

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 34 Number 12 - December, 2003

Annual Chapter Awards Produce Momentous and Mysterious Events



This year's Annual Tennessee Chapter awards brought both momentous and mysterious events. Caty Butcher, Mary Mastin, and Catherine Murray were recognized with our traditional, and very highly honored awards:

Submitted by Adelle Wood: Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) member Caty Butcher was awarded the prestigious Sarah Hines Award for her work over many years on both chapter and group issues. Caty currently serves as Chapter Political Chair, Chapter Fundraising Chair, and Group Conservation Chair. She is a member of the Chapter Legislative Committee and has served as Group Chair and Group Vice Chair. Caty has, for years, been the one to tackle difficult tasks enthusiastically. She has obtained grants for a chapter intern, for the sprawl manual (which she co-authored and edited), and for an environmental justice project. She does an enormous amount of political work behind the scenes, including volunteer lobbying. She has hosted receptions for Defender donors. She got the MTG recycling site up and running, which helps pay our Chapter/Group office expenses and brings name recognition to the chapter. There is much more that she has done, but only Caty knows all the things she has done. She puts in countless hours, and when something comes up that no one wants to do, her invariable response is "I can do it". Caty is a dedicated activist who has gone above and beyond for many years. She embodies the ideals of volunteerism, and has truly earned the Sarah Hines Award.

Mary Mastin of the Upper Cumberland Group was presented with a Special Award of Appreciation for her outstanding work on a number of conservation efforts in Tennessee. She serves as Chapter Treasurer, delegate to the Appalachian Regional Conservation Committee, at-large Chapter delegate, member of the Budget and Transportation Committees, and Group Conservation Chair. She has headed up the

scribed by the "3 C's", which in her case are Caring, Competent, and Capable. These attributes describe the core of Mary's contributions to the conservation work of the Sierra Club. While these are exemplary qualities, the most important thing is that Mary gets results. The Chapter was proud to be able to present this special award to Mary for her dedication, her persistence, and her successes in helping the Club reach its conservation goals.

This year's Mack Prichard Award went to State of Franklin Group member Catherine Murray for her dedicated work on forestry issues. Catherine is a member of the Chapter Executive Committee and is the Chapter Representative to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Ecoregion (SAHE). She is the Chair of the National Forests and End Commercial Logging Committees and is a member of the Chapter Forestry and Natural Areas Committee and of the Transportation Committee, as well as serving as Group Conservation and Forestry Chair. Catherine Murray is the Tennessee Chapter's conscience on the Cherokee National Forest. She has carried on the forestry work of the Chapter as well as the Cherokee Forest Voices (CFV), of which the Chapter is a member. She works for CFV for half-time salary and is a volunteer for the Chapter, but she has carried on a full-time job of keeping CFV active and giving us all legal standing in the forest appeals process. Her nickname is the "litigation queen", and she has the ability to get attorneys to work together to achieve her goals for the forests. Then, she does the detailed research to get the attorneys the information they need to go forward with the case. As a grassroots activist, Catherine has taken over a job that no one else was willing to do and in the process, has traveled days, weeks and months to Forest Service public hearings and meetings. She is passionate in her love for the land and the forests, and she just does what needs to be done.

And then, there was a visit from *The Prez* and the Grim Reaper - Yikes!

The following was pieced together from various conflicting accounts and submitted by Don Richardson . . .

After the last chapter award was presented, our emcee, Don Richardson, was apologizing for the apparent no-show of an extra special guest, when Nashville member Corie Wisner bursts through the side door, saying, "Does anyone know anything about the helicopter that's just landed out here on the grass?"

When Don walks over to the door and looks out, his jaw drops and he turns to the assembled audience and exclaims, "You are not going to believe this, but... ladies and gentlemen, let's welcome *The Prez* of the US".

The Prez strides through the door dressed in a flannel shirt, jeans, hunting boots and a vest, adorned with a small American flag (of course), waving to everyone with a fixed grin on his face, as if he was wearing an over-the-head Halloween mask. Don follows him to the front of the fireplace, appearing to be at a loss of words at *The Prez's* surprise appearance, while *The Prez* continues to wave to the crowd and genuinely act like he's happy to be here.

When Don again welcomes *The Prez*, and asks him if he would like to address the Tennessee Chapter, *The Prez* makes hand signals as if to say, "No Thanks", and then whispers in Don's ear. Don listens attentively to *The Prez*, starts to laugh, and then turns to the audience and says, "He says the *Vice Prez* told him not to speak to the Sierra Club".

As *The Prez* settles back and starts rocking slightly on his heels, Don asks, "If you are so afraid of the Sierra Club, may I ask why you decided to visit us anyway?" At this point, *The Prez* leans over in a friendly way and whispers in Don's ear again. Don chuckles at his reply and turns again to the

Continued on page 3



Top: A loud gong sounds announcing the appearance of the Grim Reaper. Photo by Rachel Floyd; smoke effects intellectual property of James Baker.

Second: The sudden, & mysterious appearance of the Grim Reaper startles Don Richardson & *The Prez*. Photo by Roger Jenkins; smoke effects intellectual property of James Baker.

Third: *The Prez* quickly grabs a bottle of glowing, smoking "Clean Water?" . . . or "Clean Air?", the Grim Reaper insists he accept. Photo by Roger Jenkins.

Bottom: Under the power of the Grim Reaper, Don Richardson reads the arcane text of scroll to the utter astonishment of everyone. Photo by Rachel Floyd; smoke effects intellectual property of James Baker.

March Window fundraising effort for the last 2 years. Her recent accomplishments include her pro bono work, with her husband, Brian Paddock, on the Spencer/Rumbling Falls Cave action, in which the Chapter participated as a Friend of the Court; her work in creating the Citizens for TDOT Reform; with Brian, serving as "legal watchdog" in the Pigeon Roost action in Cookeville; and her hundreds of hours working as co-counsel on the Zeb Mountain case. As was pointed out during the awards ceremony, Mary can be de-



Tennes-Sierran

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

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SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: TennesSierran@aol.com

Snail Mail: Rachel Floyd, Tennes-Sierran Chief Editor
3223 Caldwell Road - Ashland City, TN 37015
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ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to TennesSierran@aol.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten, or typewritten, articles may be accepted; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail can not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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

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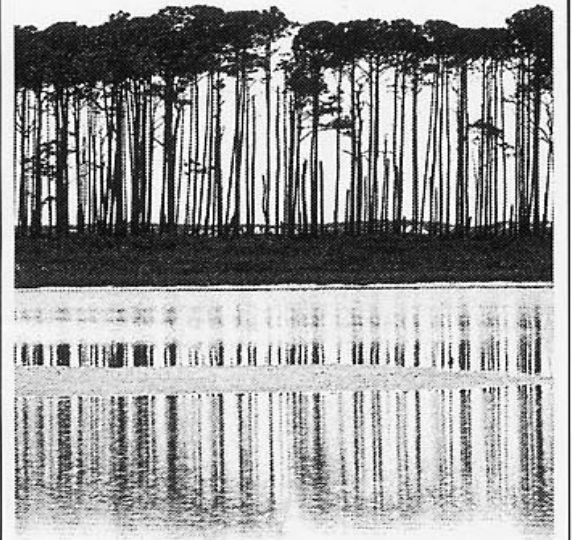
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Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed



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Turn inspiration into preservation.

Like Ansel Adams before him, the work of Donald Muir Bradburn is intensely honest, reflecting the passion of his childhood memories of the Mississippi Barrier Islands, which his photography helped save. For millions of people, the Sierra Club turns that same passion for nature into something just as moving—successful protection of our natural treasures. Insure tomorrow is filled with scenes that inspire. Join us. You'll be in good company.

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the 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.

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Annual Chapter Awards Produce Momentous and Mysterious Events

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audience and says, "He says his Daddy told him never to pass up an opportunity to take credit for something, especially if there is a chance he might receive an award".

As the crowd laughs at this remark, a loud gong is heard. Some folks fall silent in their seats, and others gasp loudly as they point to the hallway behind Don, leading out from the kitchen. As everyone looks in utter astonishment, a tall faceless figure in black floats toward Don and *The Prez* on a cloud of ashy smoke, carrying what looks like an overly large black scroll and a flask of glowing blue and green vapors in hands that appear to be those of a skeleton.

After recovering initially from the shock of whether he can trust his eyes or not, Don recovers his composure, and turns to the audience and says, "I'm not sure I believe it myself, but...it's the Grim Reaper!"

As Don backs away from this figure (or is it just an apparition), *The Prez* hides behind Don as The Reaper moves forward and motions for *The Prez* to take the glowing, smoking flask from his bony hands. At first *The Prez* shakes his head, "No", but when the Reaper motions again, *The Prez* reluctantly grabs it quickly.

The Reaper then motions to Don to take the large ancient, leathery scroll-like object from him, and after touching it briefly to convince himself that it is real, Don eases the object out of The Reaper's hand, careful not to touch any part of The Reaper himself. When Don unfolds the object, a dusty lighter-colored sheet of something is inside, made of either skin or is it papyrus... it's hard to tell. Once unrolled, the now apparent scroll is covered with ancient characters covering the entire surface of the inner scroll.

At this point, Don speaks to The Reaper, trying to avoid eye contact and says, "I can't read this", to which The Reaper slowly brings his hand up over the scroll, and suddenly the arcane text appears to form into English characters and Don exclaims, "Wow... now I can read it". Don then turns to the audience and begins to read the scroll in English, which is reproduced below.

During all this, *The Prez* has positioned himself between Don and The Reaper the whole time. As Don reads down the scroll, skipping a long list of actions that the *The Prez's* administration has committed against the environment, *The Prez* is shaking his head in approval. As the citation closes with the announcement that The Grim Reaper is giving him an award as a "Friend of Extinction", *The Prez* begins bobbing around, obviously happy that he is being recognized for something.

When Don asks *The Prez* if he has anything to say for himself, he points to his watch and shakes his head, as if to say that it is time for him to go, and then as quickly as he entered, *The Prez* turns on his heels and runs out the door. At about the same time, The Grim Reaper begins receding back down the hallway from which he emerged, and everyone is in such shock as to what has just transpired, that no one reports even hearing *The Prez's* helicopter take off. Anyway, that's our story, and we're sticking to it.

For those of you who didn't have the opportunity to attend the Awards Presentation, we now share with you the . . .

Scroll Retrieved from an Apparition of The Grim Reaper

As Translated by Don Richardson

Summoned on behalf of resident flora and fauna, by order of the living planet, Gaia, also known as Terra, Sol 3, The Creation, and Mother Earth, but most commonly called EARTH, The Grim Reaper acknowledges that *The Prez*, temporary custodian of the planet's most influential and interfering political entity, commonly known as America, has willfully contributed to the degradation of the global

environment, leading to wholesale destruction of both natural and human ecologies far too numerous to mention here (See footnotes 1 thru 66,666). However, to demonstrate his incontrovertible qualifications for recognition, here is a list of representative actions* for each month *The Prez* and his minions have served in office:

2001

January (Inauguration Day) - Within hours of becoming prezident, action is frozen on former President Clinton's "roadless" policy, which would have protected 58.5 million acres of national forests from encroachment by vehicles.

February - Nomination of Gale Norton as Secretary of the Interior. Norton formerly worked with one of the most anti-environmental organizations in the country, the Mountain States Legal Foundation.

March - Campaign promise abandonment to regulate power plant emissions of carbon dioxide, a major cause of global warming. He also calls for "more study" on safe amounts of arsenic allowed in drinking water.

April - Administration begins negotiations with the snowmobile industry to reverse a ban on snowmobiles in Yellowstone National Park. Administration announces it will weaken the requirement to make air conditioners more energy efficient.

May - Releases of energy plan, calling for increased reliance on oil, coal and nuclear power, and cutting the budget for energy efficiency research and alternative Power sources by nearly a third.

June - Interior Secretary Norton abandons plans to reintroduce grizzly bears in the Northern Rockies in favor of an official position of "no action".

July - EPA Administrator Christine Whitman goes to federal court to seek an 18-month delay on a ruling under the Clean Water Act requiring states to develop plans for pollution runoff.

August - The House of Representatives passes the an energy proposal that includes plans to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

September - Congress is pressed for an enormous (\$15 billion) bail-out package for the airline industry, but lets more modest proposals for energy efficient rail projects languish by the wayside.

October - Administration revokes the Interior Department's power to veto mining permits, even if the mining would cause "substantial and irreparable harm" to environmental, cultural or scientific resources. The department itself reverses key requirements for mining operations.

November - The Army Corps of Engineers unilaterally issues guidelines tat allow developers to severely undermine a national policy of "no net loss" of critical bogs, swamps and coastal marshes around the country.

December - Right-wing interests presses Congress to pass an "economic stimulus package" that proposes \$2.4 billion worth of tax breaks, credits and loopholes for General Electric, Chevron, Texaco and Enron.

2002

January - Fast tracks a disastrous plan for oil and gas exploration that gives a green light for 26-ton "thumper trucks" to begin rolling through Utah's Dome Plateau desert.

February - Proposes a deceptively labeled "Clear Skies" plan that ditches regulations governing emissions of three major pollutants - mercury, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide - in favor of setting voluntary targets. Industry is not even required to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

March - The head of regulatory enforcement at EPA steps down on grounds that the EPA is now "fighting a White House that seems determined to weaken the rules we are trying to enforce".

April - The Senate passes a version of the proposed energy plan that scuttles an increase in fuel efficiency standards and supports more domestic production from coal and other polluting sources.

May - The administration clears legal hurdles so mining and construction companies can dump waste into streams and rivers, including waste generated after coal mining companies literally rip the tops off mountains.

June - The administration announces a plan that would gut a key part of the Clean Air Act that requires America's oldest, dirtiest power plant and refineries to install pollution control equipment when they expand.

July - Admits the greenhouse gases that cause global warming will increase under their approach but still refuses to force industry to cut emissions of those gases.

August - Proposes industry friendly legislation to combat wildfires that would waive environmental analysis, appeals and judicial review of timber sales in favor of increased logging in remote areas, not near at-risk communities.

September - Administration officials announce plans to rewrite Clean Water Act regulations in order to remove many wetlands, streams and other "isolated" waters from protec-

tion under the law.

October - Data from the EPA reveals a sharp decline in enforcement of environmental laws with current administration. The agency has initiated nearly 50 percent fewer enforcement actions against polluters than it did under President Clinton.

November - The administration overturns a ban on snowmobile use in Yellowstone National Park.

December - Announcement of a new rule to limit public participation and weaken measures protecting our national forests and easing the way for their exploitation by the timber and mining industries.

2003

January - Weakens standards that determine whether tuna is caught in a way that harms dolphins. Under the new plan, fish caught by encircling dolphins with dangerous "purse seine" nets would be deemed Dolphin Safe, rendering the Dolphin Safe tuna seal meaningless.

February - 2004 budget slashes funding to the EPA for clean water by nearly 40 percent.

March - EPA gives polluters a green light to continue dumping tons of sludge into the Potomac River in the nation's capitol over the next seven years; The administration reverses the Clinton-era decision that would have phased out snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Grant Teton national parks.

April - The U.S. Bureau of Land Management approves a massive expansion of natural gas drilling in the Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming. The drilling will pollute rivers and streams and harm fish and wildlife.

May - The administration releases as study showing the devastating impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining. But instead of strengthening protections, the administration proposes further weakening of regulations for the coal industry.

June - Administration moves to scuttle the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Their new plan will open the crown jewel of our national forest system, Alaska's Tongas, to logging, and allow governors in other state to opt out of the rule.

July - The administration creates The Rocky Mountain Energy Council to develop ways to "streamline" the federal approval process for drilling projects in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

August - An internal EPA report reveals that the agency bowed to White House pressure in the aftermath of 9/11, deliberately telling New York City residents that the air around the World Trade Center site was safe to breathe when they didn't have the data to back it up.

The administration also uses the Northeast power blackout as an excuse to gut clean air enforcement rule for the nation's oldest and dirtiest power plants.

*A *Chronology of Environmental Destruction*, distributed by Friends of the Earth, 2003 (uncopyrighted)

Therefore, in recognition of your dedication and commitment to endanger life and civilization, above and beyond the actions of any previous administration in American history, The Grim Reaper, already over-worked in helping humankind hasten the coming of the 6th global extinction of dominant life in this planet's short lifespan, presents

The Prez

commonly known as The Prezident, this

Friends of Extinction Award

to be remembered by Homo sapiens sapiens for the duration of sentient life on Planet Earth.

Meetings



HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, December 9, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. We'll end the year with our traditional "Share a Memory" slide show. Bring a few favorite slides (or digital images on a CD) of your 2003 adventures — vacations, local outings, shots around town. Don't be shy. We're all hikers, travelers, wanna-be photographers, and we love to see what someone else has done. Second most important thing: be sure to bring a plate of your favorite holiday goodies (or any food) for the social hour to follow. Guests are always welcome, but especially this time of year; bring relatives, friends, support groups.

STRATEGY MEETING: There will not be a December strategy meeting. Enjoy the holidays!

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: THERE WILL BE NO PROGRAM MEETING in December. Instead, the annual MTG holiday party will be held at the Butcher residence on December 20. All are invited. Please see full details elsewhere in this newsletter.

HOLIDAY PARTY: To be held December 20 - The Middle Tennessee Group invites you to our annual holiday party, to be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on December 20 at the home of Caty and Laurence Butcher, 1212 Ordway Place in Nashville. As always, the party promises good food and good fellowship. Please bring a covered dish to share, and your own beverage.

Directions: Take I-65 to the Shelby Bridge exit (where the Titan's Coliseum is located) and head AWAY from the coliseum toward Shelby Bottoms. At 14th Street turn left (after the third light but before the park). Proceed through stop signs (past Lipstick Lounge but before Eastland) to a stop sign at Ordway Place. Turn left. It is the third building on left. There is parking on the street.

We hope to see all of our old friends and to meet our new friends. If you have questions or need further directions, please call Caty at 226-8925 or (cell) 347-1480. See you on December 20!

STRATEGY MEETING: PLEASE NOTE THAT, BECAUSE OUR USUAL MEETING FALLS ON CHRISTMAS EVE, WE HAVE MOVED THE STRATEGY MEETING TO WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are first on the agenda! Come early, bring your sack dinner, or snack on refreshments provided by our group and get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting at 2021 21st Avenue South (the old St. Bernard's Academy Building). Look for the signs out front which will point the way. We welcome each of you to participate or just to be with us to learn of the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. Additions to the conservation agenda should be sent to Caty Butcher JLCLBUTCH@comcast.net. For additions to the administrative agenda, or for more information regarding the meetings send a message to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@aol.com, or call 792-2590.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

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

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, December 8, 7pm at Frances Lamberts home, 113 Ridge Lane, Jonesborough.

From Johnson City and other parts east, take the old Jonesborough highway (W. Walnut) past Midway until you see the Jonesborough Town Limit sign. Turn left immediately past the sign onto Timber Ridge Road. (Praise Chapel Church is on the far corner.) Go to the first right, and park on the left side of the cul-de-sac. Frances's house is on the left behind the wrought iron gate at the end of this very short block.

From the north and west: At the stop sign at Boone & Main Streets in Jonesborough, turn left and go up the hill on East Main until Praise Chapel Church (1148 E. Main St.) is on your right. Turn right just past the Church onto Timber Ridge Rd. Go to the first right, and park on the left side of the cul-de-sac. Frances's house is on the left behind the wrought iron gate at the end of this very short block.

Frances Lamberts' phone number is 753-5288 if you get lost. Or you can call Linda Modica's cell phone at 676-2925 for directions.

HOLIDAY PARTY: Monday, December 15, 7pm. Bring a covered dish to share with your fellow Sierrans. We have a lot to be thankful for this year: great, faithful members who have been supportive & responsive throughout the year. We also thank the Unitarian Church for welcoming the Sierra Club back to their beautiful facility! This social gathering will be held at Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 136 Bob Jobe Road, Gray. We can use the church's kitchen, and their wine glasses, plates, and utensils — so just bring food or drinks. Take I-26 to the Eastern Star Road Exit. Turn Right (south) onto Bob Jobe Rd. which parallels the highway. Follow round white signs for the Church which is on the left as you head south on Bob Jobe Rd. Please call Linda Modica at cell number 676-2925 if you get lost.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, December 4, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "FIRST THURSDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston <jdjhstn@memphis.edu> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, December 8, 6:30 p.m. - St. Louis Catholic Church, 203 South White Station, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. This will likely be the last time to meet at the Church, with expectations of moving next year to the Main Branch of the Library. Contact Charlie Rond <chasrond@bellsouth.net> (by December 4 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150 for more information.

HOLIDAY PARTY: FRIDAY, December 12, 7:00 p.m., Burch, Porter and Johnson law offices. You are cordially invited to our annual holiday party on Friday, December 12, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the law offices of Burch, Porter and Johnson. The office is located at 130 North Court Avenue, on the north side of Court Square. Parking is available north and west of the building, with entrance to the parking lot off Jefferson Avenue. Bring family and friends and a covered dish to share. We will have wine and beer and other non-alcoholic refreshments at a cash bar. Meet new friends, greet old friends, and help us celebrate the joys of the season. There will be Sierra Club Engagement and Wilderness Calendars for sale at the party. Contact Charlie Rond <chasrond@bellsouth.net> at (901) 452-8150 for more information.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: Every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., CST, The Library Channel, Memphis Cable 18, WVPL, "The Nature of Conservation" is sponsored by the Sierra Club. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the month. For December the discussion will be the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement. The Real Costs of "Free" Trade. The Tennessee Economic Renewal Network, TERN, (formerly TIRN) kicks off our campaign to defeat the FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas), with a state-wide speaking tour: Our World is Not for Sale - The Real Costs of "Free" Trade. The first stop was Memphis. Spot-lighted are two interviewees, Ms. Josefina Hernandez, a leader of the Independent Union of Mex Mode Company

Workers in Puebla, Mexico, and Dr. Huberto Juarez, professor of economics at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, Puebla. Ms. Hernandez and Dr. Juarez are dedicated to the defeat of the FTAA and to the global struggle for economic justice. While corporations call for "free trade" on the backs of workers, the environment, and democracy, we are demanding fair trade and a world dedicated to humanity, not profits.

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

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, December 16, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., Greenway Farm, 3008 Hamill Road, Hixson. Jeff Blevins of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) will present details for the U.S. 64 highway project through the Cherokee National Forest in Polk County. There will be a short program followed by a question and answer session. This will be an early opportunity for the club to learn the details of this project first hand. Mr. Blevins will be able to show us the proposed road centerline and typical section. This will be an important meeting to attend for anyone who has paddled the Ocoee River, mountain biked or hiked in the Benton Falls, Little Frog or Big Frog area. Pizza and drinks will be provided. For additional information, contact Don Vanhook at 423-843-3244 or vanhock@earthlink.net.

Now 2 Shirts to Choose From!

Sierra Club John Muir Quote T's - NEW!

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



Sizes:

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

Save Our Smokies T's

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



Sizes:

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

Total T-shirt order

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

Ship to:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Evening Phone _____

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

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

Chickasaw Group 2004 Election Ballot

VOTE FOR SEVEN: Those elected will serve a two year term beginning January 1, 2004.

Membership
Single Joint

____ Rebecca Baggett - I am a lifelong Memphian presently living near Chickasaw Gardens. I have been a Sierra Club member for the last two years and a member of the Bluff City Canoe Club for three years. I graduated from Christian Brothers College in 1979 and University of Memphis, School of Law in 1982 and am presently employed by Union Planters Bank. I am a Member and Past President of the Association for Women Attorneys and Past Chairperson of the Board of Directors of The Community Legal Center, which is a Non-Profit Group providing legal representation to the working poor in Memphis and Shelby County. I grew up in Memphis and have always enjoyed Overton Park and Shelby Forest as well as trips to the Smoky Mountains and the Ozarks with my family. My favorite vacation as an adult was a winter wildlife viewing tour of Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. I believe the Sierra Club is an important voice in the ongoing struggle to preserve and protect the wilderness areas of our country.

____ Ernestine Carpenter - Ernestine Carpenter is a life-long citizen of Memphis. She is married and the mother of two sons and the grandmother of four granddaughters. Ernestine worked in the Memphis School System for 33 years and since retiring has taught at Southwest Community College, tutored students who were having problems passing the state mandated test, and worked with several community groups. Her desire to share her skills, time and energy is demonstrated in her capacity as Chairperson of the State District 86 Advisory Committee for the past six years and her service to the Riverview-Kansas Community Development Corporation's Board of Directors for the past two years. Additionally she has been active with the New Life Baptist Church congregation for many years. Ernestine recently served on the environmental conference planning committee for the area-wide Sierra Club 2003 conference, "Be Aware: Build Your Environmental IQ." She was also a delegate to the 2003 Environmental Justice Program's In-Gathering that was held in Albany, New York. Her environmental justice concerns focus mainly on air pollution from an oil refinery, a TVA power plant and chemical plants near her home.

____ Judith Hammond - Judith is currently the Outings Chair and works very hard to organize outings as she believes that Outings attract new members, reactivate old members and create new activists. She was the lead planner of the Chickasaw Group's October 2003 Legislative Reception.

____ Allan Lummus - Allan is currently Conservation Chair as well as Secretary. Allan believes that Sprawl and Transportation issues impact the human as well as the natural environments. More human scale development that creates less human and environmental impact is one of Allan's goals. Allan is also an active Board Member of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center.

____ Carolyn Pierce - Through my enjoyment of hiking and canoeing, I developed an interest in the broader issues of the environment. While serving the past 10 months on the Executive Committee, I have been an avid volunteer on many occasions, served as assistant to the program chair and hosted the 4th of July picnic. I serve as chair of the Memphis Chapter of Tennessee Trails Association, and am employed as a professional school counselor in DeSoto County, Mississippi. I'm a proud mom of two young men, Jason and Brandon, wife to Woody and master to our dog, Jamaica. I request your vote in order to continue to serve on the Executive Committee.

____ Gwen Pospisil - Gwen Pospisil is a person who has understood the environment and ecology for a long time, beginning in childhood. She was born and lived throughout her teen years in rural Arkansas, 20 miles from the Mississippi River. Gwen's family were farmers and she developed an early understanding of the earth and its interaction with nature. This included the relationship of life to the land and how all things fit into the natural cycle. She has experienced the profound benefits of communing with nature in her own life and witnessed the positive changes it has brought about in the lives of others. It has brought her to the realization we are all one with the universe. In short, she has come to understand the ecology, the circle of life on this planet. Even though she opted for life in the city, she understands all the good things the natural world embodies such as eating nutritiously and nurturing two children to adulthood. She is now blessed with a grandchild which also brings the inevitable concern about what will be left of this universe to leave to future generations. She has worked hard in the business world, moving around in various fields from being a representative for a large insurance company to the communication world of marketing/printing. Because of these professional experiences, she feels as comfortable in a boardroom selling ideas, as she was comfortable on the farm. Gwen is a good candidate for being an involved Sierra Club activist. She has the rural roots that were her proving ground of understanding and loving Nature. She also has the Professional skills to step into the business world and help the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club accomplish all it needs to do with her varied skills.

____ Karen Prosser - Karen has been a Sierra Club member since 1986. She has worked in the environmental field for 16 years in both the public and private sectors. Currently, she is an environmental consultant. Past experience includes leaking underground storage tanks, hazardous waste and water pollution issues and she is interested in expanding the Sierra Club's role in politics. She has a degree in Environmental Chemistry with a minor in Biology and has stayed active in environmental issues over the years.

____ Bill Runyan - My name is Bill Runyan. I first became interested in wildlife as a kid from watching Walt Disney specials on wolves and coyotes. This stimulated an early interest in preserving our natural heritage. Before I was the age of twelve I was sending in birthday money to the National Wildlife Federation, the first environmental organization I was aware of. That practice continues to this day with the Sierra Club and many other environmental groups. I have an academic background in biology with a Bachelor's degree from Rhodes and a Masters degree from the University of Memphis. I believe the single most important issue facing the environmental community is the Free Trade Area of the Americas treaty. If this goes into effect, I think the lowest common denominator of environmental laws in this hemisphere will eventually be imposed on us. I have written several letters to the editor of the Commercial Appeal on the issue of free trade and other

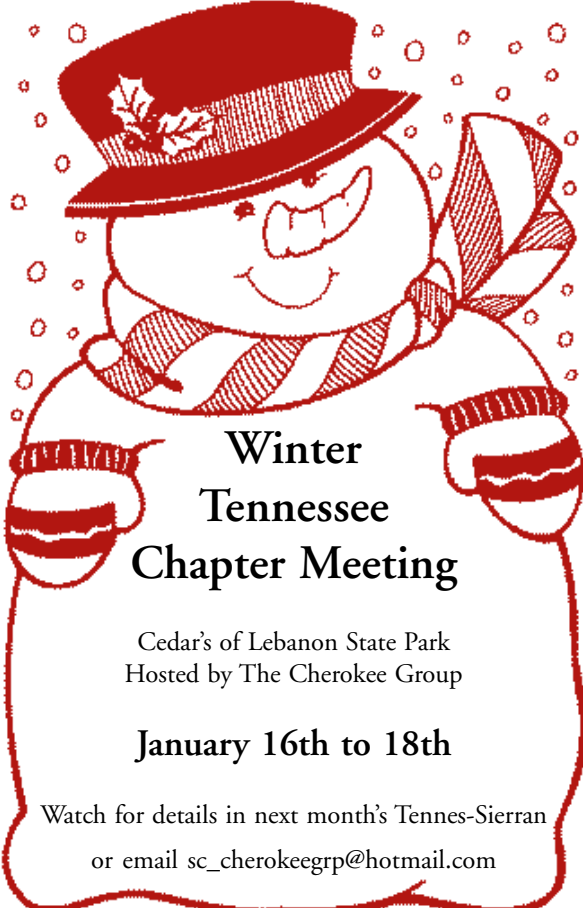
environmental concerns. Some of them were not published and one not even acknowledged, but I continue to try. In terms of his impact on the environment, I believe that President Bush is the worst president in the history of this nation. If he is re-elected for a second term this will only get worse, so removing him from office should be a top priority. In the past I worked in the Gore campaign, as I believed Gore to be a solid environmental candidate. I believe that getting in pro environmental people in office is one of the most practical ways to help preserve our natural world. I hope you will consider me to be a viable candidate for the executive committee.

____ Judith Rutschman - I would like to be re-elected to the ExCom. I think being a part of the Sierra Club is a very effective way to promote environmental causes. I have learned a lot from the Sierra Club in terms of campaign planning, targeting audiences, and working with legislatures. I find the ExCom group to be supportive and open to issues the membership finds important. During the four years I have served on ExCom I have organized our Earth Day celebration, Cooper Young festivals, worked in key political campaigns and served as Chair for one year. I am currently the producer and host of our environmental TV show on the Library channel, The Nature of Conservation. I feel this show is very important as I work to bring local and national environmental issues to people that are not active environmentalists. Many times someone who I know is not an activist will stop me and say "I saw your show and " I feel the TV show addresses environmental education, something the Sierra club advocates. I am currently working with several other groups including City Beautiful to host a Tree Expo in Memphis with the intent to help Memphians replant after our devastating storm this summer. With the Tree Expo we will work to encourage people to replant through workshops and free tree giveaway. I feel we have a lot of work ahead of us particularly with the upcoming presidential campaign. If elected I will work to represent our Chickasaw members and encourage you to let me know what is important to you.

____ Barbara Standing - Since moving to Memphis in 2002 to work as a corporate pilot for FedEx, I have been actively involved in organizations dedicated to protecting our environment and improving our community. I have been a Sierra Club member since 1997 and recently attended the Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program, "Be Aware: Build Your Environmental IQ." In addition to working as a volunteer for the Animal Protection Association, I also work with children at Cypress Middle School as a volunteer tutor. I am politically active with several organizations including Memphis Women's Political Caucus and the Democratic Women of Shelby County. Other memberships include Greenpeace, the South Main Association and Memphis Heritage. Starting a recycling program at my workplace is a testament to my commitment to encourage environmental protection on an individual level, both at home and at work.

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 the newsletter, on the outer envelope with your return address. Envelopes without a membership number will not be counted.

**Mail your ballot to:
Chickasaw Group-Sierra Club - P.O. Box 111094 -
Memphis, TN 38111 - Attn.: Election Committee
Ballots must be postmarked
by December 27, 2003 to be counted.**



**Winter
Tennessee
Chapter Meeting**

Cedar's of Lebanon State Park
Hosted by The Cherokee Group

January 16th to 18th

Watch for details in next month's Tennes-Sierran
or email sc_cherokeegrp@hotmail.com

CHICKASAW GROUP NEWS

Compiled by various members

TDOT Decisions on Proposed West Tennessee Road Projects

On October 28, 2003, TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely held a press conference in Memphis to announce the fate of TDOT's three proposed road projects in West Tennessee. These projects were part of the fifteen projects put on hold earlier this year and featured in the September 2003 issue of the *Tennes-Sierran*. Chickasaw Group members Don Richardson, James Baker and Sue Williams attended the event. Other environmental organizations in attendance were the Wolf River Conservancy, Friends of Shelby Farms and members of the Citizens for TDOT Reform Campaign.

The three projects were the East Bypass in Jackson, and the Wolf River Parkway and the Walnut Grove Relocation Project in Memphis.

The TDOT verdicts are:

- Jackson East Bypass will **not** be considered by TDOT because Jackson's Metropolitan Planning Organization did not adequately establish the need for the project.
- The Wolf River Parkway has been referred back to local government for further planning. TDOT has removed itself from involvement in the project at this point.
- The Walnut Grove Relocation Project has also been referred back to local government for the same reason.

During the press conference, Tom Roehm, Vice President of the Wolf River Conservancy asked Commissioner Nicely how returning the Wolf River Parkway plan affected the fate of the existing Riverwoods State Natural Area. Don Richardson amplified that concern by asking how the fate of a "state" natural area could be returned to a mere local government, and if this means TDOT supports local municipalities' ability to request decertification of state-mandated natural areas. Don also pointed out to the Commissioner that such acts would set a dangerous

Continued on page 8



Above - Left to Right - Tom Roehm of Wolf River Conservancy and Steve Sondheim of Friends of Shelby Farms at TDOT Press Conference. Photo by James Baker.

Outings

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiver.PDF>, or call 415-977-5630, for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

No Harvey Broome Group outings in December.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday/Sunday, December 6-7 - Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park Backpack - This will be an educational trip as we hike the Tennessee Forest Trail which is listed in Historical Hiking Trails of America.



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!

This 10 mile easy to moderate trail passes over Pilot Knob, the highest spot in West Tennessee. We will camp at one of the rustic trail shelters. Bring a salad ingredient for a "trash bag salad." For more information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Adelicia1@aol.com

Friday/Saturday/Sunday December 19-21 - GSMNP Backpack - Let's celebrate the winter solstice in the Smokies! We'll hike Kephart Prong Trail spending Friday night at the Kephart shelter. Saturday we will continue on the Kephart Prong Trail on up to the AT and spend Saturday night at Icewater Spring shelter. Sunday, we'll take the Sweat Heifer Cr. Trail back to where we started. Total mileage Fri. 2 mi., Sat. 5.3 mi., Sun. 7.2 mi. Rated moderate. No tents will be needed since both nights will be in shelters. Reservations limited. For additional information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Adelicia1@aol.com

Looking Ahead

Saturday/Sunday January 3-4 - Longhunter State Park Backpack - Join us for our 3rd annual trek to the overnight campsite on the Volunteer Trail. This is an easy to moderate 12 mile round trip trail. All levels of backpackers welcome. Last year we had a jolly good time! For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Adelicia1@aol.com

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

TRAIL WORK - As you may know, the State of Franklin Group has adopted the section of Appalachian Trail which winds through the beautiful Big Laurel Branch Wilderness (BLBW), just west of Watauga Lake. The use of power tools is prohibited in such designated wilderness areas and for

this reason some members of trail maintenance groups actually oppose the protections that wilderness designation provides. We can show our support for wilderness by performing necessary and timely maintenance in the BLBW and perhaps, with enough support, adopt other wilderness trails. In addition to BLBW, we do trail work on other sections of the AT & in Johnson City Parks, as well as various other projects. Volunteers are needed. No prior experience is necessary and you may work at your own pace. As with all SOFG Sierra Club Outings everyone is welcome, so bring your friends. See the monthly schedule below.

1st Saturday- Appalachian Trail Maintenance at BLBW.

3rd Saturday - Appalachian Trail Maintenance at BLBW or other AT sections with the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club.

Last Saturday - Trail Maintenance at one of Johnson City's Parks, such as Buffalo Mountain Park, Winged Deer Park or Willow Springs Park.

3rd Wednesday - Various Projects.

For details & to sign up contact John Arwood 423-926-9876.

To be informed of upcoming outings via email send a brief note to: Trail_Work_Play@hotmail.com

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Saturday, December 6 - Dayhike - Old Copper Road, Ocoee River in Polk County - We will be meeting at the Ooltewah Hardees (exit 11 at I-75) at 8:30 A.M. We are going to carpool to the Ocoee Whitewater Center for a 5 mile walk on the Old Copper Road. Then we will have lunch at the Burra Burra Mining Company (BBQ) in Ducktown. We will complete the afternoon with a drive thru the area affected by the restart of the Intertrade Holdings acid plant. We should be arriving back in Ooltewah around 4:00 P.M. For additional information and to register, contact Don Vanhook at 423-843-3244 or vanhoeck@earthlink.net.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

First Aid /CPR - First Aid Class/CPR Class for Chickasaw Group Sierra Club Members January TBA.

American Red Cross Headquarters, 1400 Central Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. You will learn Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and some first aid. Time is 8:30 to 3:30 with an hour for lunch. Space is limited. Payment of \$51.00 must be made by November 30, 2003 to secure your reservation. If you lead two outings, the Chickasaw Group will reimburse you. Your check made out to the Chickasaw Group Sierra Club is your reservation. Send your checks to Judith Hammond, 481 No. McLean Blvd., Memphis, Tennessee 38112. Your check is your reservation.

DISCLAIMER: The following activities are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. They are published only as a service to our members. The Sierra Club makes no representation or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of these activities. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Saturday, December 13, 2003 - 10:00 am - The Old Forest Trail. "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.

Join the Nashville Recycling Team!



Any good friend of the earth who can donate 2 or 3 hours any Saturday morning can join the fun at our Kroger Elysian Fields Recycling Site. We need you! AND, your efforts directly contribute to the environmental campaigns of your local Middle Tennessee Group.

To volunteer call David Bordenkircher at 333-3377 or email dabordenkircher@mindspring.com

Thank You!!



Farm House Inn Bed & Breakfast

Peg & Tim Taylor, Inn Keepers
735 Taylor Branch Road
Parkers Lake, KY 42634
www.farmhouseinnbb.com

Located on Good Spring Farm, The Farm House Inn offers accommodations for small groups and families. Walk through a diverse forest to waterfalls, cliffs, wildlife areas, fishing ponds or relax and watch farm life and wild life from the Inn's porch. Surrounded by the Daniel Boone National Forest, the Farm House Inn is 20 minutes away from Cumberland Falls State Park and 45 minutes from the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

For reservations and information,
Call (606) 376-7383; 376-8042

Cherokee Group Ballot 2004 Executive Committee

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

Membership
Single Joint

_____ **Henry "Russell" Campbell** - Mr. Henry Russell Campbell is the Director of Information Technology and Managing Editor at Alexander Archaeological Consultants, Inc. in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mr. Campbell specializes in purchasing, assembly, configuration, and troubleshooting desktop computer technology, applications, and networks. Mr. Campbell is also responsible for both mechanical and substantive editing of cultural resource management reports. He has a general knowledge and experience in the field of archaeology which is required to edit reports for content. Mr. Campbell holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Tennessee and is an M.S. candidate in Plant Biology from Ohio University. Mr. Campbell's goal with the Sierra Club is to take an activist position in working for protection of the Southern Appalachian environment. Work locally and think globally.

_____ **Rick Gehrke** - Rick's education includes AAS in intelligence collection, BS in environmental science (biology concentration) and ongoing course-work toward MS in environmental science (management concentration). Relevant work background includes environmental consulting, environmental auditing, and environmental and safety compliance management. Goals in working with the Sierra Club are promoting conservation of natural resources, increasing public awareness of the impact of human activities on the environment, and encouraging better cooperation on environmental matters between conservation advocates and other stakeholders.

_____ **Terry Miller** - Terry has a BA in Political Science from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. While he has spent the last 25 years in Marketing/Sales/ Customer Service, he worked as an assistant to a Commissioner in State Government and also as City Clerk of Salem, IL in the early 1970's. Bringing that mix of Governmental theory and experience along with the Sales experience is most likely the highest asset he could provide the Sierra Club. Terry grew up being outdoors and is continuing that love of the outdoors still backpacking at every opportunity, still jogging on the "Open Road". Terry states:

"At the highest level I feel we must reawaken all citizens of this country to the simple attachment we have to the environment and to nature. I am afraid we have lost some of that realization in the last 60 years. My hope is that Environment as an issue gets taken off the shelf as being designated a Liberal issue and gets placed before all people as a fundamental (conservative) populist fact of living! Moving closer and closer to that direction will make our job easier and easier."

_____ **Chris O'Connor** - Chris' educational background includes a B.S. in Physical Geography from the University of Florida and an M.S.S. in Sports Management from the U.S. Sports Academy. He also has a post-bac certificate from UTC in elementary and middle school education and is currently working on his Specialist degree in Instructional Leadership at Tennessee Tech. Chris has worked in an environmental lab doing pesticide analysis and with an environmental engineering firm doing groundwater sampling, and conducting Gypsy Moth surveys for the Oregon Department of Agriculture. He has also functioned as Athletic Director at Portland Community College in Portland Oregon and President of the National Adult Baseball Association's Portland League. He is active with the Chattanooga Bicycle Club and the Chattanooga Hiking Club, occasionally leading hikes. Chris' goals with the Sierra Club are to establish a regional outings calendar so as to better coordinate events with other agencies and decrease duplication of activities, and coordinate a series of hikes, backpack trips, etc. to highlight areas of activist participation/particular concern. He is also interested in providing inner-city kids the opportunity of visiting and being a part of nature through the inner-city outings program and/or in association with the Chattanooga Nature Center.

_____ **Henry "Rardy" Spratt** - From 1991 till 1994, Rardy was actively involved in a Sierra Club group in Southeast Missouri. Along with a small group of friends, he initiated that group, and served as the group's first President, and later as secretary. Dr. Spratt was also an active participant in the governance of the Ozark chapter (Missouri) of the Sierra Club. He and his wife, Anne, and have maintained their membership in the Sierra Club here in Tennessee, as they feel that it is one of the best voices for a rational approach to blending humans into nature. Dr. Spratt is a microbial ecologist, with a doctorate in microbiology. He is a 15 year tenured professor, and member of the environmental science graduate program faculty at UTC.

_____ **Louie Seefeld** - Louie's educational background includes a B.S. Civil Engineering from Marquette University and a MBA from NorthWestern University. He is a Systems Analyst Blue Cross Blue Shield Tennessee. He has been a Sierra Club member since 1989 and served as Cherokee Chapter Treasurer since 1991. His goals in working with the Sierra Club include

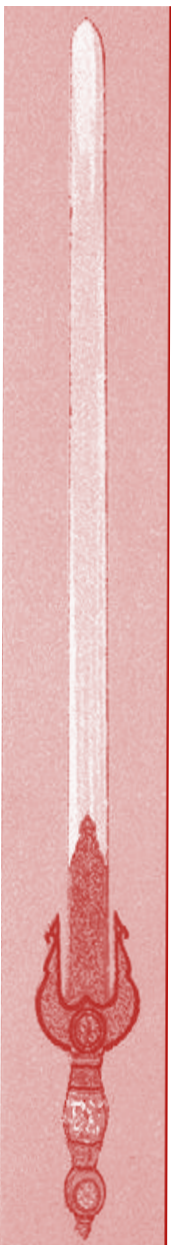
making people aware that the environment is not a given; it needs to be tendered like a garden. He believes in the adage - This is not our land to do as we please. This land belongs to our children. We just have it on loan.

_____ **Don Vanhook** - Don's educational background includes a double major of Soil Science and Civil Engineering from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He also has a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. While in Knoxville, he was a long time member of the UT Canoe and Hiking Club where he served as equipment chairman. Don moved to Chattanooga to take a job as an environmental engineer with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation where he worked for the Superfund division. He was involved in the cleanup of the Chattanooga Creek area, the study and characterization of the Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant and the mine lands of Copper Basin. After five years at TDEC, Don spent a few years as a consulting engineer. He presently works as a roadway designer for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Don has been a backpacker and rock climber for twenty years with various experiences around the continental U.S., Mexico, Canada, and England. He has an intense love for the outdoors and feel it to be his social obligation to protect our environment for the enjoyment of future generations.

_____ **Cielo Sand** - Cielo recently accepted the Chair of the TN Chapter Sierra Club's Tennessee Forests Committee with unanimous approval of the Chapter Excom. She is the current Director of ForestWatch, a program of the Dogwood Alliance (since 1999); a founding member of the Dogwood Alliance (1996), Co-Director of Tennessee RiverKeeper Project (since 1989); Artist, Illustrator, Hiker, Paddler and Sailor with educational background as a graduate of Stephens College, Columbia, MO (AA) and attendee of Indiana University with a Fine Arts Major. Cielo's life philosophy is to "Live simply so others may simply live." & "It is only at the scale of our direct, sensory interactions with the land around us that we can appropriately notice and respond to the immediate needs of the living world." David Abram. Cielo's Sierra Club goals are to ensure that the good name and people of the Sierra Club (TN Chapter & Cherokee Group) are informed and actively engaged and collaborating with other organizations to secure a sustainable future.

Mail Ballot to: **Pat Goldsmith**
5811 Northshore Circle
Hixson, Tennessee 37243
Ballots must be postmarked by
December 27, 2003 to be counted.

Annual Sierra Club Defenders Fundraising Campaign Launches for 2004!



Eight years ago the Sierra Club developed the *Defenders of Tennessee* as a means to fund and hire a lobbyist to promote our interests in the State Legislature. Having someone at the legislature who could educate our elected representatives, as well as monitor the relevant environmental issues, has proven to be an effective way to have an influence and to promote a conservation agenda. Our lobbyist, Mike Murphy, has also kept the membership informed about critical issues that need our attention.

Three critical "legs" support our advocacy and lobbying program: phone calls and letters from our members to our lawmakers; volunteer lobbying by members; and our professional lobbying program, the **Defenders of Tennessee**. If one leg is removed, the program collapses. We invite you to join the Defenders and help us to continue this vital and very effective program.

In the last year, Mike:

- Obtained sponsors for a bill to allow municipalities to use part of the gasoline tax for mass transportation.
- Obtained sponsors for a bill to require an environmental impact study for all state projects.
- Was instrumental in stopping a bill that would have eliminated liability for recyclers of hazardous waste.
- Helped preserve some money in the land acquisition fund and helped put a sunset of 4 years on the deferral of the revenue stream for the State and Local Parks Acquisition Fund. In other words, Mike was instrumental in making a bad situation more tolerable.
- Has functioned as the main contact person between the environmental community, the Division of State Parks and the Legislature.

Our challenges for next year:

- To get more money into the land acquisition fund via General Obligation Bonds.
- To continue dialogue with the Division of State Parks concerning plans to build more lodges, and to oppose new efforts if necessary.
- To set up a revolving loan fund for green businesses.
- To continue to be vigilant against legislation that would allow or promote pollution, sprawl and the destruction of Tennessee's environment.

The Tennessee Chapter is able to hire a lobbyist such as Mike only if you and other dedicated members donate to this once-a-year solicitation. Your contribution, while not tax-deductible, is critical in enabling us to continue to have an advocate on "the hill". **Please** fill out the form below and send a check, made out to Sierra Club Defenders Fund, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Bill Terry, Legislative Co-Chair & Penny Brooks, Legislative Co-Chair

Amount of donation: () \$50 () \$125 () \$250 () \$500 () Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

May we publish your name in the Sierra Club newsletter as a donor?

Yes _____ No _____

OPTIONAL - Your email address _____
(If you prefer to receive acknowledgment of your donation electronically)

Harvey Broome Group Election Ballot for the 2004 Executive Committee

Please vote for six (6) of the following candidates. Those elected will serve a two year term beginning January 1, 2004

Membership
Single Joint

_____ Meagan Carter - I am a long-time Knoxville resident and have been active on environmental issues for 5 years. I am currently a graduate student in Religious Studies at UT. My recent activities have focused on protecting Tennessee from mountaintop-removal coal mining, and on pressuring TDOT to build mass transit rather than more unnecessary highways. Other issues I'm interested in include cleaning up the dirty air that is putting our health at risk and harming the Great Smoky Mountains and stopping the North Shore "Road to Nowhere" in the national park. We have to protect the national forests and roadless areas from logging, and I look forward to working with other like-minded people in the Sierra Club to accomplish these important goals. I have been a member of Sierra Club since 2003.

_____ 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.

_____ Tiffany Hartung - My involvement in conservation and environmental issues began when as a student at Michigan State University I became active with the student environmental group, Eco. After earning my bachelor's in environmental studies, I worked for MASSPIRG as a campus organizer where I worked with students on a national Sierra Club campaign to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve from oil drilling and to lobby Presi-

dent Clinton to protect national forest roadless areas across the United States, including Tennessee's Cherokee Forest. Today I work for SOCM (Save Our Cumberland Mountains) as a community organizer and work with SOCM's Campbell/Anderson Chapter fighting mountaintop removal coal-mining operations north of Knoxville at Zeb Mountain and Braden Mountain. Sierra Club and SOCM are working together on a lawsuit to stop mountaintop removal at Zeb Mountain. I look forward to working on mining, forest, transportation and other issues in the Harvey Broome Group. I have been a member of Sierra Club since 2003.

_____ Allan 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 16th 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 - Semi-retired from the Department of Energy, I have professional experience ranging from information management to the environmental impacts of energy developments. Member of the Sierra Club since 1995, I have served on the Harvey Broome Group (HBG) ExCom since 2001 and am currently the vice-chair. At the Chapter level I am one of the Chapter delegates to the Appalachian Regional Conservation Committee, and chair of the Water Quality and Biodiversity Committees. Outside of the Sierra Club, I am current President of the Tennessee Clean Water Network, and a founding member and past chair of NatureWatch, a local watershed protection group. I believe I can continue to contribute to the growth and effectiveness of the HBG if elected and look forward to doing so in any capacity I can.

_____ Ron Shrieves - My name is Ron Shrieves. I have lived in Knoxville for 31 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, I decided it's time for me to at least partially "pay back" for all that the Sierra Club has done on my behalf

_____ Beverly Smith - I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1998. I served on the Harvey Broome Group (HBG) ExCom from 1999-2002 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, she was awarded the "Unsung Hero" award by the Tennessee Chapter and in 2002 she worked with other members of the HBG ExCom to host the HBG's 35th Homecoming Celebration. She is a retail analyst in manufacturing.

_____ Priscilla Watts - I am a second grade Teacher with the Knox County School System and 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.

_____ William Wilson - I have been active in environmental causes in the Knoxville area for over two years. In this time I have worked on stopping both the proposed James White Parkway Extension in South Knox and the Zeb Mountain coal mine North

of Knoxville in Campbell County. I also have a strong interest in cleaning up the air in East Tennessee, both through promoting alternative transportation strategies and cleaning up our old, dirty coal fired power plants. I grew up in Scott County where I spent much time in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and the Obed National Wild & Scenic River. These special areas are not as widely known as the Smokies but they deserve our special care and protection efforts. I look forward to working with Sierra Club members on protecting these nationally significant treasures. I have been a member of Sierra Club since 2003.

_____ Walter Wunderlich - I received my high school and university education in Germany, where I obtained a degree in civil engineering and a doctor of engineering in the field of hydraulics. I worked for a consulting firm in Frankfurt on water projects in various countries. In 1964, I came to the United States and joined the TVA. I worked on prediction methods for water quality in rivers and reservoirs, mostly on thermal regimes. Then, for 13 years, I directed a staff in charge of developing optimizing water management methods for the TVA reservoir system that would consider a balanced operation for the purposes for which the system was authorized. After 22 years with the TVA, I took early retirement in 1987. For many years, I was active in domestic and international professional organizations. Presently I am serving as Secretary-Treasurer of the Technical Society of Knoxville. I consider the creation of the GSMNP and the Fontana land donation to the park as rare strokes of luck for the area and for us all. All we can do is hold the park together and protect it from the continuing onslaught by selfish interests. I have been a member of Sierra Club since 2000.

Only current members are eligible to vote . Vote for no more than six candidates.

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CHICKASAW GROUP NEWS

Compiled by various members

Continued from page 5

history-making precedent, placing all State Natural Areas at risk from future road proposals. Ed Cole, TDOT's Chief of Environment and Planning replied simply that those concerns would be discussed at the local level. In February 2003, a bill was introduced in the Tennessee Legislature to decertify this Natural Area so that the road could be built. The bill never got out of committee, however TDOT's announcement may invite its reintroduction in January 2004.

Regarding the Walnut Relocation Plan, Steve Sondheim of Friends of Shelby Farms and Citizens for TDOT Reform stated that any such road through Shelby Farms must not become a massive interchange road system and that a "context sensitive design" will produce viable traffic alternatives with the least impact on the park and surrounding areas.

James Baker applauded TDOT's commitment to full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance that Commissioner Nicely announced at a previous press conference in east Tennessee.

Local Sierrans Win Peacemaker Awards

The Mid-South Peace & Justice Center held its 2003 Awards Dinner on November 6 and presented Community Peacemaker Awards to several members of the local Sierra Club. Rita Harris, Sierra Club's Associate Regional

Grassroots Environmental Justice Organizer, based in Memphis, was presented the Peacemaker Award for Environmental Justice.

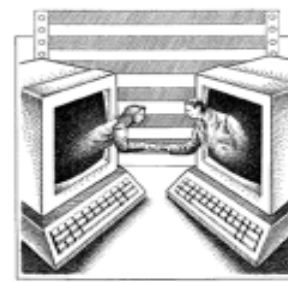
Chickasaw Group's Conservation Chair, Allan Lummus, was presented their first Volunteer of the Year Award, and longtime Chickasaw Group members, John and Mary Ann Spence, received the 2003 Peacemaker Award for Lifetime Achievement for "setting an example in word and deed of combining mainstream politics with peace progress". For more info visit www.midsouthpeace.org.

To Tree Or Not To Tree Seminar

Over 120 people attended a morning of workshops, displays and exhibits at the first annual **To Tree or Not to Tree** seminar on November 8. Motivated by the destructive windstorm on July 22 this year, known locally as Hurricane Elvis, that downed thousands of trees in the region, Chickasaw Group joined the Memphis City Beautiful Commission, Rhodes College, and other community organizations in sponsoring a free educational event to assist Memphians seeking advice on how to replant or care for trees damaged in the storm.

Arborists, landscapers, botanists and local tree experts offered workshops while other groups, including the Sierra Club, hosted tables of related information for tree and nature lovers. Judith Rutschman was a co-organizer for the event while Teri Sullivan, James Baker, Carolyn Pearce and Don Richardson assisted in hosting the information table. Teri Sullivan also arranged for the Memphis Shelby County Health Department to be on hand, demonstrating their hybrid gas-electric vehicle, a Toyota Prius, as another related environmentally friendly community solution.

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