



Playing With Numbers

The Battle Continues Against Corridor K

who have been calling on us to help them save their homes and surroundings.

Furthermore, shouldn't Mr. Wamp's "overwhelming majority" be proven before it's claimed? Mr. Wamp also stated, according

"One of our biggest challenges is to make sure that the area is easy to reach for those who want to enjoy it while preserving its breathtaking natural beauty and its pristine watersheds." Those 300,000 visitors seem to have made it there okay in 1998 without Corridor K. I was one of them. What did we do, fly in by helicopter? No, we used the *existing* roads.

TDOT has put significant resources into assessing the environmental and aesthetic impacts associated with the Corridor K extension. This evaluation, available to the public, shows that the impacts would be enduring and severe. Add the estimated cost, projected to run as high as \$2.3 billion for construction alone, and the long-term economic loss that would result from damage to the aesthetic and environmental quality of the region. Now, balance all of that against an invalid safety argument, a disproved access argument, and an unsubstantiated economic argument, which are the pillars upon which this new road is based.

The safety argument in favor of Corridor K doesn't hold up to statistics. The recreational access argument is disproved by the fact that the existing roads aren't clogged with people trying to get into the Cherokee National Forest. The economic benefits being invoked by Corridor K proponents are nebulous. We realize Mr. Wamp and Mr. Newton have a responsibility to represent all of their constituents, including the citizens of Polk County, and we appreciate their hard work and diligence. However, while safety, economic development, and recreational access are commendable goals, there is not enough potential improvement of these aspects to support a decision to move ahead with Corridor K. Let's drop it *now*, and quit spending tax money trying to justify it.

By Rick Gehrke, Cherokee Group

Congressman Zach Wamp and State Representative Chris Newton continue to advocate the construction of the contentious Corridor K/Highway 64 bypass in Polk County, with a whopping projected cost of 1.5-2.3 billion dollars, 20% of which would have to come from the Tennessee budget. Mr. Newton suggests floating bonds as a way to pay our share. They repeatedly point out the safety issue as a strong reason for building this freeway through the Cherokee National Forest, without mentioning the fact that the accident rate on the existing road is below the Tennessee state average. Mr. Wamp is quoted as having emphasized the need to make the [existing] road safer while waiting for the major project. If the existing road can be made even safer than it already is, why move forward with the new road on safety grounds?

An article published in the Polk County News on March 3rd, 2004 states that Mr. Wamp said "it is important to get information on the economic benefits of the bypass and Newton agreed, saying they are looking for money for a study." One might question why these two representatives have long been vehemently promoting the project on its economic merits, without already having in hand solid information on these purported benefits. Given Mr. Wamp's statement in the same article that "the federal money is there to start drawing down", one might wonder if the main reason for his promotion of this project is simply to get federal money spent. What I want to know is, why is it so important to "start drawing down" all that money and exactly *who* stands to get it?

According to the article, Beth Jones of the Southeast Tennessee Development District is working on raising funds for an Economic Impact Analysis "to justify return on investment." This seems to indicate that the conclusion has been drawn before the evidence is in. She wants the new road referred to as "the Chattanooga to Charlotte" highway. When Corridor K was conceived under the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, such a highway may have been appropriate. In 2004, we have interstate highways that will get you from here to there just fine.

Mr. Wamp would like for the Ocoee River rafting outfitters to take up his cause, telling them that "We don't want Earth First! to determine this route. We don't want a small minority to dictate for the overwhelming majority." To begin with, it's not just Earth First! that's challenging this project. It's also the Sierra Club, Cherokee Forest Voices, the Southern Off-Road Biking Association, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, and the Southern Environmental Law Center, among other conservation and enthusiast groups. Just as importantly, many of those opposed are the citizens of Polk County

to the article, "it's important for all local groups to speak up so the 1% can't intimidate the 99%." This statement boldly implies that if all local groups were asked, 99% would agree with him. I'd like to see those percentages verified by solid research, and the burden of proof is on whoever tosses them around in support of his pet project. Keep in mind that the Cherokee National Forest belongs to *all* US citizens. I'd like to see how their views were measured. This is serious money we're talking about here, and permanent damage to a natural resource that's rare and getting rarer.

Zach Wamp said in a page from his own website dated February 1999, "The rivers of the Ocoee region were used by an unbelievable 300,000 visitors last year, helping to establish what I call 'The crown jewel of outdoor sports and recreation in the Eastern United States'." In my mind, such a statement doesn't square well with splitting that "jewel" in half with a major freeway. Mr. Wamp also says on the same page of his website that

Mountain-top Removal Mining

An Environmental Horror Story

by James H. Baker
GCRCC delegate for the Tennessee Chapter

In early April, the Gulf Coast Regional Conservation Committee (GCRCC) and the Appalachian Regional Conservation Committee (ARCC) held a joint meeting in Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting, entitled "Save the Mountains - Coal Mining-Environmental Justice Workshop" was to draw activists' attention to mountain-top removal, what drives this destructive method of mining, and its effect on the people in the surrounding communities as well as the environment. The Tennessee Chapter sent Don Richardson and James Baker as the GCRCC delegates and Mary Mastin as the ARCC delegate. Dick Mochow attended as the Southeast Ecoregion Task Force Chair to the GCRCC.

The morning session was built around the premise that

demand for plentiful cheap electrical power drives the decapitation of the Appalachian mountains for the coal they contain. There is the premise that we as a people do not know the true cost of our electrical power. We continue to rely on non-renewable fossil fuels to generate most of our electrical power, and have not diversified to renewable sources. We learned that the technology of coal mining has changed, from sending many local community men into deep holes in the sides of mountains to mine coal, to mountain-top strip mines that are highly mechanized and that employ out of state workers to operate the equipment. This has cost many miners their jobs, and we learned that the unemployment rate is extremely high in the West Virginia coal fields.

We learned about the Apollo Project. This is a ten point plan that is designed to wean America off of its diet of fossil fuels, improve our energy security and provide training and jobs, that are desperately needed in West Virginia and in other coal fields as well. The Sierra Club's own Executive Director-Carl Pope is on this organization's Board of Directors. Please see: www.apolloalliance.org for more details.

We learned the organizers against mountain-top removal



Continued on Page 2

Tennes-Sierran

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

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ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

1. Email and email 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 email message only.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email 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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Vice Chair: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
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Secretary: David Orr (865) 544-5892
davidorr@kornnet.org
Treasurer: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
MaryMastinUSA@netscape.net
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 366-4738
GB1Nature@aol.com
Membership: Dick Mochow (901) 274-1510
dinimo@earthlink.net

TN Local Groups:

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www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee

Chair: Rick Gehrke (423) 843-9625
rick.gehrke@comcast.net
Vice Chair: Terry Miller (423) 842-5053
trmcha@comcast.net
Conservation: Henry Spratt, Ph.D.
Henry-Spratt@utc.edu
Outings: Chris O'Connor (423) 867-4957
chris_o77@yahoo.com

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www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw

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Vice Chair: Karen Prosser (901) 327-9820
pros800@bellsouth.net
Conservation: James Baker (901) 372-6717
aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net
Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
Jhammond.tnqio@sdps.org

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www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome

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onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
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Conservation: David Reister (865) 670-8991
dreister@bellsouth.net
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mcdonaldjenkins@twohikers.org

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www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chapters/tn/mtg

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adelicia1@aol.com
Vice Chair: Jeremy Doochin
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Conservation: Caty Butcher (615) 347-1480
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www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/sofg

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lmodica@aol.com
Conservation: Catherine Murray (423) 929-8163
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Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville

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Chair: Peggy Evans (931) 432-6680
maevans@twlakes.net
Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142
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Conservation: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
MaryMastinUSA@netscape.net
Outings: John Harwood (931) 528-6395
jharwood@tntech.edu

Tennessee Sierra Staff:

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

Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

Mountain-top Removal Mining

An Environmental Horror Story

by James H. Baker

GCRCC delegate for the Tennessee Chapter



Photo -Don Richardson, Ann League, Axel Ringe, Mary Mastin, James Baker and Dick Mochow gather after inspecting Dan Branch, which has been adversely affected by the Zeb Mountain mine.

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mining face very real dangers to their lives. We listened to a panel discussion with rapt attention as Julia Bonds, Larry Gibson and several others told about their trials and tribulations as they organize and speak out and share with the rest of America the horrors of mountain-top removal mining. They also try to get their elected officials to regulate the coal industry. There are towns in West Virginia that are located at the base of massive dams of coal slurry that are formed when impurities are washed off of coal. These dams have broken in the past, and people have been killed and injured, and the environment severely harmed. With all the trees scraped off the mountains, heavy rains send torrents of water through these small mining towns. People have died, property has been destroyed, and the survivors have been told by officials "that was an act of God."

Then it was time to go to Kayford Mountain and the Stanley Family Cemetery, with Larry Gibson, who lives on part of Kayford Mountain. There was a scent of wood smoke in the air as the "slash" from a newly clear-cut section of the mine is burned. Standing at the top of the cemetery, one sees decapitated mountains and mine sites in all directions. When one looks at photos of a mountain-top mine, one cannot appreciate the massive size of the operations. One sees a 53-foot long trailer for an "18-wheeler" rig, and it looks like a child's toy. One feels and hears a massive rolling 'boom' and realizes that the mine operators have just detonated many hundreds of pounds of ammonium nitrate-fuel oil (ANFO) explosives to remove the overlying strata of rock to get to the coal seam. Here is a web site that also will show more photos than can be shown in this newsletter, <http://www.ohvec.org/index.html>.

After the tour, it was a somber group of delegates that reassembled to debrief. But the worse was yet to come. As bad as mountain-top removal is, there is a more insidious form of mining that is tunneling its way through southern Pennsylvania - long-wall mining. It is silent and invisible, until the cracks start appearing in one's home or land, and one's lake or stream disappears overnight. Here are two web sites, first; <http://www.rayproffitt.org/pu2001/05062001.htm> is an environmental view. This second site is from the United States Department of Energy, <http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/non-renewable/coalvisit.html>. Listen close, one can hear the sound of the greenwashing machine on the government site.

After the meeting adjourned on Sunday, Don, Dick, Mary and I stopped to look at Tennessee's own mountain-top mine, Zeb Mountain. This mine, and its water pollution issues were discussed at length in a

fine article in the March 2004 Tennes-Sierran. In comparison to a fully developed mountain-top mine, Zeb Mountain is tiny, but the mine is growing fast. Eventually, this monster will sprawl over 2,000 acres and ruin everything in its path during its projected 10-year life span. We met with local folks and Dr. David Etnier. Dr. Etnier and his students conducted a fish seining for the endangered Blackside Dace in one stream and a macro-invertebrate survey in another.

Everything about mountain-top removal and long-wall mining is an unmitigated horror story against people and the planet's interconnected ecology. We of the GCRCC and ARCC salute the courage of this handful of activists that tell this story and push for change despite threats to their personal safety and the safety of their families. It is great to hear of the Apollo Project's efforts to get America weaned off of its dependence on non-renewable fossil fuels. Americans must start looking at the legacy of their increasing population and their wasteful over-consumption of fossil fuels. If change does not begin - now - then the short-term legacy will be more blasted mountains, more air and water pollution, and more death and destruction from flooding and bursting dams. The long-term legacy is that humanity may come upon a brick wall in the dark depths of the bottleneck of over-population and wasteful consumptive habits that we are recklessly travelling. Hit that brick wall hard enough, and humanity may become just another fossil in the geologic record.

On the Comments

The Zep Mountain Permit

By Mary Mastin

May 10th is the deadline for written comments on the application for revision to the Robert Clear Coal Corp. surface mining permit for Zeb Mountain mine in Campbell County Tennessee. This mine permit is for an area in excess of 2100 acres, and allows three peaks of the mountain to be blown off to get to a very thin seam of coal. This huge mine should never have been permitted on an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, without even requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement.

The proposed permit revision would allow Robert Clear to re-channelize a stream, Dan Branch, and to construct a massive seven acre rock buttress into Dan Branch in an attempt to stabilize a massive slide off the haul road that is currently contributing excess sediment into Dan Branch, which leads into Lick Fork. Lick Fork has for over a decade been recognized as a prime home of a healthy population of the federally threatened fish species, the blackside dace. Dr. David Etnier and his crew of fish "seiners" recently found blackside dace at the confluence of Dan Branch and Lick Fork.

The construction of this mammoth seven acre rock "buttress" into Dan Branch and the re-channelization of Dan Branch will contribute huge additional amounts of sediment into Dan Branch - and likely into Lick Fork. Dan Branch had already been degraded by the first six months of mining. In December, it was found by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to be no longer fully supporting aquatic life, compared to being fully supporting aquatic life in May and August.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is concerned that the extreme measures called for in the permit revision application for Dan Branch will have short-term disastrous effects on the blackside dace. They are also concerned that the slide will continue to contribute additional sediment to Dan Branch and that in the long term will have a deleterious effect on the dace. The Army corps has not yet approved the plans for the rock buttress and re-channelization of Dan Branch.

It's not clear that the permit revision has even been submitted to the Army Corps yet. No one agency seems willing to take responsibility for approving the

extreme measures called for in this permit revision. Yet the mining company created this slide by failing to follow best management practices. The agencies know the slide needs to be stabilized. This proposal of a seven acre rock buttress and re-channelization is not the way to do this.

This permit revision would add over twelve additional acres to the permit area. It includes additional sediment structures that were not included in the original permit. Dan Branch is the first watershed to be mined. In just the first nine months of this projected- to-be-ten year mining project, the coal company has already been cited numerous times by both OSM and TDEC for creating a condition of pollution, excess sediment into Dan Branch, for failing to stabilize the huge slide off the haul road, for failing to follow best management practices, for constructing an illegal pond or sediment retention structure outside the permit area, and for failing to construct sediment structures according to plan.

Permit revisions for revised drainage control plans for every watershed in the permit area are called for, though they have not yet been submitted. Each new sediment structure creates an adverse impact on the environment in itself. Additional extensions to the permit area will likely be needed for the additional sediment structures that will be needed to control the sediment from this mine. These additional sediment structures and the additional permitted area were not considered in the original Environmental Assessment (EA) for this mine. The EA needs to be opened up for consideration of all the permit revision for every watershed in the permit area.

The permit revision is considered significant even by OSM, requiring a public comment period. You can ask for a public hearing - or what OSM calls an "informal conference".

**COMMENTS SHOULD BE
MADE /SENT TO:**

**OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
530 GAY ST.
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Meetings



HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, May 11, 2004 - Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Some of you may have had the opportunity to meet Roger Makepeace on one of our HBG outings. If not, come to the May program meeting to meet this interesting fellow who hails from Hot Springs, North Carolina (those of you who have met Roger will need no encouragement). Roger works in New Zealand for part of the year and will be presenting a program about that beautiful country. Call Priscilla Watts at 865-966-4142 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday May 25, 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, May 13, at 7:00 p.m. - At the Radnor Lake Visitor Center Please join us at our next program meeting: "Bigger Isn't Always Better! Rethinking Shelter Toward a Sustainable Future" by Martha White, Director of The Big Enough House, a division of Legacy Properties. Martha is an active proponent for a paradigm shift in the way humans conceive of, and utilize natural resources for, shelter. Included in her interests are sustainable communities, affordable housing, individual growth, environmental protection, and the impact of space and design on humans. Come get some new and important ideas for how we can, as stewards of the planet, create healthy, earth-friendly environments that contribute to the support of our individual growth and a lighter footprint on Earth.

Light refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please call Shelli at (615) 260-0030 or e-mail globalpeace04@hotmail.com.

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, May 26 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 try to have signs out front to point the way, but, just in case, 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 or 615-478-0596. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Katherine Pendelton at Adelicia1@aol.com or 615-943-6877 evenings.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Contact Peggy Evans at 931-432-6680 or maevas@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: Monday, May 24th, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. - Will there be passenger rail in Tri-Cities one day soon? Find out at SOFG's May program meeting, presented by Jeff Barrie, Coordinator of the statewide "Citizens for TDOT Reform" (a Sierra Club initiated effort). Jeff will share the latest news regarding transportation issues in the Tri-Cities area and across Tennessee, including the status of TDOT's Bristol-to-Memphis passenger rail plan. Jeff will also update the community on Highway SR 357, the "Airport Parkway." SR 357 is a brand new right of way project that will slice through the heart of rural East Tennessee. Barrie will provide opportunities for locals to take action on these and other proposed projects.

Programs are held monthly on the fourth Monday, and cover many topics such as environmental issues, travel, nature photography. For more information, contact Mary Gavlik, Vice Chair, (423) 434-9535, mlgav@yahoo.com.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

PROGRAMS: Thursday May 27th @ 7:00 p.m. - Greenway Farms in Hixson Our May Program will be a presentation by Doug Fritz. Doug works in the Storm Water Management Department of the Office of Public Works for the City of Chattanooga. Doug will be discussing environmental issues related to storm water, erosion control, and water pollution. Come learn about an issue that affects all of us in the Tennessee Valley, and find out what's being done to protect you and your loved ones.

NOTE: The night of our monthly programs was changed from the third Thursday of each month to the fourth Thursday of each month. The May program will be held on Thursday May 27th. Monthly strategy meetings are generally held prior to the program meetings and everyone is welcome to attend. The strategy meetings begin at 5:30.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, May 6, 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 <jdjhstn@memphis.edu> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, May 10, 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 May 6 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150 for more information. (Note: This is a new meeting site.)

THIRD THURSDAY GATHERING: Thursday, May 20, 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 <jdjhstn@memphis.edu> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, May 26, 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 <tsullivan@wkno.com> at (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 May, 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.

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News from the Tennessee Chapter Group's

Chickasaw Group News

Compiled by various members

Wild Oats Cookout - A special thanks is due the Sierra Club members - especially Sierra Clubbers Ralph and Debbie Fox - for the outstanding job of cooking out at Wild Oats Market, Saturday, April 17.

Ralph shared the cooking of burgers with Group Chair Charlie Rond, braving the heat from the large grill, while Debbie prepared hamburger buns and did all the other chores of getting sandwiches and "combos" ready for the steady line of customers. Twin sisters Carolyn Pierce and Margaret Dixon cooked veggie-burgers and shish-ke-bobs throughout the four-hour day on another large, hot grill, while Membership Chair Jill Johnston sat in the hot sun, fought steady winds and manned the literature table out front. Outings Chair Judith Hammond came by and Conservation Chair James Baker came out after his Wolf River Harbor cleanup and took photos.

The collapse of a small boy in his Mother's arms created some minutes of concern directly in front of our cooking area. An off-duty policeman went quickly to his aid and revived him prior to the arrival of an ambulance and fire truck. His mother explained that he had not eaten throughout the morning and that his freshly-cooked burger played no part in his collapse. The ambulance took him to the hospital.

One amazing thing - despite the intense heat of the grills, the tight working conditions and the line of waiting customers, I didn't hear a single grumble from the tired workers but only smiling enthusiasm as we earned about \$370. It was a generous opportunity from Wild Oats and well appreciated by the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club.

Wolf River Harbor Cleanup - The Wolf River Harbor clean up in Memphis was a great success. By count, 32 people attended this event. Outdoors, Inc., Cafe Francisco, and the City of Memphis deserve a big "thank you" for their help. Many thanks to the Coast Guard, Hands on Memphis and the Sierra Club,

whose volunteers gave of this beautiful Spring Saturday to pick up trash. Part of the day's collection efforts were overseen by "Mr. No-Shoulders"...who slithered up a tree to stay out of the way. Most of the 70 or so bags of trash collected were the usual urban flotsam and jetsam...most of it was just trash and litter...and not recyclable. It required two trips with a pick-up to dispose of it all.

The day's finds had the unusual as well as the ordinary. There was the cancelled \$500 check, made out to "cash" that was dated October 26, 1979. The check was in an amazingly pristine condition, no water damage at all. A small safe was found at the water's edge, and after it was opened, the contents were not the pirate treasure as we hoped, but papers and memorabilia-albeit water damaged and home to a colony of ants. A Sierra Club member named Debra and my sister-Patricia used a bit of detective work to find and call the owner, who showed up and collected the safe. The safe had been stolen from this man's home 6 months or so prior to this Saturday. It contained papers and memorabilia of the owner's father (watches, a belt buckle from Eastern Airlines, a small-scale toy electric locomotive, a compass etc.) The father had been a pilot for Eastern Airlines back in the 1930's. One can only surmise that the burglar, perhaps unable to open the safe, threw it in a storm drain channel, or the Harbor itself.

But, there is a better way! In 11 states, visionary legislators had the courage to stand up to well-monied

special interests and tell them, "we are committed to passing container deposit legislation-regardless of how much money you throw into misinformation ads to confuse the public and us" : http://www.bottlebill.org/about_bb/supp_opp.htm

Wildflower Hike at Shelby Forest - The wildflowers were blooming in abundance on the wildflower hike led by Ralph and Debbie Fox recently at Meeman-Shelby Forest. Clear blue skies and slightly cool temperatures greeted the almost all-woman group as we began a descent toward the lower, flatter section of the Forest's Woodland Trail. Halfway down the slope we spotted the first patch of blue phlox, (which was more light violet than blue) and many more patches appeared as we hiked farther along.

There were ten of us - including Ralph and me - among the enthusiastic group who were eager to learn the names and special features of wildflowers and, for some, to compare them with domestic varieties of flowers. As well as the Blue Phlox, there were Virginia Bluebells, May Apple, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Spring Beauty, Wild Ginger, Wild Hydrangea, Wild Rose, Blue and Yellow Violets and Solomon's Shield among the early wildflowers we identified. Red Buckeye, American Dogwood, Redbud, Sassafraz, Beech,



Top Photo - Cooking out at Wild Oats

2nd Row Photo - Volunteers gathered for a group shot after the event. Well done All!

3rd Row Left Photo - Our host, "Mr. No-Shoulders" (a.k.a. a snake, serpent) watched the clean-up activities from the safety of a tree.

3rd Row Right Photo - Small safe containing personal papers and memorabilia. Great detective work by several volunteers resulted in the safe being re-united with its owner. The safe had been stolen in a burglary about six months ago.

4th Row Photo - The second load of urban flotsam and jetsam is being loaded. The half-ton of trash and debris filled about 70 bags and it took two trips with this truck to dispose of it all.

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, May 1. Cades Cove Night Hike, GSMNP - Springtime nights beneath a nearly full moon are the ideal time to "cruise the Cove" in search of active wildlife, good conversation and a relaxing evening. Come join us for a pleasant 8-mile stroll during the least crowded and quietest time for this particular area, bringing a snack to enjoy midway through the walk. Boots, flashlight w/ extra bulb and batteries,



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!

and raingear are needed. Preregistration required via phone, 865-689-3151 (W) or 865-922-3489 (H) or e-mail CraigSdyerCDT@msn.com.

Saturday-Sunday, May 1-2. Backpack, Mt. Mitchell State Park, NC. - Join us for a climb to the top of Mt. Mitchell, the tallest mountain east of the Mississippi (6684'). We will start our ascent at the base of the mountain in Black Mountain Campground and climb through virgin stands of hickory and oak. As the trail passes above 4500', the vegetation becomes a northern deciduous forest of birches and other high altitude hardwoods and finally, above 5500' enters the red spruce and Fraser fir zone. During the first 4.0-miles of the trail, we will ascend approximately 3000'. At this point we will stop and set up camp near the old site of Camp Alice, the old 1920's logging camp. If time permits, we will continue on to the summit of Mt. Mitchell (3.2-miles roundtrip), climb the tower and enjoy the incredible 360° view. If not, we will explore the area around our campsite and make the summit on Sunday. We will retrace our steps back to Black Mountain Campground on Sunday. We may stop in Asheville for a late lunch or early dinner if anyone is interested. Preregister with Beverly Smith, 865-531-8480 (Evenings), blsmith1300@comcast.net.

Saturday-Monday, May 29-31. Memorial Day Weekend. Backpack, Dolly Sods Wilderness (WVA). - Dolly Sods is a 32,000-acre wilderness in northeastern West Virginia, with a substantial amount of private land to the north that is open to the public. It is known for sphagnum bogs, spectacularly scenic open meadows, heath barrens and scattered spruce forest that are characteristic of areas much further north. The HBG has visited the area several times over the years and we will do a three-day backpack through the best of Dolly Sods over Memorial Day. Since the drive is about 7 hours or so, we will leave Knoxville Friday night and spend the night in a motel north of Roanoke. Rated Moderate. Preregister with Will Skelton: 865-523-2272 (H); 865-521-6200 (W); whshome@bellsouth.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday, May 8, 2004 - Dog Walk at Murfreesboro Greenway - Want to socialize while giving your dog and/or cat their daily morning walk? Join us at the Murfreesboro Greenway to walk your dog. Even if you are dogless (as I am!) join us anyway for conversation and enjoyment of a wonderful spring morning. Walk will be between 2-5 miles on pavement. Meet at 8 a.m. For more information and to register, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com.

Saturday, May 15, 2004 - Montgomery Bell Day Hike - Join us for a day hike in the Montgomery Bell area. Contact Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com for more information and to register.

Saturday, May 22 - Greenway Clean-up in Murfreesboro - 9 till noon. Join the Stones River Watershed Association and the Friends of the Greenway to clean up long Lytle Creek and the section of the West Fork Stones along the Greenway. Canoes will be used along the West Fork and we will walk along Lytle Creek. Call Heloise at 615-896-6278 or email her at stillwild@bellsouth.net

Saturday- Monday, May 29-31, 2004 -

Memorial Day Weekend-GSMNP - 21st Annual Memorial Day Weekend Hikes- This year the MTG annual event will take place in the Cosby area of the Smoky Mountain National Park. We will camp at the group camp in the Cosby Campground. Day hikes will leave from there. The hikes will include one strenuous hike of 10-12 miles and one shorter hike of about 6 miles. Preregistration required, and group size is limited. Preregister with Bill Terry at 615-665-1010.

Saturday/Sunday, May 22-23, 2004 - Big Hill Pond Backpack - Join us for an easy to moderate backpacking trip to Big Hill Pond south of Jackson, TN. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

Saturday, June 5, 2004 - 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 6, 2004 - 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 for more information and to register. Hike will be in the early afternoon.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

1st Saturday - Trail Maintenance at BLBW.

Middle of the Month Wednesday - Trail Maintenance at BLBW or Buffalo Mtn Park.

3rd Saturday - Trail Maintenance at BLBW.

5th Saturday (if there is a 5th Saturday) - Trail Maintenance at BLBW or Buffalo Mtn Park.

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

To be informed of upcoming SOFG outings via email send a request to: TrailWorkPlay@msn.com

Why Do 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 of the Appalachian Trail in the BLBW and perhaps, with enough support, adopt other trails through wilderness areas. In addition to BLBW, we do trail work on other sections of the AT, AT connectors & in Johnson City Parks, as well as 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 or visit our web site at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee/index.htm>

We enjoyed another great day on our

Conasauga River hike. The five and a half mile jaunt along the Conasauga was greeted with warm sunshine, cool water, and a variety of budding trees and early wildflowers.

Friday-Sunday May 21-23 - Car Camping - Our next outing is scheduled for at the BIG CREEK CAMPGROUND in Great Smokey Mountains National Park. Join the Cherokee Group of the Sierra Club on this special Spring getaway. We will travel up to Big Creek on Friday evening for a wonderful night of campfires and camaraderie. Saturday we will join members of the Chattanooga hiking club for a choice of several hikes leading through the spectacular old-growth Albright Groves (7 and 12 mile options). Saturday night will be an evening of relaxation under the stars. Sunday morning will include a 4 1/2 mile hike up Big Creek to stretch our legs for the drive home. If you are interested please sign up early as space is limited, or information or to sign up contact Chris O'Connor @ chris_o77@yahoo.com

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Sunday, May 2, 2004, 9:00AM - Wolf River Cleanup & Float - The float, with the Bluff City Canoe Club, will begin at Bateman Bridge east of Moscow and end at the town. The clean up will begin at the Gun Club past the Bateman Road Bridge and trash bags will be left for the county pickup. Then we'll float down to Moscow. We'll see a little of the West Tennessee swamp land as we begin. Must have river canoeing experience. For more information, contact Bill Rehberg 901-725-9747.

Friday - Sunday, May 7-9, 2004 - Car Camp - Blanchard Springs Campground, Sylamore Creek, Arkansas. Cost \$7.00/car. Leave Memphis Friday late afternoon. We'll meet up with the backpackers on Saturday morning for the Sylamore Creek hike. Saturday night potluck and for those who want, a trip after dinner into Mt. View for the ole' timey pickin' and singin' in the square. There are trails to hike, swimming, and at the Visitor's Center spelunking with the rangers (you'll need your head lights) and tours of Blanchard Springs Caves. The Ozark Folk Center is nearby. Reservations, Judith Hammond, 901-276-2819.

Saturday - Sunday, May 8-9, 2004 - Sylamore Creek Backpack - Ozark National Forest, Arkansas. Limestone bluffs, waterfalls, and a gentle, easy trail are featured on this easy laid-back trip. This is a good beginning backpack overnigher. It's also an opportunity for seasoned backpackers to try out new boots or equipment. The hike is about 3 miles and goes upcreek from Blanchard Springs. Depart Memphis early Saturday morning. Back in Memphis by 8:00PM Sunday. For reservations call Jill Johnston 901-278-2713.

Saturday, May 8, 2004, 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon., McKellar Lake Clean-Up-Memphis - Meet at 10AM where Jack Carley Causeway goes across to President's Island. Driving directions: get on Riverside Blvd. going south until it becomes Interstate 55. Stay on Interstate 55 southbound till exit #11 (McLemore Exit). Exit and go west a short distance until one gets to Riverside Blvd (look for Sierra Club sign). Turn right and go a short distance till the road turns left, this is Jack Carley Causeway (look for Sierra Club sign). Stay on Jack Carley till one sees Sierra Club sign being held by a volunteer. Park on the south side of Jack Carley. (See maps). Join with the Memphis City Beautiful Commission and Storm Water Departments as we help make McKellar Lake cleaner. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Participants are advised to wear sturdy shoes that they do not mind getting muddy and clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. Participants will be eligible for a drawing to win door prizes. Contact: City Beautiful at (901) 522-1135, Memphis Storm Water at (901) 576-6721 or James H. Baker @ 901-372-6717 or aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net for more information.

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.

Saturday, May 14, 2004, 10:00 am - Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. "Second Saturday Hikes." 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. Meet at the bridge next to the parking lot at the end of Old Forest Lane in the center of Overton Park. The informative and entertaining trail map to the self-guided mile-and-a-quarter 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 <donrich@juno.com> at 901-276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends.

Saturday-April 24 - 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!

Backpack the "Road to Nowhere"

Teen High Adventure
Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont
July 12-22, 2004
Cost: \$730 for Ages 13-17

Send your teenager to Teen High Adventure, a 7-day backpack trip exploring an imperiled area slated for road construction in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Construction of the North Shore Road - also known as the Road to Nowhere - was halted in the 1960s. Now there are plans to complete a project that would cut through one of the largest roadless areas in the eastern United States.

During this 10-day program, teens will hone their outdoor living skills, acquire knowledge about the natural and cultural history of the Park - and learn firsthand about the vital North Shore Road issue facing Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Each trip includes ten teenagers plus two experienced Tremont teacher/naturalists. Program lasts from Monday mid-afternoon through the second Thursday morning. Along with a 7-day/6-night backpacking adventure, a day is spent whitewater rafting on the Pigeon River. Wildlife, good friends and spectacular scenery will accompany your journey.

Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont
9275 Tremont Road - Townsend, TN 37882
Phone: (865) 448-6709 - Fax: (865) 448-9250

Something Stinks: The Bush Administration Exposes Americans to Poorly Treated Sewage

According to the Centers for Disease Control, there are an estimated 7.1 million cases of mild to moderate and 560,000 cases of moderate to severe infectious waterborne disease in the U.S. each year. Even though the Clean Water Act requires municipalities to treat raw sewage to remove health-threatening viruses and parasites before it is discharged into our rivers, lakes, streams and drinking water sources, the Bush administration is crafting a new policy that would likely allow more Americans to get sick from waterborne illnesses.

Heavy rains often overload wastewater treatment facilities in most major cities. When sewer systems are overloaded it can mean sewer backups into basements or the release of untreated or poorly treated sewage into our rivers and streams.

On November 3, 2003 the EPA released a draft "blending" guidance that allows publicly owned treatment works to "blend" partially treated sewage with treated sewage and discharge it into our waterways during rain storms. The partially treated sewage undergoes only primary treatment (removal of solids) and basic disinfection. Sewage that has only undergone primary treatment may still contain pathogens that sicken people, such as giardia and cryptosporidium.

This means that bacteria, viruses and other pathogens will likely be discharged into our waterways, potentially causing a variety of illnesses, from mild gastroenteritis (stomach cramps and diarrhea) to life-

threatening illnesses such as cholera, dysentery and infectious hepatitis.

In addition to their proposition to allow blending, the Bush administration has also requested a \$500 million cut in critical wastewater treatment funding. This means that publicly owned treatment works will be able to make fewer necessary upgrades, potentially increasing incidences of blending.

Blending is not the only option. Cities across the nation are beginning to employ innovative solutions to reduce runoff during heavy precipitation. Options such as planting native plants in yards, growing wildflowers in the median of roadways and "green roofs" covered in grasses, capture rainwater as it falls and release it more slowly, thus reducing the burden placed upon the wastewater system.

Rather than increase the use of environmentally beneficial means of capturing rainfall and funding needed upgrades to our sewer systems in order to protect our community, the Bush administration is promoting irresponsible ways of addressing the problem.

The American public deserves protection from illness due to exposure to raw sewage. Send a letter to President Bush and urge him to enforce the current Clean Water Act and continue to require that wastewater meet proper treatment standards prior to discharge. Remind the President that, rather than simply accepting heavy storm runoff as a way of life and weakening Clean Water Act protections, his administration should focus on ways to reduce runoff, including: rain barrels, green roofs, porous materials for parking lots and water absorbing landscaping. In addition, the administration should ensure adequate funding for needed upgrades to our sewage infrastructure. This will move us toward a solution that does not leave our communities vulnerable to the hazards of partially treated sewage in our waters.

You can write to President Bush at:
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

For more information contact Ananda Hirsch at
202.675.6693 or clean.water@sierraclub.org

Volunteer Opportunity!

As Sierrans with the volunteer spirit, almost all of us recycle and support recycling as much as we can. The Middle Tennessee Group supports its conservation efforts and office expenses through our recycling site at the Elysian Fields Kroger in Nashville, and we can always use more volunteers to give out information and to help older recyclers and recyclers with disabilities to unload their newspapers, glass, plastic, aluminum, steel and cardboard. 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, every few months, or on a regular monthly or quarterly schedule.

Please call Recycling Coordinator David Bordenkircher at 333-3377 (H) or 741-1597. His e-mail address is dabordenkircher@mindspring.com.

We want to give special thanks to Hal May, Charlie High and Steve Vining, who have tried to be at the recycle drop off site every month. And very special thanks go to Darius Thieme. He is there virtually every week, and many of our "regular customers" ask about him if he hasn't arrived yet when they drop off their recyclables. This is a great job, folks, and we hope you will join our corps of great volunteers.



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

News from the Tennessee Chapter Group's



BE SAFE

American Hornbeam and Honey Locust were among the trees that had begun to bud or had characteristic bark that aided identification.

At the halfway mark we stopped at the Woodland Trail Shelter, a sturdy rectangular "gazebo," that was occupied by hikers from the Tennessee Trails Association who had started their hike earlier and were having lunch. Less than a half mile into the forest, after lunch, we were surprised by a two-foot-long garter snake that slithered out of the leaves a few feet from the trail. Long light-colored stripes down its back and sides were unmistakable features as it paused to see what we would do. It watched for a few moments and then made its escape, adding a touch of excitement to the afternoon.

Toxic tour - The "toxic tour" led by Rita Harris was an eye-opening and - nose-closing - exposure to some of the worst of the toxic-producing industries in the Memphis area. It was appalling to see that some of the industries were so near schools and across the street from public parks used primarily by low socio-economic groups of citizens in the city. It was a classic illustration of the lack of "economic justice" in Memphis and how difficult it would be to extricate these communities from the tentacles of industries that have a long history of operations despite repeated leaks, emission of clouds of toxic products and dissemination of various known and unknown pollutants into the air and into groundwater.

We traveled in the northwest part of the city through the Crump and Douglas communities to see Penn Specialty Chemical, Velsicol Chemical, Southern Cotton Oil, Crompton, Enenco, Buckman Laboratories, and the Hollywood Dump - a Superfund site - that lie within a several-mile radius of the communities. Then we went southward to see the Premcor, Inc. refinery which sits on the southern boundary of the Martin Luther King Jr. park on the Memphis riverfront.

Finally we drove south to see - and smell - the Allen Steam Plant at the far southeastern section of the county. As we arrived near the steam plant, the smell of the sludge lagoons convinced us to leave the area quickly. It was a fitting end to Rita Harris' toxic tour.

Chickasaw Group Plans Outings Calendar - Members of the Group who are leading outings have planned an exciting and educational outing calendar. In keeping with the Groups' conservation goals for the year, outings include educational opportunities about clean air and water, wetlands, and wild life habitat. All outings are open to the public. There are hikes to the boardwalks of Wolf River and Forked Deer bottom lands, a "toxic tour" of air and water polluting industries that endanger the health of Memphis African American communities led by the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice Program, a float down the Hatchie River through the Hatchie Wild Life Preserve, wildflower hikes, backpacking and car camping in the Ozark National Forest, and a bicycle trip through Shelby Farms.

These and other outings may be found on the Chickasaw Group Website www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/Chickasaw. Monthly events will be posted on the website and in the Tennes-Sierran outings list. Calendars will be available at programs. Outings leaders include Margaret Dixon, Dale Engelberg, Debbie Fox, Ralph Fox, Judith Hammond, Rita Harris, Jill Johnston, Jessie McCabe, Carolyn Pierce, Bill Rehberg, Don Richardson, Charlie Rond, and Sue Williams. The Chickasaw Group is joining with the Memphis Botanic Garden and the UT Master Gardener Program, League of Women Voters and the Friends of the River, the Bluff City Canoe Club, the Tennessee Trails Association, and the Friends of Overton Park on several outings. Among them are the annual cleanup float on the Wolf River, a hike on the trails along the upper Buffalo River in Arkansas, the Memphis Bluffs Promenade walks, the "Save Our Snakes Walk" in the Old Forest, and the "Signs of Spring" walks in the Botanic Garden. The public is welcome at all Sierra Club outings.

Middle Tennessee Group News

By Catherine Butcher

MTG'ers Gather at Post Offices on Tax Day, April 15th - Nashville, TN - Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club Hold "Polluter Pay" Tax Day Event. Last minute tax filers were greeted at the East Nashville Post Office on April 15th by citizens concerned that their tax dollars are paying for the clean up of Superfund toxic waste sites, while polluters are let off the hook. Armed with the message that polluters-not taxpayers-should pay for the clean up of toxic waste sites, the Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club educated their community about the amount of money the Bush administration is asking taxpayers to pay in Tennessee, with the release of a new analysis outlining the cost of Superfund to taxpayers.

The Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club, joined the BE SAFE network, including the Center for Health, Environment & Justice, US PIRG and National Environmental Trust, to hold "Polluter Pay Tax Day" events in more than twenty states across the country to promote protection of public health and the environment through a precautionary approach and "polluter pay" policies. Groups held events at post offices to remind taxpayers that they are now footing the bill to clean up abandoned toxic waste sites and urge reinstatement of the "polluter pay" taxes to replenish the Federal Superfund. (Visit www.besafenet.com/superfund for Calendar of Events.) Last October, the Federal Superfund toxic waste cleanup program ran out of polluter-contributed funds, leaving taxpayers to shoulder the financial burden. Reinstating the "polluter pays" fees is a fair and fiscally sound solution that would ensure the cleanup of toxic waste sites and protect the health of American communities.

With 1,240 toxic waste sites still in need of cleanup, the ramifications of a diminished polluter-funded Superfund trust fund to clean up toxic waste sites places our communities and environment at risk. As cleanups slow from an average of 87 completed per year in the late 1990's to an average of 40 completed per year during the Bush Administration, communities all across the country are living near toxic waste sites for increasingly longer periods. Already, one in four Americans, including 10 million children, lives within a short bicycle ride of a toxic waste site. Without an effective funding mechanism for Superfund cleanups, dangerous chemicals will continue to seep into our air, water, and soil and contaminate our children's playgrounds.

For more information, visit www.besafenet.com/superfund.htm for a Calendar of "Polluter Pay Tax Day" Events, State-by-State Tax Analysis and resources.

The BE SAFE initiative is coordinated by the Center for Health, Environment & Justice and includes over 300 organizations. Over the next

year, BE SAFE is gathering thousands of endorsements for the BE SAFE Precautionary Platform to present to the newly elected President in 2005 during the first 100 days of office. The Platform outlines the critical need for government and industry to institute a "better safe than sorry" approach motivated by caution and prevention to protect children from harmful toxic exposures and avoid illnesses. (www.besafenet.com)

RELEASE CONTACT: Cathy Butcher, Middle Tennessee Group Co-Conservation Chair
347-1480

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@yahoogroups.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 dixon@cs.utk.edu

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Monthly newsletter for the TN Chapter Sierra Club
Vol. 35, No. 5 - May, 2004