10 p.m. at the home of Katherine Pendleton and Keith Romig at 105 Catamaran Court, Nashville, TN 37217. For additional information call (615) 360-3481. Directions to Holiday Party:

From I 40 take the Stewart Ferry Pike exit and turn right onto Bell Road Continue 4.2 miles and turn right onto Harbor Lights Drive. Continue up the street and turn right onto Catamaran Court.

From I 24 take the Bell Road exit and continue on Bell Road past Hickory Hollow Mall. Cross Murfreesboro Road and Smith Springs Road. Turn left onto Harbor Lights Drive. Continue up the street and turn right onto Catamaran Court.

CONSERVATION MEETING: Tuesday, (December 6), 6:00 p.m. in the Sierra Club office, which is located at 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436 (the old St. Bernard Academy). Please attend the next Conservation Committee meeting, at which we'll be planning our conservation initiatives for 2006. Join us if you have ideas, want to be the liaison for a conservation effort or just want to listen. For more information, contact Diane Perschbacher Phifer at (615) 895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com.

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, (November 30) at 6:30 p.m. in the Sierra Club office, which is located at 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436 (the old St. Bernard Academy). Conservation issues are first on the agenda! Come and get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Diane Perschbacher at (615) 895-1236 or e-mail Diane@Propson.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to David Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com or call (615) 333-3377.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY MEETING: Second Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. These Executive Committee/Conservation meetings are open to everyone interested in helping to protect upper east TN's air, water, forests & family farms. To place an item on the agenda, or for directions to the Church, please contact Linda Modica, Group Chair, (423) 753-9697, lcomodica@aol.com.

PROGRAM MEETING: Fourth Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Programs on environmental issues, travel, nature photography are among the many topics featured at SOFG program meetings. FMI: Mary Gavlik, Vice Chair, (423) 434-9535, mlgav@yahoo.com.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Knoxville)

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

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Our Smokies campaign, please
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Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Upper Cumberland Group Members

It's time to vote!!

Upper Cumberland Group Election Ballot 2006

Candidates for the 2006 Group Executive Committee

Please vote for three (3) of the following candidates. Each will serve a 2-year term if elected.

Membership

Single

Dual

- _____ _____ Josie McQuail
- _____ _____ Brian Paddock
- _____ _____ Peggy Evans
- _____ _____ write-in candidate

Mail this ballot, having printed your membership number (found on the address label of this Tennesierran) on the ballot, to:

Margaret Olson
P.O. Box 256
Pleasant Hill, TN 38578-0256

Upper Cumberland Group Candidate Statements:

Following is a brief resume for each nominee:

JOSIE McQUAIL - Josie has been a member of UC Sierra Club Group from at least 1994. She has been vice chair for several years and is very interested in global warming issues. She is an English professor at TTU and the mother of three children. She has written several articles for the Tennes-Sierran newspaper (monthly from the TN Chapter). William Blake is her speciality and she makes periodic trips to England, where she gauges English reactions to American environmental concerns.

BRIAN PADDOCK - Brian has been a member of the UC group for some years and is also active in SOCM (Save Our Cumberland Mountains), Citizens for Transportation Reform, and CARA (Cookeville Area Residents Asso.). Brian goes to Nashville regularly to lobby and has established relationships with some legislators. He attends many meetings of all sorts (transportation, water quality, forest issues, etc.) around the state. When he was living in CA, he was a lobbyist for environmental interests there; he is a professional lobbyist doing free lobbying for the TN environmental community.

PEGGY EVANS - Peggy has been chair of the group for at least five years. She is a homemaker and activist in several groups: UC Sierra Club, on the SOCM Board of Directors, chair of the Cookeville Tree Board, Citizens for Transportation Reform and CARA (Cookeville Residents Asso.) She served for over a year on the Citizens Resource Team for Corridor J. Peggy serves as the web mistress for the Group and sends out periodic Action Alerts to members online.

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CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT/LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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Outings

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Sat., Sun. December 3-4, Hobb's Cabin Backpack - Join Tammy Day as she leads her first Sierra Club backpacking trip to Hobb's Cabin in Savage Gulf. This is a long but easy hike rated moderate due to length. It will be 14 miles round trip, following the edge of the plateau on the north side of Savage Gulf the majority of the trail. The hike will begin at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station and follow the Savage Gulf Day Loop. We will cross a suspension bridge and half a mile into our hike we will take the North Rim Trail. This easy trail has more overlooks than any other trail in Savage Gulf. About 7 miles from our starting point we will arrive at Hobb's Cabin and if we are lucky to be the first hikers there some folks may opt to sleep in the cabin or we will camp in the campsite. We will reverse our steps for the hike back to the ranger station on Sunday morning. For more details and to register please contact Tammy Day at tlday@comcast.net or phone (615) 904-0009. *Note: If you are a strong day hiker and are thinking about giving backpacking a try, this may be a good trial run due to the level terrain.

Sat., Sun. December 10-11, Walls of Jericho Backpack For our last backpack of the year let's go explore one of the newest wilderness areas open to the public in Tennessee which is Walls of Jericho south of Winchester. The trail begins in Alabama and descends 1000 feet over 2 miles into a canyon. This is a beautiful area to explore. For additional information regarding carpooling, meeting time and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at (615) 943-6877 or Katibug1959@aol.com.

Saturday, December 17, MTG Holiday Party Join the Middle Tennessee Group as they celebrate the holidays at the home of Katherine Pendleton and Keith Romig from 6-10 p.m. at 105 Catamaran Court, Nashville, TN. Please bring a food item to share such as a vegetable, desert, appetizer, etc. BYOB. For additional information please contact Katherine Pendleton at (615) 943-6877 or Katibug1959@aol.com.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Saturday, December 10, 2005 - 10:00am - OLD FOREST HIKE: The Old Forest Trail, 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 loop hike with seasonal bird watching and wildflower-viewing guides is available for free at the Golf House in Overton Park at all other times. For additional information, contact Don Richardson at (901) 276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends.

Saturday, December 10, 2005 - 7:00pm-10:00pm - HOLIDAY PARTY, Burch, Porter and Johnson law offices, Memphis, Tennessee. You are cordially invited to our annual holiday party on Saturday, December 10, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the law offices of Burch, Porter and Johnson. The office is located at 130 North Court Avenue, on the north side of Court Square. Parking is available north and west of the building, with entrance to the parking lot off Jefferson Avenue. Bring family and friends and a covered dish to share. We will have wine and beer and other non-alcoholic refreshments at a cash bar. Meet new friends, greet old friends, and help us celebrate the joys of the season. There will be Sierra Club Engagement and Wilderness Calendars for sale at the party. Contact Group Chair Charlie Rond at (901) 409-8150.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Saturday, December 17, 2005 Dayhike - Charlie's Bunion, GSMNP. About 8 miles roundtrip from the Newfound Gap parking lot. Max elevation gain about 1200 feet. Rated moderate. A busy section of the AT, but the almost continuous views from the crest of the Smokies make the relatively heavy hiker activity worth putting up with. Will probably hike a little beyond the "Bunion" to a good lunch spot. Driving time from Knoxville, about 1.5 to 2 hours. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or email rshrieve@utk.edu (email is preferred).

Saturday-Sunday, January 21-22, 2006 (Sat-Sun). Backpack - GSMNP. (Details to be determined.) pre-register with Beverly Smith, 865-531-8480 (Evenings), email blsmith1300@comcast.net.

Ten Essentials for Hiking

Sierra Club Outings offer a variety of wilderness and near-wilderness experiences. It is important to realize that while all trips are guided by a leader, it is ultimately the responsibility of the individual to operate in a safe manner. To this end, the following is a list of essential items, which should be modified according to the particular type of outing.

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!

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

Saturday, December 3rd, 10:00 am - Join us for a reprise of one of our most popular hikes of the year. We will travel along the Brainerd Levee from Brainerd Road to Shallowford Road. The flat 4 to 5 mile out and back hike follows South Chickamauga Creek, and usually includes some good birding opportunities in the marshes near Boyd Buchanan School. We will enjoy lunch at an area restaurant after the hike. Once again, this is a joint hike with the Chattanooga Hiking Club. For more information, or to sign up for the hike contact: Chris O'Connor at 423-867-4957 (chris_o77@yahoo.com)

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.

Restore the ROADLESS RULE

Save Our Last Wild Forests

by Catherine Murray
Tennessee Chapter
Cherokee National Forest Chair

Once again, the Sierra Club and our allies are standing up to say, "National Forests belong to all Americans and all Americans should have a say in their management."

The Forest Service's repeal of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule replaced the most popularly supported federal regulation in U.S. history with the least popular ever seen. The substitute policy implemented by the Bush Administration turned a deaf ear to the public when it was created, and strengthened the hand of logging and mining interests in the states these forests call home.

In its execution, the Bush administration policy shuts out the views of most Americans, particularly the one-quarter of Americans who do not reside in the states where their national forests are on the chopping block. During a time of record deficits and unprecedented strain on the federal budget, taxpayers should not be burdened with the additional cost of building roads that will destroy clean water sources, wildlife habitat and unparalleled recreational opportunities.

Americans have made it clear time and time again that they want what remains of our country's last intact national forests protected. Through the petition campaign kicked off November 2005 – they will once again be heard. As the struggle to save these wild National Forests unfolds over the next several months, we have full confidence that the Sierra Club and the American public will press its government to keep its promise, because once these natural treasures are gone, they can never be replaced.

Unfortunately, because our public lands are crisscrossed with logging roads, there are very few roadless areas left in the Southern Appalachians – only about 15% of our national forest in this region still qualify for the roadless inventory according to the Southern Appalachian assessment. Here in Tennessee only about 86,805 acres still qualify as inventoried roadless areas. That's about 14% of our Cherokee National Forest's 640,000 acres.

The Cherokee National Forest has eighteen (18) inventoried Roadless areas:

Bald Mountain (11,744 acres)
Bald River Gorge Addition (1,737)
Beaverdam Creek (6,263)
Big Frog Addition (365)
Big Laurel Branch Addition (5,589)
Brushy Ridge (7,389)
Devils Backbone (4,283)
Flint Mill Gap (9,629)
Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Addition (1,425)
Little Frog Addition NE (335)
Little Frog Addition NW (642)
London Bridge Branch (4,284)
Rogers Ridge (4,933)
Sampson Mountain Addition (3,069)
Slide Hollow (4,395)
Stone Mountain (5,373)
Sycamore Creek (6,994)
Upper Bald River (9,112)

Take a trip to one of these special areas and explore the beauty of our mountains.

Now is the time to add your voice to the chorus of Americans who want our National Forest legacy protected from destructive commercial logging and logging road construction. Over the next few months the Sierra Club will be collecting names on a petition to the Forest Service. Our goal is to gather over 500,000 names which will be delivered to the Forest Service early next year. The message is clear, protect all of the nearly 60 million acres of roadless wild National Forests, reinstate the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

For more information: www.sierraclub.org/forests.

takeACTION

Please take a minute to sign the petition;
visit www.sierraclub.org/forests

For more information: www.sierraclub.org/forests

Text of the petition:

I strongly oppose the Bush administration's recent decision to revoke the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and replace it with a burdensome and uncertain state petition process. Protecting the 58.5 million acres of National Forest Roadless Areas is a core responsibility of the U.S. Forest Service to all Americans. It should not be contingent on action by state governors.

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule was the product of a massive public involvement process that included more than 600 public meetings and generated more than 1.6 million comments from the American people. More than 95 percent of those comments supported a strong nationwide policy protecting all National Forest Roadless Areas.

More Americans supported the Roadless Area Conservation Rule of 2001 than any other federal rule in U.S. history. And more Americans opposed the Bush administration's rescission of that rule than any other rule revision in history.

The American people have loudly, clearly, and in great number expressed their desire that you protect the clean water, undisturbed wildlife habitat, and backcountry recreational opportunities our remaining national forest roadless areas provide. And they have made clear that they do not want more of their taxpayer dollars to go toward road-building in wild areas when there is already almost \$10 billion in existing maintenance needed on forest service roads.

The Forest Service's rationale for such a rule is as valid today as it was in 2001. It ended decades of conflict. It helped the agency direct resources to its priority responsibilities. It halted expansion of a decaying, 400,000 mile forest road network that has saddled taxpayers with a \$10 billion maintenance backlog. And it assured that the broader significance of nationally scarce roadless areas would not be overlooked through local decisionmaking.

Therefore, I hereby petition you to withdraw the decision of Under Secretary Mark Rey, published on Friday, May 13, 2005, revoking the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule and instituting a state petition process. I make this request pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, which requires each federal agency to "give an interested person the right to petition for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of a rule" (5 USC 553(e)). And please do not allow or reinstate any forest-specific exemptions from the 2001 rule, like the prior one for the Tongass rainforest.

Please promptly consider this petition and notify me of your decision, as required by 7 CFR 1.28.

Sincerely,

Interested Citizen



photo/Carlos Paes

Recycle your old
cellphones, pagers,
PDAs and chargers
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A portion of the proceeds come back to
the Sierra Club!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Got Stock?

by Kate Truka
August 26, 2005
Sierra Club

The Sierra Club has long confronted corporate environmental degradation in the legislative and regulatory arena. Now, we're taking the campaign directly to corporate headquarters and asking institutional shareholders to support resolutions that must be addressed by the Chair of a corporation, its board and officers, and voted on by millions of investors.

In 2005 we pressed chicken and pork giant, Tyson Foods to study and strengthen the sustainability of its Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). We raised similar concerns with shareholders at pork competitors, Seaboard Corporation and Smithfield Foods Inc.

The 30,000 Sierra Club members who signed the No Drilling in the Arctic petition on the Club's website had their names delivered on giant NO DRILLING letters and their voices heard at ChevronTexaco's annual meeting.

Then-Club president, Larry Fahn, supported by a representative from the Steelworkers/PACE Union, demanded that Chevron examine the risks associated with despoiling the Arctic.

We asked General Electric to take responsibility for safe disposal of its irradiated fuel rods and spoke in support of friends in labor urging DuPont to disclose information on C8, a dangerous chemical used in the manufacturing of Teflon.

Sierra Club members attended meetings in the electric power sector including those at Dominion Power, First Energy, and Great Plains Energy.

At Peabody Energy, Hopi, Navajo, and Sierra Club Environmental Justice activists joined Sierra Clubbers in the Midwest to question the CEO and board on everything from global warming liabilities to abuse of water rights.

This effort to demonstrate that long term shareholder value is best served by business practices that carefully account for sustained ecological integrity is coordinated by Sierra Club's Action Task Force.

To get involved, visit us on the Web at http://www.sierraclub.org/cac/shareholder/mutual_fund.asp, or contact SATF Chair David Ortman at deortman@msn.com.

takeACTION

1. If you own an individual stock...

You can write directly to the CEO and Board of Directors about your environmental concerns. Be sure to vote your proxies with attention to environmental resolutions. You can attend the annual meeting and raise environmental concerns directly with the CEO, Board of Directors and corporate management.

2. If you own a mutual fund...

Your mutual fund votes on shareholder resolutions for you (and too often votes against environmental, labor or corporate governance resolutions). You can contact your mutual fund and ask them to support progressive shareholder resolutions. See the SATF website for more information.

3. If you have held over \$2,000...

of a company's stock for more than a year, you can submit a shareholder resolution to be voted on by the shareholders. See the SATF website for more information.

Upper Cumberland Group Members

It's time to vote!!

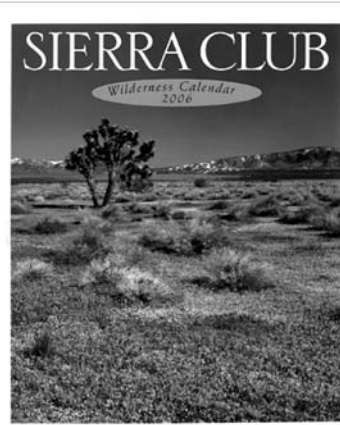
Look for your ballot on page 5 this issue
and vote for Tennessee's Sierra Club leadership today!

SIERRA CLUB 2006 CALENDARS



Sierra Club 2006 Wilderness Wall Calendar—Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.

Sierra Club 2006 Engagement Calendar—Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.



ORDER FORM

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total	Ship To:
Engagement	\$12.95	_____	_____	Name _____
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Subtotal _____				City _____
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Sales tax _____				Make checks payable to "Sierra Club" and mail to the return address shown on your newsletter.
Grand Total _____				



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volunteer Opportunity!

To help the Middle Tennessee Group, to help our senior and disabled recyclers, to have fun and to meet other Sierrans, please consider volunteering at our recycling site at the Elysian Fields Kroger in Nashville. The site is open Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00. You will have at least one other person working with you, and you can choose to volunteer only when it is convenient for you, whether that is just one time, monthly, quarterly, or every few months. Please call Recycling Coordinator David Bordenkircher at 333-3377 (H) or 741-1597, or e-mail him at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com.

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