

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 36, Number 6 - June, 2005



By Doug La Follette,
Sierra Club BOD

America's economic engine is built on and driven by technology. From North Carolina's Research Triangle to California's Silicon Valley, the "can do" approach of technology development has solved problems while creating millions of jobs and enormous wealth in the United States

Unfortunately this is not the argument we hear from industry leaders and many members of Congress and the Bush administration when it comes to public policies to protect our environment and improve our health. Instead of endorsing the ability of American ingenuity to get things done, these defenders of the status quo claim our economic prosperity will suffer if we take even modest steps toward cleaning up our air and easing global warming by shifting away from fossil fuels.

Over the past year, the Union of Concerned Scientists examined the links between environmental solutions and economic prosperity, and found that the claims of fossil fuel supporters could not be further from the truth. In fact, an aggressive nationwide effort to increase our use of renewable energy resources such as wind or sun and build more fuel efficient vehicles would not only reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, but also reduce our dependence on imported oil and create high quality jobs that strengthen America's economy.

Increasing renewable energy generation creates jobs because the available technologies are relatively capital intensive; dollars invested in clean energy go toward high-wage manufacturing and construction jobs rather than fuel imports from other regions or countries.

In addition, bioenergy fuels for electricity (switchgrass, agricultural wastes) can be locally grown. As a result new renewable energy facilities create more jobs per megawatt-hour of electricity generation and dollar invested than new fossil fuel-fired power plants.

These sensible approaches would produce over 350 thousand jobs from renewable energy by 2020 and another 340 thousand jobs by building autos that get 40 mpg by 2015.

Our Nation Faces a Critical Choice

Developing new renewable energy generating capacity would also provide much needed competition to natural gas – currently the most popular choice for electricity generation and home heating. An unprecedented surge in natural gas consumption by power plants over the past four years has contributed to rising gas and electric prices, which have had a negative impact on the economy, even driving some manufacturing jobs overseas.

The Case for Fuel Economy

Investing in renewable energy is not the only way we can improve our environment and the U.S. economy at the same time. Reducing our oil dependence would have similar benefits. The fastest and most effective way to achieve this goal is to increase the fuel economy of the cars and trucks we drive. That requires investing in technologies such as efficient engines and transmission, high-strength steel and aluminum, low rolling resistance tires and hybrid-electric powertrains.

If auto makers took full advantage of these technologies, they could create jobs for people in the auto industry who would make and assemble the new materials and components. Cleaner cars would also save consumers money, leading to new jobs in other economic sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, construction, finance, retail and service.

More for consumers to spend

In addition to creating thousands of new jobs, renewable energy and efficient vehicles can strengthen the economy through consumer savings. Increasing our use of renewable energy to 20 percent by 2020 would save consumers a total of \$49 billion on their gas and electric bills, and provide a tremendous boost to rural communities where most renewable energy facilities would be located.

Increasing the fuel economy of the new car and truck fleet to 40 mpg would also benefit consumers by saving tens of billions of dollars in gasoline expenditures.

The Future Awaits

Homegrown energy sources and auto industry ingenuity could not only create high-quality U.S. jobs, but also open up vast new markets for American Business overseas.

And, by reducing our dependence on fossil fuel imports, a serious national commitment to renewable energy and efficient vehicles would make our energy supply more affordable, reliable and

The Two Hour Activist

by James H. Baker,
Chickasaw Group



Two hours a week...
equals 17 minutes a day...

Our lives are a balancing act. We balance the needs of our families, the demands of our jobs, the time involved in caring for our residences and possessions with how we spend our leisure and other "off hours" time. If we are involved with the Sierra Club, we add our activities with that group to the mix, and then we juggle it all and strive for balance. In that time that one does "Sierra Club" activities, how much of that involves activism? That is where my concept of "Two Hours per Week Activism" comes into play. By taking small "bite size" pieces of a larger task, less effort will be expended by each individual, yet more ambitious goals may be achieved.

How does one begin to be a two-hour Activist? My suggestion is to look at the National Sierra Club's website for the Priority Campaigns to see where your interests and talents mesh best. Then look at the Tennessee Chapter and your local Group websites. Again, see what are the focus campaigns and see where you could best put that hour to its best use. Here are some suggestions for two-hour activists. Contact your Group Conservation Chair to coordinate efforts and to eliminate duplication.

- Checking the legal notice section of the newspaper. Often, this is the only "public notice" there is for target issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Group Conservation Chair or Issue Leader. Legal notices should be checked daily. Note, some agencies use the "newspaper of record" to post their notices, which may – or may not be – the daily newspaper. Check with the agencies to see what they use.
- Checking the website of the United States Army Corps of Engineers to look for public notices for wetlands alterations and public comment periods. Wetlands alterations mean that a site may be slated for development in the near future. The two-hour activist that likes to do this may need to be placed on their mailing list. Check weekly.
- Checking the website of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for various permit application/renewal notices. Check weekly.
- Checking the websites and bulletin boards for the meeting agenda of the City Council/Country Commission/Land Use Control Board/Air

Continued on page 3



Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

Tennes-Sierran
The monthly newsletter of the
Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

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SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: TennesSierran@aol.com

Snail Mail: Rachel Floyd, Tennes-Sierran Chief Editor
3223 Caldwell Road - Ashland City, TN 37015
(615) 792-2590

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 cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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

Sierra Club Officers

(List in Transition for 2005)

Tennessee Chapter:

- Chair: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
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- Secretary: Katy Butcher (615) 347-1480
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Katibug1959@aol.com
- Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 366-4738
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TN Local Groups:

- Cherokee Group - Chattanooga
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- Chair: Terry Miller (423) 842-5053
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- Vice Chair: Henry Spratt, Ph.D.
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- Outings: Chris O'Connor (423) 867-4957
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- Conservation: James Baker (901) 372-6717
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- Vice-Chair: Beverly Smith (865) 531-8480
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Katibug1959@aol.com

State of Franklin Group

- Bristol/Johnson City/Kingsport
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/sofg
- Chair: Linda C. Modica (423) 753-9697
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- Conservation: Catherine Murray (423) 929-8163
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- Chair: Peggy Evans (931) 432-6680
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- Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142
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- Rita Harris, Community Organizer
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Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed

Moving?



My new address is:

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For registration and up-to-date information, visit www.sierrasummit2005.org

For information on exhibiting or sponsoring, contact Norman Burke, Exhibit Manager, at 312-541-0567 or email info@cccexpo.com

Sierra Club's National Environmental Convention and Exposition San Francisco September 8-11, 2005

Registrations are coming in! The Sierra Summit will be the largest gathering held by the Sierra Club in its 113-year history, and will serve as an important milestone in the environmental movement. This four-day event-taking place September 8-11 in San Francisco will be a huge opportunity for attendees to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet through a fun and rich learning experience.

This is also a unique opportunity to energize the environmental movement at a critical time, and a chance for all people who enjoy the planet and are concerned about its protection to support visioning the future. "This will be a rich experience for all of us," says Executive Director Carl Pope, "Good things happen when so many come together to shape the future. Through it, we will further build community and articulate hope and our values."

There will be a myriad of workshops on everything from "Backyard Organics" and "Eating Smart", to "Photography & Nature" and "Restoring the Wild." There will also be an exhibit hall filled with the latest environmentally sensitive technologies and Products, and Sierra Showcase will display the accomplishments of our chapters, groups and committees. Speakers will include one of the country's environmental champions and one of Time magazine's "Heroes for the Planet" for fighting to restore the Hudson River, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Other speakers include former Poet Laureate Robert Hass, chef Alice Waters, and professor George Lakoff.

The Summit will include the Sierra Club Strategic Direction Setting process which will be the most inclusive and extensive direction setting process the Club has ever had with 1,000 delegates from across the country. And as part of the pre-Summit preparation all members are invited to participate in online discussions at <http://www.sierraclub.org/summitforum> Click on the "register" link at the top to get your password emailed to you and join in!

And of course no Sierra Club event would be the same without outdoor activities, and there will be a number of hikes and other fun opportunities to get outdoors and socialize. It will be a great chance to network and learn with other Sierra members and leaders from around the country.

Everyone is welcome to attend, have fun and learn about the exciting ways to enjoy and protect the planet. To register, go to www.sierrasummit2005.org and either complete the form online or mail or fax it in. You can also call (301) 694-5243 or e-mail scs051.attendee@expexchange.com.

The Two Hour Activist

Continued from page 1

Quality Board and other bodies. The two-hour activist that likes to do this may need to be placed on their mailing lists. Check weekly.

- The website of the Local Emergency Planning Committee should be checked monthly.
- Checking the Right to Know website to research on toxic chemical releases to the land, water and air. Check monthly. One could collaborate with others to report those releases in an article in the Tennes-Sierran.

In this Internet culture, public notices of meetings and public comment periods are on the Internet as a matter of course. Sometimes, paper copies are placed on bulletin boards and there are mailing lists for some of this, but the Internet is far more convenient.

It has been my experience, if one sees an issue early enough, one has a far better chance of resolving that issue with success than letting it get so close it will be inside of one's reaction time. That is why these notices and websites should be regularly checked and reported to the Issue Leader(s) and Conservation Chair, by **both** e-mail and phone (computers do crash).

Speaking of meetings. To my knowledge, all of the above meetings are Public Meetings, as required by law. **Big problem**, these meetings are often held in the early afternoon, **when most people are at work, doing the "8-5"**. Here is where retired and self-employed two-hour activists come into play. They may have the more flexible schedule, without having to take vacation time or other personal leave. These meetings last often more than two hours, but that is the price to pay. It will be a great and glorious day when the decision makers see a large number of Sierra Club members participating at each meeting, rather than the tiny handful that they may interpret as "the usual suspects", or "those who have too much time on their hands".

What are the benefits of two-hour activism? There is a quote; "many hands make light work." The Tennessee Chapter has slightly over 7,000 members. If each member of the Tennessee Chapter did two hour's work a week as an activist, meaning only once a week, **over 14,000 hours** of environmental activism would be generated. In a single year, these same 7,000 activists would generate **over 728,000 hours** of activism for the environment or effectively **83 years** of work – in only a year. It fairly boggles the mind, but the Tennessee Chapter would become an unstoppable juggernaut, much to the chagrin of the polluters and despoilers of Tennessee.

*Tick...tock...17 minutes
a day...* won't you join us for two-hour a week activism?

Meetings

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

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: For additional information, contact Rick Gehrke 423-843-9625 or email rick.gehrke@comcast.net

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, June 2, 2005 - 6:00 - 8:00pm, Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "FIRST THURSDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING: Sunday, June 12, 2005 - 1:00-3:00pm - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join James Baker, the Conservation Chair in a casual setting to discuss conservation issues and interests that affect the Chickasaw Group. Contact James Baker at (901) 826-2448 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, June 13, 2005 - 6:30pm, Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Group Chair Charlie Rond (by June 10 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150.

MONTHLY THIRD TUESDAY: Tuesday, June 21, 2005 - 6:00 - 8:00pm, Cafe Francisco, 400 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "Third Tuesday" monthly gatherings where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, June 22, 2005, 6:00 pm - Memphis Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. Plans for completion of Tennessee's first linear state park will be outlined by Cumberland Trail Conference executive director Paul Freeman at the Chickasaw Group's June program. The Cumberland Trail had its beginnings in the minds of several dedicated hikers and conservationists in the 1960's and led to the formation of the Tennessee Trails Association in 1967. The TTA lobbied for a bill creating the Tennessee Trails System in 1971 and the Cumberland Trail resulted. Scores of volunteers built 100 miles of the trail through 1995 as one of seven planned walking trails. The Chickasaw Group has made a significant contribution to TTA toward the trail's construction. A recreational planner, Freeman hopes to see his 14-year-old twin sons complete their Eagle Scout projects on the Cumberland Trail not far from their Harriman, Tennessee home. For more information, contact Carolyn Pierce at (901) 755-5635 or Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: June 14 Harvey Broome Group Program meeting: Jill Wolverton and Kelley Segars from the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, will be talking about two programs that promote alternative transportation: the Smart Trips program and the Bicycle Program. The Smart Trips program works with employers to help them encourage employees to use alternatives to driving alone. The Bicycle Program strives to make bicycling an integral part of the transportation system through such things as road improvements, installing bike racks and helping people find safe routes to work.

STRATEGY MEETING: 4th Tuesday each month also at Unitarian Church. Non-members welcome at all HBG events. Call Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840 or email at onyxfarm@bellsouth.net

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, (June 9), 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Our program this month will inspire anyone who has dreamed of climbing Half Dome or El Capitan in Yosemite National Park. Join us for a Sierra Club Productions film, "Vertical Frontier, A History of the Art, Sport and Philosophy of Rock Climbing in Yosemite," narrated by Tom Brokaw. From John Muir in the 1860s to the super athletes of today, Vertical Frontier tells the rich and compelling saga of the free-spirited climbers whose contribution to mountaineering techniques, equipment and ethics allowed them to be the first to conquer the legendary big walls of Yosemite. Illustrated by spectacular old and new footage shot on those granite walls, the story is told by the climbers whose artistry and sheer determination allowed them to launch a sport now enjoyed by millions throughout the world. Our outings chair, Katherine Pendleton, recently vacationed at Yosemite, and will show a few photos from her trip after the film. Light refreshments will be served; please feel free to bring your favorite reusable cup and napkin. For more information on this program, contact Shelli Dimarco at (615) 260-0030. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) Non-members are always welcome!

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, (June 22) at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are first on the agenda! Come and get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting on the 4th floor at 2021 21st Avenue South (the old St. Bernard Academy Building). We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or e-mail Diane@Propson.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Caty Butcher at jlclbutch@comcast.net or call 226-8925.

CONSERVATION MEETING: Contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com for the next meeting place and time. We continue to move forward with wetlands training and outings, energy conservation, and work with MPO on alternative transportation

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.

Sign on to Save Our Smokies!

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

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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

As compiled by various members

Program – Backpacking Clinic:

Veteran solo backpacker Jill Johnston, along with David Henderson, demonstrated the latest and lightest in backpacking gear at their recent Backpacking Clinic. Jill, who is Membership Chair of the Chickasaw Group, followed up the clinic two weekends later by leading a backpack into the Sylamore Creek area of the Arkansas Ozarks.

Jill and David almost outdid each other demonstrating ever-lighter tents, sleeping bags, stoves and cookware during the clinic. Jill still carries a Sierra Club – partly because of nostalgia – but admitted she also carries an insulated cup to keep hot drinks hot and cool drinks cool. David does the same.

Their tents seemed gossamer in their lightness and their sleeping bags were tiny when compressed into their stuffbags. Titanium was the choice for cookware, and stoves were tiny though efficient.

The audience included a number of children who were already participating in camping and backpacking trips with parents.



Earth Day tabling events – Lichterman Nature Center:

Invited inside, out of the blustery, rainy weather, the Chickasaw Group set up its table inside the Lichterman Nature Center Building to offer a warm and dry welcome to the many passers-by at the annual Lichterman Earth Day celebration.

Those who braved the wind and steady, light rain bought some of the hundreds of potted plants for sale, snacked, and admired animals like opossums, raccoons, snakes, turtles and even an owl that submitted to gentle petting.

The Chickasaw Group table was strategically located between the Tennessee Trails Association (TTA) and the Friends for Our Riverfront tables, and the three groups worked well together and even shared some mutual members like Don Richardson and Carolyn and Woody Pierce. Jill Johnston, Tandy and Phyllis Brannon, Sandy Dickey, Susan Collins and Charlie Rond manned the Sierra Club's table.

Several of the experts carried small snakes which people could pet if they were willing. Petting one of Lichterman's resident opossums revealed soft, silky fur, a thick prehensile tail, a sweet disposition if tame but sharp imposing teeth if they were not tame. The opossum was carried around like a big cat in the arms of a Lichterman volunteer - a woman dressed as Mother Nature with a garland of spring flowers in her hair.

Maria Montessori School:

James Baker hosted a table at the Maria Montessori School's Regatta and Duck Race for Earth Day. He engaged in discussions with 15 or so adults about Tennessee Water Sentinels and the Mississippi River sampling project, mercury pollution in Shelby County, and the issue of a proposed low-level nuclear waste incinerator that will be operated by Radiological Assistance, Consult-

ing and Engineering in Memphis. A majority of the adults James talked with did not know too much about mercury pollution and the proposed incinerator. James was set up alongside a table from Friends for Our Riverfront, our partners in the protection of public lands along the Memphis riverfront.

Outdoors, Inc., 24th Annual Canoe and Kayak Race tabling event:

Karen Prosser and James Baker hosted a Sierra Club table at the canoe and kayak race. This year's race had over 400 paddlers that represented seven countries and 25 states. On the web, see:



<http://www.outdoorsinc.com>

It was a pleasure to see Woody Pierce, husband to the Chickasaw Group's vice-Chair Carolyn Pierce come in 2nd place in the category, "Masters 60+, Men, Solo Sea Kayak, lengths 10 to 13 feet. His kayak, like many of the watercraft in the race, sported a Friends for Our Riverfront bumper sticker.

Karen and James engaged about 20 or so adults and we discussed the same issues. Once again, a majority of the adults did not know of the issues of water quality in the Mississippi, mercury and the incinerator. Karen and James worked to educate them to the issues. Once again, the duet of Friends for Our Riverfront and Sierra Club worked alongside each other.

Top Row: A large number of Paddlers battle fatigue and a blustery head wind as they near the finish line. Photo by Carolyn Pierce

2nd Row Left: Woody Pierce rests after the race. Photo by Carolyn Pierce

2nd Row Right: From left to right, Lawrence Migliara, Woody Pierce, and Joe Royer. Lawrence and Joe are the co-owners of Outdoors, Inc. and they appreciated the Chickasaw Group's attendance and support. Photo by Carolyn Pierce

Bottom Right: "Mother Nature" holds one of Lichterman Nature Center's resident opossums at the Earth Day celebration. Photo by Charlie Rond

Bottom Right: Membership Chair Jill Johnston demonstrates to fellow backpacker David Henderson one of the ultra-light items she carries on her backpacking trips. From left to right: Jill Johnston, David Henderson. Photo by Charlie Rond

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/SignIn-Waiver.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 11-12, 2005
- Car Camp/Dayhikes-Cataloochee, GSMNP - On the first day we will



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!

dayhike the Boogerman Trail (7.4 miles) to get a first hand look at the old growth forest in the area. At sunset we will go to the open field in the area to hopefully see the elk. In the morning we will be back at the field to see the elk and visit several of the old homesites in the area, the museum and the elk holding pens. Not many people get to see this remote part of the Smokies. Rated moderate to moderately difficult/ distance 7.4 miles. Suitable for children-yes. Approx. round trip driving miles -22 miles from Food Lion on Asheville Hwy. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: email sharvey86@aol.com; phone 865-986-4608 days, 865-986-6798 evenings.

Thursday, June 16, 2005 BACKPACKING 101, or "WHAT DO YOU MEAN - SLEEP ON THE GROUND?" - This and many other questions to be answered about backpacking in East TN. The first annual backpacking forum, sponsored by the Harvey Broome Group of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, is to be held on June 16th from 6:30 to 9:30 at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. There will be local experts to answer your questions on tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, etc., as well as giving "how to" demonstrations with gear. The class will be followed up by an (optional) actual backpack the weekend of June 25 and 26th. And all this knowledge will be imparted for FREE! If you don't have gear don't worry - the local outfitters will rent you gear just to see if you like - sleeping on the ground! For details check the Harvey Broome Group "Outings" web page: <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome/outings/main.htm>. Please preregister by June 1 with Steve Harvey - email: SHarvey86@aol.com, cell phone - 865-271-7227; work phone - 865-986-4608.

Saturday, June 18, 2005 - Canoe/Wildlife Float, Rankin Wildlife Management Area, Douglas Lake - This is similar to the trip on May 22, but we will go out in the evening-birds come in to roost, night herons are more active, the lake gets very still, and the sunsets are gorgeous. So if you are keen on more bird-watching, or if you couldn't make the first outing you will want to take this opportunity to learn more about Rankin Bottoms Project. We will set out at 5 p.m. and return about 8:30 p.m. Rental canoes and gear are available. Driving time from Knoxville: approx. 1 hour. Pre-register with Mihcael Sledjeski of the Rank Bottoms Project: 423-487-3161; email mtnsylva@msn.com

Saturday - Sunday, June 25-26, Backpack-Slickrock Wilderness - Starting at Big Fat Gap parking area, we will follow the Big Fat Branch trail to the Slickrock Creek Trail. We will camp just downstream from Wildcat Falls. Numerous creek crossings are necessary, but this is late June, so they will be welcome! We'll complete the hike by following Slickrock Creek/Calderwood Lake to the parking area near Cheoah Dam on US 129. Rated easy, about 5 miles on day

one, including the side trip and 7 miles on day two. Driving time from Knoxville about 2.5 hours. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or email rshrieve@utk.edu (email is preferred).

Saturday - Sunday, July 16-17-2005 Backpack-Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area and Jefferson National Forest, VA - The Mt. Rogers NRA and adjacent Grayson Highlands State Park in southwest Virginia, make for one of the most scenic backpacking areas in the southeast, with huge open grassy meadows fringed by spruce trees and rhododendron bushes, usually flowering in June. We're going to camp in a new place for the HB Group, on Brier Ridge. Ray Payne dayhiked to the ridge last year and reports it will make a great campsite. We will start at Grayson Highlands State Park and hike to Elk Gardens Gap, about 7.5 miles total. Rated easy. Pre-register with Will Skelton: H 865-523-2272, W 865-521-6200; whshome@bellsouth.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, June 3-5 - Fall Creek Falls Rock Climbing School - This is not an official Sierra Club Trip. An official outfitter is conducting the course. There has been interest shown for rock climbing/rappelling activities to be offered in MTG Sierra Club. We have reservations for 5 people to attend the Fall Creek Falls Rock Climbing/Rappelling course which offers elementary instruction in these sports. The cost is \$30/person which includes equipment use and course materials. For additional information or to register, contact Katherine Pendleton no later than May 25 at 615-360-3481 or email Katibug1959@aol.com

Saturday, June 4 - Stones River Canoe - Paddle a beautiful pastoral seven mile stretch of the Stones River East Fork with the Stones River Watershed Association. This stretch is between Murfreesboro and Woodbury. Bring your own (or rented) boat or canoe. Contact Heloise at stillwild@bellsouth.net or (615) 896-6278.

Saturday, June 4 - National Trails Day Clean-up - We will volunteer at a local natural area by picking up trash or working on a trail. Site to be determined. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com for information.

Tuesday, June 7 - Radnor Lake After Work Hike - Last month, we visited Longhunter State Park for a series of conditioning hikes. We will continue another series of hikes this month at Radnor Lake. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the visitor center. We will walk the loop around the lake. For information and to pre-register, contact Katherine Pendleton at Katibug1959@aol.com or call 615-360-3481. Please contact Katherine by June 6 if you plan to participate.

Wednesday, June 8 - Stones River Greenway Bike Ride - Our newest outings leader, Edie McFarlin, will lead her first cycling trip on the Stones River Greenway! Meet at 11 a.m. at the Stones River National Battlefield Visitor Center at 11 a.m. This ride will last about an hour. Must provide own bike, helmet, water, etc. For additional information and to pre-register, contact Edie McFarlin at 615-896-1344.

Monday, June 13 - Radnor Lake After Work Hike - This week we will continue our conditioning program hiking the South Cove Trail at Radnor Lake. This hike is rated moderate to strenuous. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the visitor center. Please pre-register by contacting Katherine Pendleton by June 12 if you plan to participate at 615-360-3481 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

Tuesday, June 14 - Social Night Out for Dinner - Let's get together for an evening of socializing and chatting about current conservation topics and whatever else is on everyone's mind! This social dinner is for members and non-members. Meet at Rosepepper Cantina at 1907 Eastland Avenue in the East Nashville area at 6:00 p.m. Maybe take a walk at Shelby Bottoms Park afterward. Please contact Linda Smithyman to confirm at least the night before at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com or (615) 822-1979.

Saturday, Sunday, June 18-19 - Walls of Jericho Backpack - Walls of Jericho is a new wilderness area on the Cumberland Plateau that features a rock-walled gorge. We will hike the 2.3 mile one way trail to the primitive campsite that sits near three conjoining streams. The hike is easy to moderate going in and moderate to strenuous going out! Suitable for backpackers of all levels. Contact Katherine Pendleton for additional information and meeting location at 615-360-3481 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

Monday, June 20 - Radnor Lake After Work Hike - Continuing our conditioning hikes we will meet at the visitor center at 6:00 p.m. and hike the lake trail and then the Ganier Ridge trail. This hike is moderate to strenuous. To pre-register and for additional information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or email Katibug1959@aol.com. Please contact Katherine by June 19 if you plan to participate.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, June 24-26 - Smoky Mountain Backpacking Trip - We will meet Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. EST at the Twentymile Ranger Station, located on the southwest border of the park. On Friday, we will hike 4.1 miles via the Twentymile Trail to Long Hungry Ridge Trail, to campsite #92. Saturday, we will continue hiking 4.6 miles on the Long Hungry Ridge Trail to the Gregory Bald Trail to campsite #13. Sunday, we will hike 7 miles on the Wolf Ridge Trail back to our starting point. The month of June brings the Gregory Balds alive with blooming Azaleas, so cameras are a must! This trip is rated strenuous for experienced backpackers and registration is required since the trip is limited to 6 hikers. For additional information and to register, contact Nancy Fleming at Flemanti@bellsouth.net or call after 6:00 p.m. CST at 615-872-9221.

Saturday, June 25 - Smyrna Volunteer Park Family Day - Stones River Watershed Association invites everyone to attend their family day in Smyrna's Volunteer Park. For additional information, contact Heloise at stillwild@bellsouth.net or (615) 896-6278.

Sunday, June 26 - Dayhike - Hike at least 6 miles, location TBA. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com for information.

Thursday, June 30 - Longhunter State Park Cookout - Join us at the picnic area by the Bryant Grove Trail at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your grilling selections such as hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. The charcoal will be provided and the grill started up at 5:30 p.m. After we eat, we'll take a short hike around Couchville Lake. Please contact Katherine Pendleton by June 29 if you plan to participate at 615-360-3481 or email Katibug1959@aol.com

Saturday, July 2 - Caney River Float - Join us as we float the Caney River from the dam to Betty's Island. Everything depends on TVA's generating schedule. Canoes and kayaks can be rented at the Big Rock market nearby and their phone # is 931-858-0967. To register for this trip, contact Heloise at stillwild@bellsouth.net or (615) 896-6278.

Monday, July 11 - Outings Leader Training 101 - Outings Leader Training 101 is a required course for outings leaders. For those interested in leading hikes, backpacking trips, canoe trips, or any other type of outing that you wish to lead, please make plans to attend this interactive training session that will be held at The Atlanta Bread Company at 1725 West End Avenue in Nashville, TN at 6:30 p.m. Food is available at this meeting place, and the training will last no longer than two hours. For additional information and to pre-register,

contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

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>

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

HATCHIE RIVER ALL-DAY FLOAT:

Saturday, June 4, 2005 - 9:00am - Hatchie Wildlife Refuge, Brownsville, Tennessee. Join us for a leisurely float trip on the scenic Hatchie River through the Hatchie Wildlife Preserve. It is a slow river float but requires canoeing skill. This is a great opportunity to see West Tennessee wetlands up close from a true wilderness river. Plan accordingly, because the emphasis will be on "leisurely". The float and short car shuttle will take about 8 hours, with the shuttle beginning at 8:00am. There will be a 200-yard portage. Our meeting and starting point will be the boat ramp below the TN Highway 76 bridge at the Hatchie River. It will be necessary to provide your own watercraft. Bring lunch, water, and other canoeing essentials. Reservations and river canoe experience required. To make reservations call Jesse McCabe at (901) 829-3283.

OVERTON PARK HIKE: Saturday, June 11, 2005 - 10:00am - THE OLD FOREST TRAIL, OVERTON PARK SECOND SATURDAY HIKES. Sierra Club State Chair 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.

BIG HILL POND CAR CAMP & HIKES: Friday-Sunday, June 17-19, 2005 - Bill Hill Pond State Park, McNairy County, Tennessee. You will be wowed! This is how much of West Tennessee used to look. There is a modest camping fee. For more information, contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

SUMMER SOLSTICE SUNSET RIVER BLUFF WALK: Saturday, June 18, 2005 - Meet at Butler Park next to

Tennessee Brewery, Memphis, Tennessee. Sunset on the Mississippi River from the bluffs is a sight to see! For more information, contact Sue Williams at (901) 274-0524.

RIVER BOARDWALKS: Saturday, June 25, 2005 - 9:00am-4:00pm - River Boardwalks, Dyersburg, Memphis, Tennessee. Memphis Wolf River and Forked Deer River. Tigrett Wildlife Management Area, Dyersburg. Meet at Kennedy Park boardwalk in Memphis or in Dyersburg. For more information, contact Bill Rehberg at (901) 725-9747.

CHICKASAW GROUP JULY 4 PICNIC - SHELBY FOREST: Monday, July 4, 2005 - 2:00pm - Picnic Shelter # 5 at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, Memphis, Tennessee. The Chickasaw Group will celebrate Independence Day with an outdoor picnic at Picnic Shelter # 5 in Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. This is the picnic pavilion on the North Shore and closest to Poplar Tree Lake, so bring your canoe or kayak. The picnic will start at 2:00pm for canoeing and kayaking with grilling of food beginning about 4:00pm. The Club will provide soft drinks, burgers and hot dogs. Bring a dish to share and your chair. Along with the food there will be games and activities. Raingear may be needed and boots or sturdy tennis shoes if it is muddy. Contact picnic leader Carolyn Pierceat (901) 755-5635.



Walls of Jericho Dedication April 23, 2005

Submitted by Katherine Pendleton

One of the newest natural areas encompassing the Tennessee/Alabama state lines is the Walls of Jericho area recently purchased by The Nature Conservancy and protected and made available for public recreation through the efforts of the Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust, the Alabama State Lands Division of the

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The official dedication of this nature preserve, recreation area, and wildlife management area was held on Earth Day, April 23, 2005.

The governor of Alabama, Bob Riley, was brought in by helicopter for the event. TN Chapter Sierra Club Outings Chair, Katherine Pendleton and MTG outings leader Maryedith McFarlin backpacked to the primitive campsite the day before the dedication in order to be strategically located in order to have the opportunity to meet Governor Riley and let him know that The Sierra Club supports the efforts of the people of Alabama in managing wilderness areas such as The Walls of Jericho.



Top Photo: Left to right - Maryedith McFarlin and Katherine Pendleton

Bottom Photo: Left to right - Governor of Alabama Bob Riley, Maryedith McFarlin and Katherine Pendleton

Volunteer Opportunity!

To help the Middle Tennessee Group, to help our senior and disabled recyclers, to have fun and to meet other Sierran's, 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.

Sierra Club Film and New World Watch Book Bring *Home* the Importance of Local Food

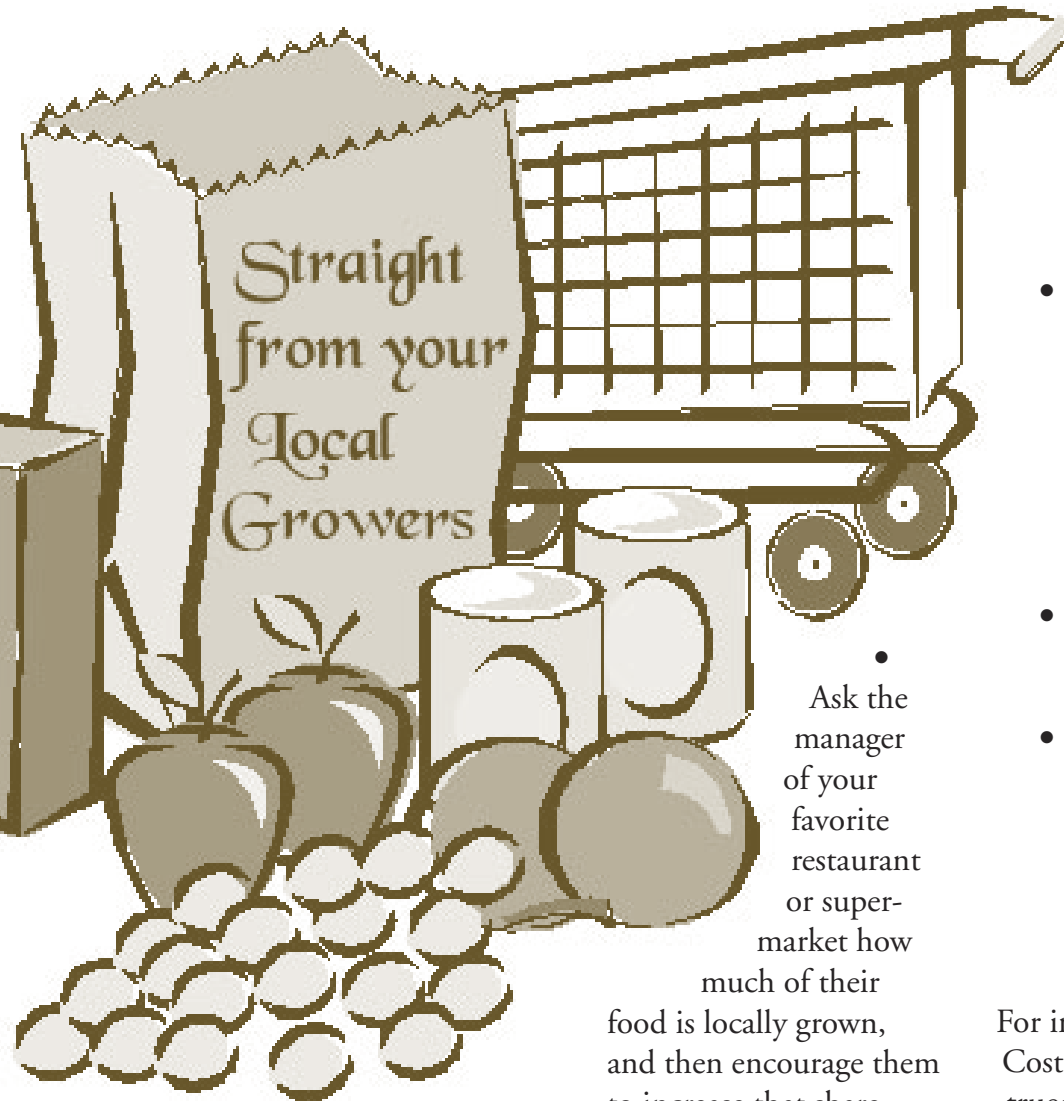
Submitted by:

Bonnie Webber, Member
of the National Sustainable
Consumption Committee

The most significant—and encouraging—change in the American diet today is an ever-growing interest in eating local food. More and more Americans are preparing meals of vegetables, fruit, meat, and other ingredients grown and raised on nearby farms, rather than from distant agribusinesses. School districts, hospital chains, foodservice providers, and even the nation's top grocers are also seeking out food that has been raised nearby.

The Sierra Club has sponsored a short film called "The True Cost of Food". The Sierra Club National Sustainable Consumption Committee is using the film as the centerpiece of a campaign to educate the public about food issues. The 15 minute animated film is a light-hearted thought provoking video intended to be used as an introduction to a discussion on the environmental costs of the way agribusiness is raising our food. It encourages people to buy local and organic food and eat less meat. Check it out at <http://www.truecostoffood.org>.

The benefits and re-emergence of local food are documented and examined in *Eat Here: Reclaiming Homegrown Pleasures in a Global Supermarket*, a new book from the Worldwatch Institute. *Eat Here* describes how this simple shift in eating habits not only delivers superior taste, but is also better for people's health, the livelihoods of small farmers, and the global environment. The book shows how people have responded to concerns about mad cow disease, urban sprawl, and heavy pesticide use by taking control of their food supply and demanding locally grown fare. Learning more about how food is produced and con-



necting to food sources allows consumers to make decisions that are better for us and for the planet.

Many readers have used the book to organize "local food dinners," meals built around local ingredients, where attendees can discuss the book and its implications for their local food economy. Attendees at these dinners might be inspired to start a farmers market, sponsor an edible schoolyard, or lobby their elected officials to support local agriculture. (For information on getting discounted copies of *Eat Here* for hosting one of these dinners, please contact <mailto:cberner@worldwatch.org>.) The book and film complement each other beautifully and can be used together to run a lively meeting that appeals to people of varying commitment levels.

- The book and video feature things you can do to promote local foods in your own life or community:
- Learn what foods are in season in your area and try to build your diet around them.
- Shop at a local farmers market.

• Ask the manager of your favorite restaurant or supermarket how much of their food is locally grown, and then encourage them to increase that share.

- Take a trip to a local farm to learn what it produces.
- Host a harvest party at your home or in your community that features locally available and in-season foods. Invite a local farmer to speak at your party.



- Produce a local food directory that lists all the local food sources in your area, including CSA arrangements, farmers markets, food co-ops, restaurants emphasizing seasonal cuisine and local produce, and farmers willing to sell direct to consumers year-round.
- Buy extra quantities of your favorite fruit or vegetable when it is in season and experiment with drying, canning, jamming, or otherwise preserving it for a later date.
- Plant a garden and grow as much of your own food as possible.
- Speak to your local politician about forming a local food policy council to help guide decisions that affect the local foodshed.

For information about *The True Cost of Food*, visit <http://www.truecostoffood.org/> or to order a copy contact us at <mailto:truecostoffood@aol.com>. For more information about *Eat Here*, including discussion questions and activity ideas, visit www.worldwatch.org/features/food.

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