

# Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 38, Number 3 - March 2007



Ice field on Mancha Creek. Photos by Dallas Smith.

## Fight on to Keep the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Unspoiled

### **PART ONE OF A THREE PART SERIES**

By Dallas Smith  
Member, Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Mancha Creek would be a river in most places. Here, in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, it's lucky to have a name. Most of the streams and mountains do not.

Mancha Creek lies in the most remote part of the Refuge, next to Canada, on the eastern edge of the sprawling wilderness. It drains into the Firth River in Canada, which, in turn, drains into the Arctic Ocean 75 miles north of us.

In two flights of three passengers each, bush pilot Kirk Sweetsir delivered six of us here in his Cessna 185 on June 6 of this year. He took off to the west, and I watched the plane grow small against distant, blue mountains. He was the last human we would see until he picked us up 12 days later and 50 miles north, on Joe Creek.

The Arctic Refuge has been called the last great wilderness of North America and one of the greatest wildernesses in the world. Lying north of the Arctic Circle, its abundant wildlife, rugged terrain and expansive solitude are unmarred by modern man, and among one of the last places visited by him. Measuring nearly 20 million acres—the size of South Carolina—it spreads south from the Arctic Ocean for 250 miles, and lies against Alaska's border with Canada. The plants and animals live here in relationship to the weather and terrain as they have for thousands of years.

The unmarred part is important. There are no roads, fences, or power lines. No motorized vehicles are permitted—except for fixed-wing bush planes, which must land on a gravel bar or on the tundra. All the stuff we've become accustomed to seeing is absent here. You can stand on a mountain and see ranges of mountains spreading before you in every direction over thousands of square miles, all without the aid of a single blinking strobe light.

"Unmarred" is important, one reason for our trip. My topo map covers an area of 5,000 square miles. It shows only one man-made feature—a cabin on Mancha Creek. It's not there anymore—U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) burned it. But the debris remains.

Our leader, Don Ross, 63, knew about it. He was the Assistant Manager of the Refuge from 1976 to 1984, during which time a researcher used the cabin to do a bird survey. Following that, from 1985 to 2000, Don was a bush pilot, flying scientific and recreational expeditions into the Refuge. He then sold Yukon Flying Service to Kirk Sweetsir, the pilot who flew us here.

Our assistant leader, Fran Mauer, 60, knew about the cabin site, too. Over the years, he logged a passel of hours in the back seat of a Super Cub, counting caribou and moose in his capacity as Senior Wildlife Biologist.

"I spent 21 years working in the Arctic Refuge. I figure I had the best job in the world," he says.

Both retired now, these two men may know more about the Refuge than any other two persons in the world. The

cabin site offended them. In a trip sponsored by the Sierra Club, four of us joined them in an effort to erase the cabin—a husband and wife team from Illinois, a man from New Jersey, and myself.

Plane gone, we shouldered our 60-pound packs and hiked up Mancha Creek. We were in open country containing a bit of thinning boreal forest. Scattered spruce trees grew in the flats together with thickets of low bushes, generally dwarf birch and willows less than shoulder high. The going was tough, hindered by swamps, potholes and stream crossings.

The closest landing site Kirk and Don had been able to find was five miles from the cabin, measured as the crow flies.

"How long's it gonna take?" the man from New Jersey asked.

"Oh...we'll get there before dark," Don answered. Which was true enough, since, in the summer, the sun doesn't set in the Arctic.

At late suppertime, we camped. Next morning two bull caribou, their antlers in velvet, posed for my camera. Without much stealth, I managed to approach to within 45 yards. If I'd had my camouflage clothes and bow, I think I could've bagged one.

On the second day, we reached the cabin, a discouraging sight crouched in a dense spruce forest. A good deal of its logs had not burned. A mangled metal roof slouched over the mess. Litter lay scattered about: Two barrels, two bear-

**SEE "ANWR" PAGE 3**



Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

# The Chair's Corner

Dear Tennessee Sierra Club Members,

February was a busy month for me getting situated as chapter chair. Many thanks to all the group chairs for getting all their group documentation submitted on time. I also want to thank all the group treasurers for sending their group end of year reports to me in a timely fashion.

The information from the group chairs will be used to compile a chapter directory. The end of year financial reports must be submitted to the national finance office in San Francisco. Having all this information submitted on time assures that we will receive our necessary funding from the national office in a timely manner.

On January 31, I led a group of our chapter's leaders at a community meeting in New Johnsonville due to concerns about the DuPont plant there dumping large amounts of dioxin into one of its landfills. On February 6, I was part of a chapter delegation that attended a public hearing in New Johnsonville held by TDEC to hear community concerns related to the company's landfill permit.

In the coming days many of you will receive our chapter's March Window fundraising letter and a summary of the Tennessee Sierra Club's issues and campaigns. Please take a few moments to read these documents and consider increasing your donation amount this year.

If you have not made a donation to the state chapter before, please consider doing it this year. It's a way to put your environmental dollars to work right here in Tennessee. If there is an issue on the list that you feel strongly about, please email me at Katherine.Pendleton@Sierraclub.org, and I will connect you with the Sierra Club members working on the project.

Our Spring chapter meeting is just around the corner April 27-29 in upper East Tennessee. Our host will be the Watauga Group, and the meeting will include a number of enjoyable outings such as a bike ride on the Virginia Creeper Trail and a play at a local playhouse.

Detailed information is included in this issue of the Tennes-Sierran. I hope to see many new faces there. I'd like to encourage those of you who attend to bring your families. Bring a friend if you like. Feel free to come a day early and stay a day late to take advantage of the springtime beauty of the mountains.

*Katherine Pendleton*  
Chair, Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter

## Tennes-Sierran

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

### SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: [tn.sierra@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:tn.sierra@gmail.com).
2. Photographs should be in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your disk or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted. Pre-approval from the Editor is required.
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

# Moving?

My new address is:

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

or Email to:

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

Attach mailing address label in this box, or  
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Please notify the Editor

proof boxes, a stove, four five-gallon cans, a battery, a set of dishes, a load of tin cans, and miscellaneous hand tools.

We flattened all the tin cans. Don chiseled the ends out of the five-gallon cans and we flattened the cylindrical shells, to make it all compact. Some of the junk we put in burlap bags for attaching to our packs, most of the rest we bolted shut into the two barrels and the bear-proof boxes. The metal roofing we tied into bundles.

In his work at the Refuge, Fran often fielded questions from journalists. Those questions dealt with the effects of oil drilling on the wildlife. Whenever truthful answers contradicted the position of pro-drilling administrations, Fran couldn't answer freely without placing his future in jeopardy. It was a conflict that troubled him.

"You couldn't even say that, could you?" I said, realizing that he couldn't even tell them that he couldn't tell them.

"No." But he solved the dilemma.

"I referred them to Canadian biologists. They could say any damned thing they wanted to."

After all, the Refuge animals don't recognize international boundaries, and many of the animals in question migrate to and from Canada, especially the moose and caribou. The birds nesting in the Refuge fly to four continents. Fran is passionate about protecting the Refuge from oil drilling—for its own intrinsic value, for the animals. Since his retirement he and Don have worked toward that end.

It's a pitched fight, bringing nothing but truth and passion against lies and greed. Several times the Refuge has hung by the thinnest of threads. So far the vote has always favored preservation.

"But you can't win; they'll keep trying," I said.

"We have to win every time; they only have to win once," Fran said.

We built a big fire to burn the cabin's scrap wood. One of the five-gallon cans contained a bit of oily material, which turned out to be creosote, probably used to preserve the logs. We decided to dispose of it by burning. Fran poured a little into a pan and threw it onto the fire. A tall column of flame and black smoke roared skyward and billowed for an instant into a dark mushroom. We all whooped and yelled.

"Isn't it ironic to be burning oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," Fran exclaimed. "We've finally found oil in the Refuge!"

Next day we loaded our packs with as much metal junk as we could carry, and hiked the five plus miles to the landing site, and then back. Our loads included all the metal roofing. My pack alone contained two big bundles of roofing plus the stovepipe and cap, a weight I estimated as over 60 pounds. We left all the junk in a pile for the bush plane to pick up later.

On that walk we mostly followed the serpentine creek bed, walking extra distance to avoid the brushy flats. That creek bed spread into an ice field a half-mile wide and a mile long. We walked on the ice spaced out in single file so as to avoid what Fran called a "larger statistical sample" of finding a spot to fall through. Breaking through into ice-cold water wearing a heavy pack seemed a poor idea.

A two-inch layer of slush covered the ice surface. Rivulets of ice water ran in depressions across our path. My boots leaked like a sieve, continually bathing my feet in ice water. We returned to camp. Total march time—eight hours. My cold, wet toes looked like albino prunes.

We all carried bear spray, and it was on that junk-hauling hike that Fran lost his—ironically Fran, because he had the most experience working in bear habitat. He thought he'd left it in the pile of junk at the landing site. He was upset.

"How much does it cost?"

"Forty-five dollars," he answered. I told him that the pilot would find it and eventually return it.

"I'm not worried about replacement cost," he said, surprised at my thought. "I don't want to be without protection!"

He went on to explain that at USFWS they'd had two rules: Never go into the field alone—have at least two persons—and never go without a gun (And someone qualified to shoot it.). That gun was usually a pump-action shotgun loaded with slugs or buckshot, or a big-bore rifle like a .375 magnum.

Of course, we had no such weapon, that being against Sierra Club policy. After losing his bear spray, Fran carried the flare gun instead.

"At least you'll be able to light him up," I said.



Ugly name, lovely flower, the woolly lousewort.

After that discussion with the expert, I began carrying my own bear spray in a handy front pocket, not in the pack.

Our bear worries worsened. That morning we'd discovered that we'd set up our tents astride a bear's trail. It was marked by post-holed tracks we'd not noticed and by ample tufts of hair hanging on a tree where we cooked breakfast and supper. Too tired to move our tents, we decided to sleep there one more night.

LOOK FOR PART 2 IN THE APRIL TENNES-SIERRAN

## 11th Annual Campaign

FINAL UPDATE

# Defenders of Tennessee

The Sierra Club's Defenders of Tennessee campaign funds our legislative and lobbying programs, allowing us to maintain a strong voice "on the hill". 2007 initiatives include a bill to require appliance and equipment energy efficiency standards; a bill requiring California auto requirements when 50% of the nation's population is covered by those standards; a bill to authorize a bond issue for purchase of land for parks, greenways, natural areas, and other state lands; and a container deposit bill.

We are very grateful to our faithful contributors but, through normal attrition, we have lost some of our longtime supporters. We ask you to become a Defender, or renew your commitment, so that we can continue this vital program.

Your contribution is not tax-deductible, but it is important in our efforts to protect Tennessee's environment. Please complete this form and send a check (made out to Sierra Club Defenders), c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Bill Terry, Legislative Co-Chair  
Penny Brooks, Legislative Co-Chair

Those listed below contributed between January 10 – February 9

- Vasilios Alexiades
- Bob and Anne Brandt
- Tom Cullen and Wray Estes
- Donna Dede
- Brian and Roberta Eason
- Tom Gatti
- Charlene Griffin
- Anne Horgan
- Carol Smith Katz
- Dick and Nicole Mochow
- William and Mary Moore
- Glen and Martha Wilson

we are very appreciative of our defenders

## takeACTION

### Yes! I'd like to help!

Amount of donation: ( ) \$75 ( ) \$150 ( ) \$250 ( ) \$500 ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_

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May we publish your name in the Sierra Club newsletter as a donor?  
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Sending our letter of appreciation to you electronically will allow us to conserve paper and save money. We will not divulge the address nor use it for other purposes.

No letter of acknowledgement is requested \_\_\_\_\_

# Tennessee Valley Authority

## TAKING THE *wrong* ENERGY PATH

By Louise Gorenflo  
Cumberland Sustainable Energy Association

President Carter appointed David Freeman as TVA Chair in 1977. The TVA board under his leadership took the position that it was necessary to have an adequate supply of energy for quality economic growth. Freeman felt that TVA's energy programs should set the standard for the nation. To that end, TVA worked toward both using the latest technologies to reduce TVA emissions from its coal fired plants and giving greater attention to energy conservation and renewable energies.

Under Freeman's leadership, TVA's energy conservation programs made significant progress toward reducing energy demand. Financial incentives were given to larger power users to reduce peak demand. Free residential and commercial energy audits were offered to consumers with advice given on how to reduce energy consumption. Low-cost loans for home insulation were provided. The agency aggressively promoted solar, wood, passive building construction, and cogeneration.

As a result of Freeman's TVA energy conservation programs success in reducing the energy demand curve, eight proposed nuclear units were scrapped: Hartsville, Yellow Creek, and Phipps Bend. Another unit at Bellefonte was deferred. In 1985, TVA board chair Marvin Runyon dismantled the energy conservation program.

### takeACTION

**Contact the TVA Board Chair to let him know that you want your voice for energy efficiency to be heard:**

**William B. Sansom  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Corporate Headquarters  
400 W. Summit Hill Dr.  
Knoxville, TN 37902-1499  
phone: 865-632-2101**

Today within its energy division, TVA has no office or even person responsible for energy conservation and efficiency. All of its green power initiatives are in its marketing division and unconnected to any goal to reduce power demand. TVA's vision of the future is ever increasing demand for electricity which will be supplied by an aggressive resumption of its nuclear power construction program.

TVA presently is developing a new strategic plan that will project future power demand and how it intends to supply that demand. While TVA is consulting with its dis-

tributors and the major industries within the Valley on these projections, the State of TN is not involved and needless to say, the ratepayers are sidelined. For TVA to develop an energy plan that does not involve its customers smacks of the old style paternalism that TVA once tried to shed. Without the possibility of the people's voice being heard, we can only expect business as usual: a fixation on the need to supply an ever increasing demand for power.

Ahead of developing an energy plan, TVA has announced its intentions to construct two new nuclear plants and restart a 22-year old unit and complete an unfinished unit for a total underestimate of \$7 billion. TVA sank \$15 billion (in current dollars) alone on the Watts Bar unit 1.

TVA's tunnel vision makes it difficult for the agency to respond to global warming and peak oil challenges. It could lead the nation in planning for a future of declining demand through mining the incredible amount of energy wasted within the industry and by its consumers.

TVA and many others have energy efficiency confused with doing less. Far from dampening economic development, lower energy bills accelerate it as the saved money can be invested elsewhere.

- 22% of the nation's electricity goes annually to lighting homes and businesses, a sum equivalent to the output of 100 power plants and 450 million tons of carbon dioxide. Compact fluorescent lamps use up to 80% less electricity and last ten times longer than incandescent bulbs. It would be far more cost effective for TVA to give compact fluorescent bulbs to every rate payer than to build new capacity.
- It costs 8 to 12 cents to generate and deliver a kWh from new coal or nuclear plants. It costs 3 cents to free up that same amount of energy through efficiency.
- Efficiency provides power without global warming pollution. In fact, it represents the biggest chinch of greenhouse gas reductions available in America. We could reduce CO2 emissions 20% by 2020 through efficiency alone.

The energy waste within our current energy infrastructure is enormous. Opportunities abound to increase efficiency at every stage of energy production, distribution, and consumption for many years. It can be very profitable to the TN Valley to mine our waste and extract useful energy through efficiency. To not aggressively capture these energy savings, as the current TVA plan has, is extremely irresponsible to the TVA ratepayers now and to the generations to come.

Although TVA through its green energy program has declared its commitment to renewable energy and efficiency, this commitment is mostly rhetorical and self-serving. Scores of ingrained rules and habits block efficiency efforts and actually reward waste. Yet relatively simple changes can turn all these obstacles into business opportunities.

The TVA ratepayers need to be heard in TVA's energy planning process. And TVA needs to look first at energy efficiency before it plunges once again into a wasteful power supply expansion program. The time to do that is now.

Please contact me if you are interested in steering TVA back onto the path of energy efficiency and renewable energies at [lgorenflo@gmail.com](mailto:lgorenflo@gmail.com).



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**You don't need a resolution to make a big change.**  
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**Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)**

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# CHICKASAW GROUP NEWS

Contributed by various members

## The Tri-State Green Energy Summit

Conservation-minded students of the Environmental Action Club in Memphis hosted the Tri-State Green Energy Summit, February 2-4 at the University of Memphis. Over 30 people from across Tennessee and other states attended the sessions. It was a chance for students to learn, connect, and get inspired about promoting clean energy solutions on their campuses and in their communities.



People came from all over for the Tri-State Green Energy Summit in Memphis. Courtesy of Environmental Action Club, Memphis.

There was a showing on Friday night of the film *Kilowatt Ours*. Saturday morning's presentations were "Energy 101," "Climate Challenge and Southern Energy Network," and "Campus Organizing 101."

After lunch on Saturday, panelists Rita Harris of the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice program and Doris Bradshaw of the Defense Depot Memphis TN Concerned Citizen Committee told about current environmental challenges facing Memphis neighborhoods. Bradshaw said of the highly toxic 60 acre Dunn Field near her home, "It's a toxic soup that's constantly brewing."

Saturday afternoon workshops included "Green Power Generation and Purchasing," "Green Building," "Energy Efficiency," and "Sustainable Transportation." Also on Saturday, student panelists took up the topics "Green Power Fee," "Recycling," "Environmental Resident Program," and "Green Building."

Among Sunday's events was a "Toxic Tour" of Memphis, provided by Sierra Club Environmental Justice Coordinator Rita Harris. The tour gave summit attendees a chance to see up close how Memphis industries foul local air and water. Neighborhoods are made hazardous by chemicals stored outside plant facilities and close to homes, schools, and parks.

The University of Memphis Environmental Action Club announced they are launching a campaign for the purchase of green power on campus. Students will vote online to decide if they want to add \$20 to tuition to buy green power.

For more information about the recent Tri-State Green Energy Summit contact Jessica Gibbons of the University of Memphis Environmental Action Club: [jess.cake@gmail.com](mailto:jess.cake@gmail.com)

## A "Toxic Tour" of Memphis, Courtesy of the Sierra Club

Rita Harris, Sierra Club Environmental Justice Community Organizer, conducted a tour of Shelby County's worst polluters on Sunday, February 4. Sixteen people from the Tri-State Green Energy Summit (Feb. 2-4 at the University of Memphis) got a "neighborhood's eye-view" of the facilities whose water and gaseous emissions affect the quality of life all over Memphis. Residents of the poorest neighborhoods often suffer most. The "Terrible Ten" toxic industries like to locate where property values are low and local residents are least able to hold them to strong environmental standards.

Riders in the tour van saw how close schools and playgrounds are to these sources of danger. Some children in North Memphis must study and play within sight of tanks full of potentially explosive chemicals. Many others in Memphis live close to concentrations of lethal pollutants. Martin Luther King Park, on Presidents Island, is a graphic example of natural serenity surrounded by industrial hazards. From the park a visitor can see both beautiful greenery and dense plumes of refinery smoke.

Environmental Justice means that all people, without regard to race or income, will have meaningful involvement in development and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations. A recent success in defeating one corporation's attempt to locate a radioactive waste incinerator near Memphis homes gives hope that neighborhood residents can organize to protect themselves from industry's thoughtless, profit-oriented, environmental damage.

This most recent "Toxic Tour" also included the area surrounding the old Defense Depot in Memphis, long famous as a local hotspot of carelessly-disposed hazards. Residents there have created a Concerned Citizen Committee to assure vigilance over plans to re-purpose this highly polluted 640 acre area.

To arrange a "Toxic Tour" for your group in Memphis, or for more information, contact Rita Harris at (901) 324-7757 or [rita.harris@sierraclub.org](mailto:rita.harris@sierraclub.org)

## Connecting People to Parks, Parks to Parks, and People to People

February 2007 will long be remembered for two events surrounding parks, green-space, and their connections with people. The "Greening Greater Memphis" and "A Visionary Speaks" brought over 1,100 people out to hear Alex Garvin at the "Greening..." and Charles Jordan for the "A Visionary Speaks".



Alex Garvin discusses parks and greenways at the Greening Greater Memphis event on February 8 in Memphis. Photo by James H. Baker



Part of the standing room only audience of over 800 listen to Alex Garvin. Photo by James H. Baker

Greening Greater Memphis had over 800 people in attendance. It was standing room only and spilling out the doors. The program was lead off by Joe Royer, the co-owner of a local outdoor equipment shop, with additional words from Carol Coletta - the creator and host of NPR's "Smart City", Bob Schreiber - President of Greater Memphis Greenline, Keith Kirkland - Executive Director of the Wolf River Conservancy, Laura Adams - Executive Director of Shelby Farms park Alliance, Willie Herenton - the Mayor of Memphis and A.C. Wharton Jr. - the Mayor of Shelby County. Alex Garvin then spoke. Garvin is a renowned public realm strategist and the author of *Parks, Recreation and Open Space: A 21st Century Agenda*. He discussed that Memphis needs to use its existing magnets of the Riverfront, Shelby Farms Park and other existing city parks, and create the additional magnets of the Wolf River Greenway, the Greater Memphis Greenline as well as the Nonconnah Greenway. By strengthening the existing magnets, and creating new magnets, Memphis will draw in people that are looking for world class recreational facilities, and in turn that will bring in new business and increase property values for homes near parks and greenways. Mr. Garvin stated that enlightened cities have enlightened ideas for recreational facilities for their citizens, and spend tax monies to create and maintain these facilities that, for the most part, can be enjoyed all year long in Memphis.

A manifesto-signing followed Garvin's talk. The manifesto expressed Memphians' strong support for more opportunities for outdoor recreation in Memphis. At a time when parks are endangered due to city budget problems, the Greening Greater Memphis manifesto was evidence of a widespread commitment to expansion, not just preservation, of parks.

Other partners in "Greening Greater Memphis" are Leadership Memphis, "Smart City," and the Sierra Club. Sponsors for the event were Outdoors, Inc., Friends for Our Riverfront, the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, and the Riverfront Development Corporation.

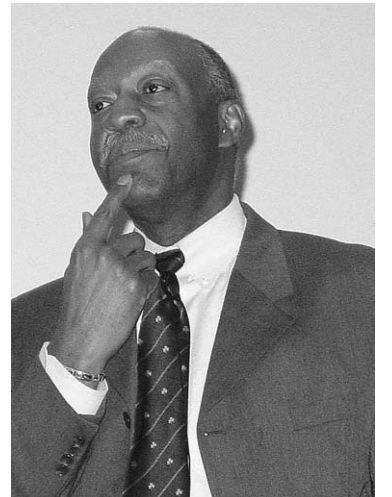
Two days later, Charles Jordan spoke before an enthusiastic but smaller crowd that completely filled a 350 seat auditorium. He was introduced by Virginia McLean - President of Friends for Our Riverfront. Charles Jordan is widely acclaimed as one of America's most visionary experts on parks and public spaces. He served as Director of Parks in Portland, Oregon for more than two decades and is today Chairman of The Conservation Fund. The focus of Mr. Jordan's talk was "getting youth involved in the outdoors." Jordan believes that if youth do not learn to appreciate nature and the outdoors, they will not have a vested interest in protecting it. In that statement, Jordan discussed one of Sierra Club's challenges, and that is attracting energized youth. Those of us that have been around the Club for some years lament to this fact. We call it "the graying of the Sierra Club."

Mr. Jordan also touched on diversity issues for outdoor recreation. This is another area where Sierra Club has the challenges of diversifying its membership to reflect the increasing diversity of the local population. In Memphis, that would mean more African-Americans and Latinos in the membership of the Chickasaw Group. Recruiting and engaging youth and minority populations are two areas that need a lot of work, at the Group, Chapter and National levels.

Mr. Jordan leveled only one criticism of the "Greening..." event, in that youth were not discussed by Mr. Garvin. Overall, Mr. Jordan was quite impressed with "Greening...". He stated, "standing room only for two hours, and none of those standing left before it was over." He feels that something is on the horizon for Memphis in regards to parks and recreation.

This writer hopes that these parks and connection issues are not "one hit wonders", and that perhaps, on the Thursday before Valentine's Day each year, a large event to draw those Memphians that hunger for parks, green-space and outdoor recreation will occur. Our elected officials need to see that large numbers of people care and want to see world class recreational opportunities

in Memphis. The manifesto signing at Feb. 8's "Greening Greater Memphis" and the healthy Saturday morning turnout for the Feb. 10 talk by Charles Jordan are healthy signs that a "critical mass" of support for green spaces in Memphis now exists. Over 1,100 people attending two meetings in two days cannot be wrong.



Charles Jordan discusses youth, parks and recreational opportunities at the A Visionary Speaks event on February 10 in Memphis. Photo by James H. Baker



Part of the crowd of about 350 listen to Charles Jordan. Photo by James H. Baker

# Outings

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**Saturday, March 3, Full Moon and Lunar Eclipse Hike**  
Time and place TBA. For more information contact Sue Williams, 274-0524.

**Saturday, March 10, 2007 - The Old Forest Hike - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. Second Saturday Hikes.** Explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America. Meet at the bridge next to the parking lot at the end of Old Forest Lane in the center of Overton Park. The informative and entertaining trail map to the self-guided mile-and-a-quarter loop hike with seasonal bird-watching and wildflower viewing guides is available for free at the Golf House in Overton Park at all other times. For additional information, contact Don Richardson at (901) 276-1387 or donrich@juno.com. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

**Sunday, March 11, 2007, 1:00pm Sings of Spring Walk,** Memphis Botanic Garden. Sunshine or snow! For more information, contact Judith Hammond, 276-2819.

**Friday and Saturday, March 16 & 17, 2007: Global Warming Awareness Forum in Jackson, TN.** Please join the Community for the Advancement of Science and Reason (the CASR) for this important 2-day forum. The forum will be held at the Madison County Agricultural Extension Office Auditorium, located at the intersection of the Highway 45 By-Pass and North Parkway, across the street from the School Board building. To those of you arriving off of Interstate 40, take Exit 80A southbound approximately 1 mile to North Parkway (highway 412). The Friday night program will begin at 6pm with a potluck dinner and then there will be a showing of An Inconvenient Truth. On Saturday, the forum will resume at 10:00am and go till 12 noon with different presenters talking about various aspects of global warming. The CASR requests a \$5.00 donation. Those that attend Friday will not be charged for Saturday. For more information, contact Angelia Stinnett at (731) 513-0764 or e-mail at astinnett12@yahoo.com. Please see the CASR website at <http://thecasar.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: [www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/18SCHD.htm](http://www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/18SCHD.htm) If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or [rutschman@rhodes.edu](mailto:rutschman@rhodes.edu)

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiver.PDF>, or call 415-977-5630, for a printed version.

Transportation to the outing including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

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

**March 10-11. Backpack, Stone Mountain Trail (Virginia).** Although just across the Virginia state line from Tennessee, this is a pretty much unknown trail for Tennesseans. The trail ascends from Cave Springs Recreation Area and follows the rocky ridge of Stone Mountain, then into the secluded Roaring Branch, and finally to Hwy 23 just north of the coal mining town of Big Stone Gap. Rocky outcrops provide views of the Powell River and Wallen Ridge. The interesting "Melungeon" peoples lived (and live) nearby and John J. Fox's Trail of the Lonesome Pine was set in the "dark hollows" of the area. Distance is about 14.2 miles and it is rated Moderate. Driving distance to Big Stone Gap is about 140 miles each way. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; [whshome@bellsouth.net](mailto:whshome@bellsouth.net).

**March 17-18. Backpack, GSMNP - Smokemont Area.** After a short car shuttle we will start at the Kephart Prong Trailhead and follow that for two miles to the intersection with the Grassy Branch Trail - which gains 800' in 2.5 miles before we intersect with the Dry Sluice Gap Trail - which we will follow for three and a half miles to Cabin Flats campsite. This is a nice campsite with what I understand is good fishing. On Sunday we will make our way out the Bradley Fork trail to Smokemont. Hike 12.1 miles - Rated - Moderate to Difficult - Drive 140 miles round trip. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: email [sharvey86@aol.com](mailto:sharvey86@aol.com); phone 865-986-4608 (days), 865-986-6798 (evening).

**March 24. Daybike, Virginia Creeper Trail.** This is a mountain day-biking trip on the Rails to Trails Virginia Creeper Trail in the Mt. Rogers recreation area of southwestern VA. The plan is to meet in Abingdon and take a commercial shuttle to the top of the trail at Whitetop Station. The shuttle operator also rents bikes should you need one. We will then ride the full 34 mile length of the trail back to Abingdon. The first half is nearly all downhill to Damascus. The section from Damascus to Abingdon is nearly flat with mild uphill grade to the finish. The majority of the ride is through woods with some beautiful bridge and trestle crossings. The event is rated moderate mainly due to its length. Details including times for departure, cost of shuttle or shuttle plus rental will be available later. Driving distance to Damascus is about 140 miles each way. Preregister with Bill Adams at [radvet@frontiernet.net](mailto:radvet@frontiernet.net).

**April 1. Wildflower Dayhike, River Bluff Trail, Norris State Park.** A popular wildflower viewing area the last days of March and through April. The main attraction is the trout lilies. Folklore claims that the trout don't bite until the trout lily blooms. Other wildflowers include Dutchman's breeches, bloodroot, toothwort, toadshade, twinleaf and celandine poppy. Hike: 3.2 mile loop. Rated easy with some steep grades. Driving distance about 32 miles round trip from Knoxville. Preregister with Robin Ferguson: H 405-8576 or W 215-5060; [robinferguson@yahoo.com](mailto:robinferguson@yahoo.com).

**April 7. Dayhike, GSMNP - Chestnut Top Trail.** My understanding is that the lower section of this trail is one of the best wildflower walks in the Smokies. While I don't know anything about wildflowers, I do know that I enjoy looking at them and taking pictures of them. So I'm taking about three wildflower books along with my camera and planning on taking my time to enjoy the blooms. The more ambitious hikers might take this trail all the way to its intersection with the Schoolhouse Gap Trail, a one-way distance of 4.3 miles. Since this is an "up and back" hike, those who don't want to do the 8.6 miles round trip can opt out and return to the trailhead as they desire. Rated easy. Driving distance/time about 40 miles/one hour. Preregister with Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; email [ronaldshrieves@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldshrieves@comcast.net).

## 10 Essentials for Hiking

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

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

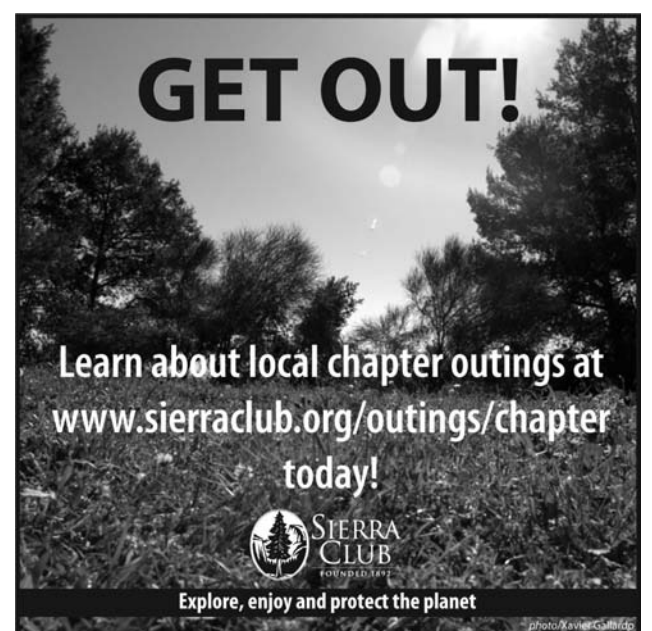
## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**March 5, 2007 Sierra Club Outings Training 101:** Outings Training 101 is a requirement for outings leaders to have in order to be certified to lead an outing for the Sierra Club. The training's focus is on developing basic leadership skills related to leading activities such as hikes. The training modalities include lecture and video presentations. Middle Tennessee Group is looking for new outings leaders and this is an excellent opportunity to come and see if becoming an outings leader is right for you. The training will be held from 7-9 p.m. at the home of MTG's Outings Chair, Katherine Pendleton. For additional information and to register please contact Katherine at 615-943-6877 or email [Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com).

**March 23, 2007 Membership Wine and Snacks Gathering:** Come out and meet fellow Sierra Club members at the home of Katherine Pendleton from 7-10 p.m. This is a good opportunity for new members to come out and get acquainted and learn about the Sierra Club. Wine and snacks will be provided. For additional information and for directions contact Katherine at 615-943-6877 or email [Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com).



# Meetings

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering:** Thursday, March 1 & April 5, 2007, 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 Juliet Jones, Vice Chair, at (901)374-0582 or juliet101@comcast.net for more information.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Monday, March 12, 2007 & April 9, 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 Tom Lawrence by March 9 (March meeting) & April 6 (April meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com.

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 7:00pm - Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar, Memphis, TN. Come at 6:30pm for social time. At this program, MLGW will inform us about issues related to energy usage. We will learn about solar power, the Green Power Switch program, and energy conservation around the home. Come prepared to learn about the energy options available and what we can all do to help use energy more wisely. For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at 901-237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

**PUBLIC ISSUES FORUM:** "Global Warming: What Is It Really and What You Can Do about It." Sunday, April 8, 2007, 3:00pm, Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar. Bill Steagall will present Al Gore's slide show from An Inconvenient Truth. Steven Sondheim and James Baker will present the Sierra Club's slide show on energy. Afterwards, a discussion will be held on the realistic actions that people, business, and governments can take.

## UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** The fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (four times a year at a minimum) in the lower level meeting room of the Putnam County Public Library. Please contact Peggy Evans for meeting details at maevans@twlakes.net or (931)432-6680.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Thursday, March 8, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Spring is just around the corner and an arm-chair trip to Hawaii is just about the perfect remedy for the winter blahs! Sherrie Ertischek and Vince Marsala of AAA Travel Brentwood will present an in-depth program that will tempt you to throw the budget to the winds and go! Vince, a Sierra Club member who hails from Atlanta, will be discussing the unusual landscapes of this state, along with the history of the volcanic islands. It should be a great night for all, and by then the coldest chill will be out of the air and daffodils will be on their way. Join us for fun, conversation, and learning. Light refreshments will be served. Non-members are always invited.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Tuesday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the old St. Bernard's Academy Building, 2021 21st Avenue South, 4th floor. Conservation issues are first on the agenda. All members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. 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 Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net or call 792-2590.

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Tuesday, March 13, 2007, 7:30pm, at Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Come One, Come All, to HBG's Annual Outings Program!! Ron Shrieves, our Outings Chair, will preside over commentary, slides and digitals detailing our entire outdoors program through February 2008. See and hear about dayhikes, backpacking trips, bike rides, canoe excursions and other adventures. Everyone welcome! For more information call John Finger (865) 573-5908.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Tuesday, March 27, 2007, 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.

**APRIL PROGRAM MEETING:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007, 7:30 pm, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. In honor of Earth Day Dr. David Reister will present a power-point on "Global Warming—Cool Cities," a followup to Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth." David is the Sierra Club's Tennessee Chapter Chair of the TVA and Cool City Committees and is a member of the National Sustainable Consumption Committee. A native Californian, he earned three degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, including a Ph.D. in engineering science. From 1968 to 1974 he was on the faculty of the State University of New York at Buffalo, and from 1974 to 1985 at the Institute for Energy Analysis in Oak Ridge. Since 1985 he has been at ORNL, where his research interests have included energy supply models, advanced energy technologies, sensor-based robotic systems, applications of global optimization to large-scale problems, and information fusion for resource assessments. He is the author of many journal articles, has received two patents, and received an R&D 100 award for his work on global optimization. Everyone is welcome. For information call John Finger at 573-5908.

## WATAUGA GROUP

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Commitment has its rewards



Since 1892, Sierra Club has been committed to preserving the American wilderness; and the rewards are all around us. From our mountains to our forests to our rivers - and the wildlife that inhabit them all - Sierra Club has successfully campaigned to protect Earth's natural beauty for decades.

The need for vigilance continues in many of our wild places. You can carry on the fight by becoming a Sierra Club Life Member. Your dues go right to work in a special Life Member Fund that supports vital Sierra Club conservation programs.

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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

### I am pleased to enroll as a Life Member of the Sierra Club.

Please enroll me as an individual Life Member.

- Full payment of \$1000 is enclosed.
- \$350 first annual installment is enclosed.

We are enrolling as joint Life Members.

- Full payment of \$1250 is enclosed.
- \$450 first annual installment is enclosed.

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

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Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

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

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# Spring 2007 Chapter Meeting

## *events & outings*

The spring 2007 TN Chapter Meeting on April 27-28-29 has the additional goal of making this gathering a special Southern Appalachian weekend for extended family and friends. Camp Ahistadi is located in the Cherokee National Forest four miles south of downtown Damascus, VA on State Hwy 91 near Laurel Bloomery, TN. Ahistadi, the name chosen for this Methodist Church Camp and Retreat, comes from the Cherokee language and means "the very best of all".



### AHISTADI

Four bunk room style cabins are available at Camp Ahistadi (A-his-ta-di) with attached bathrooms that accommodate 14 people each. Main facilities include fireplaces, multi purpose dining/group meeting room, smaller conference room and a game room on the lower level. The Wright Pavilion boasts 1800 sq ft with fireplace, backs up to the Cherokee National Forest and borders a large recreation field. Camp phone # is 276-475-3842.

Cabin lodging or tent camping is offered plus Sat and Sun breakfasts and Sat night dinner included in the \$40 per person weekend charge.

Please call or email number attending on or before April 24. Vegetarians please state your preference when you make your reservation. Earlier reservations & additional fees are required for the Barter Theatre and/or the Virginia Creeper outings.

Directions: I40 EAST to I81 NORTH to VA exit 19 continue on Hwy 58 EAST through Damascus (13 miles) to Hwy 91 SOUTH (4 miles) to Camp Ahistadi (before Laurel Bloomery, TN) on your right.

### **FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION:**

Gloria or Wilbert 'Webb' Griffith  
5907 HWY 421 South  
Mountain City, TN 37683  
PHONE 423-727-4797  
EMAIL [gl4797@earthlink.net](mailto:gl4797@earthlink.net)

**Preregistration fees are required  
for both the Barter Theatre and/or  
the Virginia Creeper outings.**

### BARTER THEATRE

Saturday afternoon matinee (at box office \$28+ tax theatre tickets and \$7 shuttle bus fee). Reservations received by Watauga Group before March 30, 2007 will enjoy theatre discount tickets & shuttle bus complete price of \$27 per person. Book & Lyrics by Sean Grennan & Music by Leah Okimoto. **MARRIED ALIVE!** Experience life from Niagara to Viagra in this satirical reflection on the trials of marriage in modern America lampooning every subject from repellant in-laws to recalcitrant teenage offspring sprinkled with moments of honest tenderness and bitter-sweet sentiment. Two couples, the wide-eyed newlyweds and the seasoned "oldyweds," take you on the journey of your life. We guarantee that you'll want to see this show again.



### LIVE MUSIC FEATURING LOCAL ARTISTS SATURDAY NIGHT

### FRIDAY EVENING WELCOME DINNER

hosted by Watauga Watershed Alliance

### SEMI ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

(all donated items welcomed)

### HIKING TRAILS ALONG LAUREL CREEK

(borders Camp Ahistadi) in the Cherokee National Forest leading to the Iron Mountain trail head and the Appalachian Trail.

### TROUT FISHING

(bring fishing tackle and TN fishing license w/ trout stamp)

### SATURDAY MORNING VIRGINIA CREEPER BICYCLE OUTING

The VA Creeper ride will take place from 8 AM till noon and will take advantage of one of the many shuttle/bike rental services in Damascus called "Bike Station". This Saturday morning bike outing will be an easy bike ride of 17 miles from White Top Station (elevation 3576) to downtown Damascus (elevation 1930). 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 pickup from Camp Ahistadi and a shuttle ride back to Ahistadi from Downtown Damascus. This trip is scheduled early AM so Chapter EXCOM members and delegates can ride the Creeper before their quarterly meeting begins.

The Virginia Creeper Trail is a multi-use (biking, hiking, equine) rails-to-trails conversion. The Creeper Trail links present day biking and hiking enthusiasts with nature and history buffs as they travel an old Indian path through some of the finest Southern Appalachian countryside, alongside rushing streams and gorgeous mountain scenery. Along the way are several converted railroad stations now used as rest areas and a museum plus midway down a Taylor Valley restaurant offering 'al a cart' menu and their signature "chocolate multi layer cake."

This outing covers only the top half of the Virginia Creeper Trail. We will be biking to Damascus, Virginia downhill from 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.

Last year, on the last weekend in April, a local botanist counted 80 diverse wild flowers on the Virginia Creeper. (See complete VA Creeper details in Feb 2007 edition of Tennes-Sierran) Shuttle Service with your own bike \$11.00 (\$6.00 12 & under). Shuttle Service plus bike rental \$23.00 (\$18.00 12 & under). Rented classic cruisers, mountain & child bikes adjusted to fit before departure.

Sierra Club members are 750,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.



photo/Clara Natoli

## **Planet Makes Way for New Grassroots Pages on Web**

After a run of more than a dozen years, the Planet, the Sierra Club's activist newsletter, ceased publication with its Nov/Dec 2006 issue. Stories about the Club's grassroots campaigns, a Sierra Club Scrapbook, and activist profiles can now be found on our new Grassroots pages on the Sierra Club's Web site at [www.sierraclub.org/grassroots](http://www.sierraclub.org/grassroots). The stories comprising the Nov/Dec Planet, including a 2006 Victory Roundup and a 4-page Smart Energy Solutions primer, will be posted online.

You can continue to access the Planet archives at <http://www.sierraclub.org/planet>.

The Sierra Club - Middle TN Group  
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Monthly newsletter for the TN Chapter Sierra Club Vol. 38, No. 3 - March 2007