

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 36, Number 11 - November 2005

Tennessee's next step toward **CLEAN ENERGY** may follow the lead of North Carolina

by **Emily Saunders**

Climate and Air Program Coordinator –
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

The Issue

The problems of global warming are facing us more and more everyday. With the two most recent hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and the subsequent oil shortages, we are being forced to recognize our link in the chain of global warming pollution. There is no doubt global warming pollution emissions are increasing globally and in the U.S. as well. With increased global warming pollution comes an increased mean surface temperature of our planet and climate destabilization. The planet's natural greenhouse effect is being exacerbated by pollution from the burning of fossil fuels to create electricity and to drive our automobiles.

The vast majority of scientists and climate experts believe global warming pollution is a serious human-caused planetary affliction causing and exacerbating numerous environmental and social problems. Decision-makers from around the world are beginning to take action to address global warming pollution. In February 2005 the first international agreement to reduce global warming pollution, known as the Kyoto Protocol, came into force. In the United States our federal government, under the Bush administration, continues to deny the seriousness of the problem and refuses to take meaningful steps to reduce emissions. The United States and Australia are the only two developed countries to not have joined the Kyoto protocol. The refusal of the US, the world's largest emitter of global warming pollution, to engage with the international community remains a serious problem, but there is hope.

State and local governments are moving forward to take action to reduce emissions. Most of these activities are taking place in the more progressive Northeast and West coast. However, in August of 2005, Tennessee's neighboring state, North Carolina, passed landmark legislation through the General Assembly to address global warming pollution from all sources. This legislation creates a stakeholder commission to understand the sources and policy solutions for global warming in North Carolina.

An impressive array of folks from the faith community, academics, business people, editorial boards, other environmental groups, and individual citizens got behind the need for climate action in North Carolina. With the help of this broad-based support, the NC Senate and House passed the bill in July and then again in August after revisions, with significant bipartisan support and huge vote margins. The bill was signed into law by Governor Easley on September 27, 2005 – the first of its kind in the southeast.

“The four Southeastern states Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida together rank 7th in the world for global warming pollution contributed.”

Tennessee has an opportunity to join North Carolina and demonstrate leadership on this critical issue. The four Southeastern states Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida together rank 7th in the world for global warming pollution contributed. Tennessee ranks 16th among all the States and 46th in the world for the most global warming pollution. For carbon dioxide alone (which predominantly comes from coal-fired power plants), Tennessee ranks 14th nationally with 64 million tons of CO₂ emitted annually.

One way Tennessee can take action is by creating a state climate action plan, or a stakeholder commission like North Carolina. A plan or commission would cause the state to conduct an investigation on the global warming impacts projected to occur in Tennessee and determine the full breadth of pollution sources across the state. The plan would also make suggestions for actions the state could take to reduce global warming pollutants in win-win scenarios to boost the economy and cre-

ate new jobs in a variety of sectors from agriculture to technology development. States that see the retooling of their economy in a world that is serious about reducing global warming emissions will gain competitive advantage in the years to come. Tennessee is well positioned. We have several important renewable energy suppliers in our state, like Sharp Solar in Memphis, the largest producer of photovoltaic panels in the United States. Several companies supporting Sharp's growing factory are scattered throughout the state. A large wind power tower manufacture, Aerisyn, opened shop this fall in Chattanooga.

Tennessee is home of two major institutions, TVA and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, that with leadership could help blaze the trail for development and deployment of new energy technologies. Enormous gains are to be made in energy efficiency in our state because we have not seen a serious effort for energy efficiency in over two decades. Energy efficiency creates jobs and saves people money on their utility bills. A major player in efforts to reduce emissions will be the agriculture and forestry sectors. Soils and forest will become important stores for carbon. Tennessee has the potential to be a major supplier of biofuels like biodiesel and cellulosic ethanol. All these opportunities and others will be available to Tennessee if we take action and develop a plan to capture them.

Why Tennessee Gets to Take Action

Tennessee faces numerous impacts from global warming. Impacts to the natural climate cycle could add significant stress to the spruce-fir forests in the Appalachian Mountains, which are already struggling from acid rain, ground level ozone pollution and exotic pests. Our forested areas could become dominated by pine and scrub oaks, replacing many of the eastern hardwoods common in our forests today. Tennessee has immensely diverse ecosystems, including wetlands, high-elevation forests and glades, oak-hickory forests, grasslands, and caves. The Mississippi delta reaches as far north as the western part of Tennessee where it supports almost five times the biodiversity of upland areas. All of these systems are sensitive to climatic factors.

SEE CLEAN ENERGY - PAGE 3



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Tennes-Sierran
The monthly newsletter of the
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Email: tn.sierra@gmail.com
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2703 Adobe Hills Place
Thompson Station, TN 37179

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 10th of the month preceding the new month's issue.

1. Email text submissions, or PDFs are preferred. Send to tn.sierra@gmail.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files.
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 CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your disk or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted; 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
donrich@juno.com
- Vice Chair: Catherine Murray (423) 929-8163
Cfvcatherine@worldnet.att.net
- Secretary: Position Available
- Treasurer: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
- Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 366-4738
GB1Nature@aol.com
- Membership: Dick Mochow (901) 274-1510
dinimo@bellsouth.net

TN Local Groups:

- Cherokee Group - Chattanooga
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
- Chair: Terry Miller (423) 842-5053
trmcha@comcast.net
- Vice Chair: Henry Spratt, Ph.D.
Henry-Spratt@utc.edu
- Conservation: Rick Gehrke (423) 843-9625
rick.gehrke@comcast.net
- Outings: Chris O'Connor (423) 867-4957
chris_o77@yahoo.com
- Chickasaw Group - Memphis
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
- Chair: Charlie Rond (901) 409-8150
chasrond@bellsouth.net
- Vice Chair: Carolyn Pierce (901) 755-5635
cedpierce2000@yahoo.com
- Conservation: James Baker (901)826-2448
kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com
- Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819

- Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
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onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
- Vice-Chair: Beverly Smith (865) 531-8480
Blsmith1300@comcast.net
- Conservation: David Reister (865)670-8991
dreister@bellsouth.net
- Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518
rshrieve@utk.edu
- Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville
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- Chair: David Bordenkircher (615) 333-3377
dabordenkircher@mindspring.com
- Vice Chair: Jeremy Doochin
Doochers87@aol.com
- Conservation: Diane Perschbacher (615) 895-1236
Diane@Propson.com
- Outings: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com

- State of Franklin Group
- Bristol/Johnson City/Kingsport
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/sofg
- Chair: Linda C. Modica (423) 753-9697
lmodica@aol.com
- Conservation: Catherine Murray (423) 929-8163
Cfvcatherine@worldnet.att.net

- Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg
- Chair: Peggy Evans (931) 432-6680
maevans@twlakes.net
- Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142
Jmcquail@tntech.edu
- Conservation: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
zeblady@twlakes.net
- Outings: Mary Jane Ware
mjhike@blomand.net

Tennessee Sierra Staff:

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Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org

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Clean Energy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In our urban areas, warming will increase the frequency of heat waves and the amount of heat-related illnesses and death. Hotter weather will also increase the number of high ozone days and corresponding health impacts to sensitive populations and those with asthma. Global warming is believed to be increasing the strength and intensity of tropical storms and Tennessee often receives much of the rain, flooding, and aftermath of serious hurricanes such as Hurricane Katrina that struck New Orleans earlier this fall. All of these impacts and more will affect tourism and our way of life here in Tennessee.

In light of the serious impacts Tennessee faces, we plan to create our own success story similar to that of North Carolina. At this crossroad, we can prepare for the impacts and at the same time search for ways to curb the impacts to Tennessee and benefit economically from this transition to a warmer climate. We can work towards a state-level pollution reduction goal. We need a strong coalition of stakeholders to make this goal a success.

Actions to Take

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy is working throughout Tennessee to build support for state level global warming action. We have organized global warming citizens groups (including folks from ORNL, UT and various companies in the state) in east and middle Tennessee that could work as a network of support for informing folks on the issue of global warming in Tennessee. State government, many companies, schools, universities and environmental groups are involved with the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Roundtable and Pollution Prevention Partnership.

As citizens we can act now to make energy efficient choices. When buying new appliances, look for Energy Star, and purchase cars that use gas more efficiently. TVA offers renewable energy via their Green Power Switch Program – this program supports wind and solar power. TVA will even pay you for solar power you generate from new solar panels you place on your home. You can make a difference and we must!

We are obliged to educate ourselves and our representatives on global warming issues and the importance of Tennessee staying ahead of the economic curve as new markets emerge. Global warming is about more than just the environment—it is a matter of new economic opportunities as well. SACE, working with the Sierra Club, has begun the push for awareness on global warming in Tennessee. But much more work is needed! This is an exciting time and we have an opportunity to make the best of global warming impacts while also working to minimize the impacts.

SACE is a non-profit, non-partisan membership group supporting responsible energy choices in the Southeast. We work at all levels of society and government to encourage the use of renewable energy sources and to prevent present energy sources from creating more pollution. For more information visit our website at www.cleanenergy.org or contact Stephen Smith at 865-637-6055 ext. 12 or sasmith@cleanenergy.org if you are interested in working with us.

Three Films We Think You'll Like

A new film from director Robert Greenwald, who is currently filming *The Sierra Club Chronicles*, examines America's largest employer. *WAL-MART: The High Cost of Low Price* looks at the real lives of workers and their families, business owners and their communities, in a journey that will challenge the way you think, feel...and shop. Find a screening in your area at www.walmartmovie.com/find.php

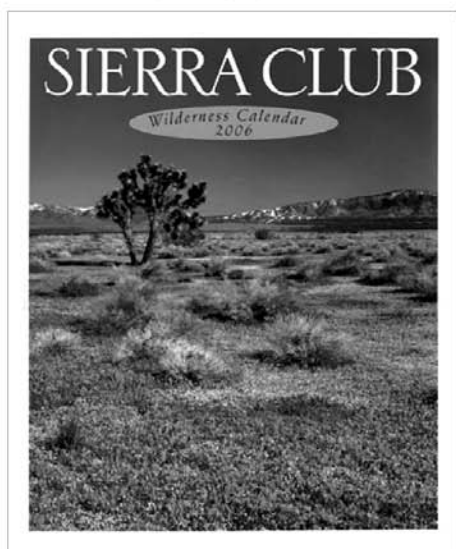
With the Arctic National Refuge in great peril, now's a good time to catch *Oil on Ice*, the powerful documentary about the people of the Refuge. It's airing as part of a series of environmental programs on LinkTV that also includes an address by Sierra Summit speaker Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. See it on Sunday, Oct 23: 10 p.m. Eastern, 7 p.m. Pacific.

The new film from Sierra Club life member Mike Mills, *Thumbsucker*, is an indie hit that mentions the Club twice (yes, in a positive light), and gently opines about the importance of wilderness and the dark side of sprawl. We interviewed Mills and executive producer Cathy Schulman about the film and what it has to say about sprawl. *Thumbsucker* is playing nationwide.

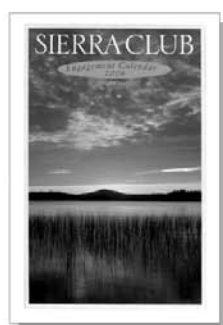
Reprinted from the Sierra Club Insider.

SIERRA CLUB 2006 CALENDARS

Sierra Club 2006 Engagement Calendar—Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.



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Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, November 8, 7:30 pm. Join us for an exciting program Local mountain climber, Duane Simmons will inspire us with a slide presentation on his climb of Mount Elbrus, in Russia, the highest peak in Europe. A volcanic massif located north of the Caucasus main ridge, 18,540-foot Mt. Elbrus rises almost 3,000 feet higher than surrounding peaks. The summit offers breathtaking views of the Caucasus Mountains and the impressive tributary valley systems feeding the raging waters of the Baksan River.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, October 25, 7:30 p.m. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Interested in becoming more involved in club issues or finding out what drives the local Sierra Club, then this meeting is for you. Call Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840 for more information.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, November 3, 2005, 6:00 - 8:00pm, Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "FIRST THURSDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, November 14, 2005 - 6:30pm, Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Group Chair Charlie Rond (by November 11 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 409-8150.

MONTHLY THIRD TUESDAY: Tuesday, November 15, 2005, 6:00 - 8:00pm, Cafe Francisco, 400 North Main, Memphis. 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, November 16, 2005, 7:00 pm - Memphis Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. Join Woody and Carolyn Pierce as they retrace their recent steps through the 24 miles of trail from the north to the south rim of the Grand Canyon. Through a Power-Point presentation they will share their experience and knowledge of one of the nation's most spectacular national parks, the Colorado River, the varied topography of trails and some history of the Grand Canyon. For more information, contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or e-mail at rutschman@rhodes.edu

TELEVISION PROGRAM: Mondays 1:30 pm; Tuesdays 4:00 pm and Wednesday 11:30am, Wednesday 11:30 am, 11:00pm, Thursday 7:00am WPYL-Channel 18 - "The Nature of Conservation," is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. In November the program will cover the development and construction of the Cumberland Trail with its director, Paul

Freeman. If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, November 10, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Join us for a presentation by Lamar Laws, a Senior Energy Services Specialist at NES, on the Green Power Switch program. The environmental impact of traditional energy sources like coal, natural gas, oil and nuclear power can be significant. Although no source of energy is impact-free, renewable resources create less waste and pollution. In fact, according to NES, a green power investment of \$8 per month on your electric bill is equivalent to not driving your car for four months. Refreshments will be served; please feel free to bring your favorite reusable cup and napkin. For more information, contact Shelli Dimarco at (615) 260-0030 or greenveggie@comcast.net. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) Non-members are always welcome!

CONSERVATION MEETING: Tuesday, November 1, 6:00 p.m. in the Sierra Club office, which is located at 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436 (the old St. Bernard Academy). Please attend the next Conservation Committee meeting, at which we'll be planning our conservation initiatives for 2006. Join us if you have ideas, want to be the liaison for a conservation effort or just want to listen. For more information, contact Diane Perschbacher Phifer at (615) 895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com.

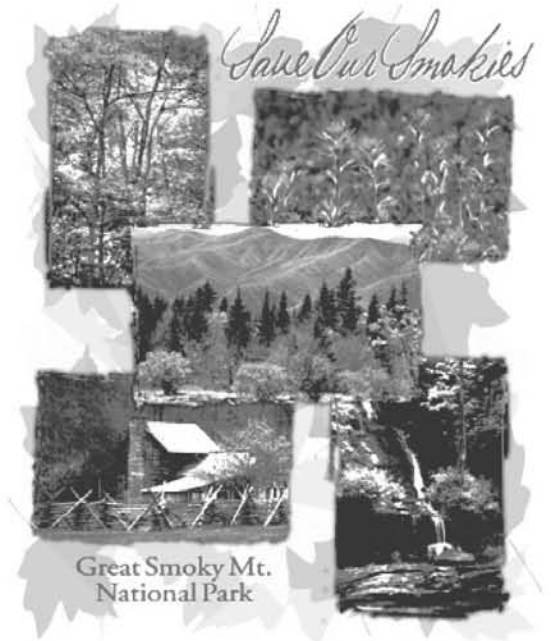
STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sierra Club office, which is located at 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436 (the old St. Bernard Academy). Conservation issues are first on the agenda! Come and get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting. 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 David Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com or call (615) 333-3377.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Knoxville)

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

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STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY MEETING: 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, lcomodica@aol.com.

PROGRAM MEETING: 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.

Election Ballot for At-Large Delegates on the 2006 Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee

Please vote for three (3) of the following candidates. Each will serve a 2-year term if elected.

Membership

Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Clark Buchner
_____	_____	Dick Mochow
_____	_____	Catherine Murray

Only current members may vote, so please put your membership number (found on the mailing label of this Tennes-Sierran) on the outside of the envelope. Place that envelope inside another envelope and mail before November 30, 2005 to:

**Chapter Election Committee -
Katherine Pendleton, Chair
105 Catamaran Court
Nashville, TN 37217**

Your vote counts here and at the Group Level, so please remember to vote for your Group candidates as well!

Tennessee Chapter Candidate Statements:

Following is a brief resume for each nominee:

Clark Buchner - I have been a Sierra Club member for 29 years, and have been active for the last 17 years with the Tennessee Chapter. I have served as Chickasaw Group Chair, Tennessee Chapter Chair, and represented the Chapter as Council of Club Leaders (CCL) delegate for 3 years. I have been active with the Chapter Ex-Com for 12 or so years, and would like very much to continue in that capacity. At the national level of the club I currently serve as the Vice Chair for the ExCom of the CCL and just recently joined the Sustainable Planet Strategy Team (an oversight group for six committees under Conservation Governance). My home is in Memphis among some tall red oak trees.

Dick Mochow - I have been a Sierra Club Member for 30 years. Positions I have held include: Group Chair, Chapter Chair, GCRCC Chair and SE Regional Vice-President of the Club. I am currently an At-Large Chapter Delegate, Chapter Membership Chair, Environmental Justice Chair, and Group Political Chair. I am also a member of the SC National Clean Water Campaign Committee. I have served in numerous other leadership roles with the Group, Chapter and regional organization. I strongly support grassroots activism and believe the strength of the Sierra Club lies within its Groups and Chapters. As an At-Large Delegate I try to represent the membership as a whole - not just my local Group.

Catherine Murray - I have been a Sierra Club Member since 1992 in the State of Franklin Group. I have served as Group Conservation Chair and Water Committee Chair. I am currently the Chair of the Cherokee National Forest Committee for my Group, as well as for the Tennessee Chapter. I work for the restoration and preservation of biodiversity, improved protection of fish, wildlife, plant, soil and water resources, availability of nature-oriented recreation, and protection of our wild places and scenic values of our national forest.

Middle Tennessee Candidate Statements:

Following is a brief resume for each nominee:

Jeremy Doochin - A senior at Hume-Fogg High School who has a passion for the environment and is dedicated to creating a world that is environmentally educated and sustainable. At age 15 he built a unique program at Hume-Fogg to educate students about environmental issues. In addition to serving as the MTG Sierra Club vice-chair for the past 2 years, Jeremy has served other environmental boards including the American Chestnut Foundation, the Nashville Earth Day Festival (NEDF), and Metro Public Works. Last year, in a combined effort as a mayor's liaison to Metro Public Works and with the NEDF, he organized students to form the first high school section at the Nashville Earth Day Festival. He initiated the Student Environmental Alliance, the first citywide student environmental group. This year, he created the MTG Internship Program, which gives 4 high school students the opportunity to work with Excom members to develop Sierra Club programs and activities. Jeremy would like the honor and opportunity to continue working on the MTG Excom in order to serve the Sierra Club and protect and preserve our world for future generations.

Carl Leathers - Carl has been active in the Sierra Club group and Chapter for 3 decades, serving as Group Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Conservation Chair, and outings leader. He has been a delegate to the Chapter for several terms. Carl's major concern is reviving a weakened environmental community to the level of activity experienced in the 1970's, when most of our environmental laws were created. Presently he serves as chair of the Environmental Education Committee and the Population Committee of the Tennessee Chapter.

Katherine Pendleton - For many years has been passionate about educating people regarding conserving our outdoor resources so that future generations will be able to appreciate the joys of hiking and backpacking. She is an avid backpacker who spends a great deal of time in the Smoky Mountains where she is a volunteer involved in trail maintenance and educating the public on "Leave No Trace" ethics. She leads several backpacks each month and has brought knowledge of the Sierra Club to the participants on her hikes. Katherine has advocated backpacking education through teaching backpacking 101, providing an opportunity for novice outdoors people to become acquainted with being in a wilderness setting. She has been an active member of the MTG executive committee and has served as group chair, outings chair, membership chair and program chair. Katherine has attended training sessions at national Sierra Club headquarters regarding outings, membership, and treasurer education and is a resource for the MTG group.

Diane Perschbacher - A member of the Sierra Club for over 10 years, she has been active in the outings program, the recycling site, and as the Conservation Chair and Treasurer of the group. She is looking forward to continuing work with the club, moving current conservation efforts ahead and reacting to new issues. A member of both the Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation and the Nature Conservancy, she is especially interested in land and energy conservation, recycling efforts, human sustainability, renewable energy and outdoor activities (enjoys hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing and canoeing). While working as your representative, however, she will emphasize whatever the group determines most important. Ade teacher with Knox Co School System. I have been in Sierra Club since the 1980s. My environmental priorities include educating adults, as well as children about our responsibility in prevention of habitat destruction, protection of wetlands, endangered or threatened species and the many issues facing the Great Smoky Mountains. I am currently the Program Chariman for the Harvey Broome Group and a member of ExCom class of 2002-2003 and 2004-2005. I would like to continue to serve the HBG through reelection to another term on the HBG ExCom.

Middle Tennessee Group Election Ballot

For the 2006 Executive Committee
Please vote for no more than three (3) per member.

Membership

Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Jeremy Doochin
_____	_____	Carl Leathers
_____	_____	Katherine Pendleton
_____	_____	Diane Perschbacher

For your vote to count, you must enclose your marked ballot in an envelope marked "Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope for mailing. Write your membership number, which can be found on the address label of your newsletter, on the outer envelope with your return address. Envelopes without a membership number cannot be counted.

Mail your ballot to:

**Rachel Floyd
3223 Caldwell Road
Ashland City, TN 37015**

The deadline for submitting your ballot is December 1.

Garden Report

by Richard Simmers
Autumn Update

I had a few volunteer pea plants this summer, despite the heat; some "Cascadia" germinated July 9 and had good-sized, tasty peas Aug. 24. Some Amish snap peas had ripened (dry) pods Sept. 8. All pea vines were small and did not bear well. The pole beans, both the early-planted "Kentucky Wonder" and later-planted "Blue Lake," had good yields of snap beans despite everything; dry pods were first collected from the former Sept. 7. The later KY Wonders (planted July 9) began flowering Aug. 21 but soon had major leaf loss from deer. I got a good many "Waltham Butternut" squashes (first picked Aug. 13; first flowers July 18) and a "Queensland Blue" squash (Sept.); all of these lost the older foliage, but I did not observe any insect pests other than spotted cucumber beetles on them. The Pumpkin vines had only male flowers (too crowded?) and I let them go.

My corn plants, although rather crowded, produced fairly well. The "Rainbow Inca" plants had (mostly)

good green foliage, grew 8-9 feet tall, started shedding pollen July 23; and some had maturing ears (with beige husks, but not fully dry) that I picked Sept. 5. Most ears did not show corn earworm damage (husks tight?). The "True Gold" sweet corn began shedding pollen July 27; I picked my first ear Aug. 12. The "True Gold" plants mostly looked yellow-green and had some rusty leaf edges, also rusty bands on leaves (nitrogen, potassium deficiencies, likely others as well). Japanese beetles chewed off the exposed silks on many corn plants, and did some leaf and tassel feeding as well; but most ears filled out well except at the tips. Many "True Gold" ears had corn earworms; there was an average of one ear per plant. A few ears showed some purple or whitish kernels amidst the yellow ones, indicating a small amount of crossing with "Rainbow Inca" plants only a few feet away. I enjoyed sweet corn picked up to Aug. 27; I did not see any signs of raccoon damage. Many "True Gold" corn plants and poles with pole beans were sprawling Aug. 31 after Katrina's passage.

The tomato plants suffered severely from diseases, espe-

cially the older leaves (and stems in some cases); the plants were overcrowded and did not bear very well, with rather flat-tasting fruit. I liked the "Chadwick" and "Sungold" (first picked July 30), also "Ozark Pink" (Aug. 9 first), "Brandywine" (Aug. 9 ripe) and some others. The "Fourth of July" Burpee hybrids were loaded with nice-looking but nearly tasteless red tomatoes. The tomato foliage became spotted or yellowish on older leaves during or after the wet July weather; earlier, some flea beetles attacked the seedlings, and a few potato "bugs" as well. I did not see any hornworms. On the late-planted (July 9) okra, I finally found 2 pods Sept. 8; deer damage was heavy. A few (only) of the sesame plants bloomed (starting July 8) and set seed (a few capsules opening Sept. 5). The lima beans had fair-looking, pale-spotted or rusty-tinted foliage, began flowering Aug. 3 (planted June 12), and few pods were observed.

At my "composting" area, however, the volunteer tomato plants have lovely green foliage, free from obvious diseases! Their cherry-size fruits have not ripened yet (Sept. 14).

Chickasaw Group Election Ballot

For the 2006 Executive Committee. Please vote for six (6) of the following candidates. Each will serve a 2-year term if elected.

Membership

Single

Joint

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Allan Lummus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bill Runyan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Carolyn Pierce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Karen Prosser |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mondell Williams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Steven Sondheim |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tom Lawrence |

FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT, you must enclose your marked ballot in an envelope marked "ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope for mailing. Write your membership number which can be found on the address label of your newsletter, on the outer envelope with your return address. ENVELOPES WITHOUT A MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WILL NOT BE COUNTED. Mail your ballot to:

Attn. Election Committee, Chickasaw Group-Sierra Club
P.O. Box 111094
Memphis, TN 38111

The deadline for submitting your ballot is November 30, 2005. PLEASE VOTE!

Chickasaw Candidate Statements:

Following is a brief resume for each nominee:

Allan Lummus, PhD - Medical Researcher with the University of TN Health Science Center Department of Preventive Medicine. Allan has a PhD in sociology from the University of Oregon with academic interests in environmental justice and public health. He is a member of Temple Israel and Church of the River (UU). As a board member for the Chickasaw local for the past 4 years his interests have been in smart growth, transportation, and sustainable trade. He is also a board member of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center. Allan sings in two local choirs and enjoys being a husband to Connie Diamond and a father to Maxwell Diamond Lummus.

Bill Runyan - I'm requesting your vote to be on the Chickasaw Group Ex-Com. I have been active on environmental issues for years: I write letters to the editor and members of congress, I donate money and I am starting a web site on alternative energy. I would be honored to serve on the Ex-Com.

Carolyn Pierce - I'm requesting your vote and support in returning me to the Chickasaw Group Ex-Com on which I've served for three years. The position of vice-chairman for the past year has allowed me to participate in planning programs, tabling, fund raising, the organization of social events and leader of several outings, both hikes and kayaking trips. My passion for the outdoors and hiking has translated into my chairing the Memphis Chapter of Tennessee Trails for two years. I've attended several meetings on environmental issues as my time permitted. My husband, Woody, and I are ardent supporters of the Cumberland Trail Conference and have participated in its construction efforts. On the personal and professional side, I am currently employed as a Professional Counselor at Lewisburg Elementary School in Olive Branch, MS. Jason and Brandon are my grown sons, and Jamaica is my precious pet dog and frequent hiking companion.

Karen Prosser - I have proudly been a Sierra Club member since 1983 and have served on the Chickasaw Group (CKG) Executive Committee for two years, serving as Vice Chair and Secretary. I consider environmental protection to be my calling and obtained a BS Degree in Environmental Chemistry. I have worked in the environmental field for eighteen years in the public and private sectors in several fields that include hazardous waste disposal, water and air pollution control, and leaking underground storage tanks. I hold the position of political chair in the CKG and consider the Bush Administration to be the biggest threat to the environment, including global warming and habitat destruction which I consider the most important challenges today. I will continue to work toward getting environmentally-minded candidates into office who will work to protect the life and wellbeing of our Planet. I would appreciate your vote.

Mondell Williams - As a candidate seeking a seat on the Executive Committee, I look forward to bringing my fifteen years of knowledge and unwavering effort as an environmental activist, as well as working as a liaison between my community and the politicians who represent us. I will work hard to broaden the communication between neighborhood organizations across the city to enlighten them about the Sierra Club and the environmental issues that they stand for. I believe that if we could empower the community with knowledge of environmental issues that face our community, and to let them know that it all about the economics. And as someone said long ago, "If my brother is in trouble, so am I".

Steven Sondheim - Currently on the Chickasaw Ex-Com, I work to enable informed citizens to advocate the right things for their environment and community. Goals are to increase membership (especially young adults), involvement and leadership in our local Sierra Club, to continue building coalitions with other advocacy groups, and to actively influence environmental and livable community issues, including revitalization of neighborhoods, parks, greenways, safe ped/bike, etc. A major focus has been Smart Growth/Anti-Sprawl and Smart Transportation. Current activities: MPO-Citizens Advisory Board, TDOT's LRTP Statewide Steering Committee, State Coordinator-Citizens for TDOT/Transportation Reform, BPAC-Memphis MPO-advocating bike and pedestrian routes, Founding Board Member/Treasurer-Greater Memphis Greenline-Rail to Trail, VP Park Preservation-Friends of Shelby Farms Park, and Delegate-Sierra Summit 2005.

Tom Lawrence - Tom Lawrence is an environmental engineer living in Memphis. He has been an active member of the Sierra Club for over 5 years and has been involved in environmental protection work for over 15 years. He is involved in water pollution prevention, recycling, waste reduction, groundwater protection and wildlands issues. He enjoys camping and hiking with his wife and their dog. He is a past member of the Chickasaw Group ExCom and looks forward to serving again if elected.

Harvey Broome Group Election Ballot

For the 2006 Executive Committee

Please vote for six (6) of the following candidates. Each will serve a 2-year term if elected.

Membership

Single	Dual	
_____	_____	William H (Bill) Adams
_____	_____	John Finger
_____	_____	Allan (Al) Miller
_____	_____	Axel Ringe
_____	_____	Ron Shrieves
_____	_____	Beverly Smith
_____	_____	Priscilla Watts

Only Current members may so please put your membership number(found on the mailing label of this Tennes-Sierran)on the outside of the envelope.

Clip and send this ballot before November 30,2005 to:

Bob Hill
11504 Mountain View Road
Knoxville TN. 37934

Please remember to vote also on the Chapter At large Delegate Ballot found in this issue of the *Tennes-Sierran*.

Harvey Broome Candidate Statements:

Following is a brief resume for each nominee:

William H. (Bill) Adams - My interest in environmental recreation and protection grew out of 7 consecutive childhood years of summer camp in the North Carolina mountains. Coming from north Florida suburbia, I was introduced to an environment of fast rivers, elevated land, beautiful flora, and unique fauna, and all of the various activities it makes possible. With a few interruptions, I have remained in the western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee area ever since. I am currently an Associate Professor of Radiology and Radiation Oncology at the UT College of Veterinary Medicine. I am in my second year of membership in the Sierra Club with my main participation to date in the outings program. I recently completed the wilderness first aid and outings leader courses to gain qualification as a local outings leader. I am interested in leading backpacking, day hiking, and kayak touring. I am also interested in getting involved in the activist side of the club out of both personal interest and a perceived obligation to help protect the areas I enjoy.

John Finger - John Finger is professor emeritus in the history department of the University of Tennessee, and from 1997 until his retirement in 2000 he was head of the department. He also served on the executive committee of UT Faculty Senate and chaired that body's committee overseeing the university's intercollegiate athletics. A member of the Harvey Broome Group since 1982, he has served as chair of the group as well as on the executive committee. His major outdoor activities include hiking, backpacking, and pursuing the wily trout.

Allan (Al) Miller - I am a graduate of the University of Tennessee and a resident of Knoxville. I have been a member of Sierra Club since 2000 and am active in the Harvey Broome Group(HBG). I am co-founder and co-owner of the "Disk Exchange", a business,now in its 18th year, that sells new and used CD'S and DVD's in two Knoxville locations. My priorities for HBG include increasing the number of HBG members and improving the financial strength of the HBG. I am also interested increasing the involvement of our members in HBG activities and environmental issues within the HBG boundaries. I believe that enlarging and activating the membership and strengthening our finances will position the HBG to be more influential in making our views known on environmental and other related issues that are important to us.

Axel Ringe - I have been a member of the Sierra Club for 9 years, have served on the Harvey Broome Group ExCom since 2001, and have served as Group Chair since 2004. I am semi-retired from government service in Oak Ridge and have the time and energy to devote to moving the HBG forward in protecting and enhancing the environment in our region. My particular passions are water quality, surface coal mining, forests, and biodiversity, and I actively advocate for those issues. I am currently serving on the TN Chapter ExCom and am the chair of the Water Quality and Biodiversity committees. The HBG needs to build up its cadre of active, committed members who will undertake the advocacy and organizational challenges that lie before us. I will work actively to see that happen. I would like to continue to serve the Group and Chapter by being reelected to the HBG ExCom.

Ron Shrieves - My name is Ron Shrieves. I have lived in Knoxville for 33 years, and am a professor of Finance at the University of Tennessee. I am married (Ginger), with two grown children who have flown the nest. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1988 (OK, so you haven't seen me at all that many meetings until recently), and of the Nature Conservancy since 2000. In addition to teaching responsibilities in the undergraduate, MBA, Executive MBA, and Ph. D. programs, I have participated in numerous committee assignments at UT, and chaired my share, so I am used to committee work, and to working in a team setting. Most of my involvement in the Club to date has been in outings, but when asked if I would be willing to serve on the HBG executive committee for the 2004-2005 term I decided it's time for me to at least partially "pay back" for all that the Sierra Club has done on my behalf. I would like to continue to serve the group and therefore request your support for my reelection to the HBG ExCom.

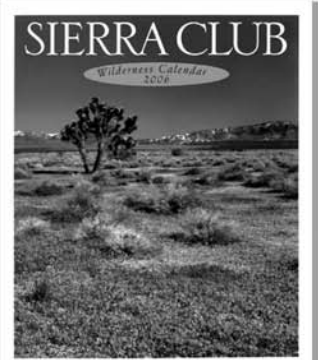
Beverly Smith - I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1998. I served on the Harvey Broome Group (HBG)ExCom from 1999-2005 and was Chair in 2002. I was involved early with the opposition to 5-lane Highway 321 through Cosby. From there I became one of the 7 founders of the Save Our Smokies Campaign and the Smoky Mountains Coalition. I developed the hike rating system for the HBG, proposed the Outings Pictures and Stories section on the HBG webpage and serves as leader for several outings for the HBG each year. In 2001, I was award the "Unsung Hero" award by the Tennessee Chapter and in 2002 I worked with other members of the HBG ExCom to host the HBG's 35th Homecoming Celebration. I am a retail analyst in manufacturing. I request your support for my reelection to the HBG ExCom.

Priscilla Watts


I am a retired Second grade teacher with Knox Co School System. I have been in Sierra Club since the 1980s. My environmental priorities include educating adults, as well as children about our responsibility in prevention of habitat destruction, protection of wetlands, endangered or threatened species and the many issues facing the Great Smoky Mountains. I am currently the Program Chariman for the Harvey Broome Group and a member of ExCom class of 2002-2003 and 2004-2005. I would like to continue to serve the HBG through reelection to another term on the HBG ExCom.

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SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Tennessee Chapter Fall Meeting - October 2005 Pickett State Park

Clockwise from Top Left:

The Kitchen Crew of Harvey Broome Group in a festive Halloween mood.

(From L. to R.) Barbara Allen as Lady Liberty, Axel Ringe as Viking, Liz Dixon in Fish headgear as our Lady of the South Seas, Janet King as Devilette, and Ed Solar with bunny ears. Photo by Clark A. Buchner.

Overhanging stone cliffs and fall color are typical sights along the Big South Fork trails in October. Photo by Clark A. Buchner.

Sierra Club Members attending the fall Chapter Meeting at Pickett State Park. Photo by Shanna Petersen.

Autumn leaves float among the canoes at the boat house. Photo by Shanna Petersen.

Pricilla Watts (top) and Janet King of Harvey Broome Group descending the stairs as a part of the hike to the Twin Arches. Photo by Clark A. Buchner.

NORTH SHORE ROAD

A monetary settlement could protect the Great Smoky Mountain National Park

by Ray Payne

Harvey Broome Group

In 1941 the country was engaged in massive build-up for war. TVA was focused on greater electricity production for such users as the aluminum smelters at Maryville, TN. On December 5th 1941 the House of Representatives passed a bill appropriating funds for the construction of Fontana Dam on the Little Tennessee River in western North Carolina. The Senate acted on December 9th, and the bill was signed into law on December 17th. Work commenced immediately. TVA quickly learned that the reservoir would flood about three quarters of the length of a state road, NC 288. That road was the only access for owners and residents of land along the northern shore of the reservoir. The War Production Board refused to release manpower or materials for the reconstruction of the road above the water line.

NC 288 was originally built by the Forney Creek Road District, using funds from a bond issuance. It defaulted on the bonds, and the obligation was assumed by Swain County, N.C. The State of North Carolina then took responsibility for maintenance of the road, giving it the designation of NC 288.

Faced with the inability to rebuild the road, TVA decided to acquire all the private land serviced by it. That would extinguish all rights to the road. The land served by NC 288, some 44,400 acres, was in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park acquisition boundary, but had not been acquired due to lack of funds. Swain County was entitled to compensation for the taking of its road, the bonds for which it was still obligated to pay.

To accomplish its task, TVA, The Department of the Interior, the State of North Carolina and Swain County, NC entered into a contract, known as the 1943 Agreement. TVA agreed to acquire the 44,400 acres of land, and to transfer them to Interior, for incorporation in the Park. Interior agreed that after the war it would build a new road, part of its "Around the Park" project, having a width of at least 20 feet and a dustless surface. North Carolina agreed to donate \$100,000 toward the acquisition costs of the land. Swain County agreed to accept the new road instead of monetary compensation.

In 1948 Interior built a 0.93 mile segment of the proposed road at the end of Fontana Dam. By 1962 it had built, in several segments, an additional 6.2 miles at the other end of the project, near Bryson City, NC. Interior was worried about the damage being caused by the construction, and convened a panel of experts to examine it. In April 1962 the panel reported "[T]he damage to the landscape and natural park values is so severe and the future maintenance will be so great that the Service should hold in abeyance the plans for [the] project. . . ." And it further concluded: "The committee is of the opinion that continuation of such damage to natural park values is indefensible from either the standpoint of conservation or visitor use."

After that, Interior requested no more funding for the construction.

Congressman Charles Taylor (R. NC) in whose district this land lies, silently attached a rider to the Department of Transportation Appropriations Act for 2001, appropriating \$16 million for further construction of this road. Faced with that, Interior has commenced work on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on further road construction. The purpose and need of the EIS is "to discharge and satisfy any obligations on the part of the United States that presently exist as a result of the 1943 Agreement." That statement sets the stage for the process.

The EIS has reached the point where it has identified five alternatives. Two of these involve road construction and one chooses a cash settlement in lieu of any road construction. In more detail those are:

1. A "partial-build" alternation which would extend the existing road an additional 4 to 8 miles and add a new destination development at its end.

2. A "full build" alternative which would extend the existing road 29 to 38 miles. One optional routing, across the top of Fontana Dam on an existing roadway, is not likely to be chosen because of national security concerns. The full-build alternative would require construction of up to three bridges across embayments where the water is too deep to use ordinary pier supports. Those crossings would utilize "non-conventional structures" (defined as steel-arch bridges and cable-stayed bridges) with spans ranging from 1,500 to 3,000 feet, and height above footings of 300 to 600 feet. [The Brooklyn Bridge has a span of 1,595 feet.]

3. A cash settlement alternative providing for payment of \$52 million to Swain County. All of the proposed construction lies in Swain County, N.C. Swain County is a signatory party to the 1943 Agreement. The Commissioners of Swain County, by a vote of 4-1 have resolved to ask for the cash settlement in lieu of any further construction.

Why a cash settlement? Since the "purpose and need" of the EIS is to resolve the 1943 Agreement issue, the position of Swain County as a signatory is critical. The county has repeatedly stated to the National Park Service (NPS) that the only satisfaction of the 1943 Agreement it will consider is a cash settlement. The State of North Carolina is also a signatory of the 1943 Agreement. Its governor, Mike Easley, has notified the NPS that it supports the cash settlement. The Board of Aldermen of Bryson City, the county seat, unanimously support this stand.

A group of local residents have formed their own organization, Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County. It is waging a strong campaign in support of the cash settlement.

The major national conservation organizations, and the regional and local conservation organizations strongly support the Swain County Commissioners and the cash settlement alternative.

Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County suggested the \$52 million settlement sum. It employed a CPA to calculate the present value of the road, taking its value in the 1940's and adjusting it for interest it would have earned and for inflation. Swain County proposes that the principal be lodged with an agency of the State of North Carolina, and that it only be allowed to spend the interest. The principal could only be spent on approval by a vote of two-thirds of the registered voters of the county. The proposed cash settlement, invested at five percent, would yield the county \$2.6 million a year. In its 2004-2004 budget, the county expects of collect \$2,684,365 in ad valorem taxes, almost the same amount.

A cash settlement is the only alternative which causes absolutely no damage to the environment

Why the road should not be built. The law establishing the National Park System mandates that parks be managed so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. Forcing a road through the largest unroaded tract of mountain land in the east violates that principle.

In nominating the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for the World Heritage List, NPS stressed that the park was an outstanding example of "significant ongoing biological evolution," and that the value of the gene pools protected was "beyond estimation." A road would severely disrupt those ongoing natural processes.

Among other destructive forces unleashed by road construction would be:

- Exposure of rock containing iron pyrite throughout its course, creating a danger of sulfuric acid leaching, which would sterilize any stream it entered;
- Crossing terrain consisting of numerous precipitous finger ridges which would require massive cuts and fills in unstable rock and soil, with giant retaining walls proposed to limit their extent;

- Detriment to interior habitat favored by neotropical migratory birds;
- Severe degradation of intangible values, such as beauty and solitude which now prevail;
- To create a orphan strip, cut off from the mix of ongoing evolution;
- To open up another part of the park to poaching, vandalism of grave sites and looting of archeological sites;
- Subjecting the Appalachian Trail, itself a unit of the National Park Service, to an increase in noise, increase in degrading visual impacts and to raise significant safety issues.

Cost. The cost estimate for construction of the "full-build" alternative is now \$374 million. That's more than seven times the amount of the proposed cash settlement. NPS concedes the \$374 million does not include all mitigation and enhancement costs. Initial estimates are usually low, and the estimated cost of this road is certain to increase. A comparable road, twenty miles of US 64 in the Ocoee River gorge, through similar acidic rock and rough, precipitous terrain, is estimated to cost \$2 billion for a four-lane highway. Building just two lanes of it, at \$1 billion, is a better guide to what this road is likely to end up costing.

If built, road construction would take a minimum of 15 years. After completion, it would yield to the Swain County treasury, through sales tax collections, \$355,000 a year, plus a possible \$200,000 in additional property taxes. [Note that Swain County receives 2 ? cents of the sales tax, but no funds from the motor fuels tax or the lodging tax.] A cash settlement would give Swain County four times more revenue, and today, not 15 or more years in the future.

Swain and Graham Counties in N.C. and adjoining Blount County in Tennessee are famous among motorcycle enthusiasts for their "blacksnake" roads. A portion of US 129 here is called the "Dragon's Tail." Bikers bring their machines to these roads by trailer from all over the county. Graham County spends more money rescuing injured bikers from its Cherochala Skyway and carrying them to the regional hospital than it gains in tourist revenue from the road. Should the North Shore Road be built, it would add another blacksnake road radiating from a central point in Swain County.

Construction of the road is sponsored by Congressman Charles Taylor, and by a small but vocal group of descendants of persons buried in cemeteries in the Park, who want a road for cemetery access. This despite the fact that the 1943 Agreement does not mention cemeteries in any place, despite the fact that in 1943 the then living descendants were given the option of having the graves moved, free of charge to cemeteries outside the Park, and despite the fact that they sued in federal court to require the road to be built, and lost in District Court, in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and had a further appeal denied by the U.S. Supreme Court. NPS already provides access for these visitors by a free ferry service across Fontana Lake and by vans on administrative roads inside the park.

In 1946, the U.S. Supreme Court, in passing on the validity of the 1943 Agreement said: "The cost of public projects is a relevant element in all of them, and the government, just as anyone else, is not required to proceed oblivious to elements of cost. [Citation omitted.] And when serious problems are created by its public projects, the Government is not barred from making a common sense adjustment in the interest of all the public."

A cash settlement with Swain County is the common sense alternative. It saves a huge amount of money while protecting the environment from all damage.

Please write the EIS Study Team and let them know you support the monetary settlement alternative. The address is: North Shore Road Project, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, P.O. Box 30185, Raleigh, N.C. 27622. An e-mail can be sent to them at northshoreroad@arcadis-us.com. There should be a reference in the subject line to North Shore Road EIS Project.

Meetings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Saturday, November 12, 2005 - 9:30am - Shiloh National Military Park Bicycle Ride: Shiloh National Military Park, Hardin County, Tennessee. Bring your bicycle and meet at the Starbucks at Collierville on Poplar Ave, at 9:30am or come to the visitors' center at the Shiloh National Military Park in Hardin County, Tennessee. The Shiloh National Military Park has a well-established system of roadways and walkways over mostly gentle terrain. It was established in 1894 to preserve the scene of the first major battle in the Western theater of the Civil War. The two-day battle, April 6 and 7, 1862, involved about 65,000 Union and 44,000 Confederate troops, about 24,000 of them killed, wounded or missing. It proved to be a decisive victory for the federal forces when they advanced on and seized control of the Confederate railway system at Corinth, Mississippi. The battlefield contains about 4,000 acres at Shiloh and an interpretive center at Corinth, Mississippi. The park has within its boundaries the Shiloh National Cemetery along with the well-preserved prehistoric Indian mounds that are listed as a historic landmark. The Shiloh battlefield lies on the west bank of the Tennessee River nine miles southwest of Savannah, Tennessee, with an additional park unit located in the city of Corinth, Mississippi, twenty-three miles southwest of Shiloh. Contact Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713 or Carolyn Pierce at (901) 755-5635.

Saturday, November 12, 2005, 10:00 am - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis. "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.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday, November 12 - Dayhike on the Tom Pack Trail, We will hike the Tom Pack Trail near Mount Eagle which is a two mile loop followed by the Stone Bridge Arch Trail in Scott Forrest. Meet at Sam's in Murfreesboro at 8 a.m. or at Hardee's in Monteagle at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, snacks, and sturdy hiking boots. For additional information and to register contact Edie McFarland at 615-896-1344.

Saturday, Nov. 26 - Afternoon hike at Radnor Lake on the Ganier Ridge Trail and South Cove, about 4 miles with some steps to climb up and down. Work off some of that holiday dinner. Contact Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email early at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.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>.

Saturday, November 12th, 8:00 am - Join us as we retrace our first outing of 2003 at the Ocoee Whitewater Center in the Cherokee National Forest. The out and back hike is approximately five miles long and completely flat. We will be traveling along the Old Copper Road. A former mining/ transportation corridor through the Ocoee Gorge, the road is now a footpath along the banks of the upper Ocoee. This is an area that is being threatened by the proposed Corridor K freeway. Come join us for a day of hiking, rivers, activism, and BBQ (we will eat at Brothers Restaurant in Ducktown after the hike). This is a joint hike with the Chattanooga Hiking Club. For more information or to sign up for this hike contact: Chris O'Connor at 423-867-4957 (chris_o77@yahoo.com)

Saturday, December 3rd, 10:00 am - Join us for a reprise of one of our most popular hikes of the year. We will travel along the Brainerd Levee from Brainerd Road to Shallowford Road. The flat 4 to 5 mile out and back hike follows South Chickamauga Creek, and usually includes some good birding opportunities in the marshes near Boyd Buchanan School. We will enjoy lunch at an area restaurant after the hike. Once again, this is a joint hike with the Chattanooga Hiking Club. For more information, or to sign up for the hike contact: Chris O'Connor at 423-867-4957 (chris_o77@yahoo.com)

Ten Essentials for Hiking

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

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!

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

(For a complete list see website at www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome)

Nov 5-6, 2005 (Sat-Sun). Backpack - Gregory Bald, GSMNP. This trip starts at the Twenty Mile Ranger Station where we hike up the Twenty Mile trail to the Long Hungry Ridge Trail, then on to Gregory Bald and the wonderful views. We cross the bald to campsite #13 (8.9 miles the first day). On the second day we complete our loop down the Wolf Ridge Trail and back to our cars (6.8 miles the second day). Rated difficult - 4,880 feet of elevation gain in 7.7 miles. Not suitable for Children. Approximate round trip driving miles - 134 miles from Food City in Alcoa. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: email sharvey86@aol.com; phone 865-986-4608 (days), 865-986-6798 (evening).

Nov 12, 2005 (Sat). Dayhike - Rich Mountain Loop, GSMNP. Join us for this late fall color hike. We may miss the peak color but we will also miss the Cades Cove hordes of tourists. We will see glimpses of the cove from the mountain above and pass the John Oliver cabin on our return. Distance about 8.5 miles, with an elevation change of about 1600 feet, rated moderate in difficulty. Pre-register with Priscilla Watts at 966-4142.

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.

Environmental Victories

FOR A CHANGE, SOME ENVIRONMENTAL WINS

After a tumultuous legislative session, which ended with the arrest of four legislators, one former legislator and two lobbyists, there were actually some environmental victories to be found. In retrospect the environmental community in Tennessee had a relatively good year in 2005.

The biggest victory was the passage of a bill that provides an appeal process for violations of a discharge permit issued by the Department of Environment and Conservation. This bill, which allows an aggrieved party (e.g., a downstream farmer) to appeal the granting of a water quality permit that might damage or hurt his/her property in some way, passed and has been signed into law by Governor Bredesen. The bill numbers were SB2258/HB2273 and SB610/HB1996. The public chapters are 355 and 325, respectively.

The bill was brought by the Tennessee Clean Water Network, and it was supported by the Sierra Club and the Tennessee Conservation Voters. The lobbyists for each organization worked long and hard to reach an agreement that could be supported by all involved, and several individuals provided much needed background information and analysis of different proposals. As usual, in order to pass a positive environmental bill into law, a coalition effort was required. The final bill was also supported by the Bredesen Administration, and the agreement was accepted by the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce. The result is a right to appeal that did not exist prior to the passage of these bills.

There were other good environmental bills that also passed. A bill passed that established the Cumberland Plateau Conservation Foundation. In addition, we worked to refine conservation easement requirements so that it would be easier to establish a conservation easement. Last, because of our efforts, the legislature is rethinking (via a study committee) a bill passed in '04 that allows full taxation of land holdings over 100 acres owned by non-profits, e.g., land trusts. Such a law reduces the incentive for land trusts to own land for open space preservation and conservation purposes.

Some anti-environment bills were also killed as a result of our efforts. One would have required a state agency to prepare an economic impact statement before the adoption of any proposed rule that may adversely affect small businesses. A second bill would have required a business impact note upon the request of two or more members of the General Assembly. These two approaches have been used in other states to stall good environmental bills. There was also a Joint Resolution proposed that Tennessee go on record as supporting oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and this was defeated.

There are a number of bills that may rise to the front in 2006. These are:

- A bill allowing TDEC to issue a Stop Work Order when water quality standards are being violated by mining operations;
- A bill that will require an impact study before clear cutting timber;
- A bill regulating aerial spraying of pesticides;
- A bill providing a tax exemption for purchase of hybrid vehicles and other cars meeting nonpolluting standards;
- A bill that requires TDEC to perform a thorough examination of actions necessary to preserve and protect forested watersheds and for the control of non-point sources of water pollution;
- A bill to strengthen air pollution controls for auto emissions;
- A bill to add environmental members to environmental protections boards;
- A bill to raise permit fees for billboards with funds going to scenic highway billboard removal;
- A bill providing for a beverage container deposit program;
- A bill promoting waterway beautification by safeguarding vegetation in streamside management zones; and
- A bill establishing a registration and permit system for chip mill facilities.

The decision on which bills to support will be made in the opening days of the legislative session based on an assessment of support and opposition for the bills and on study and recommendations of the Legislative Committee to the Chapter Executive Committee.

Each year the legislative session grinds on with over 3,000 total bills under consideration. The Sierra Club works to pass good bills and defeat bad ones. To accomplish this program, a professional lobbyist is employed, and that lobbyist is supported by a small number of active volunteers. But it takes more. It takes support from all parts of the state by our members...members willing to write letters and call their senators and representatives. Please volunteer to be one of those members. The laws passed by the legislature have a direct impact on all aspects of environmental protection and conservation of our natural resources. You can also sign up to receive a regular email legislative update and alerts during the session.

Contact either Bill Terry or Penny Brooks, Co-Chairs of the Legislative Committee, at:

Bill Terry – hikebike@comcast.net

Penny Brooks – penny.h.brooks@vanderbilt.edu



photo/Carlos Paes

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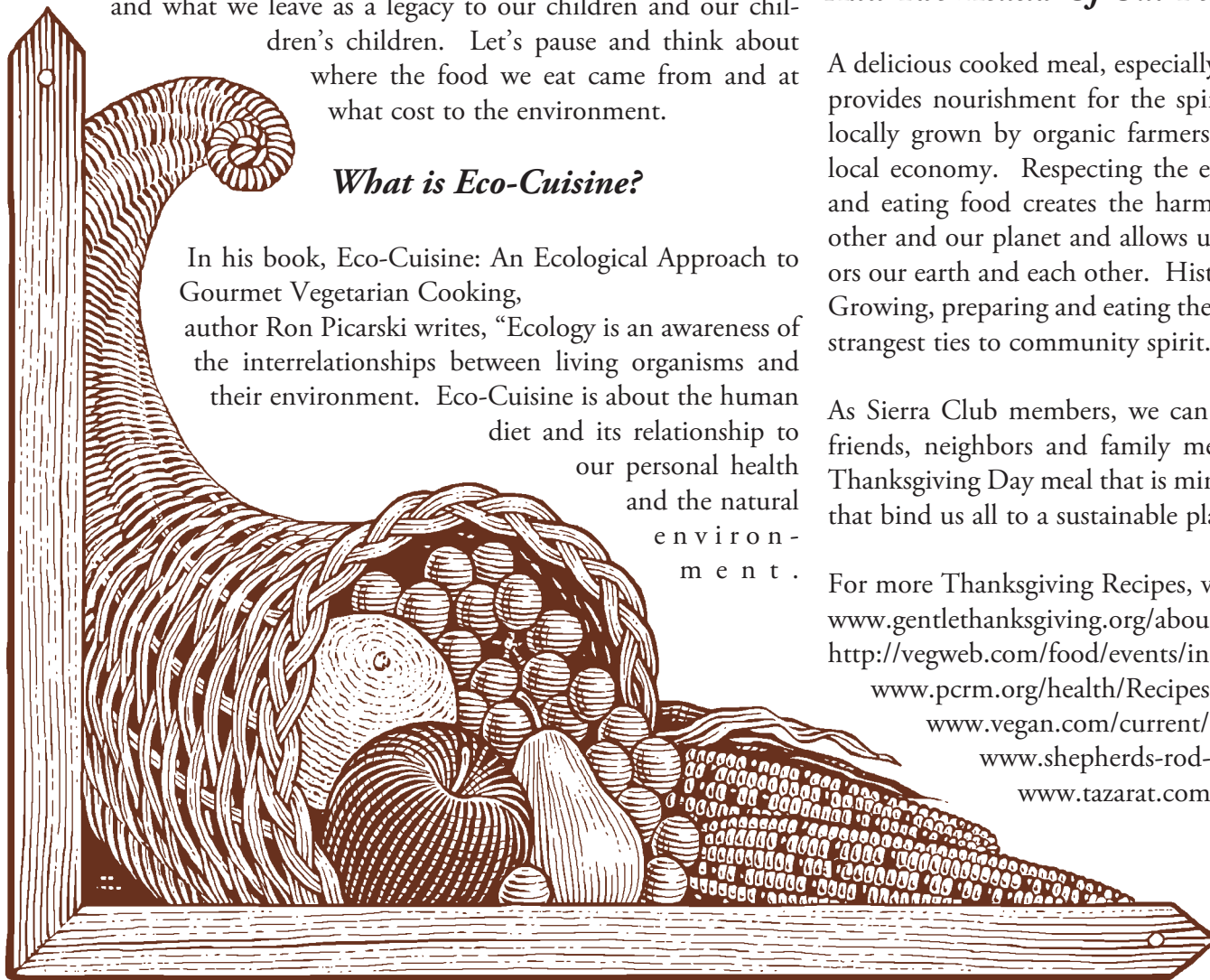
Celebrating an Earth-Friendly Thanksgiving

By Diana Artemis,
Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption Committee (SCC)

It's the holiday season once again. In the over-stressed times we live in can we pause and do better to put thanks and love back into our holiday celebrations? The Sustainable Consumption Committee (SCC)'s True Cost of Food Campaign makes it clear that our choice of food, now more than ever during the holiday season, affects our earth, our health and what we leave as a legacy to our children and our children's children. Let's pause and think about where the food we eat came from and at what cost to the environment.

What is Eco-Cuisine?

In his book, *Eco-Cuisine: An Ecological Approach to Gourmet Vegetarian Cooking*, author Ron Picarski writes, "Ecology is an awareness of the interrelationships between living organisms and their environment. Eco-Cuisine is about the human diet and its relationship to our personal health and the natural environment."



We must begin to look at food as a route back to nature and a way to understand our connections with natural cycles. We need to live in harmony with nature and within our biological boundaries that are part of that natural system."

During This Holiday Season Let's Think About Our Health, Our Children's Health And The Health Of Our Planet

A delicious cooked meal, especially if it's shared with friends and family, provides nourishment for the spirit as well as the body. Food that is locally grown by organic farmers is healthy for our communities and local economy. Respecting the earth and its animals when producing and eating food creates the harmony that we seek in relating to each other and our planet and allows us truly to celebrate in a way that honors our earth and each other. Historically, food was a celebration of life: Growing, preparing and eating the fruits of the field were once one of the strangest ties to community spirit.

As Sierra Club members, we can lead the way. This year invite your friends, neighbors and family members to a low impact, cruelty free Thanksgiving Day meal that is mindful of its origins and the connections that bind us all to a sustainable planet.

For more Thanksgiving Recipes, visit these informative sites


- www.gentlethanksgiving.org/about.htm
- <http://vegweb.com/food/events/index-thanksgiving.shtml>
- www.pcrm.org/health/Recipes/thanksgiving.html
- www.vegan.com/current/thanks.html
- www.shepherds-rod-message.org/health/eats.html
- www.tazarat.com/thanksgiving.html

For information on the SCC True Cost of Food Campaign, visit: http://www.sierraclub.org/sustainable_consumption/

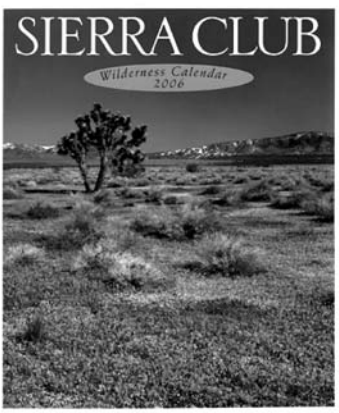
It's time to vote!!

Look for your ballot inside this issue and vote for Tennessee's Sierra Club leadership today!

SIERRA CLUB 2006 CALENDARS




Sierra Club 2006 Engagement Calendar—Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.



Sierra Club 2006 Wilderness Calendar—Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.

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Volunteer Opportunity!

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

The Sierra Club - Middle TN Group
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