

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 38, Number 5 - May 2007

5th Annual

Wilderness

First Aid Training

There are still some spots left for the fifth annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training (WFA) the weekend of June 2nd and 3rd at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Landmark Learning, LLC, our training provider for the previous four years, will perform the training again this year, teaching the National Outdoors Leadership School (NOLS) WFA curriculum. This educational weekend features top notch training in an outdoor setting by field experienced instructors.

COURSE: WFA - 16 hours / 2-yr certification. Fast paced and hands-on, this two day course covers a wide range of wilderness medicine topics for people who travel in the outdoors or who spend time in the backcountry as either a passion or profession. In this course you will learn to prepare for the unexpected. You will acquire knowledge and skills that will help you make sound decisions in emergency situations. This course is ideal for trip leaders, camp staff, outdoor enthusiasts, and individuals in remote locations. This NOLS course is pre-approved by such organizations as the American Camping Association and the U.S. Forest Service. Visit the NOLS website <http://www.nols.edu/wmi/courses/outlines/wildfirstaidoutline.shtml> for course details.

WHAT IS INCLUDED: Training by highly qualified instructors, mid-morning snacks, lunch, mid-afternoon snacks

NOT INCLUDED: Breakfast, dinner, lodging, Sierra membership, CPR certification

LODGING: We plan to camp in the state park. You will receive information regarding the area of the park where we will be camping, should you want to be in the area with other participants. Campsites may be shared, and the logistics of this can be worked out when you check in with the on the ground organizers. Regardless, you are responsible for securing your own campsite: Fall Creek Falls is not taking reservations this year. Other options include an inn at the park, and a few B&B's in the area. Check the state park webpage <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/FallCreekFalls/index.shtml> for more info.

COST: \$150, non-refundable - Sierra commits to Landmark, you commit to Sierra

PAYMENT DUE: May 15th

OTHER INFO:

- Participant must have health insurance coverage and complete a health form
- Participant must sign Sierra liability waiver
- Participant must sign NOLS/Landmark Learning liability waiver

ENROLLMENT: Send this participant form and a check to Katherine Pendleton
QUESTIONS: Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email at Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org

NOTE: This course is not for Wilderness First Responder recertification

VALUE: Wilderness first aid classes of this caliber often cost up to twice this amount. Sierra's goal in providing this training is to help insure the safe enjoyment of the great outdoors, and we price this course accordingly for our members.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership in Sierra is required. You can join on line at <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/> or Katherine can send you a membership form. Introductory memberships are \$25. We require membership in return for the value pricing offered. By becoming a member, you will receive both the Chapter (state of Tennessee) newsletter and the national Sierra Club publication, Sierra Magazine. Each of these publications will help to keep you aware of challenges to the great outdoors and suggest actions that you can take to preserve the things about nature that we value.

June 2nd & 3rd

Fall Creek Falls State Park

5th Annual First Aid Wilderness Training

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Previous First Aid Training: _____

A non-refundable payment of \$150 is due by May 15th

* to participate in this training you must be a Sierra Club member

* introductory Sierra Club memberships are \$25

_____ I will go to <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/> to join on line

_____ Please send me a membership form.

NOTE - breakfast, dinner, lodging/camping, and Sierra membership are not included in the course fee of \$150

I am seeking recertification of a previous WFA certification. YES ___ NO ___

If yes, previous certification is NOLS ___ SOLO ___ Other _____

* Note-this is not a recertification class for Wilderness First Responders

I am interested in information on the following

* camping with the other training participants YES ___ NO ___

* buffet dinner at the park lodge YES ___ NO ___

If you answered yes to either of the above, information will be emailed to you by May 15th.

I am an omnivore ___ a vegetarian ___

Please mail this completed form with a check to:

Katherine Pendleton

P.O. Box 290306

Nashville, TN 37229



SIERRA
CLUB
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Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

The Chair's Corner

Dear Tennessee Sierra Club Members,

Last weekend, Sierra Club members from across our state gathered at Camp Ahistadi, just across the state line from Damascus, Va., in Upper East Tennessee for our Spring Chapter Meeting. Many thanks to the members of the Watauga Group (our chapter's newest group) for sharing their hospitality with fellow Tennessee Sierra Club members.

In the April edition of the Tennes-Sierran, Maria Moser brought us news about the pending landfill permit at the DuPont titanium dioxide plant in New Johnsonville, on the Tennessee River. On April 10, 2007, a meeting was hosted by the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation (TDEC), which the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club, the Tennessee Environmental Council, and the United Steelworkers Union were invited to attend. I was there to represent the Tennessee Chapter.

During the meeting TDEC stated that it is in no hurry to issue a permit to DuPont and is analyzing all the data submitted at a public hearing on the matter held February 6, 2007, in New Johnsonville, as well as data the agency has requested from DuPont. I think it is encouraging our Chapter was invited to such a meeting with TDEC, and to know that TDEC is interested in what the Sierra Club has to say regarding this environmental problem.

Last month, I visited the Middle Tennessee Group at their program meeting and presented the film The Future of Food, a powerful documentary on genetically modified (GMO) foods. During the summer, I will be visiting the other groups in our Chapter to share this film. I look forward to meeting and chatting with you regarding GMO foods and other Sierra Club issues, and listening to your concerns. Also, you still have an opportunity to receive a free copy of The Future of Food by sending in your March Window contribution of \$100 or more.

There is still time to register for the Wilderness First Aid class hosted by the Tennessee Chapter June 2-3 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Please refer to the information listed elsewhere in this publication.

Thanks to everyone who participated in Earth Day celebrations across our state. Your volunteer time makes a huge difference in our communities and in the lives of other Tennesseans who promote environmental principles.

Please contact me at any time regarding issues of concern to you or just to say "hi!" I'd love to chat with you and hear your stories. You can call me at 615-943-6877 or email Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org.

Katherine Pendleton
Chair, Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter

Sierra Club Officers

TENNESSEE CHAPTER:

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TN LOCAL GROUPS:

Cherokee Group - Chattanooga (in reorganization)
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
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Chickasaw Group - Memphis

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
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State of Franklin Group - under reorganization

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Watauga Group - Johnson & Carter Counties

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gla4797@earthlink.net
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Jmcquail@tntech.edu
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**Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed**

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EMAIL YOUR NEW ADDRESS TO:

address_changes@sierraclub.org
(just be sure to include your member ID#)

Or complete this form and
mail us your NEW address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Attach mailing address label in this box,
or write in your CURRENT info:

Name _____

Address _____

Membership ID# _____

Mail this form to:

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 52968

Boulder, Colorado 80322-2968

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

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Thompson Station, TN 37179

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
Or mail new address to:
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
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.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

1. Email embedded text submissions, or PDFs, which are preferred to tn.sierra@gmail.com.
2. Photographs should be in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your disk or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted. 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.

CHICKASAW GROUP NEWS

Contributed by various members

University of Memphis Goes Green

Sierran Jessica Gibbons reports that her year-long campaign to hold a referendum on green power among University of Memphis students has finally paid off. A recent vote showed overwhelming support for green power on campus. Over 1600 people voted altogether and 1114 voted in favor—the fee proposal passed with 69% voter approval!



Sharon Hansgen and David Carter on the April 4 wildflower walk on the Woodlands Trail at Meeman-Shelby State Park. Photo by Sue Williams.

Chickasaw Group Nature Walks

Nature lovers in West Tennessee saw wildflowers blooming in Meeman-Shelby State Park on April 4, right before the cold weather hit. Woodland phlox and red buckeye were plentiful. Butterflies, too! Downtown Memphis was also a good place for walking that Saturday (April 7). Those who dared the cold (brrr) saw the most beautiful sight in the world: sunset on the Mississippi River!

Better Mileage for Everybody

Sierra Club Environmental Justice Organizer Rita Harris motivated Memphians to work on fuel economy standards at a March 27 meeting. There is legislation before Congress increasing CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards for the first time since the 1970's. Letters to the editor of the Memphis Commercial Appeal are needed to help educate readers about this important issue.

March Program Meeting in Memphis

The Chickasaw Group's Program meeting on March 28 featured a presentation by Becky Williamson about Memphis Light, Gas, and Water's "Green Power Switch" program. TVA and MLGW have teamed up so that Memphis customers can purchase 150 kilowatt-hour blocks of green energy. A small fee is added to the customer's power bill each month to pay for renewable electricity in the TVA system. Wind, solar, and methane are resources that can make a big environmental difference. Buying two blocks of green power per month for a year is the same as recycling 480 pounds of aluminum (15,322 cans!) or recycling 1766 pounds of newspaper. Think what a lot of people united can do for the environment!

"Placemaking" on the Bluffs of the Mississippi

A number of Chickasaw Group Sierrans were among the 140 people attending the Project for Public Spaces (PPS) "Placemaking" workshop sponsored by Friends for Our Riverfront on March 31. At the workshop, held in downtown Memphis, attendees toured the bluffs and actually saw many of the riverfront locations they are trying to save from development.



Attendees at the Project for Public Spaces prepare to board a trolley to tour and evaluate several public spaces in downtown Memphis. Photo by Clark Buchner.



Sierra Club member Dick Mochow (in dark ball cap) is seen here evaluating Confederate Park in downtown Memphis. Photo by Clark Buchner.

Fred Kent, founder of PPS, started the day off by telling the crowd what makes great public spaces. He showed photos of successes—gardens, fountains, ponds, children playing—simply public spaces filled with people. Then, seven color-coded groups hopped on the trolley for evaluation tours of today's downtown Memphis.

One participant described the "Placemaking Game" as "one of the best events he had ever attended."

Why the World Is Getting Warmer, and What You Can Do About It

Chickasaw Group's April 2 program meeting was a double-barreled event produced in cooperation with the local Public Issues Forum.

Bill Stegall presented the "slide show" that's the focus of Al Gore's award winning movie *An Inconvenient Truth*. Sierran James Baker followed with his own presentation that showed just what individuals can do about global warming. Stegall's presentation began with the familiar, but always stirring, image of earth as seen from the moon. He showed the temperature charts from many alarming studies that link human-generated carbon dioxide and global warming. The presentation touched on Al Gore's teacher and mentor, Roger Revelle, who did some of the pioneering work on climate change as early as the 1950's.

It was Mark Twain who said, "It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so." Our knowledge today is much improved thanks to early researchers like Revelle. They awoke us from our complacent belief that the earth is so big that we people can't possibly have any effect on it. We have now seen how the upward march of the temperature chart corresponds with the chart of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Some of Stegall's pictures drew gasps from the audience. Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro is losing its fabled snows at such a rate that one day there won't be enough ice left to chill a drink. America's own Glacier National Park will soon need to be renamed "the park formerly known as Glacier." Indeed, photography has now been around long enough that we have before and after pictures of glaciers the world over. It's not a pretty sight. The once-vast expanses of ice are now either turned to lakes or are gone entirely.

As the oceans get warmer, storms get stronger. In 2004, Florida was hit by four unusually powerful hurricanes. The same year Japan was hit by a record 10 typhoons. In 2006, storm-battered Australia recorded the strongest cyclone ever measured, Cyclone Monica. Science textbooks used to say, "It's impossible to have hurricanes in the South Atlantic." But in 2004, for the first time ever, a hurricane hit Brazil. While Al Gore and his producers were working on *An Inconvenient Truth*, Hurricane Katrina smashed into the Gulf Coast, devastating New Orleans. Thus did formerly unemotional science become the stuff of human tragedy.



Bill Stegall begins his presentation at the April 2 Chickasaw Group meeting hosted in conjunction with Public Issues Forum. Photo by David Carter.

The drying-up of Lake Chad has been photographed from space. Drought is one more form of climate change--while some places get too much water, others don't get enough. Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya each lose 250,000 acres of productive land a year to the desert. In Malawi, farmers planted on schedule in 2005, but faced starvation when the much-needed rains just didn't come.

Diseases borne by mosquitoes appear now in unexpected places. Global warming has increased the elevation at which these pests can survive, as in Nairobi, Kenya and Harare, Zimbabwe. Thus, some old diseases that had been under control are once again killing people.

The mighty ocean conveyor system is endangered by rising temperatures. Many scientists say that the earth's climate can best be understood as an engine for redistributing heat from the tropics to the poles. If this engine is disrupted, formerly warm surface currents, such as the Gulf Stream, will be replaced by cooler ocean water, with disastrous consequences for nearby land masses.

Much loss of polar ice has already been seen from space. This not only destroys polar bear habitat in the north, it will cause worldwide sea levels to rise as well. Photographs dramatically show how rising temperatures in Antarctica first cause lakes on the surface of ice formations, then the increased heat absorption of liquid water perpetuates the melting process. Thus ice that was once not in the sea melts and contributes to rising sea levels.

Stegall also took a brief look at some of the tactics people have used to deny that there is global warming caused by humans. He said that temperature change over time is way outside what could be considered part of the cycle of normal variation. There is a strong scientific consensus that global warming is a real, human-caused, problem.

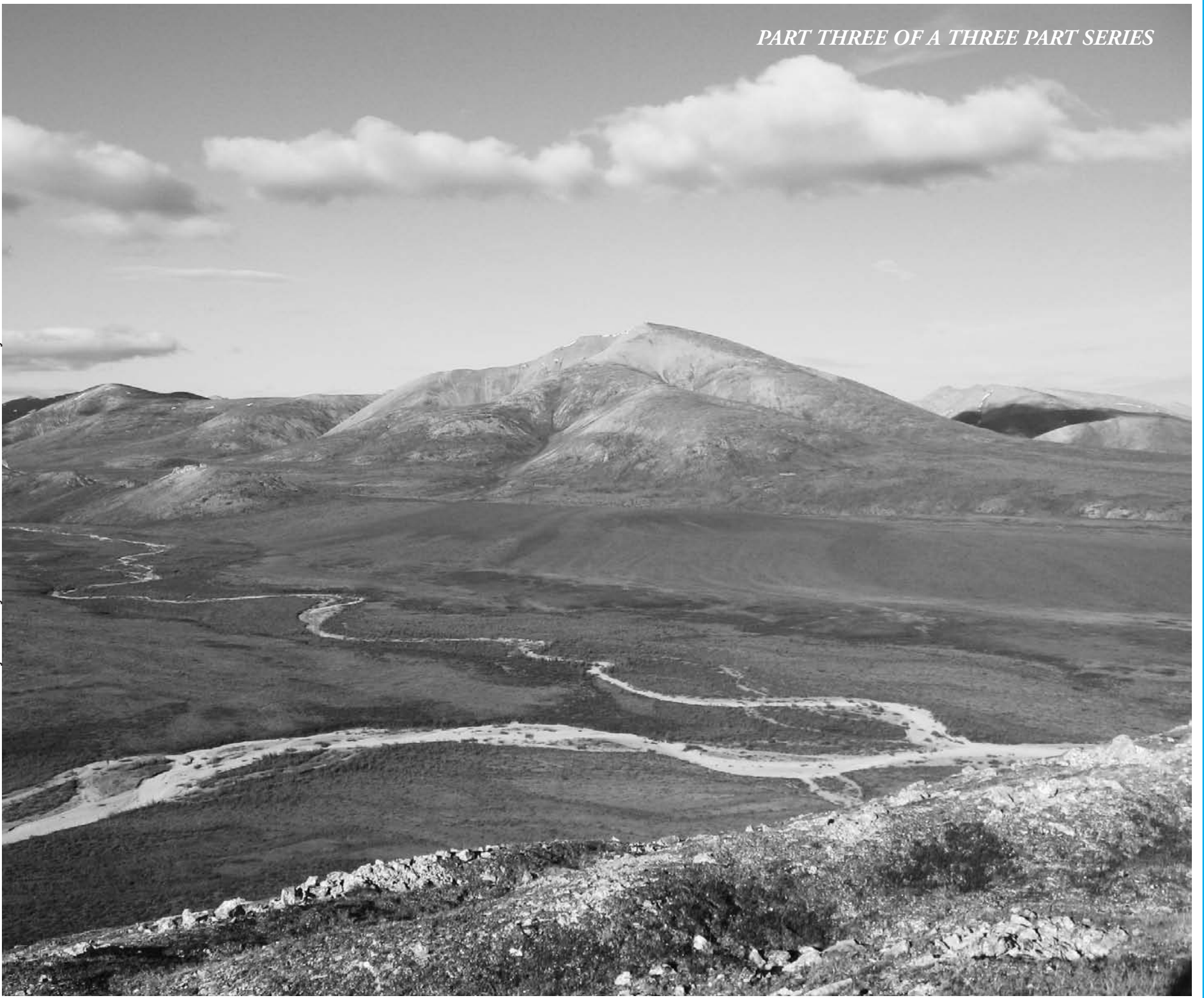
Storm, disease, drought. What can we do to make things better? Winston Churchill said, in the context of the 1930's: "The era of procrastination, of half-measures, of soothing and baffling expedients, of delays, is coming to its close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences."

Fortunately, we have a window of time in which to act. What we can do today was the topic of James Baker's presentation at the April Sierra Club meeting. He made an excellent presentation showing changes in habits that anyone, regardless of economic status, can make to help solve the problem of global warming. Insulating homes and replacing incandescent light bulbs with fluorescents is just the beginning. There are all kinds of conservation measures that will go a long way toward reducing the amount of carbon dioxide we put into the atmosphere.

We do not have to choose between environmental health and economic prosperity. We can have both. There is much that you and your neighbors can do before the maps of the world will have to be redrawn. As Al Gore says, "It is time to rise again to secure our future."

Be sure to visit the website www.climatecrisis.net. You can contact Bill Stegall at Billstegall@comcast.net.

A nameless north fork of Mancha Creek is joined by another nameless fork. Photo by Dallas Smith.



Life is Plentiful in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

By Dallas Smith
Member, Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

On our 12-day hike through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge this past June we encountered abundant wildlife. Six of us hiked up Mancha Creek, in the eastern part of the Refuge. On the sixth day we turned up an unnamed north fork of Mancha Creek and followed it until we crossed into the Joe's Creek drainage, on the eleventh day, where a bush plane picked us up the following day.

The animals we most frequently saw were caribou, since the Porcupine herd was following its spring migration route north to the calving grounds on the coastal plain. Caribou were plentiful each day, traveling in groups ranging from two individuals to a few dozen.

As we sat eating our re-constituted freeze-dried suppers one evening, I looked up. "I'm eating Pad Thai and gazing at caribou grazing by," I said, surprising myself with a little poetry and a lot of truth.

Caribou were indeed drifting past our camp, grazing along. And unlikely as it seems, I was eating Pad Thai, straight from its foil pouch. Each hiker carried a variety of freeze-dried dinners, including Santa Fe Chicken, Pesto Salmon, Turkey Stroganoff, Katmandu Curry, and so on. We looked forward to those dinners and gave great attention to the selection every night. Each pouch held a serving for two, and every hiker ate both servings. With all the walking, we were still losing weight.

Besides caribou, the mammal we saw most was the arctic ground squirrel, a mink-sized mammal. One morning one posed like a model. He invited me to photograph him at his breakfast, reaching high to pull down a green stem and

munching earnestly. I talked to him softly and crawled close. He struck a formal pose, looking straight into the camera, standing tall and reverent like a deacon. He'd never seen a human. He knew I wasn't fat enough to be a bear.

He has to be careful about bears. We saw several places where a grizzly had moved great volumes of dirt and rocks, trying to dig up a snack. In the wintertime the ground squirrel hibernates under the snow in its burrow, its body temperature falling to below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

We saw a porcupine, two red foxes—one was dead—a white wolf, an impressive golden blond grizzly bear and some twenty Dall sheep, not to mention a multitude of birds. We never saw a musk oxen, although one day we found some of its hair hanging on a bush. I put it in a plastic bag and took it with me. A few days later, I opened the bag and dropped it on the tundra. Take only pictures.

The animal we saw the most signs of, we never saw at all. That's because the moose weren't in the Refuge. They spend the summers at Old Crow Flats, in Canada, a place filled with highly nutritious lakes that produce the aquatic plants they need. Once they get fat enough they drift back to the Refuge and spend the winter. No one knew where the moose went until Fran Mauer did a study where he radio collared several and followed their movements

Their droppings, which look like elongated malt balls, were everywhere we went. The great palmed antlers shed by them littered the flats. The willows in those flats look like runty shrubs, perpetually pruned. They are—the moose bite the limbs off.

On our walk, Bill Curzie, the age group baseball player from New Jersey, showed a knack for comedy. Don, Fran and I

were talking about a merganser they'd seen, and I was wondering if it was one of the ducks we see in Tennessee. We were rattling off the names:

"Hooded merganser."

"Red-headed merganser."

"Red-breasted merganser," Don corrected.

"Extravaganser," Bill deadpanned. Which ended the duck discussion.

A few nights later as I had spread my freeze-dried dinners on the ground like a culinary poker hand, everyone stood looking down wondering which one I'd pick. Bill surprised us again, telling how he had studied at seminary to be a Roman Catholic priest. He went far enough to be given the name "Albert." But before he became "Father Albert," he quit, breaking the news to his disappointed mother on his parents' twentieth anniversary. He learned appreciation of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of the environment.

Our best campsite came on the eighth day. It was elevated enough to offer a view east across the valley. A burbling brook of snowmelt ran through our camp from a valley behind us. Caribou continually drifted from that valley past us.

Don, our expedition leader, wanted to climb a mountain across the valley that rose up 1,400 feet above us. I went with him. He had a purpose in mind. From the air, he had once seen a collapsed mountain nearby, one that sheared off and fell, filling the valley below with a jumble of rocks. From the mountaintop he was hoping to spot it. We hiked a mile on tussocks across the valley and then started up.

Half way up the mountain, Don stopped to show me a delicate bunch of flowers growing on the mostly-barren ground. Forget-me-nots, he told me, the state flower. They reminded him of his friend, Michio Hoshino, a photojournalist killed by a bear 10 years earlier. Don had written a poem titled Forget-Me-Not and read it at Michio's memorial.

Standing there on the mountain, Don Ross, former fighter pilot, Vietnam veteran, former bush pilot in Africa and Alaska, and former Assistant Director of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, this world-wise man recited a poem:

*Forget-me-not where the wind blows free,
Forget-me-not of the frozen sea,
Forget-me-not of a Higher Power,
Forget-me-not of love within a flower,
Forget-me-not of a past September,
All of this I remember,
Forget-me-not.*

Michio Hoshino was killed by a rogue bear on Kamchatka Peninsula, August 8, 1996. *National Geographic* had featured his photos. Exhibition of his photographic collection continues around the world.

Once on top, Don and I spotted the collapsed mountain. On our next day's walk we were able to reach it.

We saw lots of birds. My two favorites were about the same size but otherwise completely different. The ptarmigan, a grouse-sized bird, spends the winters in the Arctic. It is almost totally white. One startled me in the bushes one day, flushing with a cackling laugh that fell somewhere between Woody Woodpecker and Clem Kadiddlehopper, the funniest sound I've ever heard an animal make.

The plover is beautifully decorated. Its black back is dappled with shining gold patches like you'd sling out of a paintbrush. A white band starts at its wing and snakes a graceful curve up the side of its neck and alongside its head. It migrates to Argentina.

The birds of the Arctic Refuge affect practically the whole world. They fly to four continents, including Asia and South America, and all states except Hawaii. Snow geese in the hundreds of thousands nest on the coastal plain, the place Gale Norton called a "flat white nothing"—the same snow geese hunters shoot at in Tennessee.

Birds have amazing capabilities. They do and see so much more than people. It's a wonder they have any respect for humans!

We stood overlooking the broad tundra of Joe's Creek. The wide valley opened before us. On the other side the craggy mountains of the Brooks Range rose up. Through our binoculars, we could see Dall sheep clinging to the high slopes. Fran turned to me.

"This place deserves to exist for its own inherent value, independent of people—although people can derive benefit from it. It deserves to exist for its own value."

Our last day we broke camp and prepared to walk over to where the bush plane would pick us up, past where we'd seen a serene white wolf trot by the previous day. Don and I waited while Bill shouldered his pack—the others had already left.

"Bill, do you want to have a final ceremony and say a few words over our last campsite?" I asked.

Bill raised his arms to the heavens, a hiking staff in each hand, and Father Albert's voice came forth: "I commend this place into the hands of Saint Francis of Assisi for his blessing and protection from oil drilling forever, amen."

Amen.

Editor's Note: Ironman and marathoner Dallas Smith is author of the racing memoir, *Falling Forward: Tales from an Endurance Saga* (2004). He lives in Cookeville with his wife Jo Ann.



An arctic ground squirrel surveys his holdings, among rhododendron and dryas. Photo by Dallas Smith.

Outings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Saturday, May 5, 8:30am - 2:00pm. Memphis in May Canoe and Kayak Race. A great chance to see the race and network with other conservationists. A really good time! Call to volunteer some hours. Tom Lawrence: (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

Sunday, May 6, 1:00pm. - Signs of Spring Walk. Memphis Botanic Garden, Audubon Park. This will be our third walk in the garden this spring. The Garden is also an arboretum and we'll explore "off the beaten track" to visit areas with unusual trees. See this lovely setting and get in some exercise at a leisurely pace. Judith Hammond: 276-2819.

Sunday, May 6, 9:30am - 4:00. Bluff City Canoe Club Wolf River Annual Clean Up. Sierra Club members are invited to come along on the float from Bateman Bridge to Moscow. Meet at the Bateman Bridge put-in on Highway 57. Bring canoe, lunch, water, and gloves. Bags provided. Clean water is a Sierra Club conservation goal; you will end up a fan of the Wolf! River canoe experience and skills a must. Moderately fast water. To make your reservation call Bill Rehberg at 508-1289.

Saturday, May 12, 10:00am. - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park Arboretum, Annual "Save Our Snakes" Walk with Park Friends. Zoo herpetologists will be our guides. This is a great hike and kids love it! See the reptilian wildlife that live in this urban forest. Meet at the trailhead near the parking lot at Rainbow Lake. For more information, contact Don Richardson: 276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

Saturday-Sunday, May 19-20. - Annual Sylamore Creek Car Camp. In the Ozark National Forest, Mountain View Arkansas. One of the most beautiful car campsites anywhere in the USA! Campsites are in a forested area on the banks of the creek. There is a swimming hole under towering bluffs, hiking trails through forest and meadow, and the beautiful Sylamore Creek caves. Depart Friday evening. For more information, contact Judith Hammond at (901) 276-2819.

Saturday, May 26, 1:00-2:00pm. - Toxic Tour: Save Our Parks and Green Spaces. Rita Harris, the Sierra Club Tennessee Environmental Justice Program organizer, will lead a tour of some of the top industrial environmental polluters that threaten the parks, green spaces, and water quality of Memphis. The tour will visit some successful "clean-ups" resulting from Sierra Club and community efforts. This is a must trip for anyone concerned about environmental issues in the Mid-South. Sierra Club will provide soft drinks, water, and air-conditioned transportation. Meet at the Sierra Club office parking lot (rear), 2600 Poplar. Please call Rita Harris at (901) 324-7757 to reserve a space.

Saturday, June 2, 8:30-11:30am. - National Trails Day Tour of Greater Memphis Greenline. This is the perfect outing to celebrate National Trails Day. The trail is not built yet, so now is the time to tell us what you want in a trail. One of the goals of the Chickasaw Group this year is to focus on maintaining, improving, and supporting acquisition of parks and green spaces. Join this outing in support of our efforts. Learn where this rail-to-trail is located and visit several locations. We will discuss proposed plans and improvements to make the Greater Memphis Greenline a world class linear park. Meet at the Central Library parking lot at 3030 Poplar Ave. at 8:30am. Bring water. We will be car pooling to locations, so don't be late. Space is limited. Contact Thad Howard at 529-4062.

Remember, May 28, 1892 is the Anniversary of the founding of the Sierra Club.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPLY - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee: "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program on cable channel 18. The May show will feature Fred and Ethan Kent, president and vice-president of Project for Public Spaces (PPS). They will put the Mississippi riverfront in the context of the worldwide Waterfront Renaissance. Project for Public Spaces has led communities all over the world in looking at public spaces and making them places people love. They will explain how the Memphis waterfront is inextricably linked to the vitality of the city. Memphis has a remarkable opportunity to rediscover its roots on the river and create a new generation of great public spaces. For the complete "Nature of Conservation" schedule on cable channel 18, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/18SCHD.htm If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

All HBG outings may be accessed at this website:
<http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome/>

May 5. Dayhike, Bob's Bald (by way of Beech Gap). Enjoy great views from this high elevation destination. This would also be a good opportunity to look for higher elevation wildflowers. 6 miles round trip, but by starting at Beech Gap there is only an 800 foot elevation gain on the hike. Rated easy to moderate. Driving distance/time 90 miles/2 hours. Preregister with Priscilla Watts: H 966-4142; email sgmtngirl@earthlink.net.

May 12. Dayhike, Frozen Head State Park. Waterfalls and wildflowers are the twin objectives for this easy hike, so bring your cameras. We'll start up the North Old Mac trail to the intersection with the Panther Branch Trail, then down Panther Branch past several small waterfalls, with a side trip up and back the short Emory Gap trail to Emory Gap Falls, and finishing out the Panther Branch trail past DeBord Falls. Total distance, about 5 miles, rated easy with time for lots of pictures. Driving distance/time about 45 miles/1 hour, 15 minutes. Preregister with Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; email ronaldshrieves@comcast.net.

May 20. Dayhike, Possum Gorge (Cumberland Trail). The Cumberland Trail Association is in the process of developing what promises to be a truly outstanding long distance trail in Tennessee. Extending from Kentucky to Georgia, it is called the Cumberland Trail. One of the newest sections is in Possum Gorge just north of Chattanooga. A scenic Cumberland Plateau gorge with waterfalls, including Imodium Falls, will reward hikers on the 10.0 mile trail. Constructed as part of the CTA's "Big Dig" and "BreakAway" trail construction events during 2003-2005, a few bridges and paving of trailheads remain to be completed this year. Rated Moderate. Driving distance approximately 100 miles each way. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

June 9. Dayhike, Honey Creek Trail, BSNRRA. 5.2 mile loop, strenuous. One of the most varied, scenic trails in Tennessee, including stream crossings, waterfalls, ladders, boulder passages, an "Indian Rockhouse," and other adventures. Though listed at 5.2 miles, it can feel like 8 or 9. This outing is dependent on suitable water level and last-minute advice from BSF headquarters. Rated difficult. Driving distance approximately 70 miles each way. Preregister with John Finger: phone 573-5908; email jfinger@utk.edu.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

For information on upcoming outings, contact Chris O'Connor at chris_o77@yahoo.com or visit our web site at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee/index.htm>.

10 Essentials for Hiking

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

1. Adequate map
2. First aid kit
3. Compass
4. Rain gear
5. Extra clothing
(it is a good idea to always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Knife
8. Flashlight
9. Extra food, water
10. The tenth essential.
You decide what is the most important thing to bring!

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Sunday, May 13, 2007 Volunteer Trail Dayhike. Celebrate Mother's Day dayhiking the Volunteer Trail at Longhunter State Park! We will meet at the Volunteer Trail parking lot at 2:00 p.m. and hike the 4 mile loop trail. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring a water bottle. Rated moderate. For directions and to register contact Katherine Pendleton by May 11 at 615-943-6877 or email Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org.

Sat./Sun. June 2-3, 2007 - Wilderness First Aid Training. Wilderness First Aid Training, Fall Creek Falls State Park. This educational weekend features top notch training in an outdoor setting, covering a wide range of wilderness medicine and how to prepare for the unexpected. Course is 16 hours over two days. For additional information and to obtain a registration form contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org.

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.

Step into the Sunshine!
June 2, 2007

Come visit the 2007 Sonnenschein Festival
for live music, food, nature hikes, a tour of local "green" homes and Green Power Days!

Central to the festival are workshops, exhibits and speakers focusing on Green Living - renewable energy and sustainable habitation. Add in music, food, entertainment for the children, and vendors offering local products (farm produce, handcrafted goods of wood, metal and glass, arts and souvenirs) for a fun filled day. The Sonnenschein Festival is a gathering of area citizens to celebrate their unique community characteristics.

As part of Green Power Day, you can hear experts discuss saving money by conserving energy and how to use the latest technological advances in fuels, heating, cooling, alternative power, etc. Additionally, on the 3rd, local residents will open up their homes for a Green Homes tour.

Look for Sierra Club's booth, and if you are interested in volunteering to help at the booth for a couple hours during the day, please contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com.

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

Meetings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: May 3 & June 7, 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. Contact Juliet Jones, Vice Chair, at (901) 374-0582 or juliet101@comcast.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: May 14 & June 11, 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 Tom Lawrence by May 11 (May meeting) & June 8 (June meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, May 23, 2007, 7:00pm - Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar, Memphis, TN. Come at 6:30pm for social time! Program meeting starts at 7:00pm. There will be a presentation on "Sustainable Design" for the home. If you're building a new home, or even if you have an older one, you'll learn a lot about eco-friendly design! For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING: The fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (four times a year at a minimum) in the lower level meeting room of the Putnam County Public Library. Please contact Peggy Evans for meeting details at maevans@twlakes.net or (931)432-6680.

WATAUGA GROUP

PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith, (gla4797627@aol.com), (423) 727-4797 for more information

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 7:30 pm, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. Dr. Frank van Manen gives a power-point program on Black Bears. A Research Ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Southern Appalachian Research Branch in Knoxville, Dr. van Manen is also an Adjunct Associate Professor within the Department of Forestry at the University of Tennessee. He earned his M.S. degree from Wageningen University in the Netherlands and his Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Tennessee. Frank's primary interest is in the habitat ecology of mammals, particularly large carnivores. He has been involved with the long-term black bear research in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park since 1988. He has also worked with black bears in other parts of the southeastern U.S., as well as with other bear species in Ecuador, Sri Lanka, Japan, and China. Much of his research is devoted to predicting species distributions, determining wildlife responses to landscape changes, genetics, and population estimation. Everyone welcome. For information call John Finger (865) 573-5908.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, May, 2007, 7:30 p.m., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. We urge all Harvey Broome Group members to join us as we discuss and plan strategies for issues of concern to the group. These meetings provide you an opportunity for input into issues of concern to you. Please join us! For more information contact Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, May 10, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. For our May program we are very happy to welcome Paul Sloan, Deputy Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), who will enlighten us on the processes and programs currently underway through TDEC to safeguard our health and improve the quality of our state's air, land and water. TDEC is responsible for enforcing our clean water laws, air pollution laws, solid waste disposal laws and other aspects of pollution abatement. As Deputy Commissioner, Paul heads the department's Bureau of the Environment and leads a management team that oversees environmental enforcement programs. Paul holds a BA degree from Williams College (Massachusetts) and a law degree from Vanderbilt. He has been with the department since 2005 following a career that includes successes in education, law, business, and conservation advocacy. He founded Partners in Conservation, a conservation investment organization, and he is a former trustee of the Nature Conservancy and a current board member of the Cumberland River Compact. He also serves as co-chairperson of Governor Phil Bredesen's Interagency Alternative Fuels Working Group. This topic is one that affects us all and should be of concern to all. Please join us in welcoming Paul Sloan for this timely topic that will give you answers to some vital questions. This program is free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be served.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the old St. Bernard's Academy Building, 2021 21st Avenue South, 4th floor. Conservation and legislative 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 conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or email Diane@Propson.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net or call 792-2590.



photo/Kevin Walsh

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Introducing our Tennessee Chapter Grass Roots Communication Chair

Introducing Amanda Whitley, the TN Chapter Grass Roots Communication Chair. The role of Grass Roots Communication Chair is to increase the effectiveness of the Chapter's major communication tools. Amanda has recently moved to Clarksville, TN. She is originally from Old Lyme, Connecticut, but has lived in the southern part of the United States for the past six years.

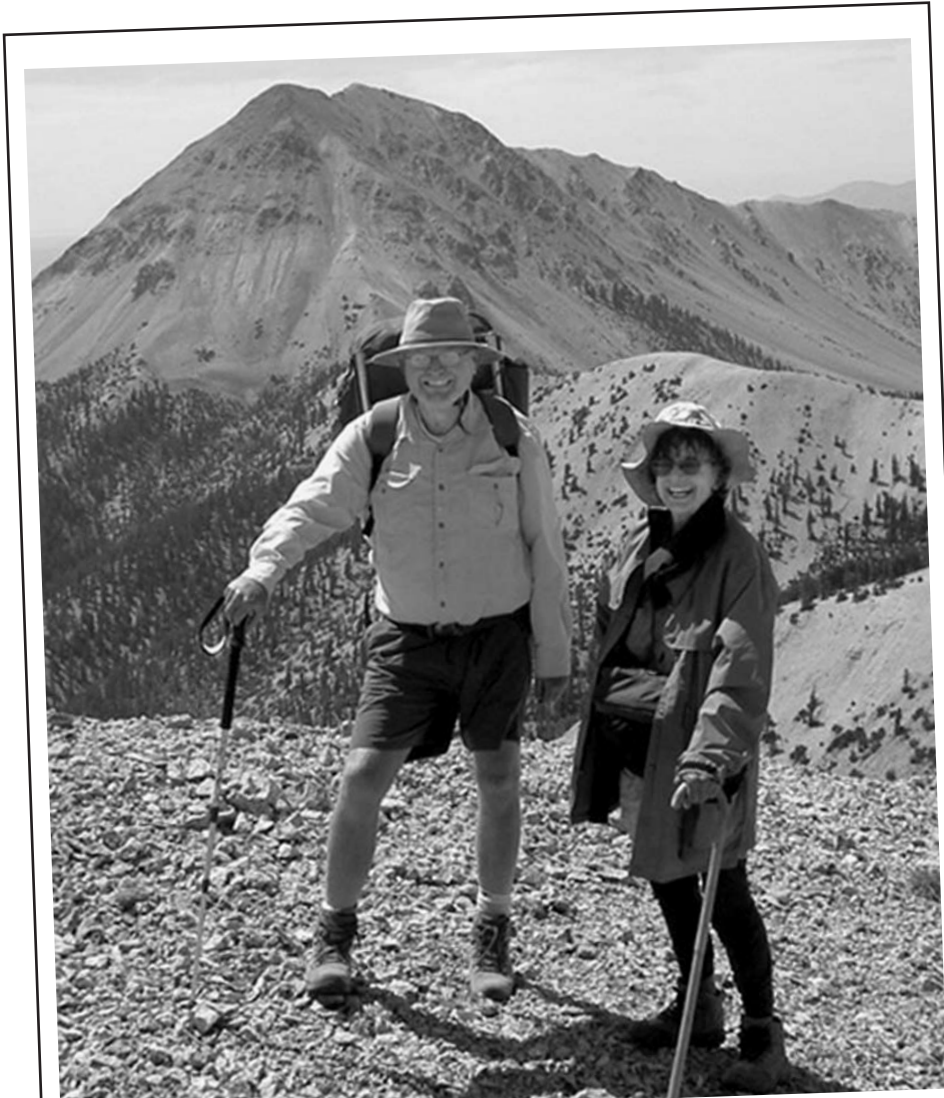
Amanda has a huge love for the outdoors and preserving it. This love was the driving force that led her to go to college at Three Rivers Community College in Connecticut, where she got her A.S. in Environmental Engineering Technology. Amanda continued her studies at Old Dominion University in Virginia, where she obtained her B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies with an Emphasis in Environmental Management.

Amanda has volunteered and worked with many organizations that are dedicated to preserving the environment. Her recent internship this past summer was in Moulton, Alabama, where she worked with Wild South. Wild South is a small non profit that is helping the US Forest Service with a very comprehensive canyon survey in the Bankhead National Forest. All summer she endured heat, snakes, and steep terrain and loved it. She and her partner helped survey five watersheds that will be given the protection needed for the canyon's very diverse ecosystem.

Amanda was recently accepted for a summer position as an Interpretive Ranger at Tennessee's Dunbar Cave State Park. She is very excited to become the Grassroots Communication Chair and looks forward to meeting members of the Tennessee Chapter.



Sierra Club Activist Outings Highlight adventure and advocacy



Sierra Club Director and longtime Utah Chapter activist, Jim Catlin on a 2006 activist outing to Utah's Tushar Mountains with Vicki Hoover. Photo by Lawrence Wilson.

By Vicky Hoover

The Sierra Club national outings program features several special trips each year that inform participants about the issues surrounding their particular trip and train them on how to advocate effectively for the relevant campaign. Wilderness and other preservation campaigns are the chief focus for 2007's seven activist trips, headed for West Virginia, Alaska, California, Utah, New Mexico, Washington, and Nevada.

Wild and Wonderful West Virginia, May 18-25

Learn about the push to establish new wilderness in the scenic Monongahela National Forest as your tour this lovely area, in the height of spring with leader Joan Saxe and local activists Mary Wimmer and Beth Little. Day hikes accent this van touring trip. (Trip #07190A, \$625)

Brooks Range on a Budget: Eric Rorer's June 10-23

Backpacking trip in Western Alaska's contested National Petroleum Reserve is filled, with a waiting list. (Trip 07014A \$1,375)

Walk Among Giants in California's Sequoia National Monument, June 17-23

Studies management problems in this new Monument proclaimed by President Clinton. Learn the ongoing threats to these unique big trees and their ecosystem, on day hikes with veteran leaders Cal and Letty French and former Sierra Club president Joe Fontaine. (Trip 07191A \$395)

Rafting & Activism, Dinosaur National Monument, July 5-9

A family activist adventure that brings kids too into figuring out why we care so much about saving Wild Utah's dazzling landscapes. Join leader Pat Fritz on the historic Green River. (Trip 07261A \$855/\$755 child)

Wild in the Wide Open Wild Sky, Backpacking in Washington State, August 15-21

Studies the recently well-publicized Wild Sky Wilderness campaign. Participants will enjoy trails and views in designated wilderness and candidate areas in the heart of the Mount-Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. (Trip 07175A, \$495)

Valle Vidal Service and Advocacy, July 22-29

Focuses on New Mexico issues of public land protection. Join leader Gene Goldberg and local volunteer Norma McCallan in scenic day hiking plus two novel service projects, for trail and river restoration. Northern New Mexico's Valle Vidal—the Valley of Life—has just gained some protection from proposed oil and gas drilling. (Trip 07315A, \$525)

Eastern Nevada's Wild Heights, September 1-9

Leader White Pine County has just won landmark wilderness designation for many of its beautiful wild mountain ranges, all too little-known, that leader Melinda Goodwater shares with you. Besides a brief visit to Great Basin National Park, this remarkable trip, while mostly scenic day hikes with car camping, features a two-day traverse of the dramatic High Schells with an overnight backpack. Mt Grafton and the Egan Range, and possibly the Highland Range, are other memorable destinations. Learn some of the complexities of Nevada wilderness politics. (Trip # 07196A, \$495)

To learn about some partial scholarships available for bringing qualified activists to these advocacy trips, contact activist outings chair Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org (415)977-5527.)

Sierra Club members are 750,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet.
The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.



photo/Clara Natoli

save the date

June 23 is the date of MTG's hiking, biking, potluck gathering to honor the founders of the Tennessee Chapter. All members from across the state are invited. Members from the 70's, when we were the Tennessee Group of the Cumberland Chapter (Tennessee and Kentucky) and later the Tennessee Chapter, are especially urged to attend, but we want this to be a homecoming for all members, from new to "seasoned". Edwin Warner Park Picnic Area #3. This site is reserved all day, starting at 6:00 a.m., so if anyone wants a hike or bike ride before we eat, there is plenty of time.

Contact Judy Martin, 615-491-2662, for more info,
or e-mail her at bentonway2002@yahoo.com.

If you want to lead a hike or bike ride, please let Judy know.

The Sierra Club - Middle TN Group
Tennes-Sierran

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