

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 37, Number 9 - September 2006

Want to test yourself?

Please Attend This Important Event!

Dr. Helen Caldicott

Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Ingram Hall, Blair School of Music

Vanderbilt University

2400 Blakemore Avenue

Nashville, TN 37235

Book signing and reception to follow.

Photo Credit: Warren Gretz DOE/NREL

Do You Know The True Costs and Consequences of Nuclear Energy?

Contributed by
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Members

Did you know that the nuclear power industry in the US has been subsidized over \$77 billion (constant 2005) dollars by the government? Or that nuclear waste lasts for 500,000 years? These facts and more will be presented at a free lecture by Dr. Helen Caldicott on Tuesday Oct 3rd, at 7:00 p.m., Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

In a world torn apart by wars fought over oil and threatened by global warming from carbon emissions, politicians are seeking viable alternative energy sources. In response, the nuclear industry has mounted a massive public relations campaign. Resulting myths regarding nuclear-powered electricity include the fact that it does not cause global warming or pollution, that it is inexpensive and that it is safe.

Dr. Caldicott, author of *NUCLEAR POWER IS NOT THE ANSWER*, will uncover some of the misinformation being presented on nuclear energy in her presentation. She is a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, recipient of the 2003 Lannan Prize for Cultural Freedom and of the inaugural Australian Peace Prize, awarded by the Peace Organization of Australia. A medical doctor, Dr. Caldicott founded Physicians for Social Responsibility and has devoted the past thirty-five years to an international campaign of educating the public about the medical hazards of the nuclear age. As a best selling author, she divides her time between the central coast of New South Wales and Washington, D.C., where she serves as president of the Nuclear Policy Research Institute.

During the lecture, Dr. Caldicott will explain that nuclear power contributes to global warming and that the true cost of nuclear power is prohibitive, with taxpayers picking up most of the tab. She'll also mention that there is not enough uranium in the world to sustain nuclear power over the long term, and that the potential exists for a catastrophic accident or a terrorist attack. A reception will follow the lecture, where individuals will

HELEN CALDICOTT
**NUCLEAR
POWER
IS NOT THE
ANSWER**



"What she has to tell us may not be pleasant, but it's news that every man, woman, and child needs to know."

—Los Angeles Herald Examiner

have a chance to purchase her new book and have it autographed.

The book reviews the entire nuclear fuel cycle from mining of uranium to the safe containment of nuclear waste and how nuclear power contributes CO₂ into the atmosphere. Dr. Caldicott also points out that, despite proponents' assurances, we still haven't found a safe place to

store the radioactive waste materials for the necessary thousands of years, and that state-of-the-art nuclear plant technology is still full of unresolved problems. She also covers how nuclear power relates to nuclear weapons proliferation with sections that address the current situation in North Korea and Iran. Finally, Dr. Caldicott outlines the alternatives – truly clean renewable energy resources as well as conservation strategies – that if employed would turn the tide on global warming.

As of April, 2005, 442 nuclear reactors were in operation around the world, 103 being in the U.S. (No U.S. nuclear plants have been ordered since 1978.) If, as the nuclear industry suggests, nuclear power were to replace fossil fuels on a large scale, it would be necessary to build 2000 large, 1000-megawatt reactors. And, after being built, the quantity of fossil fuel used to mine, separate and enrich uranium, plus build the massive reactor, would require a nuclear power plant to operate for 18 years before one net calorie of energy was realized. The CO₂ production from the fossil fuel also adds significantly to global warming.

Taking Dr. Caldicott's issues to a more personal level, she is also concerned with waste radioactive elements entering and concentrating in the food chain. These elements, which are tasteless, odorless and invisible, are highly carcinogenic and mutagenic. Over time, they could induce epidemics of cancer and leukemia. This is particularly true for children, who are 10 to 20 times more radiosensitive than adults, and are therefore much more susceptible to cancer. The nuclear waste could also induce epidemics of genetic diseases and congenital abnormalities in humans (as well as in animals and plants) for the rest of time.

NOTE: The draft of Sierra's energy policy generally opposes the development of new nuclear power plants and advocates phasing out older plants during the transition to a smart energy future. This opposition will continue until issues surrounding spent fuel rod transportation and storage are addressed, plus security concerns.



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 GROUP CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee of the Middle Tennessee Group requests nominations to the Executive Committee for a two-year term beginning in January 2007.

We are seeking members who care about environmental issues and who are willing to accept the responsibilities of the office.

The Executive Committee meets in Nashville on the fourth Tuesday of each month, and we would ask you to be willing to attend and participate in those meetings.

The Program meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, and we would welcome your attendance and participation there as well.

We would also ask you to participate by working on or chairing one of our standing committees, including Programs, Outings, Conservation, Membership, or Legislative/Political.

This year the terms of four current members expire or have been vacated, so this is an excellent opportunity to become involved.

We are happy to provide training and guidance to new delegates, and we are always in need of fresh perspectives and input.

Please seriously consider this opportunity. In these times when our environmental protections are being eroded, we need volunteers more than ever.

The Nominating Committee will consider all potential candidates, and candidates may also qualify by petition. To nominate yourself or another candidate, or to get more information, please contact Diane Perschbacher at (615) 895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com.

The deadline for receiving your nomination is September 24.

After agreement to run for office, we will ask you to submit a small ballot writeup about yourself, which will be published in the November newsletter.

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!

Sierra Club Officers

(List in Transition for 2006)

Tennessee Chapter:

Chair: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
donrich@juno.com
Vice Chair: Steven Sondheim (901) 761-1793
stevensondheim@yahoo.com
Secretary: Mary Gavlik (423) 434-9535
mlgav@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185
GB1Nature@aol.com
Membership: Dick Mochow (901) 274-1510
dinimo@bellsouth.net

TN Local Groups:

Cherokee Group - Chattanooga (in reorganization)
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
contact: Terry Miller (423) 842-5053
trmcha@comcast.net

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
Chair: James Baker (901) 826-2448
kimo_auubrey@yahoo.com
Vice Chair: Allan Lummus (901) 722-9545
alummus@utm.edu
Conservation: Steven Sondheim (901) 761-1793
stevensondheim@yahoo.com
Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
No e-mail address

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

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

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

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

Watauga Group - Johnson & Carter Counties

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga
Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797627@aol.com
Vice Chair: Dr. Earl Taylor (423) 727-7211
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797627@aol.com

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville

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

National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:

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

Bill McCabe, Central Appalachian EJ Organizer
office - 423-944-3220 fax - 423-944-3221 (call first)

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

saving



caribou

Your Voice is Needed to Protect America's Arctic!

contributed by
the Alaska Task Force, Sierra Club

"While the battle over drilling the [arctic] refuge raged in Congress, the Bush Administration leased vast tracts of land to the west and offshore waters to the highest bidder." - Joel K. Bourne, Jr., writing for the May 2006 issue of National Geographic magazine in the cover story, "Selling Alaska's Frontier"

In September 2006, the Bush Administration could auction off the first oil and gas leases to oil companies in the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area of the Western Arctic.

Ignoring vocal opposition from Alaska Natives, scientists, and sportsmen, the Bush administration recently opened for leasing 100 percent of the internationally significant Teshekpuk Lake Special Area in the Northeast Planning Area of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA). The

nation's largest chunk of public land, was transferred to the Bureau of Land Management. The tremendous wildlife and wilderness resources of its "Special Areas" are second to none, not even the more-publicized Refuge.

Besides being one of the most important and sensitive arctic wetland complexes in the Northern Hemisphere, the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area is home to the 45,000-head Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd, 60,000 molting geese a year, and the entire breeding population of Steller's eiders. Hundreds of species of birds migrate from six different continents in order to spend part of the year in Teshekpuk Lake.

In 1977, Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus established the fragile wetlands surrounding Teshekpuk Lake as the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area. This designation meant that the wildlife, subsistence and cultural values must receive maximum protection under any future develop-

ment scenario. Until recently, it was enough to protect this pristine place.

The Bush administration has made clear its intention to turn the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area into a giant network of drilling platforms, gravel roads, airstrips and pipelines. Further, thanks to the 2005 Energy Policy Act, oil companies can be assured they will be heftily subsidized by taxpayer dollars to

drill in places like the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area.

In response to a request for comments on whether to weaken T-Lake area protections, more than 215,000 citizens spoke out in opposition to opening more of the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area to oil leasing. The mayor of the North Slope Borough – the largest municipal government entity on Alaska's North Slope – spoke openly about the threat to Alaska Native communities' subsistence resources and cultural values – which are protected under the 1976 Naval Petroleum Reserves

Production Act. National sportsmen's groups, ornithologists and even members of Congress have voiced opposition to opening this part of Teshekpuk Lake.

Yet the Department of Interior dismissed these diverse voices and opened 100 percent of the area to oil and gas leasing.

The Bush Administration still has a chance to cancel its plans to offer the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area for oil leasing. Over 95% of Alaska's North Slope is already open for oil and gas exploration and development. With what little undisturbed territory is left, it is the federal government's duty to honor the concerns of its citizens and past leaders by keeping this area left untouched.

takeACTION

The first lease sale in the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area is scheduled to occur on September 27, 2006.

Please take a minute today to send a letter to the Department of the Interior, asking that the lease sale be cancelled.

Send hand-written letters to the Secretary of the Interior via Sierra Club at:

Save T-Lake!
c/o Sierra Club AK Field Office
333 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 307
Anchorage, AK 99501
or fax: 907-258-6807

or submit a letter online at:
<http://www.savetlake.org/>

**For more info on what you can do to protect the Arctic, contact:
betsy@sierraclubalaska.org
or call 907-276-4044.**

...and the arctic from more of this!



decision eliminates long-established wildlife and environmental protections first put in place by Reagan Administration Interior Secretary James Watt.

The National Petroleum Reserve is the giant, 23 million-acre area (equal to nearly one quarter of the state of California!) in Alaska's western arctic (west of Prudhoe Bay and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge) that was set aside in the 1920s by President Warren Harding as an emergency source of oil for the Navy. Later, this, the



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 _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

email _____

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Meetings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY FIRST THURSDAY MEMBERS GATHERING: (NOTE: New Hours) - Thursday, September 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@bellsouth.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, September 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 September 8 to place items on the agenda at (901) 722-9545 or alummus@utmemb.edu

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, September 27, 2006, 7:00pm - NOTE: CHANGED LOCATION, Memphis Public Library and Information Center - Poplar/White Station Branch at 5094 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee (at the base of Clark Tower): The September program will feature will a showing of the PBS television program Journey to Planet Earth: The State of the Planet's Wildlife. This acclaimed environmental program is an investigation of one of the most critical questions of the 21st century: why are nearly half of the world's wildlife species facing extinction within the next few decades? Specific case studies explore the loss of wildlife as a result of climate change, population and poverty pressures, poaching, and the international bush-meat trade. Spectacular wildlife photography presents viewers with a celebration of the beauty and diversity of the natural world in such locations as the high country of Montana, Florida's Everglades, Singapore, Kenya, Zambia, the Amazon, Istanbul, the Arctic and China. Academy-Award winner Matt Damon hosts and narrates. Contact Tom Lawrence - Program Chair at (901) 237-4819 or tomlawrence@bellsouth.net for more information.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, September 12, 2006, 7:30pm, at Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Dr. Liane Russell, distinguished scientist at ORNL, will give an illustrated talk on "the nitty-gritty of citizen efforts to preserve our lands and waters," using two case studies in Tennessee. In 1966 she and her late husband, Dr. William Russell, became concerned about the proposed damming of the Obed River and possible construction of another transmountain road through the GSMNP. They, along with a few others, founded Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP), now recognized as "one of the most effective citizen advocacy groups in the state for land- and water-protection issues." In subsequent years the Russells spearheaded successful efforts to establish the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and the Obed National Wild & Scenic River. In recognition of her efforts to regulate stripmining, Liane was invited to the White House for the signing of the 1977 Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, and in 1993 she received the prestigious Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Award of the National Parks Conservation Association. She continues to serve on the TCWP board, writing and editing its newsletter and working for conservation causes. 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)

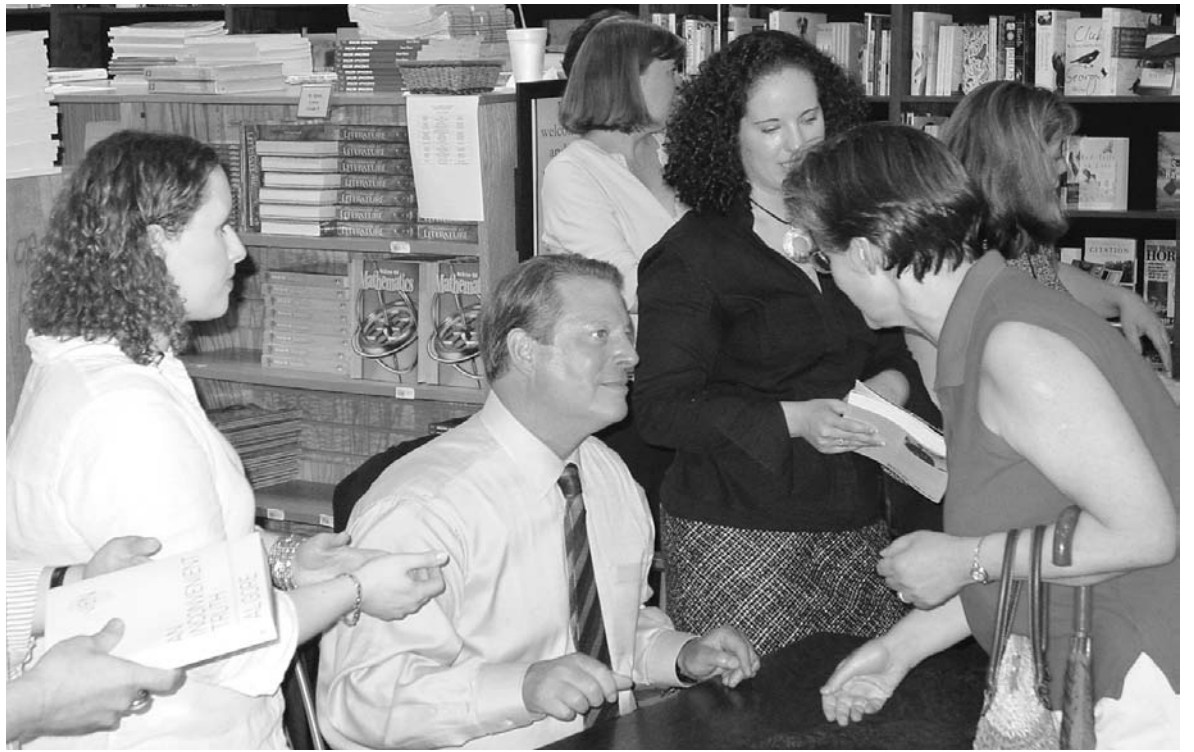
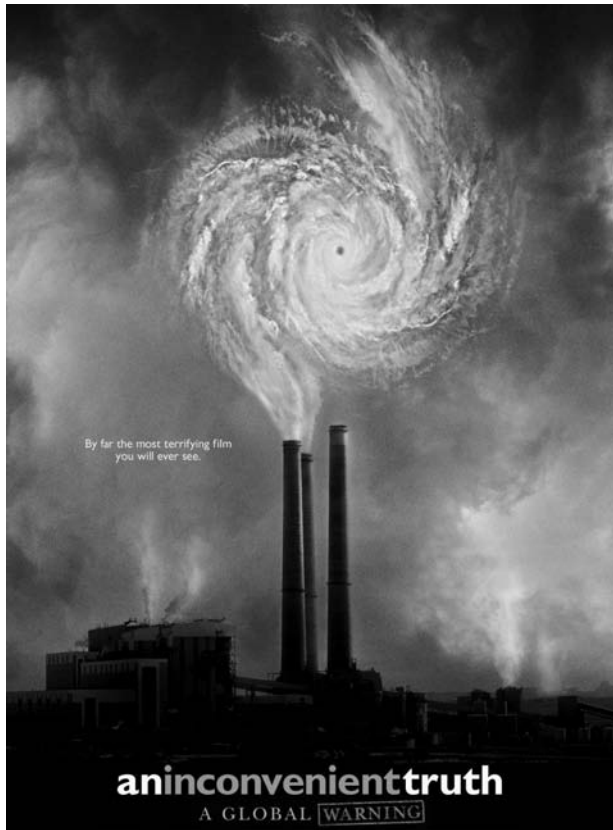
PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, September 14, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. When our state parks were closed in 2001, who led the charge to reopen them by organizing the coalition "Tennesseans for State Parks"? This month's guest speaker was named 1996 Land Conservationist of the Year and received the 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award from Greenways for Nashville, and she received the prestigious 2004 Mack Prichard Award from the Tennessee Chapter of our own Sierra Club. She also initiated greenway projects across the state that included a challenge to Tennessee communities to create a whopping 200 miles of greenways for the state's 200th birthday! And she will speak to our group on September 14th! Come to our exciting program to welcome KATHLEEN WILLIAMS, Executive Director of the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation. Her work through the Foundation has preserved several thousand acres that protect our beautiful Tennessee natural treasures. For this work, the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation was recognized by the Tennessee Conservation League and the National Wildlife Federation as the 2003 Conservation Organization of the Year and the 1999 Conservation Educator of the Year. Come hear about and see the amazing accomplishments Kathleen has helped achieve! She will present a fascinating slide show and tell us about the further adventures and accomplishments of this remarkable foundation. 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!

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, September 26 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. 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.

Chickasaw Group News



Chickasaw Group member Juliet Jones shares a brief moment of discussion with Al Gore, Jr. Photographer: James H. Baker

Al Gore signs *An Inconvenient Truth* in Memphis

Former Vice-President Al Gore, Jr. had a book signing in Memphis on Monday, July 31st at Davis-Kidd booksellers. About 300 people stood in line to get their books signed. Mr. Gore gave a 5-minute talk about how important grass roots actions are on solving the problem of global warming. By saying that, he reminds us that "all politics is local" and that we must start locally in order to act globally. He once again gave his call that global warming is not a political issue, but a moral issue. As he started to sign books, a person in the crowd shouted "Gore in 2008", to which the crowd roared its approval.

The Chickasaw Group set up a table, and Julian Prewitt staffed it while James Baker got his book signed and took some photos of several Chickasaw Group members and friends getting their books signed. James also took some photos of some local and state office holders and candidates. It was a partisan crowd that was fired up after meeting Mr. Gore. Julian reported that quite a few people took Sierra literature on global warming.

James has asked Mr. Gore if he would like to come to Memphis and give his global warming talk to high school

and college students. The response from his office is that Mr. Gore's schedule is packed through the end of the year, but James will remain in touch with Gore's office and remains hopeful that Mr. Gore can give his global warming slideshow in Memphis in 2007.

Ecological Society of America's 91st meeting in Memphis

On Saturday, August 5th, Memphis EJ Staff person-Rita Harris conducted a Toxic Tour for interested Ecological Society of America (ESA) participants. Rita took the participants to areas where chemical manufacturing facilities are in close proximity to poor and people-of-color neighborhoods. Going on that tour is an eye opener, and we hope that the ESA participants felt the same way.

The Sunday keynote speaker was Ron Sims, the County Executive of King County, Washington. Mr. Sims discussed something that all Sierrans should know...that is, "all politics are local". In this case, he discussed how local governments will lead (and win) on global warming. As you might know, King County is home to Seattle, "ground zero" of the United States Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and by extension, the Sierra Club's Cool Cities campaign.

He discussed that with global warming, he would ask any Mayor, County Commission, City Council or other elected official, "where do you see (fill in the blank with your city or county) in the year 2050 in regards of global warming?" From the answer that he gets, he suggest solutions and enacts programs that work backwards in time to the present, to meet the 2050 goal.

It is to our surprise to discover that Mr. Sims, as well as Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels have recently been presented the Sierra Club's Edgar Wayburn award for "outstanding government work to benefit the environment". This award traditionally goes to elected and appointed federal government leaders, but Sierra Club had to break with tradition this year. Said Sierra Club Executive Director-Carl Pope, "Sims and Nickels were the nation's best example of vision and leadership on global warming". See: <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2006/0721envaward.aspx>

On Wednesday evening, a number of Chickasaw Group members and friends attended an Environmental Justice event sponsored by the ESA. The speaker, Dr. Ann Bartuska - Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service and past President of the ESA addressed environmental justice issues and the intersection of ecology & environmental justice in cities like Memphis. There is much we have in common, with the goal of thriving communities of people, as well as plants and animals. Also, addressing human health concerns benefits the natural systems - and vice versa. She stated that environmental justice is still relatively new on the grassroots scene and governmental scene. For example, only 12 years ago in 1994, then President Bill Clinton signed Presidential Executive Order 12898. That Order directs each federal agency to develop an EJ strategy for "identifying and addressing...disproportionately high and adverse human health...on minority and low income populations." From Dr. Bartuska's talk, and a separate talk attended by Don Richardson and Steven Sondheim, we found out that ESA is as committed to EJ issues as national Sierra Club.

Don also represented Chickasaw Group at a number of ESA symposia, where he learned the term, "ecosystem services". One definition of that term is that ecosystems provide value - added services to a human community. For example, a well-kept city park with a thriving forest (like Overton Park's Old Forest) provides carbon dioxide capture, localized mitigation of the "heat island" effect, and it increases property values to nearby homes. Don also looked through many book titles in order to see which ones would be good candidates for additions to Chickasaw Group's library.

For more info on the Ecological Society of America, see: <http://www.esa.org/memphis/>



August election news

The Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club endorsed the following candidates in the August 3rd election. Novella Smith-Arnold, Deangelo Pegues and Steve Mulroy were the Shelby County Commission candidates, as well as incumbent Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton, Jr.

On election night, we saw Steve Mulroy win a seat on the County Commission and Mayor Wharton retain his office for a second term. Our other two endorsees were not successful in their election efforts.

On the state scene, the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed Steve Cohen for United States Congress in Tennessee's 9th District. As winner of the primary, Mr. Cohen now faces a November challenge from Mark White and Jake Ford to fill the seat formerly occupied by Harold Ford, Jr.

Harold Ford, Jr. also won his primary race and now faces challenger Bob Corker in November to occupy the seat of the retiring Senator Bill Frist.

Tennessee Water Sentinel visits with Watauga Group

by James H. Baker

As part and parcel in my travels to Max Patch Mountain and the Summer Chapter Meeting at Sterchi Lodge in my role as Chair of the Chickasaw Group to the Tennessee Chapter, I toured Johnson County, one of the two home counties of the Watauga Group. Watauga Group Chair - Gloria Griffith, Gloria's husband and Watauga's Outings Chair - Webb Griffith, and Gloria's brother - Ed Dowgin were my hosts.

On the first day, Gloria, Webb, Ed, and Watauga's Conservation Chair - Dean Whitworth, took me around Johnson County and showed me some of the various environmental challenges Johnson County faces. I saw the issues, both at ground level, and by air. These issues include, various quarrying operations, a partially built confined animal feeding operation (CAFO), cattle in a stream, as well as lack of planning for the increasing growth that is affecting Johnson County.

The quarries affect different citizens in different ways, whether from the effects of rock blasting with explosives - whether it is the noise, or to affecting nearby citizens' water wells from the underground shock waves. Another issue is nuisance dust from the quarries and the processing plants. People with asthma can be sensitive to excess dust from quarrying and processing the stone. In addition, there are the noise and traffic hazards of the quarry's trucks on the highways. These trucks travel around Mountain City; occasionally screeching their tires as the trucks go into a turn, plus there is the machine gun like rapping from the "jake brakes" as the drivers slow down. See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jake_brake



James Baker, the Tennessee Water Sentinel, trains members of the Watauga Group and Watauga Watershed Alliance how to test a water sample for nitrate. From left to right; Ed Dowgin-sitting on bridge rail, Jean DeLong-sitting on curb, Gloria Griffith-sitting on bridge rail, Ann Austin-sitting on curb, James Baker-sitting on curb and Kristine Ferguson-sitting on bridge rail. Photograph by Dennis Shekinah.

The partially built CAFO hangs over Johnson County like the Sword of Damocles. The citizens of Johnson County do not know when it will be completed, but they know, from the disasters that have happened elsewhere, what sort of environmental havoc can be wrought. One has only to look at the website, <http://www.nocafos.org/>. It graphically shows the problems faced several rural counties in Michigan from dairy CAFOs. The citizens of Johnson County will face similar challenges if this CAFO goes into operation.

Johnson County is growing as more and more people escape the big cities for a quieter rural life. However, this growth is a double-edged sword. There are the economic benefits for the county, but, because of the lack of zoning, growth is unmanaged. Homes can be built on a ridge above existing homes, and if the homes are hooked into septic tanks, then the wastes from the newer homes have the potential to affect the quality and quantity of the groundwater of the existing homes. Imagine yourself as a long time Johnson County citizen and one morning, you draw water for your morning coffee. For years, your water was good mountain spring water. This morning, it is yellow, foamy, and smells like sewage.

On the second day, I taught a class on various aspects of volunteer water quality monitoring to a number of activists with the Watauga Group as well as Watauga Watershed Alliance and a member of the Upper Nolichucky Watershed Alliance. These committed people want to protect the water resources in their areas from pollution, and are willing to learn how to further educate and change the behavior of citizens in their area. They can also act as an early warning system for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, whose closest office is in Johnson City, about 50 miles away. Later, I was guest at a cook-out at Backbone Rock where I met even more of the citizens of Johnson County that are working to make positive changes in their community.

It is important for citizens to have a number of tools in the toolbox to use in the fight against water pollution. My visit has added more tools and the knowledge to use them. If other watershed groups in Tennessee would like to have additional tools to protect their adopted watershed, please contact me at 901-826-2448 or tn_water_sentinel@yahoo.com. You can also visit my webpages at: <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/> and scroll down to Conservation Issues and click on Tennessee Water Sentinels.



Taken from the deck of the Cracker Neck Road bridge over Roan Creek, one sees a number of cattle near and in the stream that was listed as the "5th most endangered river in America" according to a 2005 report by American Rivers. See: http://www.americanrivers.org/site/DocServer/AR_MER_2005.pdf?docID=1261

The owner of these cattle could realize lower production costs and increased profit by keeping the cattle out of Roan Creek. As stated on the website: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2000/7-10-2000/cattlecreeks.html>

"Keeping cattle away from the stream also may reduce problems with poor pasture use, exposure to water-transmitted diseases and algal toxins, foot rot, leg injuries, drowning, and incidence of cattle stuck in mud. Furthermore, fencing cattle away from streams prevents the animals from defecating or urinating in the stream, which reduces bacterial pollution." Photograph by Dennis Shekinah.

SUPPORT EJ COMMUNITY GROUPS AND OUR MOUNTAINS

Join the Fight for Community Assets!

Save Our Cumberland Mountains in alliance with Central Appalachian Environmental Justice and other organizations working to make Mountain Top Removal an issue. Mountains Should Be Forever!

Stand up and tell our Governor and other elected officials that stripmining is an election issue for us! As citizens we demand an energy future that does not destroy our community assets. Sign up for the Rally today!

EVENT INFO:

WHAT: March: Join the fight for community assets! End Mountain Top Removal in TN.

WHEN: Sept 27th @ noon (transportation from select areas provided, for more info contact lauren@socm.org)

WHERE: State Capitol

CONTACT: lauren@socm.org or (865) 426-9455

Why MTR & Elections?

The Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM) Stripmine Issues Committee has identified the Governor's Race as a primary target for work around stripmine issues. Under the Tennessee Water Quality Law the State has responsibility for regulating the impacts of mining on the waters of Tennessee. The Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, a department under the Governor, is charged with enforcing the TN Water Quality Law. For surface coal mining operations the NPDES permit process is the primary means the State of Tennessee has for determining whether the proposed activity will violate State water quality law and for deciding whether or not to permit the operation. As such, we strongly hold that the state should recognize that the decision to grant or deny an NPDES permit for mining as the primary opportunity it has to exercise its duty and authority to end mountain top removal stripmining in Tennessee.

For more info, visit <http://www.socmstripmining.org> or contact SC Environmental Justice organizer Bill McCabe at 423-944-3220 or bill.mccabe@sierraclub.org

Outings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

The Old Forest Hike - NOTE: There will not be a Second Saturday hike in September as we give the old forest extra time to heal from the drought conditions and abnormally high summer temperatures in Memphis. Old Forest Hikes are scheduled to resume in October.

Saturday, September 9, 10:00am - 3:00pm: 3-mile hike to Baker Pond, the headwaters of the Wolf River in the Holly Springs Nat'l Forest. Then we will travel to the nearby Strawberry Plains Audubon Center in Holly Springs, MS for the Hummingbird Migration Festival. There is a fee to enter the Hummingbird Festival. We will meet at the Citgo gas station at the NE corner of Mississippi highways 72 and 5 at 10am. Will caravan 10 miles further east on Hwy 72, turn right on Tower Rd. at the abandoned fire tower. Hike will go rain or shine. Please call Jennifer Couch 237-0713 or jlcouch06@yahoo.com. This hike is co-sponsored by the Wolf River Conservancy.

Saturday, September 16, 8:00am - 7:00pm: **Cooper Young Festival Sierra Club booth.** Call to volunteer a few hours. Contact James Baker 826-2448 or kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com

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

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: <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>.

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.

The Smoky Mountains Hiking Club needs volunteers

to help maintain the Appalachian Trail in the
Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

If you are interested, please go to
www.smhclub.org
and click on the item just under the logo
on the home page. That link provides
detailed information on what is needed
and how to sign up.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

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

September 16-17, 2006 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park. We will start at the Polls Gap trailhead and hike the Rough Fork Trail to the intersection with the Caldwell Fork trail and follow that to campsite #41 for a hiking total of 5.2 miles. On our way in we will pass some huge trees that are worth taking a picture off. On Sunday will hike the Hemphill Bald trail a total of 8 miles back to Polls Gap. This trail has some great views and is used very little. DIFFICULTY - RATED MODERATE - THE SECOND DAY WILL HAVE A THREE MILE SECTION THAT IS UP HILL. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: sharvey86@aol.com; phone 865-986-4608 (days), 865-986-6798 (evening). *** Note change of date ***
September 16, 2006 (Sat). Day Hike, John Muir Trail, Cherokee National Forest. Hike the John Muir Trail in the Hiwassee Ranger District. The trail follows the bank of the Hiwassee River, an easy path along a beautiful river. We will hike past the Big Bend canoe access. Approximately 8 mile round trip. Pre-register with trip coordinator, Ed Soler, 690-4780 (H).

September 23-24, 2006 (Sat-Sun). Cold Mountain Backpack. This backpack begins at the Daniel Boone Boy Scout camp outside Waynesville, NC and follows the Little East Fork of the Pigeon River into the Shining Rock Wilderness. After stopping at Shining Rock, we will follow a segment of the Art Loeb trail on a rolling ridge. At Deep Gap, we will begin the ascent of Cold Mountain. The campsite is at the mountain top allowing great views of sunrise, weather permitting. The second day is all downhill back to the Daniel Boone camp. The total hiking distance is 13.7 miles divided into 9.3 miles on the first day and 4.4 miles on the second day. The hike is rated moderate due to length and climbing. Preregister with Bill Adams: radvet@frontiernet.net.

September 30-October 1, 2006 (Sat-Sun). Bald River Falls Gourmet Backpack. This trip has become a Harvey Broome Group tradition, with everyone trying to make the most outrageous, non-backpacking type food that one can imagine. If you can dream it up, you can cook it in the backcountry. Frozen margaritas, Caesar salad, roasted Cornish game hens, seafood Newburg, hot fudge ice cream sundaes, blueberry pancakes - it has been done in the woods on this trip (limited to 10 hikers). Pre-register with Beverly Smith, 865-531-8480 (Evenings), blsmith1300@comcast.net (email preferred).

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. Rated Difficult. Preregister with Will Skelton: Home 523-2272, Work 521-0363; whshome@bellsouth.net.

Ten Essentials for Hiking

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

1. Adequate map
2. First aid kit
3. Compass
4. Rain gear
5. Extra clothing
(it is a good idea to always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Knife
8. Flashlight
9. Extra food, water
10. The tenth essential.

You decide what is the most important thing to bring!

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Sat.-Mon., September 2-4 - Labor Day Weekend Camp/Hike/Bike/Swim This is an opportunity to get out and enjoy the outdoors with your fellow Sierra Club members and have some fun! We will meet Saturday at Meriwether Lewis National Park on the Natchez Trace Parkway. Camping is free and there are always plenty of campsites available. We will hike some of the trails. Bring your bike if you prefer to explore some of the local roads. Children and families are welcome. Please contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com by September 1 if you are planning to participate.

Saturday, September 16 - Hummingbirds and Butterflies Dinner Enjoy a social meal with others who enjoy the great outdoors from a patio laced with wildflowers and hummingbird feeders. While we can't guarantee, last year the birds ate out of our hands! 3:30 pm - ??? in Rockvale (10 minutes SW of Murfreesboro.) We'll provide the main meal, basic drinks, veggies, and hummingbirds. You provide any alcoholic beverages you'd like, a lawn chair and your share of fun. Side dishes and deserts also welcome. For directions and to confirm that you're coming, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com.

Sunday, September 17 - Backpacking 101 Are you interested in learning how to backpack but just don't know the basics? Come on out to Longhunter State Park from 3-5 p.m. and learn how to pitch a tent, pack a backpack, learn cooking basics, and more! Registration is limited to 10 participants so call and make your reservation ASAP! Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com. There will be a \$15.00/person fee to cover the cost of supplies.

Fri.-Sun., September 22-24 - Beginning Backpack Want to learn how to backpack? This trip will provide a good start at learning backpacking basics at Savage Gulf. Meet at Stone Door Ranger Station Campsite Friday night. On Saturday, we will hike an easy to moderate trail (approx. 4 miles), camp out at Alum campsite and hike back to our starting point on an easy trail (approx 3 miles). Participants will need to provide their own gear and food. Information regarding gear, trip registration, meeting time, directions to Savage Gulf, etc., may be obtained by contacting Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com. Please contact Katherine no later than September 20 if interested in participating on this trip.



fall family meeting

Friday, October 20 - Sunday, October 22

Pickett State Park

No tricks, only treats!

You have been wanting to find a way to enjoy the beautiful autumn weather and the fall colors without having to fight the crowds and without having to take a second mortgage on the house to be able to afford it. Have we got a deal for you!

Autumn leaves are plentiful for playing (above).
The natural bridge (below) offers hikers a treat.



FOR ONLY \$30, YOU CAN ENJOY:

- * Hiking * Good food
- * Children's activities, including a children's hike.
Other children's activities will be available if enough children are pre-registered
- * A silent auction to benefit the Tennessee chapter's lobbying and legislative program
- * An optional 3-hour ride on the Big South Fork Scenic Railway (added cost)
- * A 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. Comfortable 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 weekend is the same for camping as for staying in the cabins). Bring your own bedding, towels, and lunches. 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!). If you want additional snacks or beverages, please bring your own.



Stop the meeting —it's time for a photo break!



Photos from the 2005 Fall Family Meeting by Shanna Petersen.

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 mile loop, easy. This hike could be extended to include a natural bridge.
- o Big South Fork Scenic Railway trip - as a group or on your own. Ride through deep gorges and hug steep cliffs. Visits to a museum that shows the life of a coal company town and the Blue Heron Mining Camp are included, as well as live music before the train ride. \$15 adults, \$7.50 age 3-12. Call 800-GO-ALONG or visit <http://www.bsfsry.com/>
- o Double Falls - Moderate with one steep climb out of the gorge
- o Twin Arches - Loop trail to Twin Arches. About 6 miles, moderate.

**2006 FALL MEETING
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 _____

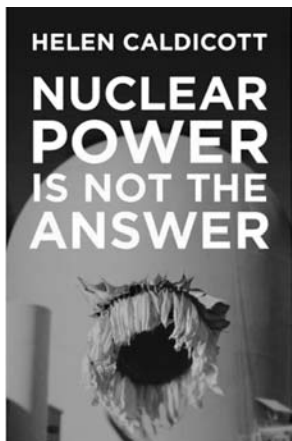
Total enclosed _____ (Make check payable to Middle Tennessee Group Sierra Club).

Please Attend This Important Event!

Dr. Helen Caldicott
Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Ingram Hall, Blair School of Music
Vanderbilt University
2400 Blakemore Avenue
Nashville, TN 37235

Book signing and reception to follow.



Lecture Sponsors Include:

- Sierra Club
- Vanderbilt Office of Active Citizenship and Service
- Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Recycling
- Tennessee Environmental Council
- Nashville Peace and Justice Center
- Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
- Wild Oats Natural Marketplace

Mark your calendars for a special program!

7 p.m. September 20th at the Brentwood library
featuring
Carol Buckley, founder of the elephant sanctuary

Take I--65 to Concord Rd. exit, go east and library is two blocks down, slightly set back from the road. For more information call the Brentwood Library at 371-0090.

The Sierra Club - Middle TN Group
Tennes-Sierran
2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Nashville, Tennessee
Permit No. 3225