

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 34 Number 8 - August, 2003

Place of Enchantment to the Grim Reaper

A Chickasaw Group Report

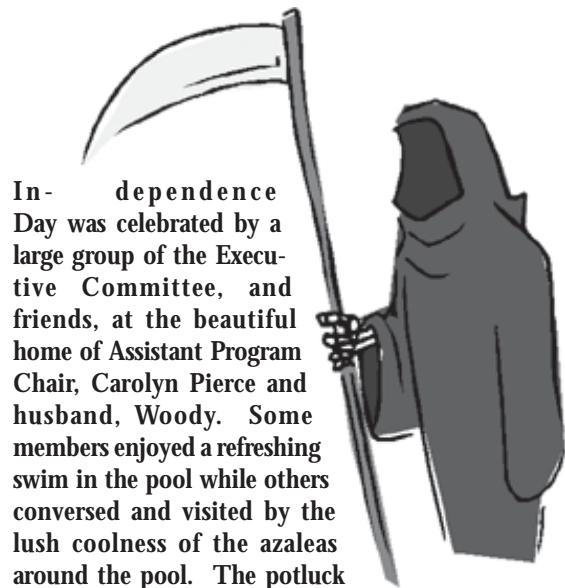
Compiled by Various Members

"A Place of Enchantment" offered just that to theatergoers in June as the Memphis-based "Voices of the South" celebrated the historic lives and conservation work of Olaus and Mardie Murie. The play, by noted University of Memphis director Gloria Baxter, was commissioned to commemorate the 100th birthday of Mardie, who still lives at Moose, Wyoming, just outside Jackson. This Memphis performance benefited the Sierra Club. The play is the story of the young Muries and their children as they established their home in the west and began a life of study and conservation that eventually led to Mardie receiving every major conservation award given in the U.S. It's taken from the writings of the Muries, brought to the stage by the talented pen of Mrs. Baxter and acted by a group of Memphis actors who call themselves "Voices of the South." This time it was given in the Buckman Theatre at St. Mary's School, although it was presented on her birthday to Mardie herself, and later in the theater at Jackson, Wyoming. The Sierra Club received \$75 as benefit from part of every ticket sold. Olaus Murie was a prominent researcher of Jackson Hole's elk population before his death in 1963. Together, the Muries traveled and studied in what would later become the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge of Alaska. That work and Mardie's conservation efforts earned her the Sierra Club's "John Muir" award in 1983.

A group of Sierrans gathered at Mud Island on the Memphis riverfront to usher in the Summer Solstice at sunset on June 21. Outings Leader, Judith Rutschman and Outings Chair, Judith Hammond, who successfully avoided the midday heat, were joined by Irene Wade and husband, Jeff Lehr, Sue Williams, Tim Williams (no relation), and newcomers Juliet and Ed Jones for the July outing. Teri Sullivan was at the riverfront but missed the group and completed her own hike. The group walked along the riverfront to Mud Island Park, enjoyed the setting sun over the Mississippi River and watched the ever-constant barge traffic. As Judith Rutschman described it, "Our Summer Solstice hike was pleasant and beautiful. We enjoyed the delights of summer-the cicadas, the beautiful sunset and warm evening breeze. We walked the length of Mud Island and gathered at the end for food and drink."



Starting on top row, left to right: Charlie Rond, Don Richardson, James Baker, Judith Hammond, Carolyn Pierce's dog, Jamaica, and James Baker's dog, Aubrey, *The Entertainers*.



Independence Day was celebrated by a large group of the Executive Committee, and friends, at the beautiful home of Assistant Program Chair, Carolyn Pierce and husband, Woody. Some members enjoyed a refreshing swim in the pool while others conversed and visited by the lush coolness of the azaleas around the pool. The potluck dinner featured a variety of salads, chips, dips, and desserts to complement Woody's rotel chicken and Carolyn's pasta salad. "Entertainment" was provided by the Pierce's dog, Jamaica, and James Baker's dog, Aubrey. Following a game of pool in the upstairs game room which was brimming with son Jason's soccer trophies - the group caravanned a few blocks to watch an awesome fireworks display at the Germantown City Park. It was the first such opportunity for this year's Executive Committee to relax and enjoy a social "outing" together, and the beautiful surroundings enhanced the holiday celebration. The attendance of Tennessee Trails Association members, as well, provided a unique opportunity for interaction and networking between the Memphis TTA members and the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club.

The Gulf Coast Regional Conservation Committee (GCRCC) quarterly meeting was held, in what was labeled by 'Money' magazine as "296th out of 296 cities as a desirable place to live", Anniston, Alabama. Anniston has also been called "Toxic Town" by *Newsweek Magazine*. It was attended by Chickasaw Group members Don Richardson, Tom Lawrence, Dick Mochow and James Baker. The meeting's theme was Environmental Justice. Many of you may know about Anniston, home of Monsanto Chemical Company (now known as Solutia) whose production of PCB's has caused health problems for many of the poor residents of West Anniston, and has greatly polluted the surrounding environment. Adding insult to injury, there is a large stockpile of outdated chemical weapons (WMDs-gasp!) at the Anniston Army Depot. Throughout Saturday morning's panel presentations, the audience consisting of GCRCC delegates, local citizen activists, and the media learned firsthand about the problems that the people of Anniston are struggling with and the efforts that are being made to help them obtain a healthier and cleaner environment. The first panel, "Living in Toxic Town, USA" brought together several West Annistonians who painted vivid mental images of the ill effects of PCB exposure. The second panel, "Incinerator Madness, Sane Solutions" showed that the Army failed to adequately assess and compare the impacts from the incineration of chemical weapons versus non-incineration alternatives-which involves a neutralization process. In addition to failing to consider alternative means of chemical weapon destruction, the schools of Anniston have not all been "overpressurized."

¹ There are plans to deal with the special needs residents of Anniston, but first responder equipment and

[Continued on page 3]



Ten Reasons Things Aren't as Bad as They Seem

1. Americans support environmental values. By a two-to-one margin, a New York Times/CBS News poll (November 29, 2002) found that Americans say that protecting the environment is more important than producing energy.

2. Campaign finance reform kicked in on November 6. When the polls closed at midnight on November 5, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, which will prevent polluting industries from dumping unlimited "soft money" into electoral campaigns, went into effect. The law, which passed in March, is a critical first step toward giving power back to voters.

3. Demand for hybrid cars soars. Toyota has already sold more than 100,000 Priuses, and a recent auto industry survey found that 60 percent of consumers were considering hybrids for their next car.

4. Wind energy is becoming economically competitive with coal. According to Stanford University energy experts Mark Z. Jacobson and Gilbert M. Masters (Science, August 24, 2001), "The direct cost of energy from large wind turbines has dropped to 3 to 4 cents per kilowatt-hour, comparable with that from new pulverized-coal power plants. Given that health and environmental costs of coal are another 2 to 4.3 cents per kilowatt-hour, wind energy is unequivocally less expensive than is coal energy."

5. BP backs off from Arctic. In November, the largest oil producer in Alaska, BP, withdrew from Arctic Power, a lobbying group dedicated to oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

6. 'Loathsome' energy bill dies in committee. The House bill included drilling in the Arctic and billions in tax breaks to the fossil fuel industries. The Senate bill spared the Arctic and promised fewer tax breaks, but was still a huge step backward. Any marriage of these bills would have increased pollution and the nation's dependence on oil.

7. The last time anti-environmental Republicans took over Congress, they squandered their 'mandate.' House Speaker Newt Gingrich launched his ambitious "Contract With America" in early 1995, which would have dismantled decades' worth of environmental protection. By the end of the year, his campaign had sputtered and only a fraction of it became law.

8. The Kyoto Protocol is on the verge of ratification. In December, Canada and New Zealand signed the Kyoto Protocol, bringing the total to 98 countries, contributing 40.7 percent of greenhouse emissions. The Kyoto Protocol becomes law when a minimum of 55 countries covering at least 55 percent of 1990 greenhouse gas emissions have ratified it. Despite the U.S refusal to sign it, and it will take effect when Russia, which has promised to ratify, signs it in 2003.

9. The Sierra Club is strong. PRWeek named the Sierra Club "the most powerful and influential solutions-based nonprofit environmental organization in the country." With more than 700,000 members in 66 chapters and 355 groups and a \$70 million budget, the Sierra Club is solvent, stable, and ready to climb into the ring for the next round.

10. The Sierra Club is attracting young people. The Sierra Student Coalition has more than 20,000 members and is active on more than 100 campuses. The SSC's organizing training programs have trained hundreds of high school and college students in activism, many of whom have become volunteer leaders of the Club.

Above reprinted from
The Planet January/February 2003 Issue
- John Byrne Barry

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Tennes-Sierran
The monthly newsletter of the
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ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 5th of the month preceding the new month's issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to TennesSierran@aol.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Mac users should embed text in body of an e-mail message only.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to e-mail or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten, or typewritten, articles may be accepted; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail can not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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

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Please notify the Editor
 when changes are needed

Place of Enchantment to the Grim Reaper

A Chickasaw Group Report

Compiled by Various Members

[Continued from page 1]

training are months from being put in place and the updated toxicity assessment for nerve agent lethality has not been applied to the areas surrounding the incinerator. Despite that, all that is needed to light the burners is Alabama Governor Riley's signature and that could come as soon as July 4th.

On Saturday afternoon, a toxic tour of Anniston took us to Solutia, PCB mountain, and other areas. The tour climaxed in an organized protest at the gate of the depot. We made our voices heard, "Neutralization YES, Incineration NO!". James Baker reprised his alter ego "The Grim Reaper" complete with army issue gas mask as a visual effect for the TV cameras. The organizers were well pleased with the media turnout and "reaper" was seen by many . . . we really hope it was seen by Governor Riley! In other communities, the Army is using the much safer neutralization process to dispose of chemical weapons. If those communities have been afforded safer destruction methods, why not in Anniston? They deserve "maximum protection" as directed by Congress and required by Federal Law.

Barbara Coman, the Chair of the Sierra Club GCRCC commented that she has seen it is not easy living in Anniston, in the shadow of both PCB Mountain and the chemical weapons incinerator. There are safe and nonpolluting alternatives for the destruction of the WMD stockpile. We of the GCRCC want to stand alongside the people of Anniston and say, "It is time to get on with the PCB cleanup, and we will not allow this dangerous chemical weapons incineration to take place in our community!"

¹ Over pressurization -The atmosphere inside a sealed room is at a slightly greater than normal atmospheric pressure. That over-pressure is generated and maintained by injecting highly filtered and conditioned outside air. The doors have special seals to keep the pressure from leaking out. Any minor breach in the room allows air to escape, but does not allow contaminated air into the sealed room.

Top Right: Chickasaw Group Chair Charlie Rond lines up a shot on the pool table at the Pierce home July 4th.



2nd Row Right: Host, TTA and SC member Woody Pierce looks for a pool shot in his game room at the July 4th celebration.



3rd Row Left: Host, TTA and Sierra Club member Woody Pierce with John Martin of the TTA and SC.



3rd Row Right: Chickasaw Group Chair, Charlie Rond



Bottom Left: Rufus Kinney. Rufus, who is with Families Concerned about Nerve Gas Incineration, was the panel moderator and our guide on the toxic tour.

Bottom Right: Jeanette Champion and Grandbaby. Jeanette is a West Annistonian who painted vivid mental images of the ill effects of PCB exposure. Environmental Justice Principle 1.C.—The Right to Equal Protection. Americans of all walks of life have a right to clean air, clean water, and safe ground.

Meetings



Avenue South (the old St. Bernard's Academy Building). Look for the signs out front which will point the way. We welcome each of you to participate or just to be with us to learn of the group's conservation initiatives and community activities.

Additions to the conservation agenda should be sent to Jim Deming at jdeming49@aol.com, and additions to the administrative agenda, or for more information regarding the meetings send a message to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@aol.com, or call 792-9688.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, August 12, 6:00 p.m. As usual, we will have our annual HBG picnic in lieu of a regular program meeting. This year we will be going to a new location - Fort Dickerson Park in south Knoxville. To get there, head south out of downtown Knoxville on Chapman Highway (Henley Street). About eight tenths of a mile from the end of the Henley Street bridge, just before the traffic light at Woodlawn Pike, turn right. There will be a small sign indicating "Fort Dickerson". Proceed up the hill to the turn around. Look for us at one of the covered shelters. This is an old-fashioned covered dish affair, so bring enough to feed yourself and share with others. Drinks will be furnished. Please bring your own utensils and plates (disposables will be provided for those who forget). Call Susie McDonald at 690-3257 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, August 26, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. If you're interested in getting more involved or in finding out about what drives the Sierra Club in this area, this is the meeting to attend. Call Roger Jenkins at 690-3257 for more information.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, August 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. We all love and want to protect the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It is the most heavily visited of our country's National Parks with more than 9 million visitors annually. This region of incomparable beauty and biological diversity has earned it the recognition of the United Nations as an International Biosphere Reserve, and it is also designated as a World Heritage Site. But the park's scenic and biological attributes have not spared it from several threats, including the proposed North Shore Road. The North Shore Road would cut 33 miles through the heart of the Smokies, destroying habitat and water quality in its wake. We have a historic opportunity to stop this road and are working with politicians and local citizens to stop the road and protect the Smokies from bulldozers.

Please join us for this program, which features Natalie Foster, staff with the regional Sierra Club. She will bring us illustrated images of the Smokies and the numerous threats of development. Come and learn more about the Smokies and learn how you can help with the effort to preserve this special place. You will have an opportunity following the program to write a letter to the Park Service about this important issue.

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are now 1st on the agenda! Come early, bring your sack dinner, or snack on refreshments provided by our group and get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting at 2021 21st

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY MEETING: Until further notice, the State of Franklin Group will hold its Strategy Meeting on the second Thursday of every month. Program meetings will continue to be held on the fourth Tuesday. Unless otherwise advertised, all Sierra Club meetings are held at 7:00pm at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, 2620 South Roan Street, Johnson City. Please contact Linda Modica at lcmodica@aol.com, 753-9697 (H) or 676-2925 (cell) to confirm a meeting or to place an item on the agenda.

PROGRAM MEETING: No Program Meetings the months of June, July or August. Watch for announcement of the State of Franklin Group's program in our local papers. All Sierra Club meetings are held at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, 2620 South Roan Street, Johnson City — unless otherwise announced in the media. To confirm meeting or topic, or for directions, please contact Linda Modica @ lcmodica@aol.com or 753-9697.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, August 7th, 2003, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee: Join us for Chickasaw Group's "FIRST THURSDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, August 11th, 2003, 7:00 p.m., Rhodes College in Room 310 of Buckman Hall, 2000 North Parkway, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Group Chair Charlie Rond (by August 7th to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-9150 or Charlie Rond for more information.

PROGRAM MEETING: The next Program Meeting will be in September. Program Meetings are scheduled every other month. For more information, contact Clark Buchner at (901) 327-2545.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: Every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., CST, The Library Channel, Memphis Cable 18, WVPL, "The Nature of Conservation" is sponsored by the Sierra Club. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the month. In the August television program host and director Judith Rutschman will discuss with the Sierra Club's local water sentinel, James Baker, the problems of litter and floating recyclables on Memphis McKellar Lake. 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.

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If you run into any difficulties, just e-mail Liz Dixon at dixon@cs.utk.edu

Knoxville Citizens Tell TDOT to “Put the Brakes On”

By David Orr, Harvey Broome Group

In the same week that the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) announced its engineers were tearing down seven, decades-old concrete ramps built but never used for Interstate 40 in Memphis, a new citizens group formed on the other end of the state to challenge TDOT’s “make-over” plan to expand I-40 through downtown Knoxville.

As the wrecking ball smashed away at remnants of Memphis’ ill-fated midtown expressway—killed thirty years ago by citizen groups including Sierra Club—a growing number of Knoxville residents were calling for TDOT to demolish a segment of I-40 in downtown and reroute freeway traffic along the existing I-640 loop to the north.

A remarkable idea, to be sure, and one that is rapidly taking hold of the civic imagination. The new citizen group known as KnoxBLVD. (Building a Livable, Visionary Downtown) is joining with Sierra Club and neighborhood residents in opposing the proposed \$150 million-dollar reconstruction of I-40.

Conceived in the 1980’s, the project is a highway-builder’s dream. It is allegedly the biggest contract TDOT has ever let. Ten lanes are proposed where there now are four. Dozens of businesses and homes are to be bulldozed. More noise, smog, and high-speed traffic would pass through Knoxville’s oldest neighborhoods.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published quietly in 2002. Only one comment was received from the general public. Local Sierra Club leaders never received notice of the project or any public hearings on it. But in recent weeks Sierrans and others including the new KnoxBLVD group have become informed and vocal. They are giving TDOT plenty of input—perhaps more than the agency was ready for.

Sierra Club activists held a news conference at a public hearing for the project’s final design on June 26, 2003, in Knoxville and called on TDOT to suspend work on the reconstruction while the agency prepares a Supplemental EIS to evaluate a wide range of alternatives to the proposed project.

At the Club’s request, the agency granted an extension of the comment period until August 6, 2003, and committed to a (yet unscheduled) second public hearing. No word from TDOT yet on whether a Supplemental EIS will be prepared, but there now is more time for the public to comment before a decision is made.

Historic Preservation and I-40

In recent years, many historic Knoxville neighborhoods have enjoyed a renaissance of “re-inhabitation.” Following a national trend, residents have restored many Victorian-era homes.

Longer commutes and heavier traffic between the sprawling subdivisions on the westside and downtown have led many middle-class people to seek the “new-old” life-style of the historic, close-in neighborhoods. The results of this movement are stunning and can be seen in block after block of freshly painted gingerbread houses, well-maintained flower gardens and lots of foot traffic on the sidewalks.

But a significant problem faces many re-inhabitants on a daily basis. It’s the constant drone of honking, soot-belching diesel trucks on the elevated I-40 through the neighborhoods, and the frustration of not being able to go somewhere without going out of the way to circumnavigate the freeway underpasses. I-40 itself was partly responsible for the neighborhoods’ decline in years past.

Many residents are realizing that the restoration of his-

toric Knoxville will never be complete, nor can the full potential of the restoration movement in this city ever be fulfilled, so long as this huge concrete barrier to pedestrians and other traffic and movement in and out of downtown remains standing.

Safety on the Roads

TDOT has long recognized that I-40 through downtown Knoxville is a major problem for motorists. Some engineers say the structure was obsolete the day it opened.

The proposed project includes completely rebuilding and widening a 2.5 mile stretch of I-40 from James White Parkway (SR-158) east to Cherry Street interchange. Three continuous lanes of I-40 traffic each direction and two lanes of traffic each direction parallel to I-40, providing long transitions between the Interstate and SR-158 are proposed, for a total of ten lanes.

In addition, the northern terminus of SR-158 with I-40 is to be rebuilt over the Old City (Knoxville’s only historic business and entertainment district) and widened. A parallel, new five-lane bridge will be constructed over the Old City for local traffic only. The new and expanded bridges will cast a larger, wider permanent shadow over portions of the Old City.

These major roadway upgrades are justified by TDOT on the basis of improving safety for motorists on the highways. There are serious traffic bottlenecks and dangerous ramp transitions on I-40 today. But the agency plans to do nothing to address the unsafe conditions until the reconstruction is finished—at least six years and perhaps a decade or more into the future. Meanwhile, an average of one accident every other day occurs on the downtown freeway, sometimes with deadly results.

Sierra Club and other groups are calling on TDOT to implement safety measures immediately, including requiring “through” truck traffic to use the I-640 Knoxville Bypass. Traffic-calming measures such as reduced speed limits, on-ramp metering, improved lighting and warning signs—to name a few—are also needed.

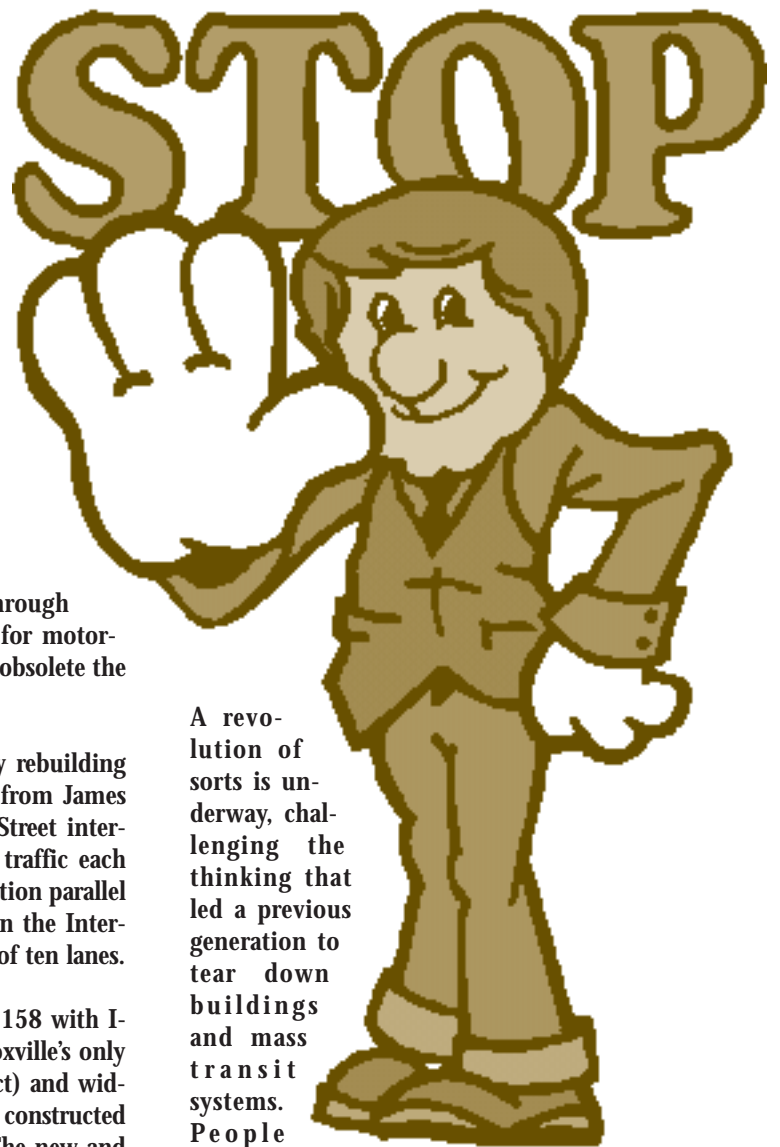
This segment of I-40 is known to many as the “most dangerous stretch of Interstate in Tennessee.” It’s been the scene of hundreds of accidents in recent years. The concrete railings are crumbling in many places. So it’s perhaps no surprise, then, that the notion of tearing down the old four-lane is popular. The disagreement lies in what should be done once the old structure comes down.

Revitalizing the Inner City with a Wrecking Ball

In the 1960’s many urban core areas were destroyed under the federal Urban Renewal program. Homes and businesses were demolished for freeways that were intended to make Americans dependent on the automobile. A commonly held view was that “old” was bad and “new” was good. Interstate highways were by definition, then, good. If old buildings and neighborhoods had to be removed to make room for highways, then that was acceptable.

America has come a long way in thirty years. Many who watched the wrecking ball take away many of the landmarks that made their cities unique have come to see progress through a very different lens.

As transportation costs have risen and congestion is seemingly worse than ever, many urban dwellers have put down roots in places that narrowly escaped Urban Renewal, looking for a better way to live and work. Not necessarily a mere coincidence, interest in historic preservation has increased dramatically.



A revolution of sorts is underway, challenging the thinking that led a previous generation to tear down buildings and mass transit systems. People today are questioning the vehicular values that were unquestioned and unquestionable only scant years ago.

As historic neighborhoods are re-inhabited, the obvious next step is to restore our pre-freeway transportation and travel routes. We are faced with a choice between a landscape designed for autos and trucks and one designed for pedestrians, bicyclists, and bus riders.

Milwaukee’s Best

In April 2003, the Mayor of the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, announced the demolition of Interstate 43, the Park East Freeway. Eight blocks of prime urban real estate had just been freed for development and redevelopment by tearing down an Interstate highway. This project will result in a downtown building boom on what is to become a tree-lined boulevard.

Demolition of San Francisco’s Embarcadero Freeway along the city’s waterfront and the Crosstown Freeway through a residential area have resulted in dramatic increases in property values. Attractive neighborhoods have replaced crack houses. Oakland’s I-880 Freeway was relocated out of a predominantly African-American neighborhood, onto industrial lands a mile away.

The Mayor of Portland, Oregon, is proposing to tear down Interstate 5 through that city’s downtown and reroute through traffic onto the current I-205 loop farther east.

A key factor in all these freeway removal projects, however, is a renewed commitment by citizens and governments to make public transportation work. Stricter land use controls are needed to discourage auto use in inner cities and give residents and workers strong incentives to ride the bus or patronize their light rail systems.

Planning for the Future: Thinking about the Past

Groups like KnoxBLVD and Sierra Club are working on a plan that will result in improved mass transit for all Knoxville residents and commuters, and mitigate the impacts of increased truck traffic on I-640. We want all neighborhoods in Knoxville to be walkable, livable, accessible, and enjoyable places to live.

Whatever is done with the old I-40, city residents will be involved and engaged in the planning process with

[Continued on page 7]

Outings

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)

Saturday-Sunday, August 9 & 10 - Backpack - Shining Rocks Wilderness, NC - Sure, this is the third time for a HBG outing to Shin-



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. These are:

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!

ing Rocks in a month. But can you think of a better place to avoid the heat and humidity that engulfs the Tennessee Valley this time of year? Can you think of more spectacular views, or better blueber-

ries? Well, we couldn't either. And we bet that you have never approached lovely Flower Gap from Graveyard Fields. This is a particularly interesting route into a lovely camping area. The hike is mostly on an old road bed, and it affords great views of the peaks that surround this wilderness area. If Flower Gap is crowded, we can move on to other campsites nearby. A car shuttle will give us the chance to descend the North Prong of Shining Creek. Sign up early, as we are limiting attendance to 12 for this trip. Pre-register with Roger Jenkins, (865) 690-3257 (h), (865) 574-4871 (w); email: mcdonaldjenkins@twohikers.org.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

August 5 7:00 p.m. - REI Backpacking Clinic - Katherine Pendleton will be giving a presentation on Backpacking Nutrition. Find out new ideas for fueling your body while burning high levels of calories during backpacking. This clinic will be held at REI in Brentwood, TN. Contact REI at 615-376-4248 to register. This clinic is FREE!

August 23 - Membership Social-Shakespeare In the Park - Let's get together and see this year's Shakespeare In the Park rendition of "Romeo and Juliet." Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and meet at 6:00 p.m. in Centennial Park. This is a fun way to spend an evening with other Sierrans. Contact Katherine Pendleton for more information and to R.S.V.P. at 615-943-6877 or email Adelicia1@aol.com.

August 29-September 1 - Labor Day Weekend GSMNP Backpack - Let's explore the Old Settler's trail in the Smokies and see remnants of mountain life. We'll car camp Friday night at Cosby campground and go to supper at a local restaurant called The Front Porch where they have a Bluegrass band on Friday nights. Saturday morning we'll hike Gabe's Mountain trail to campsite 34. Sunday will take us on the Old Settler's trail and we'll spend the night at campsite 33. Monday we'll finish our trip at Greenbrier Cove. Total mileage 22.4 miles. Rated easy to moderate. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or email Adelicia1@aol.com

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

TRAIL WORK - As you may know, the State of Franklin Group has adopted the section of Appalachian Trail which winds through the beautiful Big Laurel Branch Wilderness (BLBW), just west of Watauga Lake. The use of power tools is prohibited in such designated wilderness areas and for this reason some members of trail maintenance groups actually oppose the protections that wilderness designation provides. We can show our support for wilderness by performing necessary and timely maintenance in the BLBW and perhaps, with enough support, adopt other wilderness trails. In addition to BLBW, we do trail work on other sections of the AT & in Johnson City Parks, as well as various other projects. Volunteers are needed. No prior experience is necessary and you may work at your own pace. As with all SOFG Sierra Club Outings everyone is welcome, so bring your friends.

See the monthly schedule below.

1st Saturday - Appalachian Trail Maintenance at BLBW.

3rd Saturday - Appalachian Trail Maintenance at BLBW or other AT sections with the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club.

Last Saturday - Trail Maintenance at one of Johnson City's Parks, such as Buffalo Mountain Park, Winged Deer Park or Willow Springs Park.

3rd Wednesday - Various Projects. For details & to sign up contact John Arwood 423-926-9876 Trail_Work_Play@hotmail.com

To be informed of upcoming outings via email send a brief note to: Trail_Work_Play@hotmail.com

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

First Aid /CPR - While there is a summer break from outings, consider the American Red Cross is offering First Aid /CPR classes at its headquarters at 1400 Central Avenue in Memphis. The cost is \$45.00 and payment must be made to secure your reservation. However, if you lead two outings, the Chickasaw Group will reimburse you. For more information, contact Outings Chair Judith Hammond at (901) 276-2819 or at jhammond.tnpro@sdps.org.

DISCLAIMER:

The following activities are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. They are published only as a service to our members. The Sierra Club makes no representation or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of these activities. 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 Old Forest Trail. "Second Saturday Hikes." There will be no guided hikes in the Old Forest in July and August. Hikes will resume on the second Saturday in September. Of course, you are welcome on your own, to explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America and learn about the forest's history, identify big trees and wildflowers and observe firsthand the impact of natural and human forces on forests in an urban setting. The informative and entertaining trail map to the self-guided mile-and-a-quarter mile 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.



Join the Nashville Recycling Team!

Any good friend of the earth who can donate 2 or 3 hours any Saturday morning can join the fun at our Kroger Elysian Fields Recycling Site. We need you! AND, your efforts directly contribute to the environmental campaigns of your local Middle Tennessee Group.

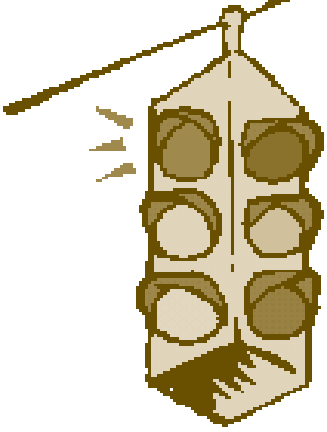
To volunteer call David Bordenkircher at 333-3377 or email dabordenkircher@mindspring.com

Thank You!!



Knoxville Citizens Tell TDOT to "Put the Brakes On"

By David Orr



[Continued from page 5]

TDOT in a way that has never happened before in Tennessee. As of this year, it is clear that the days are gone when the agency showed up at the door with a bulldozer.

Residents are mobilizing and discussing how to implement some truly revolutionary changes in the way we think about our cities and the way we get to where we need to go.

Thirty years ago, the Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter and other grassroots groups made national news in Memphis when a citizen lawsuit permanently blocked I-40 from slicing through the majestic old-growth forests of the city's Overton Park and through the adjacent neighborhood's historic homes. Citizen action saved a vital urban space from destruction, and dis-

proved the dire predictions that forcing I-40 around the perimeter of the city would result in economic chaos. Today midtown Memphis is a showplace and no one questions the wisdom and leadership of activists who stood up to TDOT to protect their quality of life.

Knoxville was not so lucky as Memphis. For years the indignity of this misplaced roadway has stuck at the very heart of the city's identity. But suddenly Knoxville is poised to rise to national leadership with a bold campaign to overhaul an outdated, auto-oriented transportation system. There is growing interest and support for putting I-40 in its place. Will you join the effort and help make this dream a reality?

Here's What You Can Do:

- Write a letter to the Federal Highway Administration and copy it to TDOT and Sierra Club. Ask that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared for the I-40 reconstruction.

- Tell FHWA that you support a study of a full range of alternatives to the proposed rebuild of I-40. In particular you want a study of relocating I-40 to the existing I-640, and restoration of the current I-40 route to the original city street grid between James White Parkway and Cherry Street. Finally, emphasize that mitigation of air and noise pollution impacts are

needed, as are mass transit improvements to address traffic congestion, and all should be addressed in detail in the new EIS for this project.

A sample letter is available on request. Please email <davidorr@kornet.org> with the Subject line "TDOT sample letter request."

Send your comments to:

Mr. Mark Doctor
Field Operations Team Leader
Federal Highway Administration
640 Grassmere Park Road, Suite 112
Nashville, TN 37211
mark.doctor@fhwa.dot.gov

Copy your letter to:

Mr. Gerald Nicely
Commissioner of Transportation
Tennessee Department of Transportation
James K. Polk Building, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37243

And please send a copy to:

David Orr
830 Maplehurst Court, #30
Knoxville, TN 37902
davidorr@kornet.org

Scripting to Deceive

COACHING REPUBLICANS TO SOUND GOOD ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The chief architect of Newt Gingrich's Contract with America is at it again. This time pollster Frank Luntz is advising Republicans how to sound good, but not how to be good, on the environment.

Luntz has dedicated 16 pages in his message book "Straight Talk," to the environment, which Luntz calls "the single issue on which Republicans in general—and President Bush in particular—are most vulnerable." The New York Times explained, "Luntz's remedy is not to change the policy, but to dress it up in warm and fuzzy words."

Republicans began this strategy last fall,

when candidates who wouldn't normally campaign on their environmental records, like New Hampshire Senate hopeful John Sununu and Colorado Senator Wayne Allard, did. Their campaigns publicized their one or two good environmental vote and ignored their true record of anti-environmental votes in Congress.

Luntz's goal is to shatter the "caricature" that the Republicans are in the pockets of corporate fat cats and sinister companies that "pollute America for fun and profit." In order to cloud the "prism of suspicion" with which voters view Republican lawmakers, Luntz advises them to:

Assure a skeptical public that you care, "tell personal stories" that illustrate your connectedness to the environment.

Use language that reassures the public, like "preserve," "protect," "safer," "cleaner," and "healthier."

Say you are seeking a fair "balance" between the environment and economy.

Talk about ways to improve the environment in the future. (Bush's hydrogen car initiative is an example: Here's a solution to oil dependency that won't kick in for 16 years so we don't have to tackle it now.)

Champion national parks and forests.

Claim that there is scientific uncertainty

even when the evidence shows otherwise, as is the case with global warming.

So how does the Sierra Club expose these efforts to deceive?

Start with our core values, including protecting our families' health and safety. To counter the administration's so-called "Clear Skies Initiative," make an example of a specific local community that will be left at risk from continued or increased air pollution that triggers asthma attacks and causes lung disease. Explain that the

Clean Air Act has been extremely effective in cleaning up the air and that compared to enforcing the law, the Bush plan would permit 50 percent more sulfur dioxide pollution and 200 percent more toxic mercury from coal fired power plants, threatening the health of children and pregnant women.

Promote existing solutions. The Clean Air and Clean Water Acts are working now—why are they being weakened? We can begin to decrease our dependence of fossil fuels now—if we increase fuel economy standards; invest in wind and solar energy.

Talk about corporations' responsibility to protect our health and safety. The "polluter pays" argument resonates with voters. The fact that Bush won't reauthorize the law that forces polluters to pay for the cleanup of toxic sites and shifts costs to the taxpayer outrages citizens because it's not fair and big business is shirking its responsibility.

Emphasize pattern and history of votes. The record of a candidate who has voted 12 times to strengthen clean air will trump the one anomalous vote cast by the "greenscammer."

ADAPTED FROM A SIERRA CLUB PRESENTATION BY MARGARET CONWAY AND KIM HADDOW. FOR A FULL ANALYSIS, GO TO WWW.SIERRACLUB.ORG/LUNTZ

- John Byrne Barry 04/11/2003

State of Franklin Group (Tri-Cities) Needs Outing Leaders

SOFG needs volunteers to help with the effort to offer a schedule of year around outings. There are numerous possibilities for fun & informative outings, a great form of outreach to our membership & would-be members, such as:

Day Hikes (leisurely to fast paced)
Overnight/Multi-Day Backpacking
Campground Based Camping
Trips to Points of Interest
Interpretative Walks (flora, fauna, geology, history, etc.)
Family Oriented (with kids, single parents, etc.)
Star/Moon/Meteor Gazing
Development of Wilderness Skills
Trail Work
Tree Planting/Restoration Work [combinations of the above]

If you have an interest in helping to promote a love & understanding of our natural environment within others, through SOFG Sierra Club outings, please contact: John Arwood - SOFG Outings Chair - 423-926-9876
Trail_Work_PLay@hotmail.com

**INVITATION TO NOMINATE
FOR CHAPTER AWARDS**

At our annual Fall Family Meeting at Pickett State Park in October, the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club is proud to present awards to those who have worked tirelessly to preserve our natural heritage.

We invite members to nominate deserving persons for the following awards:

1. The Sarah Hines Award goes to a Sierra Club member who has worked above and beyond in performing volunteer service to the Club, to the Chapter, and to conservation efforts in Tennessee.

Sarah Hines was a Memphis woman who was in the forefront of the fight to stop TDOT and other agencies from cutting I-40 through Overton Park. In spite of contracting cancer while still involved in the struggle to save the park, she never gave up until her disease overcame her. This is a very important award that is not, and should not, be given lightly.

2. The Mack Prichard Award is named for state naturalist and environmental champion Mack Prichard. This award goes to a person (who may or may not be a Sierra Club member) for important conservation work that is not necessarily on behalf of the Club. This prestigious award is given to someone who, like Mack himself, has diligently defended the natural treasures of our state.

3. The Unsung Hero Award goes to one of the many people who may not hold an elective office or may not be the one who gets the publicity, but who works behind the scenes to get things done. This may be the person who arranges the mailing parties, organizes the outings, schedules the programs, meets with legislators, folds, staples, cooks, writes newsletter articles – you get the picture.

4. The Award of Appreciation goes to someone in public service, such as a legislator, city council member, or government employee who has supported conservation causes in Tennessee. More than one person may receive this award.

We all enjoy being recognized for the work we do. There are many out there who have worked hard to protect our environment and who deserve one of these awards, but it can't happen unless YOU send us your nominations on the form below.

Please complete and mail by September 23 to Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville 37215. If you prefer to e-mail your nomination, send a request to adelleintn@juno.com.

Please do not send a name without the other information requested.

Thank you!

The nomination committee- Adelle Wood, Clark Buchner, Bonita Barger

NOMINATION FOR SIERRA CLUB AWARD TENNESSEE CHAPTER

1. Name of Award (Circle One)

Unsung Hero Sarah Hines Mack Prichard Award of Appreciation

2. Name of Nominee _____

3. Which Group Affiliated With? _____

4. Approximate length of Sierra Club membership, if known _____

5. Any offices held, committees, etc. at group, chapter or national level _____

6. Reasons why your nominee should receive this award _____

Please continue on reverse if necessary. Thank you !

**Nashville Davidson County
Election 2003**

Endorsed by the Middle Tennessee Group of
the Sierra Club

For Mayor
The Honorable Bill Purcell

Council At Large
David Briley
Diane Neighbors

Council District 6
Mike Jameson



Council District 7
Erik Cole

Council District 18
Ginger Hausser

Council District 24
John Summers

Council District 25
Jim Shulman



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