

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 37, Number 10 - October 2006

Energy from Above and Below

"Here's what two Tennessee Sierra Club activists are doing to help out with Global Warming"

—Clark Buchner, Chair

Tennessee Chapter Global Warming Committee

by Carl F. Ledbetter

Not trying to live a primitive lifestyle but realizing that the readily-available energy consumption is why Brian Paddock and Mary Mastin started using both of these energy sources. After recently installing 40 photovoltaic panels on their roof, they now generate electricity from the sun. Part of their planning was an effort to reduce their living costs for their later years.

In the early 1980s, they brought in a local builder, Bob Hardwood, who had an understanding of unique home construction techniques, to build their home. When construction began, ductwork was placed on the footer to bring some of the earth's 55-to-60-degree temperatures into the home for supplemental cooling. Paddle fans were installed to keep the air moving and increase the cooling effect.

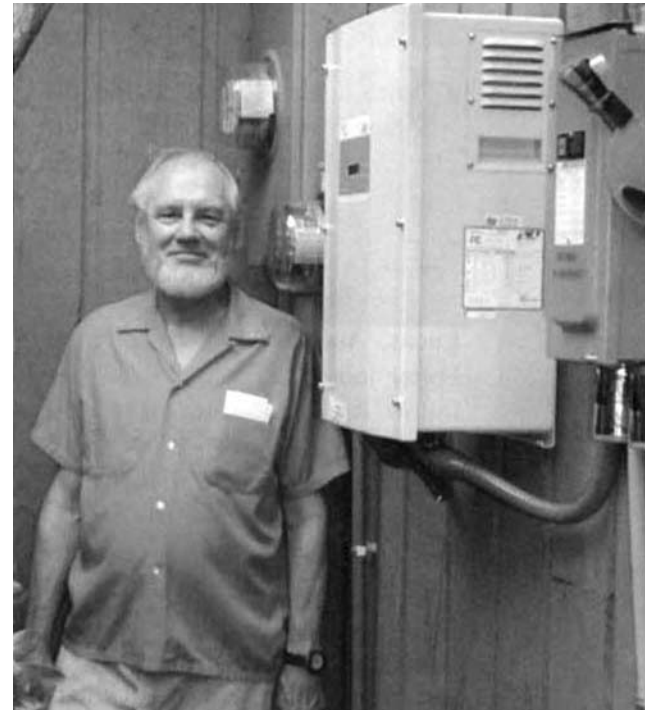
Their house was oriented to the solar south. A large amount of glass was installed on that side to let in the sunlight during the winter. The roof overhang was designed to keep direct sun out of the house during the warm seasons from approximately April 10 to Oct. 10. After Oct. 10, the sun begins to creep inside and provide supplemental heat. However, the design of the overhang provides light inside the house all year, making it another energy-saving feature.

Geothermal heating and cooling heats the house in the winter and cools it in the summer by using a ground-source heatpump. A desuperheater on the heat pump transfers excess heat and provides free hot water. A small solar heating unit installed years ago heats their in-ground swimming pool and extends its seasonal use by a couple of months.

Brian said, "Photovoltaics is about energy efficiency. It has become a standard technology, and TVA is paying 15 cents per kilowatt-hour for the photovoltaic voltage we generate. Now that the photovoltaic installing contractors have the equipment to put together and properly install the system, we decided that it was time to make the investment. If anyone is seriously interested in installing photovoltaics or the energy-conserving features of our house, you may contact me by email at bpaddock@twlakes.net.

"We used Steve Johnson at LightWave Electrics in Antioch, Tenn. to install our system. You can contact him at (615) 294-9630.

"I appreciate UCEMC's board for joining TVA's Green Power Generation Partners Program. UCEMC organized a meeting for me with their people and TVA to explain their policies and TVA's policies for participating in this program."



Brian Paddock's control center for his newly installed photovoltaic generation system consists of two electric meters, two disconnects and a power inverter. When the 40 rooftop-mounted solar panels are collecting more energy than the house consumes, their residential electric meter runs backward. The weather was overcast with an immediate threat for rain when this photo was made. Remarkably, under those conditions, 1.2 kilowatt-hours (kwh) of electricity was being generated from the rooftop photovoltaic panels. With a hint of humor, Brian said, "It is fun to just sit back and watch our electric meter turn backwards." Photo by Carl Ledbetter.

Article and photograph reprinted with permission from **Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation**, 9/2006.

New Solar opportunities expanding in Tennessee for home owners and businesses

by Gil Melear-Hough

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

Support for installing solar and other renewables on your home continue to grow in Tennessee. While California continues to raise the bar on state level support, with Governor Schwarzenegger signing into law the multibillion dollar Million Solar Roofs bill this summer. This past January, the first federal solar tax credits since the Carter Administration came into effect, championed by Tennessee's own Senator Lamar Alexander. While the tax credits were only passed for two years, which is too small of a time period to really effectively grow the solar market, there are several legislative efforts already underway to extend the solar tax credits. The tax credits are 30% for residential home owners and businesses, but have a \$2,000 cap for residential homes. For a free guide on taking the credits go to: <http://www.seia.org/>

Here in Tennessee we've had several exciting developments in solar, as we have one of the largest PV panel manufacturing centers in the nation with Sharp Solar in Memphis, TN. And now the State of Tennessee Economic and Community Development (ECD) - Energy Division is now offering a pilot grant program for installing clean renewable energy on businesses. The grant, combined with the Federal Tax Credit for business of 30% and the TVA Generation Partners program production incentive of 15 to 20 cents per kWh, provide an incredible deal for businesses to install solar or other

renewables. The grant is only for businesses and is for 40% of installed cost for solar electric PV, and 20% for other renewable technology. There is a maximum grant amount of \$40,000 dollars for solar and \$20,000 for the other technologies.

The TVA Generation Partners program has now been running for several years and is considered a model program for what is known as a production incentive. A production incentive works differently than most rebate or grant programs. Instead of paying people to install solar equipment, the program pays for the generation of electricity. This has been a very effective model in Germany and is a great way to insure that solar systems are maintained and installed to produce the maximum amount of power. The TVA Generation Partners program buys new online solar and wind power at 15 cents a kWh. For more information on this program go to: <http://www.tva.gov/greenpower-switch/partners/>



To find out what incentives are available in different states go to the Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE) <http://www.dsireusa.org/> The best online guide for finding solar installers at find solar at <http://www.findsolar.com/> You can see the complete listing of NABCEP Certified Solar PV Installers online at <http://www.nabcep.org/> In Tennessee if you have questions on solar and wind power, or for a copy of the new State grant program for businesses, contact Gil Melear-Hough, the Tennessee Director of Renewable Programs at the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. Gil can be reached at gil@cleanenergy.org or call (865) 637-6055 ext. 15.



Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
Or mail new address to:
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
Address changes are processed much faster if you include your
Sierra Club membership number. To find your membership
number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

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.
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.

Middle Tennessee Sierra Club Party

Sunday, October 29, 2006 3-6 p.m.

Have you have been wanting to get involved in the Sierra Club's work?
Or maybe you just want to find out more about us
so you can decide if you want to get involved?

You will have the opportunity to meet and greet others who want
to explore the possibilities, as well as Sierra Club members who are already
activists, at the Middle Tennessee Group's party on October 29.

Enjoy snacks, soft drinks, and wine
while getting to know more about the Sierra Club, its activities
and outings, and the members in the Middle Tennessee area.
Children are especially welcome.

Location: 1327 Otter Creek Road, Nashville
(access only from Hillsboro or Granny White Pike, balloons on mailbox).
R.S.V.P. helpful but not required.
Contact Betsy Garber at 615-370-9454, or at garberb@hotmail.com
(with "Sierra Club rsvp" as the subject).

Hope to see you there!



Leave No Trace Trainer Certification Workshop October 27-29, 2006

This workshop, sponsored by the Chickasaw Council BSA, will be taught by Master Trainer Charlie Thorpe with assistance from local Leave No Trace (LNT) Trainers. Participants will be introduced to the principles and history of LNT and most importantly how each participant can bring the LNT message back to their groups. Participants will return home with practical training experience as well as materials to integrate the LNT principles into local activities. The course will be held at Camp Currier, Eudora MS. The price of this course will be \$25.00 per person, which includes food, insurance and course materials. The course will be limited to 50 persons, so register early. The course opens at 8:00 Friday evening, and will conclude at about 4:00 Sunday afternoon. Participants must attend the full session to receive credit for the training. This course is open to anyone interested in the outdoors, but will be oriented towards adults and youth (ages 14 and up) in the Boy Scout program. Groups (for instance Venturing crews) are urged to participate as a unit. Registration for this course is limited to 50 participants. All registrations must be fully paid by October 13, 2006.

For additional course information, email Charles Ross at nlambda@aol.com.

**Additional information on the Leave No Trace principles and organization
may be found at <http://www.lnt.org>**

Sierra Club Officers

(List in Transition for 2006)

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Chair: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
donrich@juno.com
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Secretary: Mary Gavlik (423) 434-9535
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Treasurer: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
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www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
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Chickasaw Group - Memphis

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rshrieve@utk.edu

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Katibug1959@aol.com

Watauga Group - Johnson & Carter Counties

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga
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gla4797627@aol.com
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Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797627@aol.com

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg
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Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142
Jmcquail@tntech.edu
Conservation: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
zeblady@twlakes.net
Outings: VACANT

National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:

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Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
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Bill McCabe, Central Appalachian EJ Organizer
office - 423-944-3220 fax - 423-944-3221 (call first)

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

I-40 Advantage Auto Park Mega-Site

I-40 Advantage Auto Park Mega-Site. The phrase sounds like an economic “shot in the arm” to nearby communities. But, there are dark sides to this proposed facility. This short introduction cannot cover them all. Automobile assembly plants are major sources of air and water pollution. The storm water runoff from this huge plant will impact nearby sensitive wetlands with increased volume and pollutants. This runoff will also impact the nearby Hatchie River, one of the longest unchannelized rivers remaining in the lower Mississippi River valley, and one of the least polluted. This massive site will sit right on top of the recharge zone of the Memphis Sands Aquifer, which is the source of drinking water for Memphis and surrounding communities. Other questions: Where are the hundreds of construction workers and thousands of plant employees going to live? Are they driving to the plant at \$2.50+ a gallon for gas and increasing regional air pollution from their cars? What about air pollution from delivery trucks and trains? What is this facility going to do to the local communities as new subdivisions are built and create even more pressures on the local landscape? These are some of the questions that a full Environmental Impact Statement would answer, but TVA has refused to perform these studies. Why? Gary Bullwinkel, who lives near the mega-site and is the spokesperson for the Citizens against the Haywood-Fayette Auto Mega-Site has asked many of these same questions, and has only received the “run-around”. Please read what he has to say...James Baker



Above and Below: Here are some of the wetlands near the Hatchie River that this project will impact. Photos by Gary Bullwinkel.

Haywood-Fayette Auto Mega-Site, also known as the I-40 Advantage Auto Park

by Gary Bullwinkel

In spring of 2005, Haywood County Mayor, Franklin Smith, on behalf of the county, submitted a tract of land near Stanton, TN to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to be considered as a major automotive manufacturing mega-site. Just what is a mega-site? Go to TVA's website for their description: <http://www.tvaed.com/mega-sites.htm> Criteria for the certification included verification of rail, highway, and interstate access, some environmental factors, water supply, sewers, and storm water runoff, infrastructure estimates and zoning issues.

The present site is 1,700 acres, or nearly 3 square miles with up to 5,000 acres advertised to the global market. This is a regional project with far-reaching implications, including but not limited to: expanded employment base, economic benefits and costs, urban sprawl, elimination of prime farmland, water supply and pollution problems, environmental justice concerning the local minority community of Fredonia, air pollution, wetlands degradation and long range effects on the nearby Hatchie Wildlife Refuge and its animal population.

For those residents who do not want the plant, it has been a great shock to have this potential huge change announced. After consideration of the options and the potential disruption to the neighborhood, many joined together as Citizens against the Haywood-Fayette Auto Mega-Site.

Concerning this location, the TVA “certification” program has been a sham process rife with inside political

maneuvering, local bullying of landowners by political officials, misrepresentations to the public about pollution, refusal to disclose information and collusion by TVA and Tennessee governmental officials with auto manufacturers to “deliver” the sites they desire.

As an example of local bullying of landowners, according to the March 23, 2005 issue of the Fayette County Review, Mayor Smith does not even own the land or have binding commitments from all the landowners on the tract of land he submitted for certification. He had called together the landowners in mid-February 2005 and discussed their willingness to sell their land for the mega-site. He gave them just 10 days to decide, and a number of them signed letters of consent while others did not. According to a July 31, 2005 Memphis Commercial Appeal article, one landowner is Lt. Governor John Wilder, whose family and business property encompasses about 300 acres of the proposed site. Mayor Smith acknowledged in that same Commercial Appeal article that he had asked Fayette County landowners if they would sell, even though he does not have the authority to act in that county. As we told the Haywood County States Graphic for their July 28, 2005 edition, we were “reluctantly” allowed to look at the mega-site application, and take notes, but not have a copy. This is in violation of the Open Records Act of the State of Tennessee.

Here are a few big questions we have asked. Who is going to pay for all the needed infrastructure upgrades for this proposed plant? The TVA website listed above

advertised that electrical, water and sewer services will be “built to client specs”. Does that mean local taxpayers will have to foot the bill for all construction and upgrades? Does that also mean a property tax break to the company? One can only roll out the red carpet so far. And it will not be long before that carpet gets stained from the inevitable pollution that an auto assembly plant releases into the air, water and land.

The local citizens are specifically upset about TVA's refusal to perform a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on this project. The TVA mega-site certification process is a focused, meaningful program funded by a federal agency with federal and ratepayer dollars and meant to affect certain sites in the Tennessee Valley. The minimum requirement for land area (1,500 acres) and the recruited industry (auto assembly plants with suppliers) fulfills every requirement of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) compliance as set out in federal regulations. We want to know why an EIS is not being done.

The Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN) based in Knoxville and the local Memphis Sierra Club Environmental Justice Coordinator both have joined in to ask TVA to begin environmental impact studies but to no avail. TCWN filed a Freedom of Information Act request with TVA in late April, and to date, not one single document they requested has been delivered, despite repeated follow-ups. EPA has some jurisdictional review and the citizens' group and environmental groups are asking the Atlanta Regional NEPA coordinators to take a close look at the site and the role of TVA in placing auto assembly plants in and near sensitive wetland areas.

For more information please call Gary Bullwinkel at 901-517-4358.

POSTSCRIPT

Dear Sierra Club members in Shelby, Fayette, Haywood and Madison Counties;

The I-40 Advantage Auto Park Mega-Site has the potential to affect you in many ways. Please consider becoming involved.

Write a letter to TVA and insist they do right by the local communities by placing a hold on the current certification and perform a full Environmental Impact Statement.

Please send copies to your state representatives and senators, as well as your local newspaper's editor.

Send letters to:

Bill Sansom, TVA Board Chairman
TVA Headquarters
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Thank you,
James H. Baker
Chair, Chickasaw Group - Sierra Club





photo/Kevin Walsh

It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

Add your voice to protect the planet. Join the Sierra Club today.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



My Name _____

Address _____

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State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

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Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
Please charge my MasterCard Visa AMEX

Exp. Date ____/____

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

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.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W4300 1**
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



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Meetings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY FIRST THURSDAY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, October 5, 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@bellsouth.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, October 9, 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 October 6 to place items on the agenda at (901) 722-9545 or alummus@utm.edu

PROGRAM MEETING: Program Meeting: Wednesday, October 25, 2006, 7:00pm - NOTE: CHANGED LOCATION, University of Memphis Campus, Mitchell Hall - Rm 200. Mitchell Hall is at 3705 Alumni Ave. See the website: <http://map.memphis.edu/campusmap.pdf> for details. The October program will feature The Mountaintop Removal Road Show by Dave Cooper. After working 20 years as a mechanical engineer, he saw a mountaintop removal mine at Kayford Mountain in West Virginia and it changed his life. He is a member of the Sierra Club and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, and worked for a year as a coalfield organizer for the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC). The Mountaintop Removal Road Show includes a stunning slide show about the impacts of mountaintop removal on coalfield communities featuring traditional Appalachian mountain music and shocking aerial photos of decapitated Appalachian mountains. Come learn about the impacts of this form of mining on these communities. For more information, contact Tom Lawrence - Program Chair at (901) 237-4819 or tomlawrence@bellsouth.net for more information.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, October 10, 2006, 7:30 pm, at Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. World traveler Ron Miller will follow up his successful February program with an illustrated talk covering the rest of his adventures: in India, Africa, Iceland, and Greenland. He has trekked up the smoldering slopes of active volcanoes, seen an array of wildlife, narrowly escaped Rwandan rebels, interacted more congenially with people of many different cultures, and experienced the isolated grandeur of Greenland. His three and a half years on the road (and seas) enhanced his "understanding of human nature and spirituality" and resulted in publication of a unique travel autobiography, *Escape from the Happy Cannibal*. As one reviewer remarked, "With each new country visited, the reader senses that he is coming closer to a destination, not a place on the map, but a destination of mind and soul." For more information, contact John Finger at 573-5908 or jfinger@utk.edu

STRATEGY MEETING: 7:30 p.m., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. We urge all Harvey Broome Group members to join us as we discuss and plan strategies for issues of concern to the group. These meetings provide you an opportunity for input into issues of concern to you. Please join us! For more information contact Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, October 12, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. If you find an injured animal, where can you take it to be sure it is nursed back to health? Only one place we know of, Walden's Puddle in Joelton! Vicki Carder, animal lover and humanitarian, started it all in 1991 in small quarters near Bransford Ave. She began a capital campaign to raise funds for a larger shelter in the mid- 90's and, due to the outpouring of generosity from Nashvillians, she was able to move Walden's Puddle to its present location in 1996, where the animals enjoy 14 wooded acres of natural habitat. Not only does the staff of Walden's Puddle rehabilitate wildlife and return them to their natural habitat, they also educate our state's citizens to the issues they encounter daily and make them aware of the center's services. Today they have 10 staff members, as well as a core of dedicated volunteers. They rehabilitate every species allowed by law and admit close to 200 animals every year. Denise Weyer, educational outreach coordinator for Walden's Puddle, will be our special guest speaker for the October program. Please come and meet her and see the wonderful pictures of the "patients." For more information on this program, contact Martha Wilson at 376-2535. Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike. Non-members are always welcome!

SOCIAL MEETING: Sunday, October 29, 2006, 3-6 p.m. - Have you been wanting to get involved in the Sierra Club's work? Or maybe you just want to find out more about us so you can decide if you want to get involved? You will have the opportunity to meet and greet others who want to explore the possibilities, as well as Sierra Club members who are already actively involved, at the Middle Tennessee Group's party on October 29. Snacks, soft drinks, and wine provided. Children are especially welcome. RSVP helpful but not required. Contact Betsy at 370-9454, or garberb@hotmail.com (please put "Sierra Club RSVP" in subject line). Location: 1327 Otter Creek Road, Nashville; access only from Hillsboro or Granny White Pike; balloons on mailbox.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, October 24 at 6:30 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING DAY HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THE 4th TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH.** 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. 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 333-3377.

WATAUGA GROUP

PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith, (gla4797627@aol.com), (423) 727-4797 for more information.

TENNESSEE CHAPTER POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS

Bill Terry, Co-Chair
Chapter Political Committee

For several weeks the Tennessee Chapter Political Committee and the Executive Committee have been involved in the process of deciding upon endorsements for various state and federal elective offices for the November elections. Since the Sierra Club political process is governed by both state and federal law, a very deliberate and careful pattern is followed to assure compliance with all election laws and with the Sierra Club's own compliance guidelines. The mission of the Sierra Club political program as spelled out in the compliance guidelines is "to preserve the environment through NONPARTISAN grassroots political action." The principal goals of the program are:

1. To elect candidates who will support and promote environmental protection;
2. To raise political awareness about environmental issues and elevate the priority of these issues for decision-makers;
3. To encourage Club members and other environmentalists to participate in the political process;
4. To advance the Club's conservation agenda by building relationships with legislators and other elected officials; and
5. To strengthen the Sierra Club's capacity to elect pro-environment candidates at every level of government.

The basic process involves an analysis of each race, the issues in the race and the candidates, by the Chapter Political Committee. Then, a recommendation is made to the Chapter Executive Committee for a vote. In the case of candidates for federal office, the Sierra Club National Political Committee must also vote and make the final decision. A number of factors go into the selection process, including an incumbent's voting record and responses to questionnaires, but other considerations are also involved. A total picture of the candidates and the races is developed. However, the actual discussions and evaluations of all factors are internal information to the Club.

The candidates who have been endorsed are listed in the box next to this column. At this time other races are under consideration.

I encourage all Sierra Club members to get out and vote. Not only that, but I encourage all members to talk to others in their family and friends to get them to the polls on election day. Only by full participation in the political process can members realize the full meaning of liberty and the benefits of life in a free and democratic society.

Tennessee Chapter Political Endorsements—

FEDERAL RACES

U. S. House of Representatives

Jim Cooper (D), 5th District
Bart Gordon (D), 6th District
Steve Cohen (D), 9th District

U. S. Senate

Harold Ford, Jr. (D)

STATE RACES

Governor

Phil Bredesen (D)

State Senate

Douglas Henry (D), 21st District
Doug Jackson (D), 25th District

State House of Representatives

David Hawk (R), 5th District
Joe McCord (R), 8th District
Jim Hackworth (D), 33rd District
Mike McDonald (D), 44th District
John Hood (D), 47th District
Kent Coleman (D), 49th District
Gary Moore (D), 50th District
Michael Turner (D), 51st District
Rob Briley (D), 52nd District
Gary Odom (D), 55th District
Sherry Jones (D), 59th District
Ben West, Jr. (D), 60th District
Phillip Johnson (R), 77th District
Beverly Robinson-Marrero (D), 89th District
Mike Kernell (D), 93rd District

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!

AVAILABLE AT
<http://www.sierraclub.org/tv/>



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Chickasaw Group News

by James H. Baker

Already endorsed by the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, State Senator Steve Cohen, the Democratic candidate for U.S. Representative in the 9th Congressional District picked up endorsements by Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton, Jr. and Memphis Mayor Dr. Willie Herenton. Sierra Club members Nickie Mochow, Dick Mochow, and Sue A. Williams attended the media conference announcing these two new endorsements while wearing Sierra Club t-shirts. Cohen specifically acknowledged the importance of sending him to Congress to protect the environment and recognized Sierra Club as one of his supporters. As winner of the primary, Mr. Cohen now faces a November challenge from Republican Mark White and Independent Jake Ford to fill the seat formerly occupied by Harold Ford, Jr.



Congressional Candidate Steve Cohen takes time to meet with some members of the Chickasaw Group. From left to right-back row: Julian Prewitt, Judith Hammond, Steve Cohen, Don Richardson and Sue A. Williams. From left to right-seated: Genevieve Cohen-Steve's mother, and James Baker. Photo by Sue A. Williams.



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

Outings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Saturday, October 7, 1:00pm - 3:00pm; Memphis Harbor Clean Up- Sierra Club Water Sentinels. Meet under the Auction Street Bridge off Front St. Please call to confirm meeting place. Gloves and bags provided. Wear clothes and shoes appropriate to the weather conditions and that you do not mind getting muddy. Contact James Baker 826-2448 or kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com

Saturday, October 14, 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. For additional information, contact Don Richardson at 276-1387 or donrich@juno.com Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

Friday - Sunday, October 13-15 - Fiery Gizzard Easy Backpack - and Car Camp. We'll hike a relatively level portion of the Fiery Gizzard trail from Foster Falls to the Small Wilds campsite in the South Cumberland Recreation Area. The hike features sweeping vistas of the Cumberland escarpment and a leisurely walk through a landscape of hemlock, mountain laurel, oaks and azaleas. Fall color should be at or near peak. Total round trip distance is approximately four miles. Bring your own gear and food. There will be a car camp for those who want to hike, but not backpack. Depart Friday afternoon and return early Sunday evening. We will spend Friday night at the car campground. For information and to register contact Jill Johnston at 278-2713, or jdjhstn@memphis.edu

Friday - Sunday, October 20 - 22: Sierra Club Quarterly Meeting and Outings; Pickett State Park. Which is near Jamestown, TN and adjacent to the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River National Recreation Area. Contact David Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com.

Saturday - Sunday, November 4 - 5: Buffalo National River Trails hikes, Jasper, Arkansas; with Tennessee Trails. Hikes are 5 and 8 miles round trip. Moderate. Contact Woody Pierce 755-5635.

Saturday, November 11, 2006 - The Old Forest Hike - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. Second Saturday Hikes. Please see October hike above for where to meet. For additional information, contact Don Richardson at 276-1387 or donrich@juno.com Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

Saturday, November 11, 10:00am: River woods State Natural Area with Wolf River Conservancy, Germantown. We will meet at the Stern Heart Clinic on Wolf River Blvd. just east of Germantown Parkway. See this floodplain forest now saved from development. Wear sturdy shoes. Contact Vincent Ciarmatarro 859-1710 or shamen@midssouth.rr.com

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. The October guests talk about the Sierra Club's Building Environmental Community project. For the schedule, please see the website: <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

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.sierraclub.org/cherokee/index.htm>.

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!

The Middle Tennessee Group Seeks Green Office Volunteers!

The Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club is looking for volunteers to work with our Green Office initiative. Using more environmentally-friendly practices and products within a company can be a win-win situation, with both financial AND environmental savings.

What can YOU do to help? We're glad you asked! Volunteers will work together to develop a presentation which shows the monetary and financial benefits of a Green Office. This presentation would be given to managers and other employees at a company, at their request. Good writing skills are a plus, because we need some persuasive writing that will encourage companies to jump on the bandwagon. We envision a team that would work together, sharing the planning and development of the presentation (probably PowerPoint).

Some proven tactics for all of us in moving toward a Green Office include discussions with our employers to see if they want to save money by using Green Office techniques; talking with co-workers to give and get energy-saving tips; using energy-saving tactics on a personal level in your office; encouraging green building techniques if your company is constructing a new office or building; generating an office "green" assessment, which displays costs and benefits of using green tips/processes; finding colleagues who would also like to implement Green Office techniques; and touting available energy credits.

This project is important on a personal and on a systemic level. Consider paper alone. 38.6% of garbage is paper. 85% of all paper is discarded. It takes 20 trees to make one ton of paper, so this means that we throw

away 140,000,000 trees every year! If we look at electricity usage, one local company saved \$20,000 a year just by turning off computer monitors every night. There is so much we can all do individually, but energy-saving techniques at the corporate level would have an even greater impact.

The volunteers already active in the Middle Tennessee Group are stretched thin, and we need some folks to take on and share this important project. You will have guidance and support, and you will gain at least as much as you give.

If you want to help or just want more information, please contact Diane Perschbacher at (615) 895-1236 or at Diane@Propson.com.

Outings

explore
enjoy
protect

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

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

October 14-15, 2006 (Sat-Sun). Fall Colors Backpack, Bob's Bald, Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness. One of the classic locations for fall colors in the Southern Appalachians is Bob and Stratton Balds (generally called Bob's Bald) at 5,341 feet in the Nantahala National Forest, with views over both the Citico Creek and Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness areas. We will do the approach this year from North Carolina, hiking up the Stratton Bald trail through the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness to a camp on Bob's Bald (about 5.9 miles), then out on Sunday to Big Fat Gap on the Hangover Lead Trail (about 6.6 miles). Rated Difficult. Preregister with Will Skelton: Home 523-2272, Work 521-0363; whshome@bellsouth.net.

October 20-22, 2006, (Fri-Sun) Chapter Meeting. Pickett State Park, hosted by the Middle Tennessee Group, Chair: David Bordenkircher, dabordenkircher@mindspring.com.

November 4-5, 2006 (Sat-Sun). Iron Mountain Trail Backpack. Years ago the Appalachian Trail followed Iron Mountain all the way north of Hampton, TN, to Damascus, VA; today the AT follows Iron Mountain about half-way to Damascus, then turns to the west near Shady Valley and follows Holston Mountain on to Damascus. The "old" AT along the rest of Iron Mountain, much of which we will traverse, is still there for hiking, now with lots of solitude. It is basically a ridge top hike, with lots of great views of Shady Valley and other similarly scenic upper East TN valleys. The portion we will hike is 13.4 miles and is rated Moderate. Preregister with Will Skelton: Home 523-2272, Work 521-0363; whshome@bellsouth.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday, October 14, Franklin Marion State Forest Dayhike - Franklin Marion State Forest in Sewanee has beautiful trails offering wonderful views and diversity of plant life. This hike will be under six miles. Drinking water and hiking boots are required. Pre-register with Heloise Shilstat, stillwild@bellsouth.net or 615-631-0169.

Sunday, October 15, Backpacking Cooking Class Are you interested in learning new cooking techniques and recipes for backpacking? Bring your backpacking stove, fuel, cookpot, skillet, and any utensils you have with you to Longhunter State Park. We will meet at the picnic pavilion next to Couchville Lake from 3-5 p.m. After the cooking class we can take a hike around the lake. No children or pets please. For additional information and to register contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com. Please contact Katherine by October 12 if you plan to participate because the class will be limited to 10 participants.

Friday-Sunday, October 27-29, Hobb's Cabin Backpack - Meet Friday night at Savage Ranger Station Campsite. Saturday/Sunday backpack to Hobb's Cabin. Bring a tent in case we aren't able to get the cabin! Approx. 8 miles each way. Rated moderate for distance. If you don't want to camp with us Friday night you may join us Saturday morning. No pets please. Please contact Katherine Pendleton for additional information and to register by October 25 at 615-943-6877 or Katibug1959@aol.com.

Sunday, October 29. Membership Party. Have you been wanting to get involved in the Sierra Club's work or maybe you just want to find out more about us so you can decide if you want to get involved? You will have the opportunity to meet and greet others who want to explore the possibilities, as well as Sierra Club members who are already activists, at the Middle Tennessee Group party on October 29 from 3-6 p.m. at 1327 Otter Creek Road, Nashville (access only from Hillsboro or Granny White Pike, balloons on mailbox). Enjoy snacks, soft drinks, and wine while getting to know more about the Sierra Club, its activities and outings, and the members in the Middle Tennessee area. Children are welcome. RSVP helpful but not required. Contact Betsy Garber at 615-370-9454 or garbert@hotmail.com (with "Sierra Club rsvp" as the subject). Hope to see you there!

Sunday, November 5, Radnor Lake Dayhike. Radnor Lake Hike at 2:30 p.m. We'll do the Lake Trail (1.6 miles easy) and the South Lake Trail (.9 miles moderate). We'll meet by the handicap parking sign in the west parking lot (access only from Granny White Pike). Directions: Take I 65 to Harding Place, exit 78. Travel west on Harding Place (also called Battery Lane) to Granny White Pike. Turn left on Granny White Pike and travel south to Otter Creek Road. Turn left onto Otter Creek Road (across from the Granny White Market). Parking lot is down a bit on your left. Please let Betsy know you're coming at 370-9454 or at garbert@hotmail.com (write "Sierra Club rsvp" in the subject line).

Saturday, November 11, Black Mountain Dayhike. Black Mountain near Crossville is part of the Cumberland Trail system. The map is on-line at the Cumberland Trail web-site. More information will be provided in the November newsletter after the leader has scouted the trail. Pre-register with Heloise Shilstat at stillwild@bellsouth.net or 615-631-0169.

Friday-Sunday, November 24-26 Thanksgiving Weekend Backpack. More information will be available in the November newsletter.



photo/Carlos Paes

**Recycle your old
cellphones, pagers,
PDAs and chargers
at your nearest**

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A portion of the proceeds come back to
the Sierra Club!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

WATAUGA GROUP (Johnson & Carter Counties)

Saturday, October 14 - White Top Station to Damascus Creeper Trail Bike Outing. This bike outing will be an easy bike ride of 17 miles from White Top Station to downtown Damascus. Downhill for first fourteen miles with some peddling required for the last three miles of the journey. The trip will include a bike rental and shuttle service from Blue Blaze Bike & Shuttle Service at 226 W. Laurel Avenue Damascus, VA. During this mid October trip we hope to catch the peak fall leaf color. The outing will be open to Sierra and non Sierra members. We will start our adventure at Blue Blaze at 9:30 AM to be shuttled to the highest point on The Creeper Trail at White Top Station (elevation 3576 ft.) to descend back down to Damascus (elevation 1930 ft.), a distance of 17 miles. Along the way are several converted railroad stations now used as rest areas and a museum. At the half way point in Taylor's Valley we will stop to eat lunch. The Virginia Creeper Trail is a multi-use (biking, hiking, equine) rails-to-trails conversion. The Creeper Trail links present day mountain biking and hiking enthusiasts with nature and history buffs as they travel an old Indian path through some of the finest Appalachian countryside, alongside trout streams and view gorgeous mountain scenery. The Virginia Creeper Trail runs between Damascus and the North Carolina border, and except for a short stretch through Taylor's Valley is part of the Jefferson National Forest and is administered by the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area staff. Outing Fees: Shuttle Service with your own bike \$11.00 (\$6.00 12 & under) Shuttle Service plus bike rental, helmet \$22.00. Lunch at Taylor Valley \$10.00 This outing will have a low impact on the environment as rest rooms are provided and are well maintained. Lunch at Taylor's Valley will be catered by WG members for this outing. Please contact Wilbert Griffith at 423-727-4797 or GLa4797627@aol.com if you have any questions about this Watauga Group Sierra Club outing. Make your reservations on or before October 9 to ensure a ride on the finest bike trail in America.

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.

Fall Family Meeting

**Friday - Sunday,
October 20 - 22
Pickett State Park**

Enjoy beautiful autumn weather and fall colors without having to fight the crowds. Have we got a deal for you!

FOR ONLY \$30, YOU CAN ENJOY:

Hiking • Good Food • Children's Activities • Children's Hike
(Other children's activities may be available)

Silent Auction

to benefit the Tennessee chapter's lobbying and legislative program

Optional 3-hour ride on the Big South Fork Scenic Railway
(added cost)

Bonfire with ghost stories and s'mores
(we will trade the s'mores for the ghost stories)

The Executive Committee will be meeting on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, but those not on the Executive Committee may join in the activities, strike out on your own on nearby trails, or just enjoy the peace and quiet of a fall weekend. Lodging is in cabins that accommodate about 20, and family cabins (accommodating more than one family) will be available. Camping among the surrounding trees is another popular option (the cost for the week end is the same for camping as for staying in the cabins). Bring your own bedding, towels, and lunches. If you want additional beverages, you need to bring your own. Snacks on Friday night, breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, and Saturday night dinner are provided, as well as the s'mores (don't forget to check the Internet or your library to find a good ghost story!).

HIKES/TRIPS SCHEDULED SO FAR:

- o Hidden Passage Trail. We will hike all of the trail or modify depending on participants' wishes. 11-mile loop trail, rated moderate to strenuous. Hiking boots recommended.
- o Hazard Cave - 2.5 mi loop, easy. Could be extended to include a natural bridge.
- o Big South Fork Scenic Railway trip - ride as a group or on your own through deep gorges and steep cliffs. Visit a museum that shows the life of a coal company town and the Blue Heron Mining Camp as well as live music before the train's departure. \$15 adults, \$7.50 age 3-12. 1-800-GO-ALONG or <http://www.bsfsry.com/>
- o Double Falls - Moderate with one steep climb out of the gorge
- o Twin Arches - Loop to Twin Arches. About 6 mi, moderate.
- o Treasure hunt for kids



October Solar Fest!

Saturday October 7, 2006

Celebrating the addition of 40 Solar Panels to a beautiful passive solar home in Cookeville, TN!

Come early 11 AM to 2 PM (CDT) to see the solar home as part of the National Solar Tour sponsored by the State of Tennessee Energy Office.

Solar Workshop at 2:30 PM (CDT) on financial incentives: the TVA Generation Partners, the Federal Tax Credits and a new pilot grant program for businesses - by Gil Melear-Hough, TN Director of Renewable Programs at Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. For a list of solar tours: www.ases.org/tour

Come visit the beautiful solar home of Brian Paddock & Mary Mastin and help Celebrate both solar power and Mary's 60th birthday!

Party / Celebration / Fundraiser - \$20 per person - 4pm to 8pm.

- Beer Tasting by Brew Meister Jon Jonakin
- Food, Wine & Music
- For Sale - bulbs for SOCM, Sierra 2007 Calendars

Directions: 360 Roberts Hollow Lane, Cookeville, TN. 38501 (931-268-2938) Going north out of Cookeville on HWY 135 (Burgess Falls Rd, Willow St. Exit off Interstate 40), approx. 4 mi. past Jackson County Line, after Dodson Branch Elementary School on right and Community Center on left, Take first left (opposite Dodson Branch Baptist Church) on to Lankford Hill Take second road to left, Roberts Hollow Lane & follow that to the end of cedar house at top of hill.

The Party is a fundraiser for Tennessee Environmental Council

2006 FALL FAMILY MEETING AT PICKETT STATE PARK

REGISTRATION FORM

To register, please clip out and mail this registration information to:

**Katherine Pendleton,
Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter,
P.O. Box 290306,
Nashville, TN 37229-0306**

The deadline is October 13. If you know you will attend but are unable to mail your registration by the deadline, you must contact Katherine at (615) 943-6877 or e-mail her at katibug1959@aol.com by the deadline date in order to be assured of meals.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____

Number of adults @ \$30 _____

Number of children under age 12 _____ (half-price @ \$15) What ages? _____

Number of vegetarians _____ Number of omnivores _____

Total enclosed _____ (Make check payable to Middle Tennessee Group Sierra Club).

Silent Auction

for Defenders of Tennessee

The Defenders of Tennessee is a Sierra Club program that was formed for the purpose of funding our own lobbyist in the Tennessee Legislature. For the past 8 years, our lobbying efforts have paid off in getting good legislation passed and bad legislation stopped. One of the ways we fund this program is through a silent auction at our Fall Meeting.

Please visit your local outdoor, health food, music, wine (heh, heh) or other stores and restaurants and ask them to make a donation of goods or gift certificates. We also need your donations of new or good old things such as crafts, outdoor equipment, books, CD/DVDs, homemade items, etc. Plants and flowers always sell well.

If you are not able to attend the meeting but want to help, please contact someone you know who is going, or call your local chair listed on page 2 of this newsletter to arrange for someone else to take your donations to the meeting. And, if you are coming to the meeting, don't forget to bring \$\$ to buy all the good stuff!

Tennessee Chapter

POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS

Turn to page 5 for more information!

The Sierra Club - Middle TN Group
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