

# Tennessee-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 35, Number 6 - June, 2004



## Engaging Our Members

### What caused you to join the Sierra Club?

Was it because you were interested in socializing with individuals who, like you, wanted to preserve our natural heritage for future generations to cherish and enjoy? Perhaps you wanted to do something to ensure that you would always be able to take pleasant walks under shade trees, surrounded by sounds of fresh running water and scampering wildlife.

Or maybe you were feeling frustrated by legislative actions that threatened our natural areas. Whatever your reasons were for joining, now is a great time to take the next step and get active with the club!

The Sierra Club is introducing a new national program aimed at Engaging Our Members (EOM) in building environmental communities. With current legislation threatening thirty years of environmental progress, our planet's air, water, wilderness and wildlife have rarely been in more urgent need of our protection.

Geared towards achieving fundamental and lasting social change, EOM is a return to our grassroots power, aimed at energizing and mobilizing club members through conservation education and skills attainment that will enable us to better carry out the Sierra Club's mission.

EOM is designed to be used in small groups in comfortable settings and encourages discussion and relationship-building among our members. Please join us for food and lively conversation in this exciting new outreach effort! Written materials will get us thinking and talking about the issues that are important to all of us. Action items will be available at the end of the evening, should you decide to become more involved with the club's conservation agenda. At the very least, you'll meet some interesting new people and have a stimulating evening. We hope to see you soon! Our first EOM events will take place in the near future, and space is limited, so please contact your respective Group EOM Organizer now for more information or to RSVP:

Chickasaw Group: Judith Rutchman, [rutchman@rhodes.edu](mailto:rutchman@rhodes.edu)

Harvey Broome Group: Axel Ringe, [onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net)

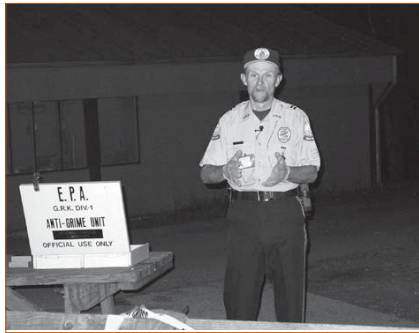
Middle TN Group: Shelli Dimarco, [globalpeace04@hotmail.com](mailto:globalpeace04@hotmail.com)

State of Franklin Group: Linda Modica, [LCModica@aol.com](mailto:LCModica@aol.com)

Upper Cumberland Group: Peggy Evans, [maevans@twlakes.net](mailto:maevans@twlakes.net)

Cherokee Group: Terry Miller, [trmcha@comcast.net](mailto:trmcha@comcast.net)

## Earth Cop Deputizes Tennessee Chapter Spring Meeting Attendees



Attendees of the Spring Chapter Retreat and Meeting became Deputy Earth Cops. Their trainer was none other than The Earth Cop himself - Leif Myczack, who is also the Tennessee Riverkeeper. Due to the demands on his time as a result of polluters' pressure on the environment of Tennessee and Mother Earth, Earth Cop had to compress his ten-week training course into thirty minutes. He admitted this removes the "in-the-field" training he likes to do, but he had no choice. He gave all of the Deputy trainees the "quick and dirty-hit



the basics" training course, then he deputized the enthusiastic members. He was in the process of administering the oath when his communicator beeped - polluters and despoilers were ravaging another section of Tennessee and he needed ASAP. Earth Cop finished swearing everyone in, then stated, "no rest for the weary." With a wail of his vehicle's siren, he vanished into the night. To these polluters and despoilers of the environment of Tennessee, fair warning,



there are numbers of highly trained Deputy Earth Cops all over Tennessee with their eyes open, cameras close by, and Notice of Violation citations at the ready. Those locations and numbers are classified information, but they are growing daily.

Top Photo - The Earth Cop presenting a talk on environmental safety. One must be safe around polluted sites. Gloves should be worn to protect one's hands.

Middle Photo - An attentive group of trainees listens to the practical wisdom of an experienced Earth Cop.

Bottom Photo - Some of the new Deputy Earth Cops, Left to Right:

Mary Mastin, Brian Paddock, Alice Green, Charlie Rond, Christopher Anderson, Jeff Barrie, and David Orr. Sasha the Labrador Retriever's role is classified to know" basis.

Photos by James Baker



Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet



# Ten Common Sense Solutions We Can Implement Now

A combination of common sense, commitment, and American ingenuity will enable the country to solve its environmental dilemmas. A combination of technology, enforcement and forward-looking political leadership will protect our children's natural inheritance.

## TODAY...

### 1) Build and drive more fuel-efficient cars, trucks and SUVs.

We can reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil, cut air pollution and our disproportionate 25% contribution to the global warming problem, slash our trade deficit, and save money at the gas pump by improving the technology of the vehicles we drive.

The technology already exists. Even without converting our fleet to hybrid technology, the "freedom package" (an already available combination of more efficient engines, continuously variable transmissions, combined starter-alternators and lighter, stronger high tech body materials) would enable a Ford Explorer, which now gets 19 mpg, to get 35 mpg, with no loss of room, height or power - if Ford would only offer the package.

### 2) Build a twenty first century energy industry, and re-industrialize America in doing so.

Adopt a clean energy policy that conserves energy, uses renewable power sources such as wind and solar energy to generate electricity, and creates jobs. The Apollo Project, for example, is an alternative energy vision launched by a group of labor unions led by the Steelworkers, the Machinists, and the Electrical Workers. The Project calls for investing \$300 billion over 10 years into a new clean energy economy, one based on innovation and efficiency. It envisages major investments in high performance building, more efficient factories, more energy efficient appliances and better mass transit as well as more efficient hybrid vehicles. While this \$300 billion is only a fraction of what America spends in a single year on imported oil, economic modeling showed that these programs could create 3 million new manufacturing jobs.

### 3) Install modern air pollution control equipment on old power plants, refineries and factories.

Pollution control equipment has been proven to be very effective in cutting power plant emissions - emissions that cause at least 30,000 deaths from respiratory illness and 600,000 asthma attacks a year. Forcing industry to use today's technology will save lives, clean up the air, and keep a commitment made 30 years ago. Let's get America's dirtiest power plants to clean up their emissions.

### 4) Restore the principle of "Polluter Pays."

Getting the Superfund program back up and running, and getting the polluters, not taxpayers, to pay for it, are the first steps. The cleanup of abandoned toxic dump sites was largely funded by a tax on oil, chemical and a general corporate excise tax - which expired in 1995. The cleanup trust fund ran out of polluter money in 2003, so now taxpayers are bearing the costs. Cleanups have been slowed by half in the last few years and there are still 1200 sites threatening the health of our communities. If we can restore the tax, force polluters to clean up the messes they made, and return to the rate of cleaning up 80 of these sites a year, all of America's toxic dump sites can be cleaned up in 15 years.

### 5) Reinstate the environmental standards that protected our National Forests, rivers, wetlands, wildlife habitat and public lands.

On January 21, 2001 the Bush administration rescinded protections of our most prized possessions - our public lands and waters - and opened up million of acres to the oil and gas, mining and logging companies. Our special places should be for all Americans. Put protections back in place.

### 6) Put the environmental cop back on the beat and save lives and money.

Stop cutting funding for the Environmental Protection Agency and enforcement of our clean air and water laws. Put the government back in the business of fulfilling its unique role of inspecting, monitoring and punishing polluters. "Voluntary compliance" is not always the answer.

The benefit of protecting our health and the environment, particularly reducing air pollution, far outweighs the costs. Environmental rules from the past ten years have generated as much as \$230 billion in benefits (such as reduced sickness and lost work time), yet the rules cost only between \$36 and \$42 billion this according to the White House Office of Management and Budget.

### 7) Save and Restore our Forests.

Focus the Forest Service on what ought to be Job One -- protecting communities from fire. Redirect money now spent on logging our National Forests to fire prevention, specifically to creating Community Protection Zones -- a half mile area around homes or towns that need to be cleared of brush and small trees to reduce the risk of wildfire.

Simultaneously let's phase out the Forest Service's commercial timber program, and begin to manage our National Forest System exclusively for public benefits like wildlife, recreation and watershed protection. Most of America's best commercial timber land is already in private hands. We don't need to log our National Forests to meet our need for timber.

### 8) Keep the promise Congress made when it authorized oil and gas drilling off our coasts.

Our coasts are not only rich in the economic uses they provide for most Americans, such as fishing, tourism, and recreation, but also rich in habitat. Use the royalties from those activities to fund the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund which purchases and protects wild lands and wildlife habitat.

### 9) Finish the job of separating storm water and sewage, and deal with the problem of toxic run-off from farms, factory animal feed lot operations, logging and development.

The water treatment programs of the Clean Water Act were one of the great environmental success stories of the 1970's and 1980's, but we still have thousands of beach closures every year because of inadequately treated sewage. One third of our waterways still have not met the swimmable and fishable standards of the Clean Water Act, and there is a huge backlog of unmet sewage treatment needs in many of our older cities. Let's keep protections in place and enforce and fund water cleanup measures.

### 10) Rejoin the world.

The rest of the world is waiting for the US to join the coalition of the environmentally willing. We should go back to the Kyoto Protocol table to help shape a plan to protect the planet from global warming. We ought to join, not block, such international initiatives as the proposed Convention to Reduce the Emissions of Mercury, an international treaty to protect rain forests, and agreements on how to stop the over-fishing of the world's oceans. We must work to undo NAFTA, GATT and other trade agreements that ignore the necessity of elevating and exporting environmental protections.

Caty Butcher  
1212 Ordway Place  
Nashville, TN 37206  
cell: 347-1480

## Announcement of Job Opening

The Mississippi River Basin Alliance (MRBA) is hiring a full-time Executive Director (ED) for our Minneapolis office. Location and part-time work are considerations based upon experience and skills. The ED is responsible for the administration, management and supervision of all MRBA business and communications operations, membership services and program activities, subject to the direction of the MRBA Coordinating Council (Council). MRBA is a coalition of over 150 grassroots organizations representing diverse communities throughout the basin, with offices and staff in Minneapolis, St. Louis and New Orleans. MRBA's mission is to protect and restore the environmental health and diversity of the Mississippi River System and the diverse communities that depend on it.

### Job Description:

The ED will report to the MRBA Coordinating Council (Board of Directors) on a regular basis and will work closely with the President, Council Committees and Staff to develop and implement MRBA policy objectives and outreach activities that are consistent with MRBA's mission and MRBA by-laws. Working as an organizational team, the Council, ED and staff will plan and implement MRBA's policy agenda. Given the geographic size of the Mississippi River Basin, the diversity of MRBA member organizations and the comprehensive program objectives that MRBA has undertaken, the ED position requires travel and the ability to work with diverse economic, cultural and ethnic communities on complex issues.

The ED will collaborate with the Council to lead change, achieve results to further MRBA mission and goals, build relationships with Council, staff, volunteers, members, donors and external stakeholders, manage the organization including administration, staff, fundraising, finance and

technology and represent the organization to the community.

### Requirements:

Candidate's must demonstrate both the capacity to lead the staff, work independently and the capacity to work well in a team oriented working environment. Candidates must also demonstrate excellent written, oral and inter-personal communication skills and the ability to develop and manage work plans and program activities. Experience developing an organization and staff are essential. Experience in community organizing, program development, strategic planning, government/legislative process, public education/media, public speaking, knowledge of natural resources and the environment and working with ethnically, economically and politically diverse constituencies will strengthen a candidates standing. Candidates should have a bachelor or an advanced degree and at least four years experience in outreach or organizing for environmental, political, or other advocacy organization.

Continued on page 8



# Meetings

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Tuesday, June 8, 2004, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. "Rankin Bottoms is the closest I've been to the Louisiana delta where I grew up in years. The mud is not backshot but it is slick and black. There are no cypress trees, but willows rise from the water and buttbush hugs the shore. Carp stand on their heads in the muddy water, their tails waving in the air. Herons and egrets fill the willows and wade in the shallows. Cicadas sing from the treetops in the heat." - from Smoky Mountain News Outdoors (8/28/2002). If this piques your interest, come to the June program meeting and found out more as Michael Sledjeski and Leslie Gibbens present a slide show about this Cocke County conservation jewel. Call Priscilla Warts at 865-966-4142 for more information.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Tuesday June 22, 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 Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840 for more information.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Thursday, (June 10) at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.)

### "Effective Road Building Project/Policy Advocacy - One Person's Opinion about What Does and Doesn't Work"

James Weaver, a partner with Nashville's largest law firm, Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, represents commercial and industry interests across the state with respect to the governmental and environmental aspects of new project development. James was lead outside counsel to the new state lottery during its start-up phase and is outside counsel to the state's Road Builder Association. Please join us for a lively discussion! Light refreshments will be provided. (Feel free to bring your own re-usable cup.) For more information on this program, contact Shelli Dimarco at globalpeace04@hotmail.com or call (615) 260-0030. Non-members are always welcome!

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Wednesday, (June 23) at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are first 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 Avenue South (the old St. Bernard Academy Building). We meet on the 4th floor. 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 Christopher Anderson at sustainurworld@comcast.net. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Katherine Pendleton at Katibug1959@aol.com or call 943-6877.

## 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.

## STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

**POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** First Mon-

day of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. All SOFG members are encouraged to get active now to help us organize for environmental victory in November! FMI: Dan Grace, Political Committee Chair, (423) 926-7035, dangrace@worldnet.att.net.

**STRATEGY MEETINGS:** Second Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. These Executive Committee/Conservation meetings are open to everyone interested in helping to protect upper east TN's air, water, forests & family farms. To place an item on the agenda, or for directions to the Church, please contact Linda Modica, Group Chair, (423) 753-9697, lmodica@aol.com.

**PROGRAM MEETINGS:** Fourth Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Programs on environmental issues, travel, nature photography are among the many topics featured at SOFG program meetings. FMI: Mary Gavlik, Vice Chair, (423) 434-9535, mlgav@yahoo.com.

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Thursday June 24th at 7:00 PM. at Greenway Farms (5051 Hamill Road) in Hixson. Susan Faidley (a certified Leave No Trace instructor) will be speaking on proper etiquette while hiking, camping, and/or backpacking in the woods. Come find out important information on how you can become more responsible in your outdoor adventures. For additional information, contact Rick Gehrke 423-843-9625 or email rick.gehrke@comcast.net

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING:** Thursday, June 3, 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 <jdjhnstn@memphis.edu> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Monday, June 14, 6:30 p.m. - University of Memphis Alumni Center, 635 Normal Street, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Charlie Rond <chasrond@bellsouth.net> (by June 9 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150 for more information.

**THIRD THURSDAY GATHERING:** Thursday, June 17, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Café Francisco, 400 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "THIRD 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 <jdjhnstn@memphis.edu> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Wednesday, June 23, 2004 - 7:00 p.m. - Memphis and Shelby County Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. Membership Chair Jill Johnston will lead a "how-to" presentation on car camping. From a minimalist camping trip, to an extravagant journey into the outdoors, this presentation will offer a list of must-bring items and information on how to get the most out of a great camping trip. Program Meetings are scheduled every month on the fourth Wednesday. Contact Teri Sullivan at email tsullivan5@midssouth.rr.com, or (901) 320-7191 for more information.

**TELEVISION PROGRAM:** Every Monday at 1:30pm, Tuesday at 4:00pm and Wednesday at 11:30am, CST, The Library Channel, Memphis Cable 18, WYPL, "The Nature of Conservation" is sponsored by the Sierra Club. For June, host Judith Rutschman interviews Chickasaw Group Chair Charlie Rond on issues and programs that are important to the Sierra Club. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the

month. 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 <RUTSCHMAN@rhodes.edu> at (901) 767-5916.

## Sign on to Save Our Smokies!

To subscribe to the Greater Smoky Mountains Coalition (a.k.a. Save Our Smokies - SOS) listserve, just send a blank email to:

**Greater Smoky Mountains\_Coalition-subscribe@yahoo.com**

You will receive a subscription confirmation message. Just reply to the confirmation message, and your subscription will be complete.

If you run into any difficulties, just email Liz Dixon at dixonacs.utk.edu

## Now 2 Shirts to Choose From!

### Sierra Club John Muir Quote T's - NEW!

Mountain stream picture with John Muir quote "There is nothing more eloquent in nature than a mountain stream"

Sizes:



Medium - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Large - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
 X-large - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
 XX-large - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total \$ - John Muir quote t-shirts = \_\_\_\_\_

### Save Our Smokies T's

Shirt features a montage of very special shots from our Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Sizes:



Small - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medium - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Large - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
 X-large - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
 XX-large - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total \$ - Save Our Smokies t-shirts = \_\_\_\_\_

### Total T-shirt order

Grand Total (from above) = \_\_\_\_\_  
 + Shipping & Handling @ \$3/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Enclosed = \_\_\_\_\_

### Ship to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards. Please make check payable to Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club and mail to: Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club, 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436 - Nashville, TN 37212

\*\*\*\*\*

If you would like to be active in the Save Our Smokies campaign, please contact Beverly Smith at 865/531-8480 or blsmith1300@comcast.com  
 Your help would be greatly appreciated!

# Chickasaw Group News

Compiled by various members

**Wildflower Hike at Shelby Forest** - The wildflowers were prolific, but only around the Visitors Center at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park on the recent Wildflower Hike led by Charlie Rond. Purple Coneflowers, Showy Evening Primrose, Lizard's Tail, Southern Blue Flag and a yellow bloom somewhat like a Missouri Evening Primrose were blooming in profusion in several large patches planted around the Visitors Center. The majority of blossoms or fruit had disappeared from the wildflowers in the forest, save for Daisy Fleabane, Indian Strawberries, small apples on the May Apple plants, and small bell-like blooms on the Solomon Shields.

There were six of us on the hike, most of them Sierrans and members of Tennessee Trails Association (TTA), and a teacher, on the hike along the bottomland portion of the Woodland Trail. Although the forecast was questionable, the hikers did not have to contend with rain, and temperatures remained cool under cloudy skies. The brightest member of the hike was Jamaica, Carolyn Pierce's well-walked dog, who loves outings as much as her owner. At various spots along the hike, Jamaica seemed to be suddenly energized (or possessed) to run at breakneck speed in large circles through the trees and across creeks. Having been on other hikes with the Pierces and Jamaica I knew it was her custom and part of her (and our) enjoyment.

There were some muddy spots along the trail, although the previous day's rain had not left the trail excessively muddy, and the trail has been improved by adding boardwalks along some of the low sections. We stopped for lunch at the Woodland Trail Shelter, which is on the bluff at about the halfway point along the trail. We returned along the same route, passing Horsetails, Wild Ginger, Stinging Nettles and ever-present Poison Ivy.

All agreed they enjoyed the hike, although wildflowers really had to be seen and appreciated at the Visitors Center.

**McKellar Lake Clean-Up** - The McKellar Lake clean up in Memphis was another success. Scott Dye, the national Water Sentinels Director, and 24 volunteers worked for two hours to pick up an estimated 500 pounds of urban flotsam and jetsam across an area 200 yards long by 30 yards deep. Two departments of Memphis government, City Beautiful and the Storm Water Department deserve a "thank you" for their planning and asking James Baker, of the Tennessee Water Sentinels to help in their efforts. Many thanks to the Job Corps, the Girl Scouts and the Sierra Club, whose volunteers gave of a hot Saturday in early May to pick up trash.

Most of the real weight in the trash that was collected was in



the form of nine old tires, four complete with rims. Getting these out of the environment is good, as we all know that old tires make great places for mosquitoes to hatch out and get their start in life. With West Nile virus confirmed to exist in Memphis, all the old tires that can be removed from the environment, results in fewer mosquitoes to annoy us this summer, or transmit this potentially fatal disease.

While the volunteers found nothing unusual, this trash was, by volume, about 50 percent recyclable plastic and some glass. Aluminum cans were not common. What could be the reason? One possible answer, aluminum cans are worth a significant amount of money for people that scour the streets picking up cans. On the other hand, plastic is not worth much on a per-pound basis and it takes many plastic containers to be worth someone's time and effort to pick up.

As previously stated, the volunteers picked up this trash across a relatively small area of McKellar Lake's 21 miles of shoreline. If the trash and debris is at the same density along this entire distance, there is good likelihood of a staggering 92,000 pounds of trash around this lake.

This amount of material getting into the environment needs to be stopped at the source, and the key is a container deposit law or "bottle bill". The legislators in 11 states have had the courage to stand up to well monied special interests and enact container deposit legislation. Please see, <http://www.bottlebill.org> and you will read about the ongoing

struggle that pits bottle bill proponents and opponents. Could Tennessee be the 12th state with such a law? Could the United States have a national bottle bill? With the efforts of each of us, either could become a reality.

**Top** - A majority of the trash in this photo is recyclable plastic beverage containers. Photo by James Baker

**Second from Top** - Some of the containers and bags of recyclable plastic, glass and aluminum that was collected. Photo by James Baker

**Third from Top** - Collected tires will be sent to the tire shredder, and trash will be sent to landfill. Photo by James Baker

**Bottom** - Volunteers pick up trash and debris at McKellar Lake. At left center, Scott Dye, the national Water Sentinels Director, carries an old tire and a door to a small refrigerator. Photo by James Baker



# 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, June 12-13. Backpack - Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area (VA).** We return to one of the most spectacular hiking areas in the Southeastern United States, the Crest Zone of the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area. Windswept vistas, spectacular blooming rhododendron and the chance to see wild ponies should add to our experience. We will ascend the

Appalachian Trail (AT) from the Fox Creek Trailhead, arriving near the crest the Pine Mountain. We will leave the AT, and traverse the slopes of Pine Mountain, destined for Rhododendron Gap. From there, we will follow a horse trail to Cabin Ridge, and on to an open meadow campsite near a good high country spring. On Sunday, after a short cross-country stroll across open country, we will again return to the AT for a bit, before we slab around the NW face of Mt. Rogers, and return to Highway 603 via the Mt. Rogers Trail. Pre-register with Roger Jenkins, (865) 690-3257 (h), (865) 574-4871 (w); email: [mcdonaldjenkins@twohikers.org](mailto:mcdonaldjenkins@twohikers.org).

**Saturday-Sunday, June 19-20. Backpack, Roan Mountain Highlands.** This will be a two-day backpack on AT northward from Carver's Gap to US 19-E. 13.4 miles. We should enjoy spectacular flowers (hopefully, the rhododendron will still be in bloom) and panoramic vistas from grassy balds of the Roan Highlands. Pre-registration required. John Finger: 865-573-5908; email: [jfinger@utk.edu](mailto:jfinger@utk.edu).

**Friday - Sunday, June 18-20. Car Camp - Grayson Highlands State Park, Virginia.** Join us for a high elevation weekend in this beautiful park adjacent to Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area. We plan to hike the trails around Massey Gap and hopefully see the wild ponies that inhabit the area. The rhododendron should be at their peak! You can hike, bike and maybe have a good campfire on Saturday night. Please pre-register early (sites are limited) with Priscilla Watts, 865-966-4142, [sigmtngirl@earthlink.net](mailto:sigmtngirl@earthlink.net), or Barbara Allen, (865) 558-9214 (H) or 215-5180 (W), email: [b-tallen@email.msn.com](mailto:b-tallen@email.msn.com).

**Saturday, June 19. Day Hike, Upper Bald River - Kirkland Creek to Sandy Gap on TN-NC State Line.** This hike is in one of the finest defacto wilderness areas of the Cherokee National Forest. We hope that when the current president and his staff are out of office, they will be replaced by environmentally responsible officials who will recognize the importance of protecting this and numerous defacto wilderness areas throughout the U.S. Kirkland Creek is a tributary of Bald River that in turn is a tributary of the Tellico River, and is upstream from the Bald River Gorge Wilderness Area. Moderate, but it will be necessary to wade Bald River and Kirkland Creek several times. Water depth will be below the knees. Pre-register with Ray Payne, 865-693-6944, [rpayne10@bellsouth.net](mailto:rpayne10@bellsouth.net).

**Sunday, June 27 - Day Hike - Road Prong with side trip to Chimney Tops, GSMNP.** We'll run a car shuttle so we can hike the Road Prong Trail (downhill!!!) from Indian Gap on the Clingman's Dome Road to Chimney Tops parking area. Road Prong Trail is wet, rocky, steep and beautiful but we will be descending, making it the easier route. We will travel through primeval forest following the West Prong of Little Pigeon River. Fed by numerous springs, it grows larger and noisier jumping over falls and moss topped boulders. Be prepared for wet feet. Pre-register with Barbara Allen, (865) 558-9214 (H) or 215-5180 (W), email: [b-tallen@email.msn.com](mailto:b-tallen@email.msn.com).



## 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!

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**Saturday, June 5 - National Trails Day Clean-up and Maintenance -** As we celebrate National Trails Day, come volunteer some of your time in a local park (Cedars of Lebanon?) to pick up trash and perhaps perform trail maintenance. Plan to meet at 8:00 a.m. to get an early start. Bring gloves, water, and your enthusiasm to care for the environment. Register with Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979.

**Sunday, June 12 - Day Hike at Long Hunter State Park -** Take just the 2 mile paved Couchville Lake Trail, or continue on with the 4 mile Day Loop Trail, which winds along Percy Priest Lake. Watch warblers, water birds, and other wildlife with a long time bird and butterfly watcher. Contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or [Diane@Propson.com](mailto:Diane@Propson.com) for more information and to register. Hike will be in the morning.

**June 8-18 - Roan Mt.-Damascus AT Backpack -** We will leave Nashville June 8, spending the night in Damascus, VA. Shuttle arrangements have been made to transport us to Carver's Gap for the beginning of our hike. Total mileage 90 miles. Rated strenuous. For complete itinerary and additional information, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or [Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com).

**Saturday-June 26-Radnor Lake Volunteer Day -** Every fourth Saturday is Volunteer Day at Radnor Lake Natural Area. Show up at the Visitor Center about 9:00, and you will be able to choose among such activities as mulching trails, pulling out bush honeysuckle and other invasive plants, or planting wildflowers near the parking areas. If you are unable to get there right at 9:00, come as soon as you can, and the nice staff at the Visitor Center will point you in the right direction. You may call the Radnor Lake office at 373-3467 during the week prior to Volunteer Day to find out what activities are planned or to get more information. This is not an organized outing with a Sierra Club leader, but you may want to mention to the staff that you are there as a Sierra Club volunteer. Radnor Lake lets the Middle Tennessee Group use their facility for our monthly program meeting, and this is a way we can give back. Hope to see you there!

**Saturday, July 3 - Rock Island State Park Day Hike -** Join us for a nice six mile hike at Rock Island State Park east of Nashville. To register, contact Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979.

## STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

**1st Saturday -** Trail Maintenance at Big Laurel Branch Wilderness.

**Middle of the Month Wednesday -** Trail Maintenance at Big Laurel Branch Wilderness or Buffalo Mountain Park.

**3rd Saturday -** Trail Maintenance at Big Laurel Branch Wilderness.

**Last Saturday -** Trail Maintenance at Buffalo Mountain Park.

For details & to sign up call John Arwood: 423-426-1425.

To be informed of upcoming SOFG outings via email send a brief request to: [TrailWorkPlay@msn.com](mailto:TrailWorkPlay@msn.com)

As you may know, the State of Franklin Group has adopted the section of Ap-

palachian 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 of the Appalachian Trail 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 above.

## 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>

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**GREAT OUTDOORS FESTIVAL:** Friday, Saturday, Sunday, June 4-6. Sierra Club Booth at the Great Outdoors Festival. Volunteer to staff the Chickasaw Group booth at this event. We will distribute conservation and activities information, sell Sierra Club t-shirts to raise funds and set up and take down the booth. This year there will be National Sierra Club "Fishers and Hunters" staff who will network with sportsmen and women about our common conservation goals. Call to choose your time to volunteer with Charlie Rond (901) 452-8150 or James Baker (901) 372-6717.

**POLITICAL TRAINING CAMP:** Friday-Sunday, June 11-13, 2004 - YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, Asheville, North Carolina. A Workshop sponsored by the Sierra Club Appalachian Regional Office and Appalachian Regional Conservation Committee. Join fellow Sierrans from across the Appalachian Region (DC, DE, GA, MD, NC, SC, TN, VA and WV) to learn what we can do to stop the Bush Administration's Anti-Environmental Agenda. To register for this must-be-at event call Smolski at (404) 607-1262 or email [kate.smolski@sierraclub.org](mailto:kate.smolski@sierraclub.org).

**TISHOMINGO CAR CAMP:** Saturday-Sunday, June 12 & 13 - 8:30am Departure. Car Camp and Hikes, Tishomingo State Park, Mississippi. Teri Sullivan will lead this overnight outing which is about 2 1/2 hours from Memphis. She says this is great terrain for hiking. We will gather around for a pot luck on Saturday night, so bring an edible to share. We will share the cost of the campsites. For reservations and more information contact Teri Sullivan at [eamiltsulliv5@midssouth.rr.com](mailto:eamiltsulliv5@midssouth.rr.com) or phone (901) 320-7191.

**OVERTON PARK HIKE:** Saturday, June 12, 2004 - 10:00am - THE OLD FOREST TRAIL, OVERTON PARK: SECOND SATURDAY HIKES. Don Richardson will lead this hike through The Old Forest in Overton Park. Explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America. 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 Abe Goodman Golf House in Overton Park. Meet at the bridge next to the parking lot at the end of Old Forest Lane, east of Memphis College of Art. For more info, contact Don Richardson (901) 276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends, Inc.

**SUMMER SOLSTICE WALK:** Saturday, June 19 - 6:00pm. Summer Solstice Sunset Bluff Walk. Meet at Ashburn-Coppock Park for this annual equinox event. The access to the wonderful view of the Mississippi River at Ashburn Park is a well-hidden driveway off Riverside Drive just north of the old Rivermont/Holiday Inn and south of Beale St. Go slowly says leader Sue Williams, (901) 274-0524.

**VECA GREENLINE WALK:** Saturday, June 26 - 9:00am. VECA Greenline Walk. The V&E Green Line is a shady (mostly) greenway developed by the Vollentine Evergreen Community Association (VECA) from the abandoned railroad right-of-way, north of Parkway. The greenway has a neighborhood garden, flowerbeds, and now has a bridge across both Lick and West Creeks. Bill Rehberg received the Chickasaw Group Urban Greenways Award for his leadership and work on this greenway. Meet at Tutwiler Avenue and Dickenson, across from St. John's Church. Tutwiler runs west from Rhodes College north of Parkway. Bring water. We will hike approximately 3.4 miles round-trip. Contact Bill Rehberg (901)

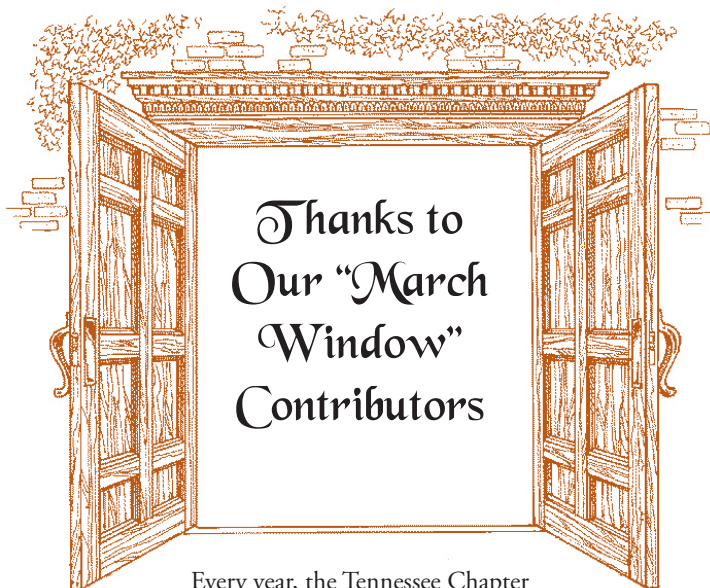
**Come join the  
Sierra Club &  
EarthMattersTN**

**For outings of a  
different sort, come join  
our community garden  
project in  
East Nashville!**

**Planting times are:  
Wednesdays 5:30-7:30  
and Sundays 3-5**

**For information call  
Cathy Butcher  
at  
226-8925**





Every year, the Tennessee Chapter

initiates a local fundraising effort in March, when the national Club does not send out fundraising solicitations. This is called our "March Window". This year's campaign is off to a successful start to support the Tennessee Chapter's work in Tennessee and for our local PAC (Political Action Committee).

Listed below are contributors to this year's campaign. Many thanks to them for their generous contributions - and the many others who contributed, but did not check the "box" to release your name in the Tennes-Sierran.

Alan Moore  
Algis Sidrys  
Allan W. Dale  
Anne H. Fouquet  
Annelies Raetzler  
Axel Ringe  
Barbara Collins  
Barbara Sims  
Ben Petty  
Bill Terry &  
Adelle Wood  
Bobette Dudley  
Brittite Tidwell  
Bruce Sills  
C.P. Snelgrove  
Candy Wansley  
Cannon R. Mayes  
Carol McLachlin  
Caroline L. Williams  
Clark Mann

Clark A. Buchner III  
David Wadlington  
David B. Reister  
Dean Whitworth  
Deborah L. Reece  
Dirk & Karen Van Hoessen  
Dr. J Albert &  
Marilyn Wimberley  
Dr. John Exton  
Dr. Arnold M. Drake  
Dr. Prudie Orr  
Eddie H. Doss  
Elizabeth Elmlingher  
Elizabeth E. Halverstadt  
Francis V. Paris  
Gary J. Christian  
Gene Morgan  
George P. May  
George M. Blackburn, Jr.  
Geraldine B. Terry

Guy Osborne  
Jacob P. Blumenfeld  
James H. Baker  
Janice Warren  
Jerry D. Barr  
Joe W. Littleton  
John J. Ross  
John Guthrie  
John Hicks  
Joyce J. Rouse  
Jules M. Fontenot  
Julia Ann Walker  
Keith Biggs  
Kenneth Bunting  
Lee R. Mynatt  
Linda White  
Lois Thomas  
Lois A Loy  
Louise Edwards  
Ludwald Perry

Magdalene P. Liles  
Margaret Olson  
Marjorie Hipple  
Mark A. Shipley  
Mark W. Lipsey  
Mary J. Zissler  
Mary Tebo  
Mary B. Gilliam  
Mary M. Ogle  
Mary W. Robinson  
Michael B. Lupfer  
Michael D. Hart  
Mr. & Mrs Mark A.  
Heald  
Mrs. Robert S. Lowrie  
Nathaniel K. Robins  
Nettie Stockbine  
Palmira Brummett  
Patricia Duggar  
R. L. Turner

# Volunteer Opportunity!

To help the Middle Tennessee Group, to help our senior and disabled recyclers, to have fun and to meet other Sierrans, please consider volunteering at our recycling site at the Elysian Fields Kroger in Nashville. The site is open Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00. You will have at least one other person working with you, and you can choose to volunteer only when it is convenient for you, whether that is just one time, monthly, quarterly, or every few months. Please call Recycling Coordinator David Bordenkircher at 333-3377 (H) or 741-1597, or e-mail him at [dabordenkircher@mindspring.com](mailto:dabordenkircher@mindspring.com).

We want to give a big thanks to all of our volunteers, and a special thanks to Michelle Pfeffer, who was a frequent volunteer during the summer of 2003.



**RESPECT  
THE EARTH  
...RECYCLE!**

Raymond & Jane Norris  
Richard Key  
Rita Bartlett  
Rob Wilson  
Robert J. Chickey  
Robert A. Stanley  
Robert E. Lee, III  
Robert E. Ferguson  
Ron & Pam Castle  
Ruth Davis

Sally Banks  
Sandra S. Caver  
Sandra McDonald  
Sandra F. Mitchell  
Shirley E. Holden  
Stacy Rector  
Stephen Krauss  
Thomas F. Osborne  
Thomas Johnson  
Tom and Kathy Davis



**Announcement of Job Opening**

Continued from page 3

Experience may substitute for education. Candidates must be achievement/results oriented, able to build relationships, able to build and lead teams, flexible, resourceful, decisive, as well as exercise good judgment and initiative. Other requirements include strategic thinking, action oriented, people sensitivity, self-awareness and integrity. Some evening and weekend work as well as frequent travel within the Mississippi River Basin is required.

**Salary and Benefits:** \$50,000+ based on experience and qualifications. Benefits include vacation, holidays, sick leave, health, disability and life insurance and pension.

**How To Apply:** Please forward a resume with references and a cover letter that describes your work experience, educational background and qualifications for the Executive Director position to:

Executive Director Search Committee  
c/o Amber Wichmann,  
Office Coordinator  
Mississippi River Basin Alliance  
708 North First Street,  
Suite 238  
Minneapolis,  
Minnesota 55401  
(612) 334-9460  
(612) 340-1632 Fax  
amberwichmann@mrba.org

Applications will be accepted until May 15, 2004. Please do not call for an interview; we will contact applicants if an interview is sought.

Equal Opportunity / Affirmative

**Action Policy:** The policy and intent of Mississippi River Basin Alliance is to provide equal employment opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, marital status, political affiliation, affectional orientation, gender identity, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sex or age.

MRBA intends to act affirmatively in its employment practices. Affirmative action applies to all aspects of employment practices including, but not limited to, recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, demotion, transfer, training, compensation, benefits, layoff, recall, and termination. MRBA seeks to do business with organizations that encourage equal opportunity.

You are cordially invited to a premiere screening event of

**Kilowatt Ours** a documentary by **JEFF BARRIE**



**“One of the most important, yet under reported, stories of our generation.” – Dave Pelton, Clean Cities Director**

What would you discover if you traced the wires from your light switch to its energy source? Jeff Barrie journeyed across the Southeastern United States to find out.

His new documentary, “Kilowatt Ours,” vividly exposes energy-related problems like childhood asthma, air pollution and mountaintop removal. In addition, the Southeast’s electricity consumption tops the nation, and Tennessee’s is the highest with each home using 1,200 kilowatt hours per month. “Kilowatt Ours” explores the environmental and human toll of our region’s appetite for electricity and presents solutions that may surprise you.

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 19, 2004 5:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**  
5:45 p.m. – Reception  
6:45 p.m. – Screening  
8:00 p.m. – Panel Discussion (which will include Jeff Barrie)

**\$15 SUGGESTED DONATION** Proceeds benefit Trust for the Future, advocating energy awareness. Seating is limited. Reservations encouraged: 615-438-5060 or kilowattours@yahoo.com

**Belcourt Theater**  
2102 Belcourt Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

**THERE WILL BE A SECOND SHOWING ON MONDAY, JUNE 21 AT 7:30 P.M.**

**Want to get connected? It's easy!**



Tennessee Chapter's Internet Mail List  
**TENNESSEE-NEWS**  
for alerts, information & "inside" issue discussion  
To subscribe, send the following message via e-mail to  
LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG:  
"SUBSCRIBE TENNESSEE-NEWS [Your First Name] [Your Last Name]"  
Leave the subject blank.  
Replace the variables omitting the brackets.

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group  
**Tennes-Sierran**  
2201 21st Avenue South, Suite 436  
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

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