

# Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

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## saving the forests



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## TENNESSEE CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB PRESENTS CATHERINE MURRAY THE SARAH HINES AWARD



On Saturday October 21, 2006 Catherine Murray was awarded the prestigious Sarah Hines Award at the TN Sierra Club quarterly chapter meeting held at Pickett State Park in Jamestown, TN. Catherine Murray is a member of the Watauga Group Sierra Club serving Johnson and Carter Counties in Northeast Tennessee and serves as director of Cherokee Forest Voices.

The Cherokee National Forest includes areas as wild and remote as any and some of the most isolated and non fragmented Forest Service lands in the eastern US. It is home to more than 2,000 plants and animal species. The Cherokee Forest encompasses 640,000 acres and stretches from Chattanooga to Mountain City. It is the largest tract of public land in Tennessee.

Protecting this huge national forest is Catherine Murray and all the help she can muster through alliances, coalitions, grants and hard work with long hours to address the numerous issues related to the management of this forest thru her directorship of Cherokee Forest Voices.

Catherine's nomination for the Sarah Hines Award stated in part "...Ms Murray is the reason Cherokee National Forest still has significant, standing, old growth trees. Catherine, with partners at the Southern Environmental Law Center, Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, Cherokee Forest Voices, Southern Appalachian Eco Region Task Force and the Sierra Club, has saved many a Forest Services' inappropriate plan from being realized over the last ten years".

Catherine, a Johnson City Tennessee resident, envisions the Cherokee National Forest as a safe haven for wildlife, big trees, clear streams and people seeking nondestructive enjoyment of the forest. Her inspired work has reduced irresponsible logging, "dampened" inappropriate NFS burns, and increased road less areas plus led to improvements in Cherokee National Forest management. "These are great accomplishments for one lady who labors above and beyond the call of duty in performing vital services for conserving the wild forest legacy in our very own neck of the woods" said Dean Whitworth a life member of the Sierra Club.

"Catherine learned many of her skills and a considerable portion of her knowledge base as a protégée of Arthur Smith", said Gloria Griffith current Chair of Watauga Group Sierra Club. "Arthur Smith taught Catherine more than skills. The activism tools and love for wild places Arthur imparted inspires Catherine's enthusiasm and single minded dedication. Catherine continues to be selflessly guided by similar goals and aspirations. Arthur Smith would be very proud of Catherine," Ms Griffith continued.

For more information on the vital work of Cherokee Forest Voices contact Catherine Murray through the CFV website at [www.cherokeeforestvoices.org](http://www.cherokeeforestvoices.org) or call the CFV office at 423-929-8163.

STORY CONTRIBUTED BY GLORIA GRIFFITH  
CATHERINE MURRAY PHOTO  
CONTRIBUTED BY DENNIS SHEKINAH



Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

# Tennes-Sierran

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

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## ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

1. Email embedded text submissions, or PDFs, which are preferred to [tn.sierra@gmail.com](mailto:tn.sierra@gmail.com).
2. Photographs should be 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. 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.**

## Island Hopping — in — CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

### WHALES, PINNIPEDS, & WILDFLOWERS

Please join us for an exciting tour of Channel Islands National Park. We are offering 4-day, 4-island cruises, cost \$775, on April 13-16; May 4-7; July 20-23 visiting San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz & Anacapa Islands. Two 5-day, 5-island cruises are planned for August 25-29 & September 15-19, cost \$925 visiting all of the islands of Channel Islands National Park, including tiny Santa Barbara Island.

These fundraising cruises depart from Santa Barbara, CA, aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. Prices include assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages & services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes and help identify plants, flowers, wildlife & remnants of the rich culture left behind by the Chumash people. Proceeds will benefit Sierra Club programs.

Activities include hiking, kayaking, swimming, snorkeling, beach combing, or just relaxing at sea. In spring, the islands are ablaze with wildflowers. The pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary churn with colorful fish & sea lions and will entice snorkelers & kayakers.

Each island is unique & offers special charm: San Miguel for its white, sandy beaches & huge congregation of elephant seals; Santa Rosa for its rare Torrey Pine forest; Santa Cruz for high mountains, deep valleys & the famous Painted Cave, Anacapa for the west coast brown pelican rookery, steep cliffs, a picturesque lighthouse & excellent snorkeling waters. Tiny Santa Barbara Island delights visitors with its friendly colony of frolicking sea lions.

To make a reservation send \$100, payable to Sierra Club, to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. (626) 443-0706; [jholtzhl@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhl@aol.com).

# Moving?

My new address is:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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(be sure to include your member ID#)

Mail to:

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

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

Current Address:

Member ID# \_\_\_\_\_

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

# I WANT MY MPG

## What Could Have Been, What Could Still Be

by John Byrne Barry  
reprinted from *The Planet* newsletter

Instead of starting by describing another missed opportunity by Congress to raise fuel economy standards—not that I have an opinion on that—I thought I'd get personal instead and talk about my car.

It's a 1985 Honda Civic wagon with almost 150,000 miles on it. It's reliable and I don't drive much and I'm a cheapskate, but I'm tired of it and I thought it might be nice to get something a wee bit newer. I mean, I've got no air bags, no power steering, not even cup holders. I still have to use one of those old fashioned keys you insert into door and turn.

But, but...

I went to the Sierra Club's "I Want My MPG" fuel calculator, which allows you to find out how much you'd save on gas for your car model if fuel economy were modernized. But other than hybrids, practically the only cars that get better mileage than my 21-year-old Honda Civic are newer Honda Civics.

Actually, the average new car sold in the United States today does get 28 miles per gallon, about what I get with my car, but the average new vehicle sold today gets worse mileage than a new car or truck sold in 1982. That's practically criminal.

(If the electronics industry progressed at that same glacial pace, we'd still all be using floppy disks and listening to music on record players.)

It didn't have to be this way.

Sixteen years ago, after a concerted campaign by the Sierra Club and our allies, Congress came within a handful of votes of adopting fuel economy standards of 40 miles per gallon. As our executive director, Carl Pope, says in his blog, "Had we won that vote, the world would be different today: America would be using about half as much gas as it currently does." He also suggests that the United States would have embraced the Kyoto Protocols on curbing global warming because "it would have been easy to meet our emissions targets," and may not have embarked

on risky military adventures in the Persian Gulf. (See "The Road Not Taken.")

Imagine.

But this spring, it seemed like that moment was coming around again, and that Congress and/or President Bush were about to take meaningful action to raise fuel economy standards. The time was ripe, with gas prices climbing above \$3 a gallon and the buzz about global warming turning into a national conversation.

It didn't happen.

Representatives Sherwood Boehlert (R-N.Y.) and Ed Markey (D-Mass.) introduced a bipartisan amendment to raise fuel economy standards to a combined 33 miles per gallon highway and city, but the House Energy Committee refused to adopt it.

Meanwhile, President Bush, who has been expanding presidential power in other domains, called on Congress to give him power to increase the fuel economy standards on cars. But as Dan Becker, director of the Club's global warming program, says, "Like Dorothy in Oz, the president has had this authority all along but refused to use it."

In 1975, when Congress first enacted Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards, it set passenger standards at 27.5 miles per gallon. The statute also gave the Department of Transportation authority to raise passenger car standards beyond 27.5 mpg in future years, subject to disapproval by either house of Congress. Since then, however, the Supreme Court has ruled that this type of one-chamber "legislative veto" is unconstitutional. This means the administration retains the authority to raise CAFE standards without approval from Congress.

This past March, the Bush administration announced slightly higher fuel economy standards for light trucks. Emphasis on slightly. By the administration's own admission, this adjustment will save only two weeks of oil by 2011.

But along with this increase came a restructuring of the rules that replaced the existing fleetwide standard with a size-based system, providing a perverse incentive for

automakers to build bigger vehicles to qualify for weaker fuel economy standards. This could actually decrease fuel economy from its already low present level.

In response to these CAFE changes, on May 23, the Sierra Club and 10 states and several other environmental groups sued the Bush administration, claiming that the new standards are illegal because they set standards below the technically and economically feasible level.

Pat Gallagher, director of the Club's Environmental Law Program, says, "They underestimated the technologies and ignored important benefits, such as the ability to significantly reduce our global warming emissions."

Congress squandered an opportunity 16 years ago and earlier this spring, but here comes another chance. We've got the technology on the shelf to make all new vehicles average 40 miles per gallon within ten years. That could save the average driver more than \$5,000 over the vehicle's lifetime (and that's after accounting for the added costs of the fuel-saving technology). And it could also save 4 million barrels of oil a day—an amount equal to what the United States currently imports from the Persian Gulf and could ever get out of the Arctic Refuge, combined.

Whether Congress seizes this opportunity or perpetuates our oil addiction could depend on how much noise the environmental community makes. Of course, it's an election year, gas prices are hovering around \$3 per gallon, and it could be a long, hot summer.

In the meantime, the Sierra Club is calling on automakers to use current technology to make all their cars, SUVs, and light trucks go farther on a gallon gas. To sign a petition to the automakers, and to find out how much you could save if CAFE standards were modernized, go to the Club's "I Want My MPG" site.

As for replacing my old car, maybe I'd be better off splurging on a new lightweight bicycle. Looks like the best way to keep my emissions down is to leave the car at the curb.

## The Benefits of Environmentally Responsible Investing

Environmentally responsible investing (ERI) takes into account a company's environmental profile in the course of making an investment decision. A company with a positive environmental profile has minimized its environmental liabilities, uses natural resources more efficiently, responds better to environmental regulation and litigation, has greater employee morale and productivity, is led by enlightened management teams, and is generally positioned in the marketplace to capitalize on emerging trends that reward sustainable business practices. For these reasons, advocates of the ERI approach believe that corporations which have proactively addressed their environmental issues are better investments over the long term.

Beyond the financial performance of ERI portfolios, of course, there are other benefits that environmentally aware investors can reap. The ability to "put your money where your mouth is" so to speak, by creating an investment portfolio that reflects an investor's values is significant. This may mean avoiding companies whose practices or products are ecologically problematic, such as petroleum, mining, agricultural chemicals or nuclear power. At the same time, an environmentalist may wish to invest in companies that produce environmentally beneficial goods and services, such as renewable energy, organic foods, or more fuel-efficient transportation. The benefit of an investment discipline that considers both environmental risk and opportunity is unique and valuable to an environmentalist.

Finally, investors in a publicly-traded company are, in fact, the owners of the company and can approach management with issues that concern them. By leveraging their ownership in companies, environmentalists can influence corporate practices and policies in many areas of interest, such as energy efficiency, land use policies, and replacing toxic chemicals in consumer products with safe alternatives. The use of shareholder engagement to promote environmentally progressive corporate practices is perhaps the most powerful (though often unrecognized) benefit of an ERI approach.

Environmentally responsible investing provides a way to identify environmental risk/reward in a company, offers access to corporate management to voice environmental concerns, and allows an investor to integrate one's environmental values into an investment portfolio. Anyone with an environmental ethic, whether it is a non-profit organization, a small company, a foundation, or a concerned individual ought to consider the benefits that an ERI approach can deliver.

The Sierra Club has recognized the advantages of ERI and, together with Forward Management (an investment advisor), has launched the Sierra Club Mutual Funds. The proprietary mutual fund line of the Sierra Club avoids investing in the most environmentally egregious industries and companies, providing competitive financial returns in mid-to-large cap "core" investment portfolios.

## GET YOUR CHRONICLES DVD!

It's now possible to get all seven episodes of "**Sierra Club Chronicles**" on DVD for the low, low price of **\$10**, and you can order online.

Each episode is hosted by actress Daryl Hannah and tells of an environmental battle where local folks banded together and took on formidable opponents.

The lesson?  
One person **can** make a difference.

It's a great house party tool!

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**Member organizations:**

- Cumberland Harpeth Chapter of the Audubon Society
- Harpeth River Watershed Association
- Scenic Tennessee
- Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
- Tennessee Chapter of Sierra Club
- Tennessee Citizen Action
- Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
- Tennessee Clean Water Network
- Tennessee Environmental Council
- Tennessee Native Plant Society
- Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation
- Tennessee Preservation Trust
- Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association
- Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association
- Tennessee Trails Association
- Tennessee Trial Lawyers

Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) is a statewide, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of Tennessee's environment and preservation of the state's natural resources through effective legislative and administrative advocacy. TCV focuses its resources on making environmental protection a top priority for Tennessee's elected officials, political candidates and voters.

One way to highlight this purpose is to publish a yearly legislative scorecard. This is a summary of the state legislators' performance on environmental issues, i.e., how they voted on bills that were particularly important to Tennessee's environment in the most recent legislative session.

*A note on Tennessee's legislative process:* Usually environmental legislative scorecards are based on floor votes (entire House or Senate consideration) on environmental bills. This is easier in state legislatures that have many floor votes. In the Tennessee legislature however, most bills never come up for a floor vote. Many are not put to vote even in the committee or sub-committee levels. They either fail to be "put on notice" or are "deferred" until the next year at the committee level.

Without recorded votes on legislation, it is difficult to construct a scorecard that simply counts floor votes. While still striving for objectivity, this scorecard tries to evaluate legislators' performance on environmental bills by giving positive or negative credit for 1) Senate and House Floor votes, 2) House and Senate committee votes, 3) Sponsorship. We

have used our best judgement to recognize good votes without being overly generous on items which were so noncontroversial that no one opposed. In other words, a good vote on a good bill that no one opposed does not necessarily earn positive votes for every subcommittee, committee and floor vote.

2006 proved to be another positive year for our executive branch, in terms of environmental law and policy. Several good bills passed that either originated with or were backed by the Governor and TDEC. Money was appropriated at the administration's urging for acquiring some of the Bowater property. Parks were made more accessible by the elimination of access fees.

In a key move, the administration agreed with a strongly held position of the environmental community that TDEC should have authority to stop mining work when water quality was threatened. The bill passed as an official administration bill. The administration also acted to stop bad bills that would have weakened environmental protections, particularly in water quality.

One negative note is that in spite of much effort to convince them otherwise, the executive branch refused to take a position on the container deposit legislation. Also, we are still wanting (and hoping) for the administration to work with us to establish more balanced boards and commissions in the environmental arena. TCV nevertheless gives this administration and particularly TDEC and TDOT high marks on both issues and accessibility.

**Definitions:**

*Sponsorship:* this means that a legislator agreed to put his/her name on a bill or amendment as the sponsor. This usually means that he/she is in favor of the bill. +1 or -1 depending on whether the bill was pro- or anti-environment.

**Scoring System:**

*Voting:* if a legislator voted for a pro-environment bill or against an anti-environment bill, he/she got a +1. If he/she voted for an anti-environment bill or against a pro-environment bill, he/she got a -1.

The numbers in the columns "Positive Environmental Actions" and "Negative Environmental Actions" refer to the numbers we have used to symbolize the bills in the bill description, which is the third section of the scorecard. Therefore, in order to note which bills your legislators had the chance to vote on, you must simply find the bills that are represented by the numbers in their columns.

Legislators' net scores are the number of positive actions minus the number of negative actions. For every 2 net positive actions, legislators received a tree; for every 2 net negative reactions, they received a stump.

\*Because many of the legislators were not on committees that considered environmental bills, the opportunities for getting positive or negative points varied. Legislators' scores should not be directly compared unless they had an opportunity to vote on the same bills.

## Index of Actions

1. SB0498/HB0659 requires commissioner of environment & conservation to study and prepare recommendations for the protection of watersheds to assure the future quality of drinking water. Enacted as Public Chapter 513. Sponsors – S: Henry; H: Hawk, Kernell, R. Johnson, P. Johnson, Fraley, Borchert, Niceley, Tidwell.  
*Positive point for sponsorship.*

2. SB2602/HB2535 exempts solar powered water heaters and wind generators from sales and use tax. Failed to become law. Sponsors – S: Burchett; H: Baird.  
*Positive point for sponsorship.*

3. SB2689/HB3112 confuses eminent domain and reasonable environmental regulation -- allows state, counties and municipalities to establish setback lines for streams so long as compensation for damages resulting from such set back lines is also established. Failed to become law. Sponsors – S: Bryson; H: Casada.  
*Negative point for sponsorship.*

4. SB2699/HB3395 clarifies law regarding the tax-exempt nature of land held by 501 (c) (3) organizations, including recreational land and retreats. Enacted as Public Chapter 861. Sponsors – S: Henry, Finney; H: McMillan, Coleman, Litz, R. Johnson.  
*Positive point for sponsorship and Senate or House floor vote.*

5. SB2887/HB2485 authorizes the state to purchase 100,000 acres of timberland (Bowater property) on the Cumberland Plateau. Failed to become law. Sponsors – S: Haynes, Crutchfield; H: M. Turner, Odom, S. Jones, McDonald.  
*Positive point for sponsorship.*

6. SB2932/HB2623 as filed reduced sales tax on hybrid vehicles. As passed urges TDOT to study the feasibility of alternative fuel or hybrid-electric motor vehicles to be driven in the HOV lane. Enacted as Public Chapter 636. Sponsors – S: Kyle, Kurita, Finney; H: McMillan. *Positive point for sponsorship.*

7. SB2939/HB2906 was originally an attempt to exclude wet water run-off ditches from the definition of water in the Water Quality Control Act. Amendment rewrites bill to create a TN Water Quality Control Act study committee. Enacted as Public Chapter 899. Sponsors – S: Ramsey; H: Harrison, Overbey.  
*Negative point for sponsorship of original bill.*

8. SB3003/HB2489 exempts solar water-heating equipment and wind generators from sales and use tax. Sponsors – S: Herron; H: McDonald. Failed to become law.  
*Positive point for sponsorship.*

9. SB3497/HB3144 loosens regulation of "pesticide" under the application of pesticides act to exclude "non-restrictive use herbicide". Failed to become law. Sponsors – S: Ketron; H: Dubois. *Negative point for sponsorship.*

10. SB3616/HB3350 enacts the TN Deposit Beverage Container Recycling Act of 2006 in order to increase participation and recycling rates and to reduce litter. Failed to become law. Sponsors – S: McNally; H: R. Johnson. *Positive point for sponsorship and positive or negative point for House Local Government Subcommittee vote.*

11. SB3663/HB3492 creates an exception to the Scenic Rivers Act so that a developer can establish a landfill within 500 feet of the Scenic Harpeth in west Nashville. The negative bill was filed by the sponsors with the express purpose of allowing discussion, controlling, and ultimately withdrawing. Failed to become law. Sponsors – S: Haynes; H: Moore. *Positive point for sponsorship.*

12. SB3733/HB3687 requires TDEC to make annual report concerning proposed scenic rivers – filed as a vehicle to support designation of more rivers as scenic... Failed to become law. Sponsors – S: Henry; H: McDonald, M. Turner, West, Odom, R. Johnson. *Positive point for sponsorship.*

13. SB3820/HB3639 deletes requirement that concentrated animal feeding operations obtain NPDES permit from TDEC. Failed to become law. Sponsors – S: Cooper; H: Litz. *Negative point for sponsorship.*

14. SB3835/HB3829 creates a commission for TSU and MTSU to conduct a study on solid and hazardous waste. Goal is to minimize solid waste, promote composting, etc. Enacted as Public Chapter 924. Sponsors – S: Jackson, Harper, Bowers, Ketron, Finney; H: Coleman, Hood, Langster.  
*Positive point for sponsorship.*

15. SB3873/HB3992 allows TDEC to issue a stop work order for coal surface mining operations when mining activities have polluted waters of the state as a result of an operator's failure or refusal to comply with permit conditions. Enacted as Public Chapter 594. Sponsors – S: Kyle, Jackson, Finney; H: McMillan, Tidwell, R. Johnson, Coleman, Odom, Fraley. *Positive point for sponsorship and Senate or House Floor vote. Positive or negative point for House Environment Subcommittee vote.*

16. SB3874/HB3993 specifies that money in the local parks land acquisition fund may be used only for grants to purchase land for parks, natural areas, greenways and recreation areas. Enacted as Public Chapter 673. Sponsors – S: Kyle, Haynes; H: McMillan, Odom, R. Johnson, Moore, Baird.  
*Positive point for sponsorship and Senate or House floor vote.*

17. SB3875/HB3994 adds Rugby and Stillhouse Hollow Falls to recreational and natural-scientific areas. Adds Campbell Bend Barrens, Crowder Cemetery Barrens, Pogue Creek, and Walls of Jericho to natural-scientific areas. Revises acreage of Sequatchie Cave and Manus Road Cedar Glade natural-scientific areas. Enacted as Public Chapter 618. Sponsors – S: Kyle, Kilby, Crutchfield, Cooper, Ketron, Tracy, Henry; H: McMillan, Ferguson, Fraley, Hood, Harmon, R. Johnson, McDonald, DuBois.  
*Positive point for sponsorship and Senate or House floor vote.*

18. SJR1007 a resolution to honor Mack Prichard on his career as a conservationist with Tennessee state parks and to confer the honorary title of Tennessee State Park Naturalist Emeritus upon his retirement. Passed and signed by the Governor. Sponsor – S: Henry.  
*Positive point for sponsorship.*

State Senate	2005 Score		2006 Score		2006 Rating
	2006 (+) Positive Actions*	(-) Negative Actions*	2006 Score	2006 Rating	
Speaker Wilder, D-26	3	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Beavers, R-17	1	0	4,17	2	0
Black, R-18	3	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Bowers, D-33**	N/A	0	4,14,15,16,17	5	0
Bryson, R-23	0	0	4,15,16,17	3	0
Burchett, R-7	1	0	2,4,15,16,17	5	0
Burks, D-15	2	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Cohen, D-30	6	0	15,16	2	0
Cooper, D-14	4	0	4,15,16,17	13	3
Crowe, R-3	1	0	4,17	2	0
Crutchfield, D-10	5	0	4,5,15,16,17,17	6	0
Finney, R-8	3	0	4,6,14,15,15,16,17	7	0
Ford, J, D-29	4	0	N/A	0	0
Ford, O, D-29**	N/A	0	15,16,17	3	0
Fowler, R-11	5	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Harper, D-19	5	0	4,14,15,16,17	5	0
Haynes, D-20	5	0	4,5,11,15,16,16,17	7	0
Henry, D-21	8	0	1,4,4,12,15,16,17,17,18	9	0
Herron, D-24	3	0	4,8,15,16,17	5	0
Jackson, D-25	11	0	4,14,15,15,16,17	6	0
Ketron, R-13	2	0	4,14,15,16,17,17	9	5
Kilby, D-12	3	0	4,15,16,17,17	5	0
Kurita, D-22	5	0	4,6,15,16,17	5	0
Kyle, D-28	6	0	4,6,15,16,17,17	6	0
McLeary, D-27	2	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
McNally, R-5	1	0	4,10,15,16,17	5	0
Miller, R-9	1	0	4,15,16,17	2	0
Norris, R-32	4	0	4,15,16,17	0	0
Person, R-31	3	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Ramsey, R-2	0	0	4,15,16,17	7	3
Southerland, R-1	-4	0	4,17	2	0
Tracy, R-16	0	0	4,15,16,17,17	5	0
Williams, R-4	2	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Woodson, R-6	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
<b>House of Representatives</b>					
Speaker J. Naifeh, D-81	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Armstrong, D-15	5	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Baird, R-36	1	0	2,4,16,16,17	15	4
Bone, D-46	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Borchert, D-75	4	0	1,4,15,16,17	5	0
Bowers, D-87	0	0	N/A	N/A	0
Briley, D-52	9	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Harry Brooks, R-19	2	0	4,15,16,17	10	3
Henri Brooks, D-92	3	0	16,17	2	0
Brown, D-28	3	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Buck, D-40	2	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Bunch, R-24	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Campfield, R-18	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Casada, R-63	-1	0	4,15,16,17	3	0
Clem, R-27	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Cobb, D-62	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Cochran, R-4	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Coleman, D-49	6	0	4,4,14,15,15,16,17	7	0
Cooper, D-86	4	0	4,15,17	3	0
Crider, R-79	0	0	4,15,16	3	0
Curtiss, D-43	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Davidson, D-66	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Davis, R-6	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Dean, R-30**	N/A	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
J. Deberry, D-90	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
L. Deberry, D-91	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Dubois, R-64	3	0	4,15,16,17,17	9	4
Dunn, R-16	2	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Eldridge, R-73	1	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Favors, D-29	3	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Ferguson, D-32	4	0	4,15,16,17,17	5	0
Fitzhugh, D-82	4	0	4,16,17	3	0
Fowlkes, D-65	5	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Fraley, D-39	3	0	1,4,15,15,15,16,17,17	8	0
Godsey, R-1	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Gresham, R-94	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Hackworth, D-33	5	0	4,15,16	3	0
Hargett, R-97	0	0	15,16,17	3	0
Hargrove, D-42	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Harmon, D-37	4	0	4,15,16,17,17	5	0
Harrison, R-9	2	0	4,15,16,17	7	3
Harwell, R-56	-1	0	4,15,16	3	0
Hawk, R-5	1	0	1,4,15,15,16,17	6	0
Hensley, R-70	1	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Hill, R-7	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Hood, D-48	4	0	4,14,15,16,17,17	6	0
C. Johnson, R-68	-1	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
P. Johnson, R-78	2	0	1,4,15,16,17	5	0
R. Johnson, R-21	9	0	1,4,4,10,12,15,15,15,16,16,17,17	12	0
S. Jones, D-59	9	0	4,5,15,16,17	5	0
U. Jones, D-98	4	0	4,15,16,17	10	3
Kelsey, R-83	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Kernell, D-93	6	0	1,4,15,15,16,17	6	0
Langster, D-54	3	0	4,14,15,16,17	10	4
Litz, D-10	4	0	4,4,15,16,17	13	4
Lynn, R-57	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Maddox, D-76	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Maggart, R-45	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Marrero, D-89	5	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Matheny, R-47	2	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
McCord, R-8	1	0	4,15,15,16,17	5	0
McCormick, R-26	1	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
McDaniel, R-72	2	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
McDonald, D-44	10	0	4,5,8,12,15,15,16,17,17	9	0
McKee, R-23	3	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
McMillan, D-67	7	0	4,4,6,15,15,16,16,17,17	9	0
Miller, D-88	4	0	4,15,16	3	0
Montgomery, R-12	2	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Moore, D-50	7	0	4,11,15,16,16,17	6	0
Mumpower, R-3	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Newton, R-22	2	0	N/A	N/A	0
Nicely, R-17	-1	0	1,4,15,15,16,17	6	0
Odom, D-55	8	0	4,5,12,15,15,16,16,17	8	0
Overbey, R-20	2	0	4,15,16,17	7	3
Pimion, D-77	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Pleasant, R-99	1	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Fruitt, D-58	3	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Rinks, D-71	4	0	4,15,16,17	10	3
Roach, R-35	3	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Rowe, D-87**	N/A	0	4,15,16	3	0
Rowland, R-34	1	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Sargent, R-61	2	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Sharp, R-30***	0	0	N/A	N/A	0
Shaw, D-80	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Shepard, D-69	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Sontany, D-53	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Stanley, R-96	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Strader, R-14	2	0	4,15,16,17	10	3
Swafford, R-25	-1	0	4,16,17	3	0
Tidwell, D-74	4	0	1,4,15,15,15,16,17	7	0
Tindell, D-13	4	0	4,15,16,17	10	3
Todd, R-95	0	0	4,16,17	10	2
Towns, D-84	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
L. Turner, D-85	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
M. Turner, D-51	9	0	4,5,12,16,17	5	0
Vaughn, D-2	4	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
B. Watson, R-31	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
E. Watson, R-22**	N/A	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
West, D-60	4	0	4,10,12,15,16,17	6	0
Windle, D-41	0	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Winningham, D-38	2	0	4,15,16,17	4	0
Yokley, D-11	3	0	4,15,16,17	10	3

\* Refers to the index of Actions, \*\* Began service in 2006, \*\*\* deceased, replaced by Dean

# Outings

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

All HBG outings may be accessed at this website:  
<http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome/>

**December 9, 2006 (Sat). 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. In the event that highway 441 is closed due to snow, an alternate hike at lower elevation will be substituted. Driving time from Knoxville, about 1.5 to 2 hours. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or rshrieve@utk.edu (email is preferred).

**January 19-21, 2007, Chapter Meeting. Cedars of Lebanon State Park,** hosted by the Upper Cumberland Group, Chair: Peggy Evans, maevans@twlakes.net.

**January 27-28, 2007 (Sat-Sun). Winter backpack, Grassy Ridge.** This is a short hike trip to a 6,000' elevation bald near Roane Mountain. A great high-elevation site where we can test our winter backpacking skills. The campsite is a short hike (under 2 miles) to a fantastic view, best when there's snow. We'll drive to Carver's Gap on the AT. Driving time about 3 hours. (If weather conditions make access to Carver's Gap difficult, we'll wimp out and opt for a lower elevation destination.) Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or rshrieve@utk.edu (email is preferred).

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**Saturday, December 2nd - Centennial Wilderness Dayhike -** Moderate five mile hike in the Centennial Wilderness Area in DeRossett near Sparta. They have a great website, with maps and descriptions of trails and features. If things are dry we'll check out the Yellow Bluff Overlook, Tom Holloway Rock House, Big Spring, and Rose Cave. If there has been rain we'll go the other direction to Polly's Branch and Copper Cascade. Two stream crossings - where wagons used to cross - are necessary for the Rose Cave hike. Both hikes involve 700 feet change of elevation. You can do it! Contact Heloise at heloisew@bellsouth.net or 615-631-0169.

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**Saturday, 10 am, December 9, 2006 - The 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. 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 or donrich@juno.com. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

**Thursday, December 21, 2006 - Annual Winter Solstice Hike. TBA.** Check the Chickasaw Group website for details: [www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/)

**TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee:** "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. A different program is aired, usually each month. For the schedule, please see the website: [www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/18SCHD.htm](http://www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/18SCHD.htm). If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu



Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe. ©2006 Shanna Petersen

## PLAN NOW!

## CHAPTER OUTING FOR FEBRUARY

### CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE WINTER SKI AND SNOWSHOE ADVENTURE FEBRUARY 17-FEBRUARY 24, 2007

Experience winter like never before! Snow lovers of the Tennessee Chapter are invited to join Cumberland Chapter (Kentucky) members on an outing to the Sierra Club's own rustic Clair Tappaan Lodge. Located on Donner Summit, the area receives the highest average snowfall of the entire Sierra Nevada range, making the Lodge a favorite with winter sports enthusiasts. We'll fly into Reno, Nevada, on Saturday morning and shuttle to the lodge. After some lessons, we'll glide into action in the Tahoe National Forest and Royal Gorge, the world's largest cross-country ski resort. Several other resorts for downhill skiing or snowboarding are easily accessible from the lodge. We will have the option of a three-mile guided trek along the Pacific Crest Trail past Castle Peak to a backcountry hut for an overnight stay. We'll also have ample time to learn about the enchanting history of the Sierra Nevadas and current conservation issues. On our last night, we'll enjoy an evening in South Lake Tahoe. Participants must be age 16 or over. Minimum number of participants is 7 and the maximum is 14. Reservation deadline: February 1, 2007. Cost is \$499 per person and includes lodging, meals, ground transportation from the airport to the lodge and day trips. The leader will provide free snowshoe lessons. Not included: airfare, equipment rental and cross-country ski lessons. Discounted ski resort trail passes and lift tickets will be available through Clair Tappaan Lodge. Rating: While this trip is suitable for beginners, Clair Tappaan Lodge is at 7,000 feet elevation making activity feel slightly more difficult. Some activities may involve up to 9,000 feet altitude, but individuals will have options for less strenuous activity like sledding, building a snowman or simply enjoying a cozy day by the fire or reading in the library at the lodge. For additional information, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email [Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com)

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

For information on upcoming outings, contact Chris O'Connor at [chris\\_o77@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_o77@yahoo.com) or visit our web site at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee/index.htm>.

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.

## 10 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!

# Meetings

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**MONTHLY FIRST THURSDAY MEMBERS GATHERING:** Thursday, December 7, 2006, 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 Karen Prosser - Membership Chair at (901) 327-9820 or [kprosser@bell-south.net](mailto:kprosser@bell-south.net) for more information.

**HOLIDAY PARTY!** Friday, December 8, 6:00pm: Holiday Party (in place of monthly program meeting). Note New Location: Church of the River, 292 West Virginia Ave., Memphis. Bring a dish to share. There will be a cash bar. Contact James Baker 826-2448 or [kimo\\_aubrey@yahoo.com](mailto:kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com).

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Monday, December 11, 2006, 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 Allan Lummus - vice-Chair by December 8 to place items on the agenda at (901) 722-9545 or [allan.lummus@gmail.com](mailto:allan.lummus@gmail.com)

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**ANNUAL HOLIDAYS PROGRAM AND SOCIAL!!** Bring some of your favorite edibles to share and join us Tuesday, December 12 at 7:30 PM at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. We're asking HBG members and friends to show favorite photos of travel, outings, the environment, or other things of interest to our group. Please, no more than ten minutes per person, including your commentary. Ron Shrieves, our Outings Chair, may allow one or two slightly longer presentations. For the necessary pre-program coordination, contact Ron at 922-3518 or [rshrieve@utk.edu](mailto:rshrieve@utk.edu) or [ronaldshrives@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrives@comcast.net). He also needs to know if your shots are electronic or film and, if they are digital, about getting copies ready for the program. No photos? Come anyway and share the fun!

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** MTG Holiday Party Saturday, December 16, 2006 from 6-10 p.m. at the home of Katherine Pendleton and Keith Romig. Plan to bring something to share such as a vegetable, salad, desert, or appetizer. Bring your own libation. Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email [Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com).

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m. 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 on the 4th floor at 2021 21st Avenue South (the old St. Bernard Academy Building). 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 email [Diane@Propson.com](mailto: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](mailto:dabordenkircher@mindspring.com) or call 333-3377.

## UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Peggy Evans at [maevans@twlakes.net](mailto:maevans@twlakes.net) or (931)432-6680

## WATAUGA GROUP

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith, ([gl4797627@aol.com](mailto:gl4797627@aol.com)), (423) 727-4797 for more information.



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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
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Contributions, gifts and dues to 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 for your Chapter newsletters.

**Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)**

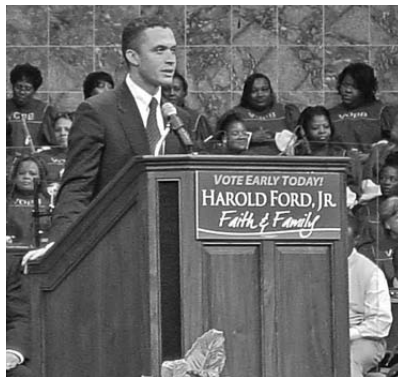
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## Chickasaw Group News

Contributed by various members

### Tennessee Politics

Former President Bill Clinton stumped for Senatorial candidate Harold Ford Jr. in Memphis on Nov. 1, 2006. A number of Chickasaw Group Sierrans were present at the Temple of Deliverance Church of God in Christ (COGIC) church. There were brief speeches by other elected officials, but the highlights were the speeches of Ford himself and former president Clinton. Ford emphasized his "high road" in the midst of a campaign season that had turned decidedly negative. Ford encouraged his followers, and reminded them that "a lot of hard work needs to be done."



Harold Ford, Jr. at Temple of Deliverance Church of God in Christ (COGIC). Photo by James H. Baker.



Bill Clinton speaks in support of Harold Ford, Jr. Photo by James H. Baker.

Clinton struck an environmental note when he said that Ford knows the best way to make America secure over the long run is to make us energy independent. Clinton spoke of the benefits of a clean energy policy. He pointed out that we can quit financing "both ends" of the war on terror if we invest in Tennessee farmers rather than countries half a world away. Clinton said a sensible energy policy will help us fight global warming. "You cannot ignore the evidence of 98% of the scientists that state that if we keep the warming going at the same rate for 50 more years as we have for the last 10 we will be in deep trouble." A major program in quest of alternative fuels will also create millions of new jobs, he said.

Clinton stated the problems in Washington are caused because the leadership is dominated by "extremist ideologues in the service of special interests" who believe the cure for the huge hole they have dug for the country is using a "bigger shovel", rather than listening to the saying "when you've found yourself in a deep hole, stop digging". Clinton said the cure for our country's problems is not "stay the course," but "stop and think." Clinton received huge applause when he said, "we are not for stay the course, or cut and run; we are for stop and think, then face and fight for a better tomorrow." At the close of the speech, some members of the Chickasaw group got to shake hands with Ford and Clinton.

### Dr. Jackson speaks at Rhodes College

On October 24, 2006, Dr. Kenneth Jackson spoke at Rhodes College in Memphis. His talk was sponsored by the Urban Land Institute and was entitled "Memphis: City of Promise, City of Lost Opportunity". Dr. Jackson is the Jacques Barzun Professor of History and Social Sciences at Columbia University, however, he has strong ties with Memphis, as he attended school here in elementary, high school and received his B.A. from the University of Memphis in 1961. A big surprise was finding out he knew Chickasaw's former - and late Chair - Charlie Rond as a 4th grade classmate, and had recently found out about Charlie's death. He told James Baker that he had paid his respects at the gravesite.



After his talk, Dr. Kenneth Jackson signed books for attendees. Photo by James H. Baker.

Dr. Jackson's talk did not pull any punches when he discussed what is right - and wrong with Memphis. Some examples of what is right:

- \* Saint Jude Hospital.
- \* Federal Express gets a grade of "A" in Dr. Jackson's eyes, and would get an "A+" from him if their corporate headquarters was downtown.
- \* The Mississippi River is a major plus for this city.
- \* In favor of maintaining historical, cultural aspects of Memphis that are special.
- \* In favor of closer in and closer-knit communities in the old fashioned "Main Street" or streetscape mode of new urbanism.
- \* Somewhat jokingly thinks Memphis should convert some lanes of Memphis' streets to bikeways.

Some examples of what is wrong:

- \* A legacy of "bossism" that continues to this day with certain political families. He used the example of Ed "Boss" Crump, which influenced Memphis' politics for decades.
- \* Leadership failure with regards of race.
- \* Memphis has a much higher rate of "stranger on stranger crime" than New York City. Memphis will continue to deteriorate until crime is brought under control.
- \* Critical of historical Memphis leadership for letting downtown deteriorate for so long. He is heartened that it is being repopulated.
- \* Critical of developers/officials for encouraging an infrastructure focus on the east side of Shelby County, decentralizing Memphis, and making the private auto the primary means of transport.
- \* Dr. Jackson stated that Memphis is the most decentralized city in America with the city center having only about 1,000 people per square mile. For that reason, he does not believe that mass transit in Memphis will ever be a resounding success until density is increased.
- \* He does believe that global warming is a serious threat and will necessitate closer in living, conservation, and simplification of values.

Dr. Jackson's publications include *The Ku Klux Klan in the City, 1915-1930* (1967), *Cities in American History* (1972), *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (1985), *Silent Cities: The Evolution of the American Cemetery*, with Camilo Vergara (1990), and, as editor *The Encyclopedia of New York City* (1995). He is presently working on two books to be entitled *Gentlemen's Agreement: Race, Class, and Differential Development in Newark, White Plains, and Darien, 1840-1990* and *The Road to Hell: Transportation Policy and the Decline of the United States*.

## Fall Family Meeting

Your Group delegates to the Tennessee Chapter, along with other interested Chapter members met at Pickett State Park in the third weekend of October. In addition to conducting



Your Chapter delegates took time during the meeting for this group photo. Photo by Rory Williams.

the business of your Chapter, everyone had a chance to enjoy fine crisp fall weather and great fall color, as well as wonderful dark skies for stargazing. In addition, a Silent Auction was held that raised funds for our lobbying and legislative program. Also, at this meeting, the Chapter awarded the Sarah Hines Award to Catherine Murray from Johnson City, TN. This award was given for countless years of work on appeals to the U.S. Forest Service to prevent unnecessary harvesting in the upper Cherokee National Forest. Catherine has worked, mostly alone to a large degree, in diligently tracking activities of the Forest Service and commercial interests that would not be beneficial to the health and welfare of this great forest. Catherine has worked with Dean Whitworth of our chapter and with the great forest advocate, Hugh Irwin, who now lives in North Carolina



Complete with ghost stories and s'mores, a number of Chapter members enjoyed the Saturday night bonfire. Photo by James H. Baker.



Several of the people involved in starting the Chapter were at the meeting. From left-to-right: Carl Leathers, Dick Mochow, Patrick Choate, and Will Skelton. Photo by Kim Robinette.

to help preserve and protect areas of this forest that are remote, difficult to access, and that have required long hours of dedicated service to this effort. For this great effort on her part, the Chapter is proud to acknowledge her labors and long service with the highest award that we make to Sierra Club activists in the Tennessee Chapter. On Saturday night, a number of members gathered around a bonfire to tell ghost stories and eat s'mores.

During the work sessions, your delegates passed resolutions to:

- \* Help the United Steelworkers with pollution issues surrounding the DuPont plant in New Johnsonville, TN.
- \* Write a letter to Governor Bredesen asking him to conduct an energy audit of all state park facilities with the goal of identifying waste and to reduce energy use as much as practicable.
- \* Support the Chickasaw Group in the important issue of protection of all State Natural Areas.
- \* Your Tennessee Chapter also supports the Council of Club Leaders' resolution that the abandonment of *The Planet*, a national Sierra Club activist newsletter be reconsidered by the national Board of Directors.

## The Tennessee Chapter's Winter Meeting is scheduled for January 19-21, 2007 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

### Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

Trees were the theme in Memphis on November 11 at the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association (VECA) Forest Faire. The Sierra Club was one of more than a dozen organizations presenting information to hundreds of guests throughout the day of festivities. VECA made the 10th anniversary of its Vollintine-Evergreen Greenline an opportunity to dedicate its new stationhouse as well as the Greenline's Keeler Bridge. The stationhouse, carefully patterned after historic Mid-South train stations, provides storage for the Greenline's maintenance equipment, as well as serving as a neighborhood meeting place. The Keeler Bridge allows the Greenline's many users to access its full length. There were drawings for prizes throughout the day. Many thanks to the following Sierra Club members who helped organize this event with VECA and represented the Club; Jan and Mike Kirby, Bill Rehberg and Don Richardson. The Sierra Club's outreach table was staffed by Deborah Mays, Becki Barnhardt, Julian Prewitt, David Carter, and Joe Kyle. Hot chocolate and hot cider fortified the visitors against the day's surprising coolness. VECA provided a free, hot noontime lunch. Trees were for sale, and there was a demonstration of the proper way to plant a tree. After the dedication of the Keeler Bridge, there was a tour of the V & E Greenline's new arboretum.

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