

Solar Energy Use Continues to Grow in Tennessee

By Gil Melear-Hough

Tennessee Director of Renewable Programs

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE)

865.637.6055 or gil@cleanenergy.org for more info

Solar energy has seen slow but steady growth in the Tennessee Valley over the last decade. Principle highlights have been the 15 solar sites built by TVA as part of the Green Power Switch Program and the Sharp Solar Modular Planet in Memphis that put us on the map for good manufacturing jobs in solar.

More recently the state has shown leadership in solar technology by hosting the first Southeast Solar Summit in October 2007 at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the just announced Solar Cities grant to Knoxville by the Dept of Energy.

The last few years have seen the creation of modest incentives for solar energy. First was the creation of the TVA Generation Partners program that pays homeowners and businesses a credit on their power bill for electricity they generate—sort of a net metering program on steroids. This incentive was to be reduced except for an outcry by citizens that encouraged TVA to continue to pay at the present amount at least for 2008.

Next came the federal tax credits passed as part of the federal energy bill in 2005. Homeowners got

back around \$2,000 of their income taxes. Business a straight 30 percent off its federal business taxes. Though a very popular incentive, it is also in danger, presently set to expire at the end of 2008. While there is strong bipartisan support for renewal, the present is very cloudy especially in the US Senate.

The State of Tennessee has also been involved in test-starting the Clean Energy Technology Grant—uses overcharged oil money received from the federal government to pay 40 percent of a renewable energy system up to \$75,000 for a commercial business. While an extremely exciting grant, only a few have been awarded so far.

And finally there is the USDA grant for farmers and rural business that will cover up to 25 percent of a system's cost. Tennessee has not yet been awarded a Section 9006 grant for solar. Very few applied due to the paperwork requirements.

TVA has also given renewable technologies a fresh look. This was highlighted by a recent two day listening session on energy efficiency and renewable energy in Knoxville by the TVA Board. Clearly TVA is looking at the possibility of a host of programs. What will finally be launched is yet unclear.

The State of Tennessee has also shown interest with the signing on March 19 of an executive order

by Governor Bredesen to create a task force on energy policy to develop recommendations on ways to best promote energy efficiency and renewable energy. Also this present state legislative session has been one of the most active on energy in Tennessee history.

Tennessee has also started to recognize the need for more professionally trained solar installers. The first training program began at Cleveland State Community College, just north of Chattanooga. There has also been nationally recognized research at ORNL on the development of Zero Energy Houses, supported by both TVA and the State of Tennessee Energy Division.

While the State of Tennessee is clearly far behind many other states in the nation on promoting solar energy, there is a clear sense of momentum building to become a regional leader in solar energy.

Encourage greater emphasis on Renewables.

**Review/Comment on TVA's Renewable Energy *
Deadline May 12**

www.tva.gov/abouttva/board/draft_plans.htm

Student Inspired by “The Dream Reborn” Conference to Commemorate Dr. King

Tennesseans:

On Saturday, April 5 I attended Green For All's conference on environmental action and economy. For the past few months I've had an introduction to environmental advocacy through Sierra Club in Memphis where my university is, and when the organizer there recommended “The Dream Reborn” to me I was very excited. When I signed up, I was most curious about one of the conference's focal points, the idea of green jobs and careers in a changing economy of environmental justice.

When I got to the conference, my expectations were not disappointed. I attended four rounds of workshops, each connected to some aspect of the initiative for green economic growth. Following an energizing introduction by Green For All leader Van Jones, I went to the first round of workshops. I learned about the prospect of millions of jobs on the rise called “green collar”: midlevel training professional careers in environmental industry. These jobs will staff large outfits involved in things like producing clean energy, manufacturing green transportation and harvesting crops for bio-fuel. Green Worker Coop speaker Jason Walsh elaborated on the transition of traditional industries in cities toward the green economy.

I also gained insight into the implications that green jobs have for Memphis. At “Launching a Local Green Collar Jobs Initiative,” organizer Jeremy Hayes elaborated on how to prime the city for the arrival of jobs in the green sector. This workshop made great suggestions about applying industrial growth to cities like Memphis and coupling the need for energy solutions with local urban economic needs. Another workshop detailed the successes of Los Angeles urban greening in relation to water scarcity and purity as well as public health. This goal tied in with the general conference theme of a dual movement toward both environmental and economic justice.

As a student personally interested in the green economy, I also sought answers to practical questions about the green work force. I wondered, as I went into Tree People's talk called “Show me the money,” how green industry appears in cities that have their own economic problems. This talk provided answers on financing both the installation of green employers, from plants to cooperatives, which were very exciting. It also gave samples of wages for workers of all types of training and trade within the growing green work force. These and other approaches interested me, as an advocate and future worker, in the real promise of common prosperity via the green jobs movement.

The last workshops I attended also addressed important concerns. I listened to a native Sioux activist whose example inspired all present about the need for socially just transitions from tradition-

al to green industries. Another useful talk stimulated dialogue within the college campus about recruiting students for green jobs and majors that translate well into the green economy. I also was able to meet several motivated activists from Memphis and around the country whose journeys in advocacy educated me further about ways to devote personal energy and time for the environment. “The Dream Reborn” enabled me to see the potential for changes in national and global economic life for the betterment of environmental standards and prosperity in suffering communities.

Brennan Lowery
Sierra Club Intern

(Brennan Lowery is a Rhodes College student interning this spring semester with Rita Harris at the Environmental Justice office in Memphis.)



East High School students and Van Jones, founder of Green for All and host of the “Green Jobs” conference.

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail

*Address changes are processed much faster if you include your Sierra Club membership number. To find your membership number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: lbaker@usw.org
Snail Mail: Lynne Baker, Tennes-Sierran Editor
108 Pepper Ridge Circle, Antioch, TN 37013
(615) 831-6782

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to lbaker@usw.org either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Attached files are preferred. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format 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.

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer Needed for Tennessee Chapter Clerical Work
This work suited for college student or retiree

For complete information contact
Katherine Pendleton, Chapter Chair, 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com



Equip, enjoy and protect the planet.



With your help, we can clean up our water.

Over the last 30 years, we've made great progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is reversing that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
Email _____

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____
Exp. Date ____/____
Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible. They support our effective, citizen based, advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 5200, Boulder, CO 80522-2500
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org P940 | W 4300 | 1

Sierra Club Officers

TENNESSEE CHAPTER:

Chair: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
Vice Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797
gl4797@earthlink.net
Secretary: Carl Leathers (615) 662-4178
Treasurer: Rachel Floyd (615) 406-9204
rfloyd557@bellsouth.net
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185
GBNature@aol.com
Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
judithhammond@bellsouth.net
CCL Delegate: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
donrich@juno.com
CCL Alternate: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com

TN LOCAL GROUPS:

Cherokee Group - Chattanooga (in reorganization)

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
Chair: Herschel Pollard (941) 639-5126

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
Contact: Nancy J. Ream (901) 759-9416
njream@aol.com
Vice Chair: Amy Stewart-Banbury (901) 292-5354
bnab2@comcast.net
Conservation: Nancy J. Ream (901) 759-9416
njream@aol.com
Secretary: Teri Sullivan (901) 320-7191
tsullivan24@comcast.net
Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
judithhammond@bellsouth.net
Membership: Juliet Jones (901) 374-0582
juliet101@comcast.net
TV Program: Judith Rutschman (901) 767-5916
rutschman@rhodes.edu

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
Chair: David Reister (865) 670-8991
DReister@bellsouth.net
Vice-Chair: John Finger (865) 573-5908
jfinger@utk.edu
Conservation: Axel Ringe (865) 387-1840
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518
ronaldshrieves@comcast.net

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg
Chair: Rachel Floyd (615) 406-9204
rfloyd557@bellsouth.net
Vice Chair: Diane Perschbacher Phifer, 615-895-1236
Diane@Propson.com
Conservation: Betsy Garber, 615-668-1977
garberb@hotmail.com
Outings: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com

State of Franklin Group

Chair: Tom Mozen, (423) 232-0827
mozenetc@yahoo.com

Watauga Group - Johnson & Carter Counties

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga
Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797
gl4797@earthlink.net
Vice Chair: Dr. Earl Taylor (423) 727-7211
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gl4797@earthlink.net

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg
Chair: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
zeblady@twlakes.net
Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142
Jmcquail@ntech.edu
Treasurer: Ralph Bowden
Secretary: Peggy Evans
Conservation: Easton Evans
Outings: Vacant

National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:

Rita Harris, Community Organizer
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org
Bill McCabe, Central Appalachian EJ Organizer
office - 423-944-3220 fax - 423-944-3221 (call first)

**Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed**

Spaceship Earth T-Shirts



NOW IN LONG SLEEVES!

Choose either our short sleeve light blue or natural style, or our NEW black on star field background LONG SLEEVE shirt!

Short Sleeve Style		Qty	Qty	Total	
Size	Color	Disc	Natural	Qty	
Small	Solid Grey			X \$16/SHIRT = \$	
Medium	Solid Grey			X \$16/SHIRT = \$	
Large				X \$16/SHIRT = \$	
XX-Large				X \$16/SHIRT = \$	
Long Sleeve Style		Qty	Total	Qty	
Small			X \$23/SHIRT = \$		
Medium			X \$23/SHIRT = \$		
Large			X \$23/SHIRT = \$		
XX-Large			X \$23/SHIRT = \$		

Transport Order S&H - Total = \$
Shipping & Handling @ \$8.00/SHIRT = \$
Total Enclosed = \$

Skip To:
Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Contact Phone Area _____

Please make check payable to TN Chapter Sierra Club
Mail To:
Spaceship Earth T-Shirt
TN Chapter Sierra Club
P. O. Box 290306
Nashville, TN 37229

OR

Visit us on-line at

<http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/earthtshirt.htm>

To pay by e-check or credit card



Sorry, credit cards are only accepted via on-line orders



Spring Chapter Meeting

The Upper Cumberland Group hosted the spring Chapter meeting at Fall Creek Falls last weekend. Despite starting out with tornadoes literally in our path Friday afternoon, our weather Saturday was great. Folks enjoyed hikes and waterfall viewing. Our local chef Eston Evans prepared outstanding meals. We watched some fun, informative videos, and carried on the conservation and administrative work of the chapter. If you've never been to a chapter quarterly meeting, you should really try to make one. The July 25-27 meeting is in East Tennessee at Laurel Fork lodge and the October 24-26 meeting is at Pickett State Park.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I liked Josie McQuail's article on "Into the Wild" in the February Sierran. One correction: The fellow who disappeared into the Utah wilds was Everett Ruess, not Everett Ness. I read his journals a few years ago just before taking an Elderhostel trip on Lake Powell and the boat captain ran us by the canyon where he was last seen.

Eric Wilson

Post script: Everett Ruess was a character and it was interesting to see the area where he disappeared. But I did not find him very appealing as a person. Not much depth.

It's Not Too Late to Register for the Wilderness First Aid Course!

WHEN: June 7&8, 2008

WHERE: Fall Creek Falls State Park

PROVIDER: NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute

COST: \$165 (Non-Refundable) Includes Training, Lunch & Snacks on Both Days of Training

CONTACT: Katherine Pendleton at Katibug1959@aol.com or 615-943-6877



Cherokee Group Re-Organizational Meeting

May 28, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. (Lake Walk at 5 p.m.)

1001 Mont Lake Road
Soddy-Daisy, TN 37379
Hosted by Herschel Pollard

**Please R.S.V.P. to Katherine Pendleton
615-943-6877 or Katibug1959@aol.com by May 25**

Light Supper Will Be Served

Top Ten Tips for the Occasional Lobbyist

1. Develop relationships before you need the vote or action.
2. Do your homework on the legislator and the legislation, the official and the issue. (Homework is best done before the test.)
3. Respect the official and the office.
4. Provide short, clear information, without jargon.
5. Provide accurate information.
6. Never threaten.
7. Know that there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies.
8. Know the formal and informal rules.
9. One issue at a time.
10. Give this task/opportunity the time and effort you give other important tasks.

Corner

The Chair's

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

It is that time of year when the national club is accepting nominations for the annual awards. There are 24 national awards given each year. This year's awards will be presented at a banquet to be held Saturday, Sept. 20 in conjunction with the club's annual meeting in San Francisco.

To nominate someone for an award, please go to www.sierraclub.org/awards. There you will find online nomination forms as well as valuable documents such as a listing of all previous award recipients. For more information on the Sierra Club's national awards program, please feel free to contact Ellen Davis at ellen.davis@sierraclub.org.

Many thanks to Upper Cumberland Group for hosting the spring Chapter meeting at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Eston Evans was our chef and made some wickedly good chicken enchiladas. Our silent auction brought in \$88.

Please mark your calendars for our summer Chapter meeting to be held July 25-27 at Laurel Fork Lodge in Dennis Cove hosted by Watauga Group. Webb Griffith is going to cook up some great meals that you won't want to miss!

My travels will be bringing me to Memphis May 21-23 for a presentation of The Future of Food at the Chickasaw Group's movie night and as a guest at their program meeting. I look forward to meeting Chickasaw Group members during my stay in Memphis. I will be making my rounds to the other groups over the summer and sharing the film UnCounted: The New Math of American Elections.

On May 28, Cherokee Group will be holding a re-organizational meeting at Herschel Pollard's cabin on Mont Lake near Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee at 6:30 p.m. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. for a walk around part of Mont Lake. A light supper will be served. Please show your support if you live in the Chattanooga area and plan to attend this very important meeting. We need your help in getting your group re-vitalized and moving forward!

As of April 16, we have received \$13,000 for the March Window appeal. We aren't yet "out of the woods!" Our chapter treasurer has informed me that we have entered into deficit spending! If you have not yet sent in your envelope with your donation, please consider doing so. Our chapter desperately needs your help. If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation, your check can be made out to "Tennessee Chapter Foundation." For those of you who have sent in your donation we appreciate your generosity.

I am always eager to hear from members and non-members. Recently, I was contacted by Grady Osborne from Marshall County who informed me of a landfill issue impacting Marshall and Giles Counties. I informed MTG and they acted quickly, sending out a postcard alerting members in those two counties of a public landfill meeting. As a result of our interacting with Grady he decided to become a member of the Sierra Club. Being available to help our neighbors fosters good work and is also a great way to gain new members.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.
Katherine Pendleton, Chair

Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

MAY PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, May 13, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

Bali and Komodo! HBG's Liz Dixon, avid scuba diver and traveler, presents a show on her visits to two of Indonesia's most scenic and exotic islands rich with history and wildlife resources. When the Balinese are asked what heaven is like, they're likely to say it's just like Bali without the worries of mundane life. Komodo is famous for the world's largest lizard, the fierce and voracious "Komodo Dragon," and for Komodo National Park, a unique marine sanctuary offering photographers a variety of rarely seen creatures—turtles, marine mammals, over 1,000 fish species, and a wide variety of coral and sponge species. It is said that a single reef in Indonesia contains more species than the whole Caribbean combined. Everyone is welcome. For information call John Finger at (865) 573-5908.

JUNE PROGRAM MEETING: June 10, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

Architect Elizabeth Eason (AIA, LEED, AP) presents "Sustainable Design—It's Only Natural," about how our approach to the built environment should more closely mimic design principles found in nature and displayed in vernacular styles while taking full advantage of rapid technological developments.

A native East Tennessean, Elizabeth received her degree in architecture from UT and has over 19 years of professional experience. In 2003 she founded Elizabeth Eason Architecture with the goal of focusing on sustainable design projects for residential and commercial clients. She is also an accredited professional with the US Green Building Council's LEED certification for sustainable design and is chair of the USGBC East Tennessee Chapter. She serves on Mayor Haslam's Energy and Sustainability Task Force and the City of Knoxville Tree Board and has recently been named to serve on Governor Bredesen's Energy Policy Task Force.

Everyone is welcome. For information call John Finger at (865) 573-5908.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, May 8, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.

This month's guest speaker will be Kathleen Williams of the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Association.

What do you REALLY know about what's going on with the preservation of our natural treasures? Did you know that this group is actually DOING great things in our state? They are buying 690 acres in the middle of the Scott's Gulf area and are also acquiring Devilstep Hollow Cave and the head of Sequatchie Spring.

All a mystery to you? Come and discover some of the GOOD stuff being done in our state! The Tennessee Parks and Greenways Association is also starting informative seminars and programs for the next generation, spearheaded by a Tennessee Naturalist Masters program similar to master gardeners.

Kathleen is both inspiring and gracious, so please attend this meeting and show support for the outstanding work this group is doing!

June Preview:

Dave Cooper will present an amazing program on mountain top removal.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the old St. Bernard's Academy Building, 2021 21st Avenue South, 4th floor.

Conservation issues are first on the agenda. All members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net or call 792-2590.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY/PROGRAM MONTHLY MEETING: Wednesday, May 7, 6:00 p.m., at the "The Acoustic Coffee House- Next Door" at 450 West Walnut in Ole Town Johnson City.

Horticulturist Dan Reese, a spokesman for the Rails to Trails initiative and chair of the Southern Appalachian Greenways, a non-profit group advocating for interconnected greenways and trails throughout Northeast Tennessee and Southern Virginia, will speak on "Plants - The Life-Blood of our Biosphere." Dan promotes new techniques in "permaculture" and sustainable development of our natural resources.

Contact Tom Mozen at mozenetc@yahoo.com or 423-232-0827 for more information.

SOFG GROUP NEWS

SOFG participated in Earth Day on April 17 at East Tennessee State University by representing the Sierra Club. The attendance was great!

The SOFG participated in Eastman Hiking Club's efforts to reroute a portion of the Appalachian Trail on Saturday, April 19.

Tom Mozen, SOFG chair, participated in the Sierra Club's training in San Francisco in April. Great tips from across the nation and Sierra Central. He will be attending the National Home Builders Association Green Building Conference in New Orleans in May.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

MEETING: Every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. at the downstairs meeting room of the Putnam County Library. Alternating program meeting with planning meetings every other month. For more information, contact Mary Mastin at marymastin@twlakes.net or (931-268-2938).

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: May 1 & June 5, 5:30-7:00pm -- 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. Anyone interested in learning about the Sierra Club is invited. For more information, contact Juliet Jones at (901) 374-0582 or juliet101@comcast.net.

Strategy Meeting: Monday, May 12 & June 9, 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 Nancy Ream by April 11 (April meeting) or May

9 (May meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 759-9416 or njream@aol.com.

Chickasaw Group Sierra Club Film Night, "The Future of Food" Wednesday, May 21 - Power House, 45 G.E. Patterson, (between Main and Front) – Is it really safe to eat the food you find in the grocery store? Are we becoming guinea pigs for companies that want to genetically engineer our grocery products for larger production agendas and higher profits? If you have these concerns, come to this Sierra Club film night, see the film "The Future of Food," and judge for yourself. The film offers an in-depth study of the disturbing truth behind much of the unlabeled and genetically engineered food that has been lining the shelves of grocery stores for several years. The Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter Chair Katherine Pendleton will present this must-see program, and it promises to be one of the outstanding topics of the year. Sierra Club film night is hosted by Indie Memphis. Admission is free (with donations accepted), and refreshments will be available. For more information contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com.

Program Meeting - "Housing Contribution to Global Warming" Thursday, May 22, 7:00pm, Benjamin Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue.

Jack Cowan will talk about the current problems in housing that are making a huge contribution to global warming and more recent housing changes that have made that problem worse. He will then cover sensible solutions for both existing and new homes that will help to avoid wasted utilities, save money and reduce negative environmental impact. For more information contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com.

New Yahoo Group

Sierra Club-Chickasaw Group and Friends is a Yahoo group for members and friends of the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club (Memphis/West TN). It is an announcement-only email list to send notices of upcoming events and other "green" information of local interest. All announcements are accessible to the public, so you can look up the latest posts anytime! To view and/or join the Yahoo group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierracub-chickasaw/>

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee - Mondays at 1:30pm, Tuesdays at 4:00pm, Wednesdays at 11:30am & 11:00pm, Thursdays at 7:00am, Fridays at 2:30pm, Saturdays at 10:00am, and Sundays at 2:00am. "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program on cable channel 18. For complete schedule listings on cable channel 18, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/schedule. For more information about "The Nature of Conservation," or if any groups or individuals in the community have a special concern and would like to see a program on it, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu.

WATAUGA GROUP (North Eastern TN)

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith at gla4797@earthlink.net or 423-727-4797 for more information.

Chickasaw Group News: Recycling, Zoo Trees Cut, Shelby Farms Park Plans, Awards Banquet

March Program Meeting

Contributed by various members

Memphis has had curbside recycling for some time now. Joyce Williams, City of Memphis recycling coordinator, was on hand at the March Chickasaw Group program meeting to answer questions about how to recycle properly. The group met at the Central Library on March 27.

Joyce talked about the different kinds of recyclable plastic containers. She described the fascinating products that recycled items get turned into. Aluminum cans take less energy to melt down than it takes to mine new aluminum. Recycled cans can become pots, pans or even wastebaskets! Recycled glass can become decorative tiles. Thousands of products can be made from recycled materials!

Joyce also talked about recent changes in the recycling of paper products. Memphians can now recycle cardboard, too! Just make sure the cardboard is clean, flat and no more than 2 feet by 4 feet. It can go in the bin, or if there's not room, under it. She explained how to go about getting extra recycling bins, including the new bins with wheels to make carrying big loads easier!

Recycling is a responsible way to handle solid waste. More cost effective than landfilling, it reduces the need for higher subsidies and fees. But most importantly, it conserves natural resources for the benefit of everyone in the community. Memphis needs more people to recycle! For more information about recycling, call the City of Memphis Solid Waste Management at (901) 576-6851.



Joyce Williams and Chickasaw Group member Tom Lawrence.

The Sierra Club and Shelby Farms Park

The Chickasaw Group met informally at Otherlands Coffee Shop in Memphis on April 3. The idea was to discuss the three master plans for Shelby Farms Park which were submitted by the Tom Leader Studio, Hargreaves Associates and field operations (lower case intentional). These three teams made their plans available for public comment at the Benjamin Hooks Central Library, Shelby Farms visitor center and the Cossitt Library in downtown Memphis. Three-dimensional models of the plans also made the rounds. Cutoff date for individual public comments was the end of March.

People from throughout the Memphis community submitted their suggestions for Shelby Farms Park, but also the Chickasaw Group as a whole wanted to make some comments and turn them in as a letter.

It was agreed that the new park needs to not just implement, but model energy conservation and natural water use, so that any visitor to the park could see "green" principles in action. Current disturbed natural areas should be restored and not just built over.

The traditional "farm" character of the landscape should be respected by keeping the impact of the construction designs minimal. All designs should be EIS-driven, and the timing of construction phases

should be "doable" and financially prudent.

Adequate park user facilities (water fountains, rest rooms) should be provided, but they should be kept small-scale and unobtrusive.

Parking lots should be moved to the edges of the park and eco-friendly free shuttle transportation should be provided. Use of carbon-emitting private vehicles within the park should be discouraged because (in addition to human health concerns) they hurt animals and plants.

Non-nature-related fitness activities (for example, provisions for individual/group sports and school-oriented athletics) should be discouraged. Such facilities were deemed inappropriate for a pastoral setting; they should be built closer to the neighborhoods of those who need them most.

"Disneyfication" of the park should be avoided. It should remain a nature park and not become an amusement park.

Of the three master plans submitted, the Chickasaw Group preferred the ecological sensitivity of the Tom Leader Studio proposal and also appreciated the minimalist construction format suggested by the proposal of field operations.

With proper planning, Shelby Farms can be a globally significant urban park. It's already irreplaceable and important to its users!

Memphis Zoo Cuts Trees in Overton Park

A group of Memphians vociferously opposed recent tree cutting in Overton Park by the Memphis Zoo. Citizens to Preserve Overton Park is a revival of a historic preservationist movement from the '60s that rerouted I-40 around the park.

According to a March 5 Commercial Appeal article the zoo removed 139 trees to build its \$13.5 million Teton Trek exhibit. Teton Trek is intended to be part of a 25-year, \$96 million overhaul of the zoo.

Only four large trees were left standing on a 3 1/2 acre tract. The zoo says the cutting was in accord with its decades-long master plan and "no attempt was made to fool anybody."

There is an area adjacent to the zoo called "The Old Forest." It's a 140-acre area (out of the park's total 347 acres) full of old-growth trees and all of the wildlife such forest is host to. Actually, many of the trees in Overton Park outside the "Old Forest" area are old-growth, too.

Don Richardson, a Sierra Club member also active with Park Friends, said, "This land is precious, it's invaluable...They are treating this like some industrial warehouse site, but they are ignoring their sacred duty to the forest." Graffiti around the construction site asked, "Who will speak for the trees?"

Nearly 50 adults, children and dogs attended March's second Saturday hike in the Old Forest. Many of them came to see what the zoo has done

to its most pristine land. Many local authorities on trees attended and answered questions from concerned nature-lovers.

Trees provide many benefits as far as removing carbon from the air. For every ton of wood a forest grows, it removes 1.47 tons of carbon dioxide and replaces it with 1.07 tons of oxygen. In one year, an acre of trees can provide enough oxygen for 18 people.

Over a 50-year lifetime, a tree generates \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, recycles \$37,500 worth of water, and controls \$31,250 worth of soil erosion.

If every American planted just one tree, the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere would be reduced by one billion pounds annually. This is almost 5% of the amount that human activity pumps into the atmosphere each year.

Though the zoo plans to plant 574 trees, that won't reverse the damage done to a healthy forest ecosystem. Benefits of mature forests include: better water quality, less air pollution, more wild life, better recreational opportunities and improved soil quality. We need our trees!

For more information about the zoo's plans for trees in Overton Park, visit www.overtonparkforever.blogspot.com. To learn more about the value of trees, visit www.arborday.org. Also interesting is the site of Tree People, a California non-profit organization, www.treepeople.org.

Shelby County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility
6305 Haley Road, Memphis, TN 38134
(off Farm Road between Walnut Grove and Mullins Station)
Hours and Days: 8:30am-1:30pm,
Tuesdays and Saturdays

No fee. For residential citizens of Memphis and Shelby County only. No commercial or industrial wastes.

15 gallons or 100 pounds of material per month.

Acceptable items: Aerosol spray cans, automotive fluids, batteries, cleaners, construction and home repair products, lighter fluid and fire starters, electronics, flammable liquids, drain-cleaners and openers, light bulbs, herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, paint and paint thinners, pool chemicals, moth balls, insect repellent, mercury and thermostats.

Unacceptable items: Ammunition, commercial and institutional waste, explosives, medical waste, fire extinguishers, oxygen bottles, welding tanks, radioactive waste (including smoke detectors), refrigerants, cooking oil or grease, televisions, microwave ovens, copiers, tires and unidentifiable materials.

For more information, please contact Lisa Williams with Shelby County Environmental Programs at (901) 379-4430.

Environment Justice Coordinator at Awards Banquet

Rita Harris, Sierra Club environmental justice coordinator based in Memphis, attended the Arkansas Chapter's awards banquet.

Rita was invited to deliver the keynote address by former Tennessee Chapter member David Orr. David is now serving as the Ozark Headwaters Group chair in the Arkansas Chapter. The banquet was well attended with approximately 100 participants from across Arkansas. Over 20 conservation awards were presented.



Rita Harris

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/SignInWaiverPDF>, 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)

May 3-4. Backpack, Mount Rogers NRA. CANCELLED

May 10: Day hike, Frozen Head State Park.

Waterfalls and wildflowers are the twin objectives for this easy hike, so bring your cameras. We'll start up the Panther Branch Trail, passing DeBord Falls to the intersection with the Emory Gap trail which we'll take to Emory Gap Falls, then reverse our path to the cars. Time permitting, we can do a quick side trip up Panther Branch past several small waterfalls. Total distance about 4 miles; rated easy with time for lots of pictures and flower identification. Driving distance/time about 45 miles/1 hour, 15 minutes. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; ronaldshrieves@comcast.net.

May 17: Get Outdoors Festival, World's Fair Park, Knoxville.

This festival brings together sports clubs, outdoor experts, retailers and sports enthusiasts for a day-long festival. Live music will rock the Tennessee Amphitheatre throughout the afternoon and food vendors will keep the crowd fed. The festival, which benefits the Legacy Parks Foundation, is free.

May 25-26 (Memorial Day weekend): Backpack, Saint Mary's Wilderness (Virginia).

The 9,835-acre Saint Mary's Wilderness is one of Virginia's most popular wilderness areas and justly so. St. Mary's Falls, a 15-foot wide waterfall that drops into a deep and narrow gorge, is probably the area's principal feature but it also has numerous other waterfalls, forested mountain coves, a high mountain river and remnants of old coal mining operations; the area also was never logged, although the poor soil limited the growth of huge trees. On Sunday we'll hike in from FS 41 at the downstream end of the valley and hike along the Saint Mary's River to the Bear Branch area (about 4 miles), the site of an old mining town. We'll camp there and day hike upstream to Green Pond (another 2.5 miles)—a rare, natural tarn surrounded by cranberry bogs and pine trees—and then hike out on Monday and drive back to Knoxville. The wilderness is located south of Staunton, VA. Rated Moderate. Pre-register with Will Skelton: H) 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

June 14-15: Beginner Backpack, Elkmont area of the GSMNP.

This is a short-drive easy-to-moderate rated hike with emphasis on accommodating new backpackers. We start at Elkmont and go a short ways up the Jakes Creek trail to its junction with the Meigs Mountain Trail, then west on the latter trail to back country campsite #20 (about 2.4 miles total). We'll utilize the remainder of Saturday afternoon to share experiences and information about equipment, supplies, techniques and destinations relating to backpacking. On Sunday we hike west on the Meigs Mountain Trail to its junction with the Curry Mountain trail, then down the Curry Mountain trail to reach our shuttle vehicle at the Metcalf Bottoms picnic area (about 5.2 miles). Pre-register with Ron Shrieves: 922-3518; ronaldshrieves@comcast.net.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP

May 24 or 31 (Call for update), "Rocky Forks" Nature Reserve Hike

"Rocky Forks," the Southern Appalachian Crown Jewel, is to be purchased by the Southern Appalachian Conservancy, the Appalachian Trails Conservancy and other meaningful groups. Sierra Club member Jerry Greer, co-photographer for the Rocky Forks public relations endeavor, will lead the day hike into this 10,000-acre wonderland. Those interested should meet at the McDonald's in Erwin at 9:00 a.m. To find out the date of the hike and more information contact Tom Mozen, SOF Group chair, at (423) 232-0827.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (NASHVILLE)

May 3, Polly's Branch Wildflower Day Hike

Heloise Shilstat will lead a day hike to Polly's Branch in Centennial Wilderness near Sparta, TN. The hike will consist of 6-8 miles. A map is available on the state Centennial Wilderness website. A half dozen different varieties of ferns and lady slippers, phlox, pinkster, flowers, etc., should be seen on this hike. Take WATER, lunch, boots and your own first aid kit. No dogs please! Pre-register with Heloise Shilstat at 615-896-6278 or email heloisew@bellsouth.net.

May 3, Percy Priest Island Cleanup

Please contact Diane Perschbacher at Diane@Propson.com or 615-895-1236 or <http://www.cleanPercyPriest.org> for information regarding this non-Sierra Club sponsored event which focuses on clean-up of Percy Priest Lake.

May 10, Virgin Falls State Natural Area Day Hike

This strenuous eight-mile trail descends from the Cumberland Plateau near Sparta and meanders along a creek, offering spectacular views of caves, sinks and waterfalls. Participants will stop for lunch at the falls, where they also can feast their eyes on a truly remarkable sight. Water cascades from a cave mouth at the top of a bluff and falls more than 100 feet to form Virgin Falls. Participants should bring WATER, snacks, BOOTS, and dress in layers. For more details and to register, contact Dave Bordenkircher at dabor-denkircher@mindspring.com or 615-333-3377 (Education)

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!

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Annual Wolf River Clean-Up, Sunday, May 4, 9:30am-4pm with Bluff City Canoe Club. Meet at Bateman Bridge put-in near Moscow. River canoe experience mandatory. Support the Sierra Club's efforts to preserve wetlands and wildlife habitat. For more information, contact Bill Rehberg at (901) 508-1289.

Signs of Spring Walk, Sunday, May 4, 1:00pm, Memphis Botanic Garden in Audubon Park – Easy walk through spring garden and arboretum. For more information, contact Judith Hammond, (901) 276-2819.

Vollintine-Evergreen Greenline Walk, Saturday, May 17, 8:45am – Enjoy the scenery on the Greenline trail and learn about the history of this rails-to-trails park. Meet at the little yellow train station at the corner of Tutwiler and Dickinson. Stay after the hike if you want and help with the spring clean-up on the trail! For information, contact Bill Rehberg at (901) 508-1289.

Canoe Trip Through Mississippi River Bottomlands at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park – Sunday, May 25, 8:45am-noon – Meet at the Visitor's Center. Reservations required. Free! Canoes provided. Bring your lunch and water. For reservations, contact Judith Hammond, (901) 276-2819.

REMINDER: Wilderness First Aid Class at Fall Creek Falls State Park, June 6, 7, 8. – See information elsewhere in this issue.

Check Out Wetlands in Focus Exhibit in Murfreesboro

The Discovery Center, an interactive museum and environmental center in Murfreesboro, is featuring a Wetlands in Focus exhibit, which showcases the adjacent Murfree Spring wetland and its wildlife through stunning photographs, interactive stations, interpretive panels with wetland images and facts, and educational indoor and outdoor programming.

The center was created for children and families of Middle Tennessee, and is dedicated to promoting excellence in education through hands-on exhibits and programs. Its aim is that each child, teen and adult who visits will grow in knowledge, competence and appreciation for themselves, their families, their community and their environment.

Don't miss this chance to learn about the incredible biodiversity of the Murfree Spring Wetland! The exhibit, which opened April 28, will run for six months.

The Discovery Center at Murfree Spring is located at 502 Southeast Broad Street

in the heart of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The wetlands can be visited any time, but entry into the center and the exhibit is \$5 for anyone over two years old. The center is open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Contact the center at (615) 890-2300 or <http://www.discoverycenteronline.org/> with any questions.



Hunter/Angler Sportsmen Join Forces with Sierra Water Sentinels at Alabama Retreat

By Gloria Griffith

So, what do you get when you cross a Hunter/Angler Sportsman with Sierra Water Sentinels? Answer: A 'reel' good time!

That's just what happened in Nauvoo, Ala., on March 17-20 at Camp McDowell on the Southern Cumberland Plateau at this year's Water Sentinel Retreat. The fun highlights of the week were a fish fry, bluegrass music and dancing plus teaching new anglers to fish.

Dean Whitworth said: "It was especially entertaining to watch New York newbie anglers catch/release big stripers in the camp creek. A hunter/angler Sierra representative taught fly fishing skills. Scott Dye, Water Sentinel regional director, hosted the annual retreat."

Attendees, representing 17 states, descended on Camp McDowell. www.campmcdowell.com. Webb Griffith, representing the Watauga Watershed Alliance www.wataugawatershed.org/Welcome.html said, "It was one of the most interesting, helpful, fun and informative gatherings in recent memory."

Rick Foster and Dean Whitworth, members of the Watauga Group Sierra Club from Johnson County, Tenn., also attended. Many diverse side conversations were held on topics including community gardening, local farmers markets, advocacy for Tier II Quality waters and restoration of impaired streams. Chickasaw Group Sierra Club members James Baker and Don Richardson drove in from Memphis,



Photo: James Baker

Tenn. James Baker gave a Tennessee "Hot Spots" presentation on the implementation of GIS mapping applications.

The workshop emphasis was on grant writing in Sierra and outside foundations. Olivia Frazier from the National Sierra Club Foundation were the featured speakers during the two-day fundraising workshop. Water Sentinel volunteers and activist/fundraisers, Tim Guilfoile, Dr. Bryan Burgess, and Rich Hurley, shared their successful events and ideas on "creating the culture of fundraising" within environmental organizations on such topics as: Grant Writing with Partners, Pursuing Small Grants to Meet the Need and Hunter/Angler Joint Grant Opportunities. Ed Hopkins, director of the Environmental Quality Program, informed the attendees about the impending federal Clean Water Restoration Act.

Rick Foster and Dean Whitworth both contributed their water advocacy expertise on video. Rick Foster, on camera, spoke about Shady Valley, Tenn., bogs

and wetlands projects. Dean Whitworth did an extemporaneous YouTube filming on the Kids to Grandfolds Doe Creek Fly Fishing Day scheduled for June in Johnson County, Tenn.

Bart Semcer, Sierra Club Environmental Partnerships Program director, fielded questions and answers about forming alliances. Jon Schwedler, Sierra Sportsmen organizer and sportsmen magazine author, videotaped attendees to use in his outreach to hunters/anglers. The nine-minute video highlights of the Water Sentinel Retreat are currently posted on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/SierraSportsmen for your viewing enjoyment.

Jon Schwedler emphasized: "I'm sure you all are aware of the perception that the Sierra Club is hostile to hunting/angling. This is bogus, and doesn't reflect the huge common ground shared by conservationists and sportsmen (healthy wildlife, lands and water). Sierra Sportsmen is an effort to shatter misconceptions and achieve better relationships with sportsmen."

Watauga Group Meeting Features Tennessee Clean Water Network Executive Director

By Dennis Shekinah
Secretary, Watauga Group

Renee Hoyos, executive director of the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN), drove over from Knoxville to address our group during our April meal and meeting. Arriving early, we drove down to Doe Creek to view and photograph the asphalt plant that Radford Quarries hopes to get permitted this spring. After an amazing meal of free-range turkey and chicken, stews, salads and endless desserts, we got down to some business.

Carl Wolfe gave an update to his continued efforts in keeping Fall Branch Falls free of trash and his work with the county mayor to further the recycling program in Johnson County. Carl deals with an area of Johnson County where people make an effort to litter in quantity which varies from murdered animals to bags of drug paraphernalia. It was a grisly account, but one everyone needed to hear. Meth pro-

duction not only destroys the human body and spirit but the environment as well. Randy Fallin echoed this and encouraged everyone to work with our sheriff department on this issue.

Cherokee Forest Burn

Dean Whitworth presented Cherokee Forest Voices' call for action on the Forest Service's plan to burn Cherokee Forest, up to 6,000 acres in Shady Valley alone. He explained the policy of "controlled burns" was written in the 19th century to accommodate homesteaders and developing townships in the western United States. It's continued under the name "Healthy Forest Initiative" as a major source of funding for the Forest Service to help control the arid forests of the high West.

The forests of the Appalachians, however, are more like wetlands and resist large burns. Thus the use of an accelerant shot from aircraft similar in composition to napalm is used. Why go to such trouble to burn a forest that naturally resists fire? Because politicians are making decisions about funding and the scientists advising them are being ignored. Surprised? No, I'm not either.

Radford Asphalt Plant

I quickly gave an update to Watauga Watershed Alliance's attorney's work on the Radford asphalt plant situation. Radford has modified its asphalt application to proclaim no degradation to Doe Creek, thus eliminating the need to offer up a social and economical justification for polluting one of the Southeast's prime trout fisheries. I'll review and report on the modifications of their permit as soon as possible.

In the meantime, our attorneys have issued a 60-day notice to Radford's lawyers, meaning we will file federal charges of violations of the Clean Water Act on Radford's present crushed stone operation on Doe Creek. The decision to do so was based, in part, on Barry Sulkin's investigation of Doe Creek a few weeks ago. Barry, as many of you know, worked for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) as an investigator years ago and is accomplished in the science of collecting evidence of pollution in public waters. Barry's fee, by the by, was covered by a grant obtained by the

TCWN. Renee's decision to sign on to the legal challenge of the asphalt plant allowed for this to happen.

Tennessee Clean Water Network

Renee stepped up and delivered a powerful account of herself and the TCWN. She lived in California where she worked on environmental affairs for the previous governor. In 2003 she applied for and won the executive director position of the TCWN. In 2005 she expanded TCWN's mission to support small watershed groups with grants and professional support.

Please visit the TCWN website to read over this organization's many impressive accomplishments. One worth mentioning that hints at TCWN's strength and reach is the group's assistance in brokering the land swap Alcoa made recently to gain license of four Tennessee hydroelectric dams. The area granted to the Nature Conservancy's care is, in fact, the land our own Rick Foster was recently hired to survey for indigenous plant life.

Renee also worked to change Tennessee law in 2005 that had, up to that point, kept Tennessee citizens from suing for violations of the Clean Water Act (no wonder companies like Radford flocked to our state to open their dirty industries!). In 2007 TCWN's Tennessee Clean Water Act won TDEC the authority to issue stop-work orders to polluters who had been, to that point, issued toothless NOV's (notice of violations).

Renee also shared several copies of TCWN's "The Current." This to-the-point publication lists current legislation that falls into one of three groups: the Good, the Bad or the Ugly. Renee talked about one bill as particularly ugly, the Limited Resource Waters Bill (HB4185/SB4119). Please read up on this bill and make your voice heard!

For more information on the organizations mentioned visit:

<http://www.tcwn.org>

www.wataugawatershed.org

www.cherokeevoices.org/

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga/index.htm



Experience Organic Farming with Barefoot Farmer

By Teresa Campbell

The 75-mile trip from Nashville to Red Boiling Springs is a lovely drive on a rainy April day as I watch the flatlands move into bright green rolling hills. My destination is Long Hungry Creek Farm where the Sierra Club has an outing on June 7. This \$10.00 excursion will include a farm tour, lunch prepared from the farm's bounty and farm enlightenment provided by Jeff Poppen, the Barefoot Farmer.

A farmer is busy even on a rainy day, but I am content in the house looking at tables of pumpkins and buckets of apple scions while Jeff darts around in the rain. Wanting a break, he comes in and sits down to reveal to me the mysteries of life.

"All life depends on the soil," Jeff says.

Traditionally, soil was treated like it is alive, plowed slowly with animals. Care was taken to compost and collect manure. The resulting humus rich soil teemed with beings—microbes, bacteria, fungi and protozoa—that have an intimate and life-giving relationship with plant roots. The plant provides food for microorganisms with little bits of sloughed-off root; the microorganisms protect the plant by extending the root's feeding surface.

Working with the sun, this slow, natural exchange of nutrients produces strong, pest-and disease-resistant plants.

"If a soil lacks humus, it makes more humus by sending bugs and diseases to kill the plant. If a soil has humus, there is no need to send in bugs and diseases," Jeff says.

Water-soluble chemicals kill microorganisms in the soil, leaving plants unbalanced and dependant on water to absorb nutrients.

How does organic rich, chemical-free agriculture fare in adverse weather? During last summer's drought, Long Hungry Creek Farm didn't suffer, although Jeff did water once.

Of the farm's 300 acres, 200 are preserved as uncut forest, providing wildlife habitat. Fertilizer production (pastureland for cows) takes up another 95 acres.

"Only ruminants can make more fertility than is required for their own use," Jeff says. No fertility is imported to Long Hungry Creek Farm.

"By juggling around a farm's organic material and livestock, food pours like manna from heaven on this earthly paradise," Jeff says. "Plants, powered by the sun, can't help but create food and feed from the air and rain, and each year the animals reproduce. These resources, the farm's cornucopia, are a result of nature...There is more every year."

The remaining five acres produce 50,000 pounds of vegetables a year and CSA (community supported agriculture) members enjoy this bounty.

"The members also enjoy other farm benefits besides the garden produce," Jeff says. "They have an open invitation to hike around their farm, or to picnic, swim or camp out. By supporting the whole farm, they know what their food dollars are doing."

"Plants, powered by the sun, can't help but create food and feed from the air and rain, and each year the animals reproduce. These resources, the farm's cornucopia, are a result of nature...There is more every year."

"It's not new. It's the ancient tradition of the land's bounty benefiting the community, which supports the farmers, the livestock and the soil. Becoming a part of a farm and rekindling this feeling of caring for the land may be more nourishing than the fresh food the members get each week," he says.

Experience it firsthand and visit Long Hungry Creek Farm June 7. For information call or email Joy Mayfield, 615-851-1192 or joy.mayfield@comcast.net.



Thanks to Defenders Contributors

Thanks to this month's contributors to the Defenders of Tennessee (March 10 through April 9).

Anonymous	Ken Belliveau
Kathryn Bendall	Karen Bourg
Charles and Marion Burger	Cathy Conley
Ray and Lella Conatser	Wray Estes and Tom Cullen
Allis Dale and John Gillmor	Dorothy Harness
Anne Horgan	Richard and Sherry Loller
Margaret Thompson	

The Defenders campaign funds our very important legislative and lobbying activities. For further information see our January newsletter at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/0108ts.pdf>

Step Into the Sunshine! ...June 7, 2008!!

The **2008 Sonnenschein Festival** is a gathering of area citizens to celebrate our bountiful resources. Our community is known for its strong ties to the earth, its creator and its families. Thus, there is a strong commitment to preserving our resources and way of life. The festival is our way of sharing these resources and values with others.

Central to this year's event will be workshops and exhibits focusing on Green Living - renewable energy and sustainable habitation. How we can live more harmoniously within our environment.

There will be music, food, entertainment for the children, and vendors offering local products - farm produce, handcrafted goods of wood, metal and glass, arts and souvenirs.

Tentative Schedule of Events:
 June 7 - Exhibits/booths open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
 Green Power speakers from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
 Music at the Courthouse from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm
 Arts/crafts/local events all day
 Fun for the children at the Children's Green Playshop, 11:00 am-3:00 pm
PRIZES.....GAMES.....DEMONSTRATIONS!!!!
 June 8 - All events start at 1:00 pm
 Local tour of "Green" homes
 Nature walks

For more information, go to <http://www.sonnenschein-tenn.org/index.html>

Moving?



Attach mailing address label, or fill in current name, address & Membership ID#

Current Address: _____

Member ID# _____

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Mail to:

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 52968 Boulder, CO 80322-2968

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group

Tennes-Sierran

2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436
 Nashville, Tennessee 37212

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