

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 35, Number 7 - July, 2004



An opportunity for you to help plan the future of transportation in Tennessee

Help Plan the Future of Transportation in Tennessee

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is asking you to participate in setting a vision for transportation in the future.

TDOT is developing a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that is looking at all modes of transportation: rail, public transportation, ports and waterways, aviation, highways and bridges, bicycles and pedestrians. Under the guidance of Governor Phil Bredesen and Transportation Commissioner Gerald Nicely, the multimodal plan will develop a comprehensive 25-year vision for Tennessee's transportation system.

"We have a changing economy and a growing population. We are setting the course for a transportation system that will support growth and meet the demands of change," said Commissioner Nicely. "Governor Bredesen has challenged us to think boldly in this process"

Ed Cole, TDOT Chief of Planning and Environment, notes that "We are providing opportunities for people to participate in the planning process in new ways. We will develop the best plan by listening to people to fully understand their needs and the opportunities they see."

In addition to numerous public meetings that will be held across the state beginning this fall, TDOT

has available a speakers bureau. Groups can request that a representative from TDOT present information about the plan and gather information and feedback from the group.

Staff will also work to gather input and inform people about the plan from a traveling exhibit that will be set up at selected community events, festivals and conventions. Comment forms will be distributed and are available online at www.tennessee.gov/tdot.

In addition you can ask questions or provide comments at any time by:

Calling toll free: 1-866-389-8443
Sending an email: PlanGO@state.tn.us
Writing to:

Long Range Plan
Tennessee Department of Transportation
James K. Polk Building, Suite 700
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Shoupi Needs Our Help Mill Creek Aquatic Life Threatened

By Vic Scoggin
President, Save The Cumberland

Why do we have an Endangered Species Act when a developer can kill and remove an endangered species from its habitat? 2003 marked the 30th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act with the motto "Working Together: Partnerships For Endangered Species Recovery". To kill and remove doesn't sound like recovering but partnerships sound a lot like killing.

Currently on Mill Creek, in Middle Tennessee, there are numerous developments threatening the federally endangered Nashville Crayfish (*Orconectes shoupi*). The proposed Cumberland Yacht Harbor located close to the confluence of the Cumberland River is just one of many. Plans are for removing 650,000 cu. yards of dirt and destroying three-quarters of a mile of riparian. Date of start should be spring of 2005 if not before. A Target store has already started and is located on a tributary of Mill Creek called Sevenmile Creek. Like CYH the "experts said there where no crayfish in the proposed footprint, they where wrong! A K-8 school in Nolensville located on the Dunn property on Sunset Rd. stated to begin August 2004. Plans were for rerouting a portion of a tributary stream. Numerous neighborhood developments have also threatened the crayfish's habitat now and in the past.

If this issue has not been a slap in the face for every environmental organization or private citizen to take action

then I know of none. There are many environmental issues facing us today and there seems to be loopholes for the "bad guys" to destroy what has been fought for.

Today is a new day, and we have a new front that is as old as the human race and it is called LITIGATION. Don't let this be a negative word cause it can do positive things i.e.; I-840, Roaring Falls Cave, snail darter etc. We as organizations have always had difficulty raising money for attorneys. People like warm and fuzzy things, canoe trips, hikes, and meetings, that's okay but now some money has to go for court so that we can enjoy the warm and fuzzy things!
Hopefully we can join together and support changing laws and stopping the mayhem before it's too late. If our health is threatened then we can't tackle other problems we are facing.

Now more than ever I need your support in whatever capacity you can muster. We have a federally endangered specie, in Middle Tennessee. No where else in the world does it exist. We have a duty to protect it!
Thanks. Happy Waterways, Vic Scoggin President. Save The Cumberland



Sleepless on Cold Mountain

By Robert Brandt

Only once have I taken a significant day hike without a flashlight. Only once have I needed one. Unfortunately, they were the same hike.

About the time the film Cold Mountain was released, some friends asked me if there if there rally is such a place.

"Sure. In the Shining Rock Wilderness near Asheville. Been there on Sierra Club outings."

"Would you lead a hike there," they asked.

So a house full of us rented a cabin in the NC mountains and set out to hike Cold Mountain. We changed our plans at the last minute and decided to make it a one way hike from the Blue Ridge Parkway to the Boy Scout Camp, with a side-trip from Deep Gap up to the top of the 6000 + foot peak. That required a longer hike. And we started late, after noon, instead of 10 am as we'd planned. Plus, the trail across Black Balsam, Tennent Mountain, and Shining Rock to Deep Gap was in terrible shape. It was a struggle to make even a mile-an-hour. But it was a beautiful May day on one of the most spectacular hikes in the Eastern US. Laurel, blackberry, and azalea, as well as some early rhododendron were in full bloom. The views were magnificent from the open peaks to the faraway Smokies, Blue Ridge, and Nantahalas .

We arrived at Deep Gap realizing that it was too late to go to the top of Cold Mountain and back. We thought a couple of hours of daylight remained. We should have time, I thought.

The trail down from Deep Gap was in even worse shape. And it clouded over. It was slow going over endless fields of rocks and slick roots. Darkness finally fell upon us. We were nowhere near the trailhead. So there I was, the guy who writes the books about hiking, two days shy of my 63rd birthday, stuck on the side of now famous Cold Mountain. With no flashlight.

The worst part of the experience wasn't the humiliation - I'd already won the TTA's annual Golden Squirrel award for helping lead a group astray near Sewanee - or the discomfort of sitting all night on a rocky, muddy trail - it was warm and wasn't raining, which made a big difference. It was the torment we caused our worried companions waiting for us back at the cabin. They expected us around 6 pm. Instead, we returned at nine the next morning.

The list of the Ten Essentials appears in each addition of The Tenne-Sierran. Don't leave home without them.

Robert Brandt is author of the Sierra Club Tennessee Hiking Guide as well as other outdoor and travel books.



Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: TennesSierran@aol.com

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

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

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

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

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Boulder, Colorado 80322-2968

THERE IS A BETTER WAY



BUT ONLY IF YOU HELP

At the Sierra Club, we're committed to protecting America's environment and the progress we've made cleaning up the pollution and poisons in our air, water and land. But that progress is in peril. The Bush Administration is allowing corporations to rewrite and weaken the laws that protect our health and safety and the land we love. Thirty years of progress have taught us there is a better way. Work with us. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean air, water and wild lands. Please join. With your support, we can do better... together.

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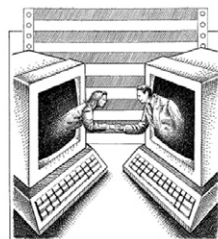
Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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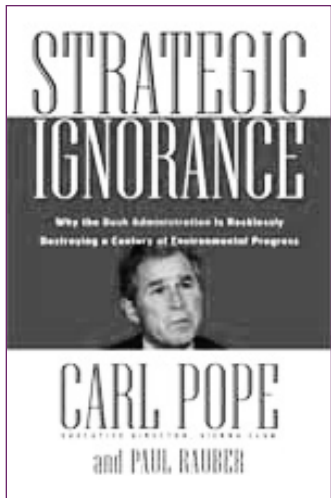
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Ten Common Sense Solutions We Can Implement Now



A combination of common sense, commitment, and American ingenuity will enable the country to solve its environmental dilemmas. A combination of technology, enforcement and forward-looking political leadership will protect our children's natural inheritance.

TODAY...

1) Build and drive more fuel efficient cars, trucks and SUVs.

We can reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil, cut air pollution and our disproportionate 25% contribution to the global warming problem, slash our trade deficit, and save money at the gas pump by improving the technology of the vehicles we drive.

The technology already exists. Even without converting our fleet to hybrid technology, the "freedom package" (an already available combination of more efficient engines, continuously variable transmissions, combined starter-alternators and lighter, stronger high tech body materials) would enable a Ford Explorer, which now gets 19 mpg, to get 35 mpg, with no loss of room, height or power - if Ford would only offer the package.

2) Build a twenty first century energy industry, and re-industrialize America in doing so.

Adopt a clean energy policy that conserves energy, uses renewable power sources such as wind and solar energy to generate electricity, and creates jobs. The Apollo Project, for example, is an alternative energy vision launched by a group of labor unions led by the Steelworkers, the Machinists, and the Electrical Workers. The Project calls for investing \$300 billion over 10

years into a new clean energy economy, one based on innovation and efficiency. It envisages major investments in high performance building, more efficient factories, more energy efficient appliances and better mass transit as well as more efficient, hybrid vehicles. While this \$300 billion is only a fraction of what America spends in a single year on imported oil, economic modeling showed that these programs could create 3 million new manufacturing jobs.

3) Install modern air pollution control equipment on old power plants, refineries and factories.

Pollution control equipment has been proven to be very effective in cutting power plant emissions - emissions that cause at least 30,000 deaths from respiratory illness and 600,000 asthma attacks a year. Forcing industry to use today's technology will save lives, clean up the air, and keep a commitment made 30 years ago. Let's get America's dirtiest power plants to clean up their emissions.

4) Restore the principle of "Polluter Pays."

Getting the Superfund program back up and running, and getting the polluters, not taxpayers, to pay for it, are the first steps. The cleanup of abandoned toxic dump sites was largely funded by a tax on oil, chemical and a general corporate excise tax - which expired in 1995. The cleanup trust fund ran out of polluter money in 2003, so now taxpayers are bearing the costs. Cleanups have been slowed by half in the last few years and there are still 1200 sites threatened the health of our communities. If we can restore the tax, force polluters to clean up the messes they made, and return to the rate of cleaning up 80 of these sites a year, all of America's toxic dump sites can be cleaned up in 15 years.

5) Reinstate the environmental standards that protected our National Forests, rivers, wetlands, wildlife habitat and public lands.

On January 21, 2001 the Bush administration rescinded protections of our most prized possessions - our public lands and waters- and opened up million of acres to the oil and gas, mining and logging companies. Our special places should be for all Americans. Put protections back in place.

6) Put the environmental cop back on the beat and save lives and money.

Stop cutting funding for the Environmental Protection Agency and enforcement of our clean air and water laws. Put the government back in the business of fulfilling its unique role of inspecting, monitoring and punishing polluters. "Voluntary compliance" is not always the answer.

The benefit of protecting our health and the environment, particularly reducing air pollution, far outweighs the costs. Environmental rules from the past ten years have generated as much as \$230 billion in benefits (such as reduced sickness and lost work time), yet the rules only cost between \$36 and \$42 billion this according to the White House Office of Management and Budget.

7) Save and Restore our Forests.

Focus the Forest Service on what ought to be Job One -- protecting communities from fire. Redirect money now spent on logging our National Forests to fire prevention, specifically to creating Community Protection Zones -- a half mile area around homes or towns that need to be cleared of brush and small trees to reduce the risk of wildfire.

Simultaneously let's phase out the Forest Service's commercial timber program, and begin to manage our National Forest System exclusively for public benefits like wildlife, recreation and watershed protection. Most of America's best commercial timber land is already in private hands. We don't need to log our National Forests to meet our need for timber.

8) Keep the promise Congress made when it authorized oil and gas drilling off our coasts.

Our coasts are not only rich in the economic uses they provide for most Americans, such as fishing, tourism, and recreation, but also rich in habitat. Use the royalties from those activities to fund the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund which purchases and protects wild lands and wildlife habitat.

9) Finish the job of separating storm water and sewage, and deal with the problem of toxic run-off from farms, factory animal feed lot operations, logging and development.

The water treatment programs of the Clean Water Act were one of the great environmental success stories of the 1970's and 1980's, but we still have thousands of beach closures every year because of inadequately treated sewage. One third of our waterways still have not met the swimmable and fishable standards of the Clean Water Act, and there is a huge backlog of unmet sewage treatment needs in many of our older cities. Let's keep protections in place and enforce and fund water cleanup measures.

10) Rejoin the world.

The rest of the world is waiting for the US to join the coalition of the environmentally willing. We should go back to the Kyoto Protocol table to help shape a plan to protect the planet from global warming. We ought to join, not block, such international initiatives as the proposed Convention to Reduce the Emissions of Mercury, an international treaty to protect rain forests, and agreements on how to stop the over-fishing of the world's oceans. We must work to undo NAFTA, GATT and other trade agreements that ignore the necessity of elevating and exporting environmental protections.

The above material extracted from:

Strategic Ignorance:

Why the Bush Administration is Recklessly Destroying a Century of Environmental Progress
By Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope and
SIERRA magazine Senior Editor Paul Rauber;
go to www.sierraclub.org/books or call (415) 977-5600 for information on how to order your own copy.

Global Warming and Environmental Activism: Truth or Fiction?

A Review of T.C. Boyle's *A Friend of the Earth*

Penguin, 2000; 349 pp.; ISBN 0-14-100205-0

By Josie McQuail, Upper Cumberland group

You may not think you're familiar with the author T.C. Boyle, but chances are you've heard of some of his novels, particularly one that was made into a film, *Road to Wellville*, about the health food fanatic Kellogg, who in real life was notable, not for a bland breakfast cereal but his radical "health-style" philosophy. Boyle loves writing about larger-than-life fanatics, as was apparent in some of his earlier works, like *World's End*. *A Friend of the Earth* has as its protagonist another one of his flawed heroes. The book has several times been described as cynical. Yet, I believe it could be useful both as a means of graphically illustrating the consequences of global warming (many already impacting us), and of how the environmental movement is popularly perceived. Deliberate smear campaigns have been conducted by industry and government to discredit certain environmental activists; the question is, is Boyle guilty of this as well?

Given the fact that the environment affects public health, why is it that so few people seem to care about the issue? According to Andres McKenna Research conducted May 6-8 2003 (by surveying 600 registered voters), only 5% of voters ranked the environment #1 in their concerns (10% ranking it #2), and only 11% ranked global warming as their #1 environmental concern; only 3% ranked endangered species as their #1 environmental concern (the economy was the #1 concern of voters) (Richardson). Boyle himself (or his character Ty Tierwater) is pretty cynical about this ("The environment is a bore. And nobody wants to read about it -- nobody wants to hear about it . . ." (282)). But the recent tornadoes and severe weather which devastated the

midwest and southeast, and the newly emerged Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome Virus (SARS) certainly captured public attention. How many realize that extreme violent weather fluctuations and disease can result from global warming? That the asthma that afflicts

so many children now is often a result of air pollution? That, as the most recent issue of the Sierra Magazine pointed out, more people died as a consequence of health problems caused by air pollution than died in the World Trade center bombings (13)? If they knew, would they be more concerned?

Fiction, of course, can also draw public attention to real life problems. Upton Sinclair wrote *The Jungle* hoping to bring about social revolution -- he got the public's attention, all right, but the only tangible result of widespread public consternation at the horror of the meat-packing industry as conveyed in his "muck-racking" novel was the foundation of the Food and Drug Administration.

Still, the powerful possibility of bringing home the horror of apparently distant and remote contingencies is the strength of Boyle's *A Friend of the Earth*. The novel alternates mainly between the 1980s and the 1990s and 2025, projecting horrifically the likely scenarios of global warming catastrophes. Will Boyle's novel draw attention to the issues that he spotlights? You may be skeptical, but remember another monkey wrenching novel called *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, by Edward Abbey. That novel has been credited as being the inspiration for *Earth First!*

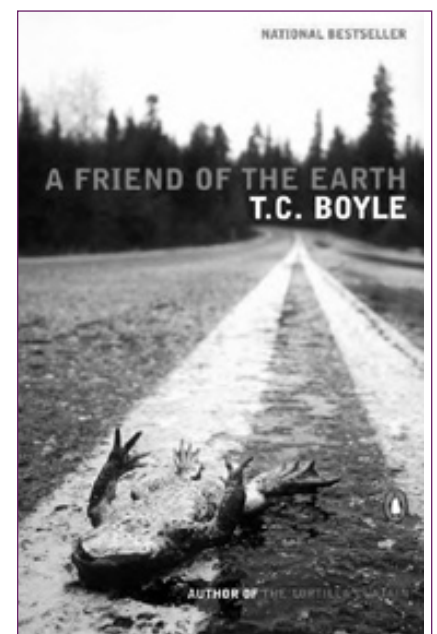
Global Warming in *A Friend of the Earth*

Let's take the portrayal of the environment first. For how many years have we been being warned about the dangers of global warming? I have a collection of newspaper clippings of dire warnings going back at least 15 years, and they are still being issued. At the Gulf Coast Regional Conference in Florida in April,

I picked up a document called *Climate Change Impacts on the United States: The Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change* put together by the National Assessment Synthesis Team of the U.S. Global Change Research Program. Under the section "A Continually Changing Climate and the Potential for Surprises" is a statement:

It is essential to note that the 21st century's climate, unlike that of the preceding thousand years, is not expected to be stable but is very likely to be in a constant state of change. For example, the duration and amount of ice in the Great Lakes is expected to decrease. It is possible that in the short term an increase in "lake effect" snows would be a consequence during mid-winter, though they would likely decrease in the long term. Across the nation, as climate continues to warm, precipitation is very likely to increasingly fall as rain rather than snow. Such continuously changing climate presents a special challenge for human adaptation. (19)

Ho hum, most (well, not us, hopefully, but the general populace)



Continued on Page 7

Meetings

STATE OF
FRANKLIN GROUP
(Tri-Cities)

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:
First Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. All SOFG members are encouraged to get active now to help us organize for environmental victory in November!

FMI: Dan Grace, Pol.Com. Chair, (423) 926-7035, dangrace@worldnet.att.net.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: Second Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. These Executive Committee/Conservation meetings are open to everyone interested in helping to protect upper east TN's air, water, forests & family farms. To place an item on the agenda, or for directions to the Church, please contact Linda Modica, Group Chair, (423) 753-9697, lmodica@aol.com.

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Fourth Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Programs on environmental issues, travel, nature photography are among the many topics featured at SOFG program meetings. FMI: Mary Gavlik, Vice Chair, (423) 434-9535, mlgav@yahoo.com.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

PROGRAMS: Thursday July 22nd @ 7:00 Pm Greenway Farms in Hixson Our July Program is not set at press time. For information on our July program contact Rick Gehrke 423-843-9625 or email rick.gehrke@comcast.net or keep checking our website at www.tennessee.sierra-club.org/charokee.

Reminder: The night of our monthly programs was changed from the third Thursday of each month to the fourth Thursday of each month. Monthly strategy meetings are generally held prior to the program meetings and everyone is welcome to attend. The strategy meetings begin at 5:30.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY GATHERING: Thursday July 1 - 6:00PM to 8:00. "First Thursday" at Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 South Cooper, Memphis. Monthly gathering. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at 278-2713.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday July 14- 6:30 to 8:30PM. NEW TIME. Executive Committee Strategy Meeting. Alumni Building, U of M Campus. Meeting is open to all members. Contact Group Chair Charlie Rond by July 6 to place items on the agenda, 901-452-8150.

MONTHLY GATHERING: Thursday July 15 - 6:00PM to 8:00. "Third Thursday" at Cafe Francisco. 400 N. Main Street, Memphis. Monthly gathering. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at 278-2713.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday July 28- 6:00PM. NEW TIME. Program. Urban Forestry. Memphis and Shelby County Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar. Refreshments served. Contact Program Chair Teri Sullivan at 901-320-7191.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, July 13, 2004, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. It's summer, that time of year when many of us spend more time in the great outdoors enjoying our favorite activities. For our July program, we welcome Aaron James from Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, who will be discussing and showing all the latest equipment for hiking, backpacking, canoeing, bicycling, etc. Come out all you "gear-freaks" and see what you just gotta have this season. Call Priscilla Watts at 865-966-4142 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday July 27, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. If you're interested in getting more involved or in finding out about what drives the Sierra Club in this area, this is the meeting to attend. Call Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840 for more information.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, (July 8) at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) White Water Rafting - Please join us for a fun and entertaining slide show presented by Linda Smithyman as she recounts her experiences white water rafting on the Youghiogheny at Ohio pyle, PA., in addition to rivers in West Virginia. Light refreshments will be provided. (Please bring your own re-usable cup.) For more information on this program, contact Shelli Dimarco at globalpeace04@hotmail.com or call (615) 260-0030. Non-members are always welcome!

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, (July 28) at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are first on the agenda! Come early, bring your re-usable cup and 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 Academy Building). We meet on the 4th floor. 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 Christopher Anderson at sustainurworld@comcast.net. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Katherine Pendleton at Katibug1959@aol.com or call 943-6877.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

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

Sign on to Save Our Smokies!

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

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If you run into any difficulties, just email Liz Dixon at dixon@cs.utk.edu

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

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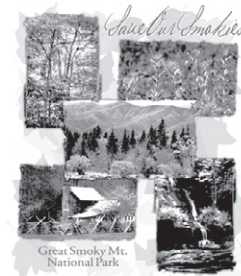


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Total \$ - John Muir quote t-shirts		=	_____

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!



And connect to local issues and news!

Subscribe to the MTG listserv by sending a message via email to:

LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Leave the subject blank and then within the text portion of message insert

"SUBSCRIBE MTG-NEWS [FIRST NAME] [LAST NAME]"

Omit variables replacing with your first name and last name

Volunteer River Restoration Corps Plan for Stream Bank Stabilization Projects

The Volunteer River Restoration Corps (VRRRC) is planning two stream bank stabilization projects for the upcoming months of July and August. In the Duck River watershed we will be working on McCutcheon Creek in Jerry Erin Park. The park is located in Spring Hill and a short drive from Nashville. The second project is in the Harpeth watershed.

McCutcheon Creek is listed by TDEC as polluted with sedimentation and the Duck River Project (DRP) is working to stabilize stream banks to begin the process of reducing the sedimentation. The DRP has been working on McCutcheon Creek for several years now as a part of the larger Duck River Project. According to John McFadden, Director of Science and Restoration Programs "we recently received a 319 grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to focus our efforts in the Rutherford and McCutcheon Creek watersheds." This project is an out growth of that effort and our overall desire to get practices on the ground known to benefit water quality. In the past the DRP installed cedar revetments, a practice that utilizes fresh cut cedar trees attached to eroding stream banks in a effort to buffer the waters force during high flows. "This project is going to be a little different, as we plan to use bioengineering structures called rock jetties to protect the toe of the bank and let Mother Nature fix herself."

In the Harpeth River watershed, we plan to install a cedar revetment and/or rock jetties on North Ewing Creek in Franklin. This project is a part of the HRWA's efforts stem the tide of streambank erosion and to continue to assess the effectiveness of this technique.

The VRRRC planted 9000 trees this year along rivers and streams in both the Duck and Harpeth River watersheds, and has running total above 20,000 for the past four years.

If you are interested in participating contact Gwen Blanton at HRWA@Harpethriver.org, or 615.790.9767 or John McFadden, JmcFadden62@earthlink.net, 615.374.3744.

The TSRA DRP project is funded in part by Saturn Corporation; Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Nonpoint Source Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

Chickasaw Group Announcement

Call for Nominations to the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee

The Nominating Committee for the Chickasaw Group (CKG) urges you to nominate potential candidates for the Executive Committee positions that expire in December 2004. We seek candidates for the election who are:

- 1) Sierra Club members in good standing;
- 2) Dedicated to the purposes and goals of the Sierra Club;
- 3) Willing and able to accept the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of a Group Executive Committee member;
- 4) Able to listen and communicate effectively and work in a team environment;
- 5) Able and willing to dedicate sufficient personal time to Executive Committee duties;
- 6) Able to think and plan strategically and politically;
- 7) Knowledgeable regarding critical environmental and political issues;
- 8) Knowledgeable about the structure and operations of the Group, Chapter and Club;
- 9) Experienced as a Group leader; and
- 10) Able and willing to deal with the broad range of issues that come before the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee members approve proposed local and state legislation, appropriate Group funds, and endorse political candidates, in addition to other tasks. The Group Executive Committee is composed of thirteen members and the term of office is two years with half of the Committee's terms expiring each year.

The Nominating Committee will consider all potential candidates and recommend certain candidates based on the criteria. The Nominating Committee for this year is James Baker, Barbara Standing and Becki Barnhardt. Names of qualified individuals may be submitted to James Baker at 327-6717 or e-mail at: aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net

The deadline for nominations is November 21, 2004, to permit placement of the ballot in the December Tennessee Sierran.

Please verify that the potential candidate is willing to serve and state why this potential candidate would make a good member of the CKG Executive Committee.



Tennessee Chapter Summer Meeting

Location: Camp Wesley Woods, Townsend, TN - Nickle Lodge.
Phone 8685-448-2246;
Web page <http://www.campwesleywoods.com>

Dates: July 23 - 25

Registrar: Barbara Allen, 4816 Petersburg Road, Knoxville, TN 37921, phone 865-558-9214, email b-tallen@email.msn.com

Host: Harvey Broome Group

Food: By renowned chef Roger Jenkins. Please indicate when registering whether vegetarian or omnivore.

Cost: \$30/person/weekend; \$15 for children

Directions: From Knoxville I-40 take US 129 S toward Alcoa. Follow US 129 S past Tyson-McGhee Airport. Follow sign reading "To Great Smoky Mountains National Park/Townsend" to US 321 N. Follow US 321 N for 8.8 miles past Blount Memorial Hospital to blue Wesley Woods sign on right side of road and small green sign on left side of road reading "Walland". Turn left beyond "Walland" sign (between Amoco and fire station), cross Little River on two lane bridge. Bear right after crossing bridge and continue on Old Walland Highway for 3.6 miles to Wesley Woods sign on left.

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)

Saturday, July 10. Canoe Trip, Hiwassee River, Powerhouse to Reliance section. Laid back float/run of the scenic Hiwassee River, from just below the Powerhouse to Reliance. Enjoy the "cheap" thrills of Towee Creek rapid, Oblique Falls, Bigney's Rock, the Stairsteps, Needles, Devil's Shoals, and the "Jungle Cruise." Total run of about 5.5 miles. Mixed in with these mild Class I and

Class II rapids are long stretches where you can relax and enjoy the beauty of this pristine river and mountain views. We'll leave Knoxville by 9 am. Plan to "put in" on the river between 12 noon and 1 pm (subject to TVA power generation schedule). Allow 4 hours on the river. Return will probably be between 7 and 8 pm depending on whether we stop for dinner. Very mild whitewater run - Class I & II rapids. (Class I requires that you "point and shoot," Class II requires some navigation while running the rapid.) You should be a good swimmer and a reasonably accomplished flat-water paddler - some whitewater experience is desirable, but not necessary. In fact, this is an opportunity for you to try whitewater and to work on basic whitewater skills. Either solo or tandem welcome. You should not have a fear of being in the water. This river is a favorite for beginning whitewater because flipping your boat generally does not have dire consequences - heck, it's even fun. If you are in doubt about your skill level, call the leader to discuss it. Boating equipment needed - boat, PFD, and two paddles (these items can be rented locally). Personal gear needed: some old "river shoes," sunscreen, hat, raingear, lunch, water, bailer (a cut-up milk jug will do), change of clothing to be left in the car (the leader will be very disappointed if you don't get all wet at least once during the day.) Pre-register with Ron Shrieves, 865-922-3518, rshrieve@utk.edu.

July 24- 25, Chapter Meeting Associated Day Hikes, Tremont Area, GSMNP.

The Chapter Executive committee meeting will be hosted by the Harvey Broome Group and held at Camp Wesley Woods, nestled in the foothills of the Smoky Mtns. That typically means great mid-summer day hiking in the Tremont area of the Park. While exact details have not been set, our usual hikes typically include hikes to Whiteoak Sinks and Spruce Flats Branch Falls. For more information, contact Ron Shrieves, 865-922-3518, rshrieve@utk.edu or Roger Jenkins, (865) 690-3257 (h), (865) 574-4871 (w); email: mcdonaldjenkins@twohikers.org

Saturday-Sunday, July 31-August 1, Cold Mountain Backpack (Shining Rocks Wilderness, NC). The HBG outings program has featured numerous backpacks over the years to Cold Mountain of recent bestselling book and movie fame (unfortunately the movie was filmed in Romania which spoiled the movie for those of us who know Cold Mountain). We will see the real Cold Mountain on this backpack, and will camp near the 6,030 foot summit of Cold Mountain. The wildflowers and views should be perfect, although we will be a bit early for blueberries. Rated Moderate. Pre-register with Will Skelton: 865-523-2272 (H); 865-521-6200 (W), whshome@bellsouth.net.

Saturday-Sunday, August 7-8, Car Camp, Balsam Mountain Campground, GSMNP. Escape the August heat in the lowlands and join us for a cool weekend at the highest elevation campground in the Smokies. Located on a spur road

off the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Balsam Mountain Campground is high in the spruce-fir zone at 5310' elevation. We will take a short 2.6 mile hike on the beautiful Flat Creek Trail for sure and possibly others around the camp. Please pre-register with Priscilla Watts, 865-966-4142 or Barbara Allen, 865-558-9214 (H) or 215-5180 (W), email: b-tallen@email.msn.com.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Sunday, June 12 - Day Hike at Long Hunter State Park - Take just the 2 mile paved Couchville Lake Trail, or continue on with the 4 mile Day Loop trail, which winds along Percy Priest Lake. Watch warblers, water birds and other wildlife with a long time bird and butterfly watcher. Contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com for more information and to register. Hike will be in the morning.

Saturday, July 3 - Day Hike at Rock Island State Park - Join us for a nice hike at Rock Island State Park east of Nashville. At least 6 miles. To register, contact Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979.

Saturday, July 10 - Walk at Flat Rock Cedar Glade, Murfreesboro - Flat Rock is a Nature Conservancy sanctuary for Pyne's ground plum, Tennessee coneflower and the Blazing Star. We should catch the coneflower, yarrow and maybe the prickly pear in bloom. Pyne's ground plum is only found in Rutherford county: a real find. Hike is about 2 miles, in the morning. Contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com for more information and to register.

Sat. July 31st - "Blue Moon" Night Hike At Percy Warner - Meet at the Percy Warner visitor center and we'll hike about 4-5 miles, listening for wildlife. Bring a flashlight with extra batteries plus your own food/drink. Register with Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979. A blue moon is the second full moon in a month just in case you were wondering if the moon would actually be blue!

Sat. Aug. 21 - Shakespeare at Centennial Park - Dinner out and Shakespeare in the Park, performing "A Comedy of Errors" at Centennial Park - FREE. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket and mosquito repellent to enjoy an evening outdoors. Show starts at 7:30, with music at 6:30. We'll go out for dinner beforehand if there's interest. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979.

Saturday, Aug 28 - Whitewater Rafting in Eastern TN - Want to beat the summer heat? Try whitewater rafting down one of Tennessee's fantastic rivers. Outfitter and exact location not determined yet. If interested, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com. Since reservations are required with an outfitter, I will "reserve" a limited number of spots and ask participants to contact the outfitter directly for payment purposes. More information will be available next month! We will camp afterwards, for those that are interested.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

We are going to be offering outings on the first Thursday and the third Saturday of each month until the end of daylight savings time. Thursday hikes will begin at 6PM and Saturday hikes will start at 8AM. Upcoming hikes include: July 1-

Tennessee Riverwalk from Walnut Street Bridge to the old Sandbar Restaurant (5 miles) July 17 - to be announced.
August 5-Collegedale Veterans Parkway (4 miles) August 21-Fort Mountain State Park (5 miles)

For information on meeting places and times or for additional information on upcoming outings please visit our website at www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee or e-mail Chris O'Connor at chris_o77@yahoo.com

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Saturday July 3. Hatchie River All Day Float. The float will be on the Hatchie River section that flows through the national wildlife preserve near Brownsville. It will take the greater part of the day. A great chance to see this part of the river. Canoe experience and the ability to portage 200 yards required for this outing. For information on where to meet and park cars contact leader Jessie McCabe 901-829-3283.

Sunday July 4 Chickasaw Group Picnic. 2 PM at Shelby Forest State Park pavilion #3. The Group will supply hotdogs, buns, condiments, and soft drinks. We'll fire up the grills and gather 'round for a picnic at 6. For each adult in your group bring a dish (with spoon) to share to feed five persons and all that good picnic stuff like a chair!. Swim, fish, hike, volleyball, fly kites, bicycle, whatever. There will be kayak and canoe rides on Poplar tree lake, door prizes, and other surprises. Stop at the Visitor Center and pay \$3/car entrance fee. To volunteer to lead a kids' hike, a family hike, cook dogs, swat flies, organize a sports game, or other good picnic activity, call Judith Hammond 276-2819 or Charlie Rond 452-8150 or Jill Johnston 278-2713.

Saturday July 10 - 5:00PM. Kayak Tour Memphis Harbor. Carolyn says this is a fun trip for experienced and not-so-experienced kayakers. Her teen loved it! The time of day is perfect. To pick up your rental kayak or canoe and to meet the group go to the Adventure Center on Mud Island; phone to reserve is 576-7254. Those who own kayaks or canoes can enter on the cobblestones and paddle across to the Adventure Center. Trip lasts 1 hour. Afterward the group will go to a nearby restaurant for fellowship and food. Contact Carolyn Pierce 755-5635.

Saturday-Sunday July 25-24. Tennessee Chapter Quarterly Meeting. Wesley Woods Lodge, Townsend Tennessee. A beautiful way to spend the week end. The location is in a wooded campground on the edge of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. It's an opportunity to experience the Park without all the commercialism at that "other" entrance. See the registration form in this issue. Contact Charlie Rond 452-8150 for travel from Memphis information.



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!



Come join the Sierra Club & EarthMattersTN

For outings of a
different sort, come join
our community garden
project in
East Nashville!

Planting times are:
Wednesdays 5:30-7:30
and Sundays 3-5

For information call
Caty Butcher
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Global Warming and Environmental Activism: Truth or Fiction?

A Review of
T.C. Boyle's *A Friend of the Earth*
Penguin, 2000; 349 pp.; ISBN 0-14-100205-0

By Josie McQuail

Continued from Page 3

would say; but it doesn't viscerally hit us. What does hit us are Boyle's imaginative projections of what this increased precipitation would feel like and be like in ordinary life. His novel opens in 2025, and this effect of global warming is clearly in evidence:

The parking lot is flooded, two feet of gently swirling shit-colored water, and there go my cowboy boots -- which I had to wear for vanity's sake, when the gum boots would have done just as well. I sit there a minute cursing myself for my stupidity, the murky penny-pincher lights of Swenson's beckoning through the scrim of the rain-scrawled windshield, the Mex-Chinese take-out place next door to it permanently sandbagged and dark as a cave, while the computer-repair store and 7-Eleven ride high, dry and smug on eight-foot pilings salvaged from the pier at Gaviota. The rain is coming down harder now-- what else?--playing timbales on the roof of the 4X4, and the wind rattles the cab in counterpoint, pick-

ing up anything that isn't nailed down and carrying it off to some private destination, the graveyard of blown things. All the roofs here, where the storms tend to set down after caroming up off the ocean, have been secured with steel cables, and that's a company to invest in--Bot-A-Roof, Triple AAA Guaranteed. (10)

Boyle's description brings it home to us. It forces us to imagine the reality of torrential rains and flooding that is the likely result of global warming in some areas of the U.S. (others are heat waves and extreme weather (Climate Change 107)).

How's this for the kind of jargon that distances us from the real horror of spreading contagion, again from the Climate Change document: "Climate changes projected to occur in the next several decades, in particular the likely increase in extreme precipitation events, will probably raise the risk of contamination events" (106).

Boyle's novel is an uncanny prophet of the ubiquitous surgical masks that we've seen in the aftermath of SARS. Boyle calls it "mucosa," a word that captures the horror of SARS far more than the acronym does: "Lori died in my arms, both of us wearing gauze masks, the mucosa so thick in her lungs and throat she couldn't draw a breath, tracheotomy or no, and that's natural, nothing more natural than the disease we spread in our sticky, promiscuous way" (93). Lori, his girlfriend, dies a horrible death that resembles that caused by SARS (though I have seen no evidence that SARS is connected to environmental factors, other diseases are).

Portrayal of Nature in *A Friend of the Earth*

Despite Ty's status as a "friend of the Earth," nature is hardly depicted as a beneficent force, even pre-global catastrophe. Hu-

Continued on Page 8

THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION Tennessee Chapter

Hike in Great Smoky Mountains National Park Saturday, August 21, 9:00 a.m. EDT

Join us for a hike in Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Saturday August 21, 2004. We will meet at the Ramsay Cascades Trailhead at 9:00 am EDT (directions below). Bring lunch, water, and a raincoat. The hike will cover about 8 miles, climb about 1,700 feet and will last most of the day.

This trail passes through a magnificent old growth cove hardwoods forest and follows a mountain stream. Near record sized trees grow at every turn. The largest tree along the trail is a 21-foot circumference tulip poplar. Other common species include black cherry, yellow buckeye, red maple, black birch, basswood, and chestnut oak, including huge specimens of each. Epiphytic growth, where plants grow on top of other plants, can be seen along the trail and is evidence of the high rainfall and good growing conditions.

This is one of the most beautiful forests anywhere and is a prime example of an old growth cove hardwoods southern Appalachian forest.

There is evidence of the former abundance of American chestnut in this forest. We will see numerous logs and stumps, one of which measures 11.5 feet in diameter. There are also a few small chestnut stump sprouts along the way.

This is an in and back hike. The turnaround point is Ramsay Cascades, a beautiful cascading waterfall at the junction of the hardwoods forest and the spruce/fir forest at about 4,300 feet elevation. There are lots of big rocks at the base of the falls and this makes a good place to rest and eat lunch. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the world's center for biodiversity of salamanders and these are common in the pools at the base of the falls.

The hike is generally considered moderately strenuous and should be manageable by a person in average physical condition.

Directions:

From Gatlinburg, take US 321 north at stoplight 3. Go about 6 miles to the Greenbriar area. Look for the inconspicuous Greenbriar sign just before the bridge over the Little Pigeon River. Turn right into the park. Go about 3 miles. Where the road forks, take the left road over the bridge. Drive to the parking lot at the end of the road.

The hike goes rain or shine.



Volunteer Opportunity!

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

We want to give a big thanks to
all of our volunteers, and a spe-
cial thanks to
Michelle Pfeffer, who was a
frequent volunteer during the
summer of 2003.



RESPECT
THE EARTH
...RECYCLE!

Global Warming and Environmental Activism: Truth or Fiction?

A Review of

T.C. Boyle's *A Friend of the Earth*
Penguin, 2000; 349 pp.; ISBN 0-14-100205-0

By Josie McQuail

Continued from Page 7

mans are not dealt with kindly by nature or its representatives here. Ty's first wife and mother of his daughter, Jane, dies while they are in the wilderness, because of an allergic reaction to a bee sting. Philip Ratchiss, who loans Ty, his second wife Andrea and his daughter Sierra a cabin that they live in as a means of hiding Ty, a wanted man for his environmental activism and defiance of the law, tells a ludicrous story of visiting Yosemite as a child and watching as his father and other tourists began feeding and snapping photos of bears. In this case, a bear rips apart his baby sister after their father places her behind the bear's back for a special picture. No wonder the grown man later likes to go on safari and kill wild animals.

Rather than betraying an inconsistency in nature as something to be valued, perhaps we can take this portrayal of nature as a warning of its power. Also, the senselessness of nature in terms of human values makes Ty a kind of existential hero trying to survive in a world over which he has no control. Scenes of both destruction and salvation of nature reach an almost Biblical proportion here. Of course, there are elements of the story of Noah's Ark in Ty's story, but God is left out. Ty in his later years (in terms of the novel, he is old, but not "old, old") has decided to dedicate himself to trying to save the pathetic remnants of wild animals, most of which are extinct.

Now the elephants are gone, and the forest too-- Ceylon, last I heard, was 100 percent deforested, a desert of unemployable mahouts and third generation twig-gatherers. Uncle Sol had it easy -- all he had to do was go out into the wilderness and catch things, and it was a deep wilderness, a jungle full of sights unseen and sounds unheard, raffalii and dorango in the trees, chevrotains, tapirs and yes, pangolins poking through the leaves. It's a little different for me and Chuy. There is no wilderness, and there's nothing left to catch, except maybe rats. Our job, as it turns out on this very wet sixth-consecutive day of rain, is to subdue a menagerie of disgruntled, penned-up and reeking animals named after flowers and escort them to higher ground. (101)

He is given this opportunity through an eccentric rock star named Mac, or Maclovio Pulchris, who, in Michael Jackson-ish fashion, collects a menagerie of creatures, including a lion, a hyena, a Patagonian fox. As the waters mount from the various inundations of rain, the animals must be taken to higher ground. This works for a while (with one close call with a hyena, Lily, escaping), until Mac is killed by an escaped lion. Pointedly, there are many ironies here, since Mac had turned away an "old, old" man who was brought to his door by a caring neighbor cold, wet, soaked through by the torrential rains. Cold-heartedly, Mac and Ty turn him away, citing fear of mucosa. Animals are more important than people here, as perhaps they were in the Biblical story of Noah. But Mac and Ty are hardly "saved," as the empty ritual of Christmas which occurs at the same time the old man is turned away, points out. Nor are the animals, with the exception of Petunia, the Patagonian fox which Ty and Andrea leave with, returning to Ratchiss' cabin in the Sierra Nevadas.

Portrayal of an Activist

What about Ty as a representative of the environmental movement? Certainly, he seems cut in the mold of Hayduke from the Monkey Wrench Gang, though perhaps more intellectual (but not a writer, though when hiding out he pretends to be one). Earth Forever!, the name of the environmental group with which both Andrea and Ty are associated, is an obvious reference to Earth First!, and many of the protests that are staged by the family resemble actual ones. The most obvious is Sierra's tree sit, clearly modeled on Julia Butterfly. Sierra, though, senselessly dies in an accidental fall from the tree. Sierra seems to be the only one sentimentally intended to be an "ideal" environmental activist. As a youth she perhaps represents the potential of the younger generation, but this potential is obviously dashed in her case. Boyle's description is interesting as a portrayal of a "real" environmental activist, and makes us wonder how history will perceive activists.

On Ty's part, however, the fanatic shines through. There is an impatience for the bureaucracy of Earth Forever! (and here the supposed radical group is meant to resemble more the Sierra Club than the renegade environmental collective of EF!). Like Hayduke, Ty participates in some less than sensible actions, notably one where he sabotages construction machinery, starting a fire that rages out of control (though this doesn't bother Ty). He loses custody of Sierra to a foster home because he escapes from a hospital after his arrest for one of their first actions, and, as Andrea points out, here he made a stupid mistake and made things worse for himself than they had to be.

However, the action itself was not a mistake. Perhaps taking Sierra along was, but not the action itself. And the depiction of what happens to Ty and the others at the hands of logging industry lackies (as well as the tree sitters' treatment by loggers) is a chilling description of an all too common reality. They have cemented their feet into buckets at a logging site, and a logging worker in a bulldozer comes at them as if to run them over:

The four of them [were] shouting till the veins stand out in their necks, Andrea and Teo waving their arms over their heads, the sweat of fear and mortal tension prickling at their scalps and private places, and that's exactly what the man on the Cat wants. He knows perfectly well what's going on here -- they all do by now, from the supervisors down to the surveying crews-- and his object is intimidation, pure and simple. All those gleaming, pumping tons of steel in motion, the big tractor treads burning up the road and the noise of the thing, still coming at them at full-speed, and Tierwater can't see the eyes of the lunatic at the controls -- shades, he's wearing mirror shades that give him an evil insectoid look, no mercy, no appeal -- and suddenly he's outraged, ready to kill: this is one sick game. At the last conceivable moment, a raw-knuckled hand jerks back a lever and the thing rears like a horse and swivels away from them with a kind of mechanized grace he wouldn't have believed possible. (44)

The maliciousness doesn't stop there, for eventually they deliberately break Ty's foot while removing it from the concrete, which is why he's in the hospital.

However, the portrayal of Ty as potentially an out of control fanatic is unsettling, especially when the current government is issuing warnings against environmentalists as "potential domestic terrorists." We should be concerned about popular portrayals of environmentalists and activists for this reason, whether they are real life or fictional.

Is the portrayal of Ty misdirected, and is the novel really so cynical? In his introduction to the book *Eco-Warriors: Understanding the Radical Environmental Movement*, David Brower could be perceived as similarly cynical:

More than a quarter-century ago I wrote, "We still need conservationists who will attempt the impossible, achieving it because they aren't aware of how impossible it is." Today, some people within the environmental movement possess a firm grasp of the impossibility of their task yet they persevere. They are the conscience of the movement, although some people who are silent as they watch environmental destruction prefer to label them as environmental "radicals." An ecological reading of recent history, however, shows that the truly radical actions are perpetuated by those who have given us acid rain, the greenhouse effect, decimation of species, and who pillage ancient forest, mountain, and ocean treasures without considering their incalculable damage to the Earth and the future. (ix)

The "bad guys" in Boyle's novel are clearly those who put the almighty dollar before other concerns, and what the outcome in 2025 is obvious. For anyone who thinks that the cruelty of the portrayal of those who are anti-environmentalist is exaggerated, think of Judi Bari and Darryl Cheney, activists behind the 1989 Redwood summer (a drive to mobilize defense of old-growth redwoods in California), who, after their car blew up under them in Oakland one day, were accused of themselves transporting explosives, which (according to the FBI), led to the blast which severely wounded Judy. This, in spite of evidence that pointed to the timber industry itself. When environmentalists are discredited de facto, it's easy to frame them.

Rik Scarce, author of *Eco-Warriors*, talks about the kind of action Sierra, Ty's daughter, did:

Danger is present at any tree sit. Angry loggers have cut nearby trees so that they crash onto sitter's perches, and trees have actually been cut from beneath activists, in some cases causing severe and even permanent injury. Although it would seem that such acts would be worthy of criminal investigation on suspicion of assault, attempted murder, or even violating sitters' rights to exercise their First Amendment liberties to free speech, no charges have ever been filed against loggers. (174)

Climber Deke, Sierra's nemesis, the logger that chases her up the tree, threatens and curses her, has a real life counterpart, climber Dan. We met him in the horrifying film Don Richardson brought to the chapter meeting at Cedars of Lebanon Jan. 2003. That was the same film where police spread pepper gas directly into

the eyes of protesters against logging with their fingers. Truth is stranger than fiction.

Carl Pope gave a speech a couple of years ago in which his main point was "We will save the earth with a flawed environmental movement." Last time I checked, we were all still human. So Ty may be flawed, but he means well and at least he puts up a struggle against the powers that be and seemingly inevitable fate. David Brower's point about the impossible is well taken, too. It may seem impossible, it may be impossible, but one must still fight to preserve the environment. If we did not fight, then what? When the government is trying to do away with the ability of the public to comment on adverse environmental decisions and more as in "The Healthy Forest Act," it is our duty to stand up.

At the same time, we must celebrate our victories (as Carl Pope also said in the aftermath of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge win). I think that Boyle doesn't convey in his novel what amazing strides were made by the environmental movement in the 1980s and 1990s, though in discussing Sierra the positive result of her action is conveyed.

Sierra set the record. Set it anew each day, like Kafka's hunger artist, but, unlike the deluded artist, she had an audience. A real and ever-growing audience, an audience that made pilgrimages to the shrine of her tree, sent her as many as a thousand letters a week, erected statues to her, composed poems and song lyrics, locked arms and marched in her name till Axxam showed black through to the core. In all, she spent just over three years aloft, above the fray . . . (331).

In "real" life, in the 1980s and 90s a new generation of young activists was mobilized, and there was great public outcry against old growth logging and clearcutting, largely because of the organizing talents of Judi Bari (a former labor organizer) generated by Redwood Summer. Perhaps the final answer about Ty's character is conveyed by Sierra, who says, "I think you're a hero" (263). But, too many of us now are old (if not "old, old") and we need to find a way of inspiring a younger generation, as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and its founder Ingrid Newkirk has done (see the April 14 edition of the *New Yorker*). Sierra dies in *A Friend of the Earth*, and Boyle shows no member of the younger generation stepping forward to take her place. His novel is likely to be more appealing to the baby boomers than the "X" generation (if that's what they're still called). We need to recruit younger members and find issues that appeal to the current generation. This may not even be possible anymore through books or printed media (and ironically Boyle's book ends with a tribute to Sierra being published with a book about her). PETA exploits its Web site to appeal to younger people with great success. The Environmental Movement needs to adapt, or like the pitiful animals in Boyle's novel, it may suffer extinction.

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