

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 35, Number 10 - October, 2004

What a Waste!

Part I: The Need for a Bottle Bill in Tennessee

By James H. Baker
Chair, Chapter Bottle Bill Committee

A two-week dry spell is broken by a strong afternoon thunderstorm. Several hours after the storm, I stood beside a bridge and watched intently. Soon, I saw them; first one, then two, then many more appear. A large flotilla of empty beverage containers and other litter were soon bobbing and weaving their way downstream towards their ultimate destination, the Gulf of Mexico.

What I am describing is not unique to Memphis by any means. An observer beside a bridge in every city in the United States would see much the same. However, in the cities of eleven states, that flotilla is undoubtedly much smaller. The reason; the legislators in those states stood up to politically powerful opponents and enacted container deposit legislation, better known as a "bottle bill". That legislation removes many more beverage containers from the litter stream than voluntary curbside recycling can ever do.

When one goes to the two web sites; <http://www.bottle-bill.org/>, and <http://www.container-recycling.org/>, there is much information concerning the amount of litter and the reasons why many states, as well as the nation, does not have a bottle bill. Let us answer a few questions.

• Does the public support a bottle bill?

The answer is a resounding "yes". As stated on the Container Recycling Institute's web-site, in February 2004, a poll was commissioned by the Environmental Advocates of New York (EANY) and developed in conjunction with the Container Recycling Institute (CRI), the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPiRG). Currently, New York State has a bottle bill. The poll was to gauge public response to reforms proposed in New York's "Bigger, Better Bottle Bill". One of those reforms was to add container deposits to non-carbonated beverages, a class of beverage that has exploded in popularity in the last 15 years.

- Several key findings of this poll were:
 - ✓ 84% of New York voters support the current bottle-deposit law.
 - ✓ 70% support expansion of the law to include non-carbonated beverages.

In the above four groups' press release, Jeffrey D. Padden, the president of Public Policy Associates-the Company that conducted the poll stated, "Support for these measures is robust across all the measured subgroups. Women and men, Republicans, Democrats and Independents, young and old, people of all races, ethnic backgrounds, and income levels, from across the state, strongly support the current law and these proposed reforms."

As stated in CRI's "Bottle Bill Toolkit" on page 23, a national poll, conducted in 1983 by Peter D. Hart,

found that public support for a bottle bill was 70-76%. Another poll, conducted in 1998 by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, found that 85% of Iowa's residents wanted to keep the bottle bill and 74% wanted it expanded to include non-carbonated beverages.



Above: There are seven recyclable beverage containers among the other litter on this storm drain grate. Photo by James Baker

• What are the benefits to public health?

In the October 1986 issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*, a group of doctors at the Children's Hospital in Boston studied the effect of the Massachusetts legislation requiring deposits for beverage containers on the incidence of lacerations in urban children 18 years and younger. The doctors wrote, "...lacerations and abrasions account for up to one-half of all childhood non-intentional injuries. Various environmental agents, both natural and man-made, contribute to this type of injury. One of the most common of these is broken glass..." The doctors reviewed medical records for both the "pre-legislation" and the "immediate post-legislation period". The incidence of total sutured lacerations did not change substantially after the legislation, but glass-related lacerations fell by 60 percent, due to a reduced incidence in lacerations occurring outside of the home. The complete article is available in CRI's "Bottle Bill Toolkit" on page 16.

• What are the facts about beverage container wasting and replacement?

Here are some startling facts by Jenny Gitlitz, who is the Research Director of the Container Recycling Institute and the author of the report, *Trashed Cans: The Global Environmental Impacts of Aluminum Can Wasting in America*. The full report is available on CRI's web-site.

- Since the first Earth Day in 1970, OVER 2.3 TRILLION beverage containers have been have been wasted (landfilled, littered or incinerated) in the United States. That includes:

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Who Pays the Costs of Growth?

You'd be outraged if the government made you send money to help wealthy developers build their next community. Yet, in effect, that's what's happening.

By Carl Leathers

In the early 1970s, some citizens and elected officials were just starting to ask the question in the San Diego region, "Does population growth cost money?" At that time, a clear majority of elected officials held the strong belief that not only did growth not cost money, it added to the tax base and therefore created an additional income source over and above any costs that it created.

Population growth was encouraged as a source of revenue that would pay for itself, add money to government coffers, and improve the quality of life for existing residents.

Local politicians in the seventies had a significant advantage not held by those in local office today. At that time, each city council could annually set its own property tax rate. This meant that local budgets were easy to balance: once the annual budget had been agreed to by the city council, they simply had to multiply the existing property tax rate by the assessed valuation within the city to determine the income that would be generated that year. If the budget required more dollars to be balanced, it was simply a matter of adjusting the tax rate upward to generate the necessary income.

Generally, from the time of World War II into the early seventies, it was seldom necessary to increase the tax rate by much to "balance the local budget." This was true largely because inflation continued to increase the assessed valuation of land and buildings by more than enough to generate the needed income.

It is important to understand this history for two reasons. First, it created a mind set that population growth was good because it more than "paid for itself." Second, because growth never really has paid for itself, it led to a major taxpayer revolt that resulted in Proposition 13, passed by the voters of the State of California in 1978, that limited property tax increases.

Taxpayer Revolution

How and why did this happen? As population growth continued to increase dramatically in California after WWII, and as politicians continued to claim they were being fiscally conservative by not increasing the tax rate, reality set in and the truth surfaced. Ever-increasing population required ever-increasing local budgets for both capital improvements (streets, storm drains, police and fire stations, schools, parks, libraries, etc.) and for maintenance and operation expenses to manage and provide these city and school services. As a result, the existing taxpayers were required to pay ever-increasing property taxes with each passing year.

Some home owners who were retired and living on fixed incomes in this unsustainable fast-growth

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Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter of the
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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.

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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November 2nd



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Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed

Who Pays the Costs of Growth?

By Carl Leathers

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paradigm found that, after paying for their property and paying taxes for years, they were now literally being taxed out of their homes. Others were just beginning to wake up to fact that their property taxes were ever-increasing at the same time services were declining. Schools were overcrowded, traffic was becoming more congested, crime rates were increasing, air quality was decreasing, and in general the quality of life was declining.

These facts, along with the apartment owners of California who saw a quick way to improve their earnings by cutting their property taxes, helped to create the Taxpayers Revolution more than a quarter of a century ago. This caused the passage of Proposition 13, which reduced the property tax rate and set a fixed percentage for annual increases, effectively stopping the politicians from continuing to subsidize population at the expense of the property taxpayers.

Impact Fees Set - but Too Low

Prior to this property tax revolution, there were some informed citizens and elected leaders who recognized the simple truth of what was actually occurring and recommended that other sources of income be developed to reduce the demand on ever-increasing property taxes. The primary suggestions were to establish a relationship between the costs of capital improvements required by new population growth and the increase in population.

Clearly, if a city or school district did not increase its population it would not need to construct new police and fire stations, new libraries, parks, schools, roads, etc. And, to the contrary, if it did increase its population and if the quality of life of its residents as defined by the services provided were to be maintained, then new public facilities would need to be built, maintained and operated.

Because property tax increases were cut substantially, new sources of income had to be found if population growth was to continue and if services were to be maintained at acceptable levels. This caused politicians to implement what we now call "development impact fees," or "developer fees" for short. Most elected leaders were still not happy with the need to impose new fees on developers. But without the ability to rely on ever-increasing property taxes to subsidize population growth, they would have faced an angry public as more and more development was approved and services continued to decline.

At first, the new development impact fees were set arbitrarily lower than needed to provide the actual capital improvements, with the hope that some new income could be found from the state or federal sources. But they could never find enough. Over time, these new fees were increased in every community in the state. In San Diego County, for example, the average development impact fee was less than five thousand dollars in the early eighties; today, it has been increased to twenty thousand dollars, on average, for a standard tract house. But it is still not linked to the real costs of growth.

Lack of Political Will

We have a majority of elected officials today who have the responsibility to set proper development impact fees and who yet are unwilling to make growth pay for itself. They are still "robbing from Peter to pay Paul" when it comes to forcing existing residents and taxpayers to subsidize more growth.

This can be seen in the traffic congestion on our streets, roads, and freeways. It can be seen in overcrowded classrooms and makeshift trailers that our children are forced to use as classrooms. It is clear our water quality and air quality are not being main-

tained. These and other quality-of-life indicators tell us intuitively that population growth is still not being made to pay for itself.

Existing taxpayers and residents are being forced to subsidize it by having our taxes diverted to pay for capital improvements needed by new population growth, by environmental degradation, and by having our quality of life decreased.

What to Do?

What should we demand, as existing residents and taxpayers, to fix the problem? First, we need to determine the level of services we now have. Even if the level of the existing service is not as good as we might desire, we still need to clearly measure where we are today. This needs to be in quantitative terms of: number of police per capita and response time per incident, fire fighters per capita and response time, library books/internet access per capita, acreage of park land per capita, open space acreage per capita, etc.

It is important to know this starting point because there have been numerous "mistakes of the past" made by self-serving politicians who set public policy to the detriment of taxpayers and residents and to the advantage of development interests. This still continues today, but we are the voters who have elected the wrong leaders and allowed them to make the mistakes. We should only expect new population growth to pay for the level of service we currently have. We should not expect new population growth to pay for our mistakes.

Second, we need to elect local leaders who are not tied to the development industry. As long as the building industry controls a majority of positions on our boards and city councils, they will continue to make laws and policy to the benefit of developers and to the detriment of taxpayers. After all, they look to taxpayers to subsidize their projects by having their elected leaders set policies that cause our taxes to be used to build the new facilities needed by new population growth, not by existing residents.

At least, we should expect our elected leaders - or new ones, if the current ones cannot be convinced to change their ways - to develop new public policy (and laws to implement that new policy) that will make new population growth pay its full fair share of all new public improvements to at least match the standards we have today. This should be quantified, as noted above.

One Good Example

In 1988, the voters of Escondido changed to a slow-growth majority that made population growth pay its fair share. Up until that time, a pro-population-growth city council majority of just three people ran roughshod over unorganized residents by approving development after development with inadequate development impact fees and unmitigated environmental impacts.

The new city council majority, much to the dislike of development interests, instructed its city manager (and thus its planning staff) to determine what quality-of-life standards the city should consider when setting new development impact fee levels. It also asked the staff to quantify the existing standards. With this accomplished, the council revised its General Plan and included these new Quality Of Life Standards as part of the updated General Plan. Once the standards were quantified, it was possible to determine the amount of money each new building permit would cost if new population growth were to pay its fair share. That was implemented more

than ten years ago in Escondido.

Subsequently, the council has changed again, and development interests have eroded some of the standards. The lesson to be learned is that if responsible growth interests want to make progress, they need to take the power away from the elected officials who become biased by developer influence and reserve it for the voters of a given city and/or county. The initiative process can do this.

Once an initiative is passed that requires any increases in land use intensity or decreases in development impact fees to be finally approved by a vote of the people, we will appropriately reduce developer influence on our elected leaders.

What about Regional Impacts?

In addition to city-based development impact fees that have been in existence for the past twenty plus years, we have yet to collect one dollar of impact fees for regional capital improvements generated by growth. For example, when housing tracts are approved in Carlsbad, Oceanside, Escondido, or San Diego, local development impact fees are collected by that particular city for some portion of local needs. However, no funding is collected to pay for necessary new freeway capacity, public transit, or regional road improvements.

It is no accident that traffic on regional systems keeps rising. The Regional Transportation Plan forecasts a \$12 billion shortfall for a plan that will still have us stuck in traffic and without adequate transit alternatives. Not only does growth not pay for the transportation infrastructure needed to absorb its impacts, but city councils repeatedly vote to allow projects to go in without reducing those impacts.

Make Growth Pay its Fair Share

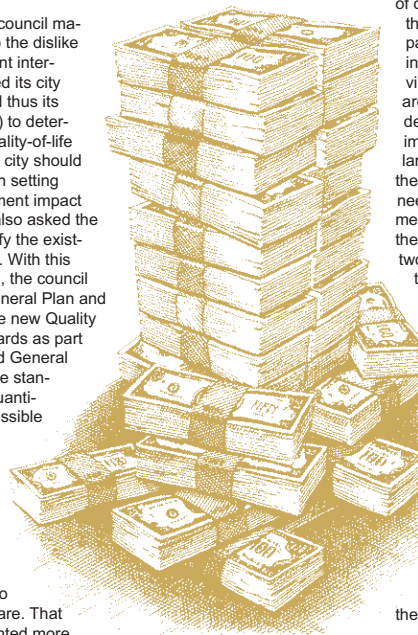
It is past time that we quit making the same mistakes of the past and get on with making population growth pay its fair share - for local capital improvements and regional capital improvements. Some regions in California are already doing this. Otherwise, we are just digging a deeper hole to climb out of by continuing to issue building permits without collecting regional development impact fees.

How much worse do our regional roads, freeways, and almost non-existing public transit have to get before we demand new public policy and laws that require new population growth to pay its fair share?

It Adds up

No public agency currently measures the cumulative impact of countless housing developments, strip commercial developments, or industrial developments as the individually and collectively impact our streets, roads, freeways and expose our needs for mass transit. No one requires an Environmental Impact Report to measure the cumulative impact of countless development approved by the approximate 28 incorporate municipalities and six counties (seven if we included Davidson County) in the Nashville Davidson County SMSA. If we are to set proper impact fees, we must demand measures of the cumulative impact of developments. The Cumberland Region Tomorrow organization and the Greater Nashville Regional Authority need to be restructured or replaced by a meaningful official body that will address the true costs of run-away growth. The two organizations now in place are important and meaningless ploys of business and government interests.

The history of local leadership is one of developer dominated local governments. The tax rate struggles of recent years will be mild compared to the urban sprawl revolt of the next two decades is existing taxpayer are going to not only see one-valued open space destroyed, but also be expected to help subsidize the development interest that pave it over. The philosophy of the cancer cell is a dead end.



Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, October 12, 7:30 p.m.
Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. For those of use who love wild places and a clean healthy environment, the stakes in the 2004 elections could not be higher. In keeping with that vein, our October program will be a political forum featuring local candidates for public office. The forum will be moderated by the League of Women Voters. This will be your chance to question the candidates about their views on environmental issues. Come on out and bring a friend or two. Call 577-6226 for more information

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday October 26, 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, (October 14) at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Renowned State Naturalist MACK PRICHARD will present "A National Perspective on the Environment," focusing primarily on our state parks and utilizing his own slides from his "America the Beautiful" program. Please join us for a rewarding and educational evening as Mack's images remind us of the majesty of our natural environment and how much is at stake in the November election. Light refreshments will be served; please feel free to bring your favorite reusable cup. For more information on this program, contact Shelli Dimarco at globalpeace04@hotmail.com or leave a message at (615) 260-0030. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) Everyone is always welcome!

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, (October 27) 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 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.

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)

OCTOBER PROGRAM: 10/28 Jeffrey Hunter of the American Hiking Society and the Southeastern Foottrails Coalition will give us an update on the progress being made on linking together of some of the great long trails of the south, and if we're lucky he may even share some pictures of his trip to South America. Jeffrey's program begins at 7:00 PM...as always the executive committee meets to plan strategy at 5:30 and everyone is welcome to attend. The program takes place on the fourth Thursday of each month at Greenway Farms off Hamill Road in Hixson.

NOVEMBER PREVIEW
11/7 (Sunday) Walkin' Jim Concert
11/13 (Saturday) Laurel-Snow Hike

If you have any questions or need further information please contact Chris O'Connor at 867-4957 or e-mail at chris_o77@yahoo.com

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, October 7, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "FIRST THURSDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston <jdjhstn@memphis.edu> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING: Sunday, October 10, 2004, 1:00 to 3:00 PM - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join James Baker, the Conservation Chair in a casual setting to discuss conservation issues and interests that affect the Chickasaw Group. Contact James Baker at (901) 372-6717 or aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, October 11, 6:30 p.m. - WKNO Conference Room, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Charlie Rond <chasrond@bellsouth.net> (by October 8 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150 for more information.

THIRD TUESDAY GATHERING: Tuesday, October 19, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Café Francisco, 400 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "THIRD TUESDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston <jdjhstn@memphis.edu> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY: Saturday, October 23, 2004, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Tim McCarver Stadium. Have you been stockpiling various household materials (paint, paint thinner, old batteries, used motor oil and antifreeze, old lawn care chemicals, outdated electronic items, etc.) because you did not have a place to dispose of them? Here is your chance to have them disposed of in proper fashion, for free. This event is limited to Shelby County residents. For more information about the event and what can be accepted, please contact the Shelby County Environmental Improvement Commission at (901) 379-7020.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, October 27, 2004 - 6:00 p.m. - Memphis and Shelby County Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. Chickasaw Group Chair Charlie Rond will show on the World Wide Web funding sources for both the Republican and Democratic Parties and their various alliances, both overt and covert. Refreshments will be served. (NOTE: The program will begin at 6:00 pm tonight.) Contact Teri Sullivan <tsullivan5@midssouth.rr.com> at (901) 320-7191 for more information.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: Every Monday at 1:30pm, Tuesday at 4:00pm and Wednesday at 11:30am, CST, The Library Channel, Memphis Cable 18, WYPL, "The Nature of Conservation" is sponsored by the Sierra Club. In September host Judith Rutschman interviews Bob Benson of Ducks Unlimited on "What's up with Bats." Benson will present bat myths and facts, bat diversity, benefits of bats, and needs for conservation, as well as tell us about Bat Conservation International initiatives and projects. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the month. If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman <RUTSCHMAN@rhodes.edu> at (901) 767-5916.

Sign on to Save Our Smokies!

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

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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!

Tennessee Chapter Fall Quarterly Meeting

FAMILY FUN WEEKEND October 22-24, 2004

Pickett State Park Group Lodge

Visit <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/parks/Pickett/> for directions

FEATURING:

FRIDAY EVENING: October 22nd Eco-Theater - showing of Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11"

SATURDAY: October 23rd - Two Birdwalks (short one from 7-7:45 a.m., and longer one 9-11:30 a.m.)

Bring binoculars and wear comfortable shoes Saturday, October 23rd - weather permitting, a walk around and to the Gentleman's Swimming Hole in nearby Rugby, TN; if rainy or too cool, a walk through Rugby with possible Saturday lunch at Rugby's Harrow Cafe. Reservations recommended. Contact Josie McQuail if interested at jmcquail@tntech.edu or at (931)372-6207 (work).

SATURDAY EVENING: Showing of Jeff Barrie's documentary film "Kilowatt Ours" with the filmmaker present; our semi-annual Silent Auction to raise money to fund our lobbyist in Nashville. HIKES anytime in beautiful Pickett State Park!

ALL THIS FOR ONLY \$30.00!!! - Children \$15.00

(includes Saturday & Sunday breakfasts, and Saturday dinner - bring bedding & towels)

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW! Contact Peggy Evans and reserve your spot: <maevans@twlakes.net> or (931)432-6680 or cut this coupon out and mail to Peggy at 1615 Dellwood Ave.- Cookeville TN 38506-4146

DEADLINE OCTOBER 15TH!!!

NAME(S) of those attending: _____
NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING: _____
VEGETARIAN OR OMNIVORE? _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Help S.O.C.M. Pass Protective Law Aerial Spraying Threatens People, Plans And Animals

Murray Hudson,
Head, Aerial Spraying Committee,
Save Our Cumberland Mountains (S.O.C.M.)

As a Sierra Club member for much of my adult life, I have worked to protect and conserve our natural heritage. As a sixth generation West Tennessee farmer I reluctantly did all chemical applications on 1200 acres of row crops for a dozen years. The only time I used Malathion (for grasshopper infestation) the hose burst dousing me with the watered down chemical. I felt like I might choke to death before I washed the chemical off.

When the Boll Weevil Eradication Program (BWEP) began in Northwest Tennessee July 1, 2000, and many of my neighbors reacted with nausea, dizziness, skin rashes and respiratory problems, I learned BWEP was using 96% straight malathion. They claimed it was harmless, but I knew from personal experience and reading symptoms on the chemical label that it was not safe.

I learned that people on the Cumberland Plateau and other areas of Tennessee, people living near clear cutting and pine plantations were also being sickened by chemical drift from aerial spraying. A grassroots organization, Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM) was organizing to help protect these affected people. So our local group joined forces with SOCM to see what Tennessee and other states did to protect their citizens from aerial drift.

Tennessee has the least possible regulations. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture simply "enforces the label". Other agricultural states have notification before spraying, posting of fields, registration of sensitive people, permits, and buffer zones around homes and public buildings (schools, day care centers, hospitals, nursing homes, etc.). North Carolina legislated buffer zones nearly 20 years ago, as did Alabama and Louisiana (among southern states). These protective zones have decreased complaints without adversely affecting farming, according to these states Departments of Agriculture.

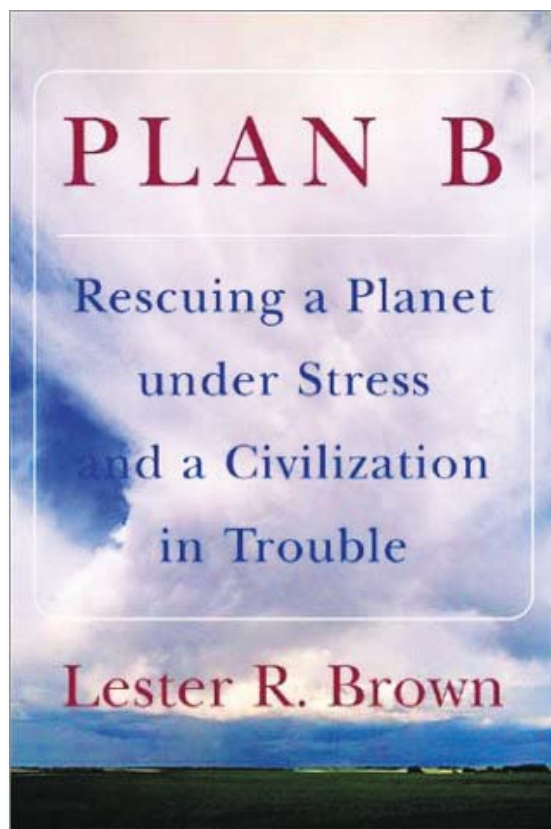
Continued on Page 12

The Defenders of Tennessee

is a Sierra Club program that was formed for the purpose of funding our own lobbyist in the Tennessee Legislature. For the past 6 years, our lobbying efforts have paid off in getting good legislation passed and bad legislation stopped.

One of the ways we fund this program is through a silent auction at our Fall Meeting (see above ad).

We need your donations of new, or good old things, such as crafts, outdoor equipment, gift certificates, plants, books, handmade items, homemade jam, home brews, etc. If you are not able to attend the meeting but want to help, please contact someone you know who is going, or call your local chair listed on page 2 of this newsletter to arrange for someone else to take your donations to the meeting. AND, if you are coming to the meeting, don't forget to bring money to buy all the good stuff!



Plan B: Rescuing a Planet under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble

A Book Review by Richard Simmers

Plan B: Rescuing a Planet under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble

Lester R. Brown, 2003. W.W. Norton & Co., New York, N.Y and London.

Paperback, 285 pp. ISBN 0-393-32523-7.

This important book discusses many of our existing world problems from a semi-ecological point of view and proposes solutions. Much of the book is about existing or developing shortages of fresh water, food production,

and the connections between these; also about the need to stabilize world population quickly (many European countries and Japan have stable or falling populations). Biodiversity and water pollution issues were deliberately omitted, so as to shorten the book. Brown states that we have a "bubble" economy based on over-consumption of the earth's resources; the challenge is to move quickly to a sustainable, ecologically sound economy. Global warming, CO2 emissions, disease epidemics (as AIDS), rising sea levels, raising productivity of the land, soil erosion are some other subjects discussed. Loss of cropland to "development" (suburban sprawl, roads, etc. are built preferentially on farmland) is one of the important themes in this book. (We cannot afford to lose much more of our good TN farmland; this is why on the recent Corridor J questionnaire, I responded by preferring the "no-build" option. And I would oppose any more SR-840 construction for similar reasons. You must have noticed industrial development along highways, as along I-40 west of Lebanon recently. I did not move to Tennessee in order to participate in an industrial boom; I wished to escape overcrowding in the Northeast and live

in the countryside, away from hordes of noisy polluting Americans with their big SUV's, power lawnmowers, pesticides, cell phones [see The Ecologist, Vol. 34, no. 5] and other modern plagues. Of course, there is still plenty of noise from low-flying aircraft, un-muffled vehicles, sirens and so forth, but not too much or too close usually.)

Some interesting observations in this book include the opening paragraph of Ch. 9, regarding the Kyoto Protocol being too cautious; coal (on p. 152) is referred to as a "19th century fuel" by Ontario (guess where that puts TN). On p. 209, a sea level rise of only one meter would force over 40 million Bangladesh people to move; also, there is here a recognition that live trees in forests are more valuable for controlling floods than as lumber! (Now if only more American leaders and doubledomes recognized this, plus, of course, trees' oxygen-renewal and

Continued on Page 9

Tennessee Conservation Voters Releases 2004 Legislative Scorecard

The performance of the Tennessee Legislature on environmental issues is the subject of Tennessee Conservation Voters annual legislative scorecard. Because of the importance of the Legislature in making laws concerning the Tennessee environment, the Tennessee Conservation Voters has published a slightly abbreviated version of the TCV entire scorecard and is available for your viewing on page to your right.



Ideally the scorecard should be based on recorded votes by legislators. Since there are very few recorded votes in Tennessee's legislature, several other indices of environmental support are also used. The complete scorecard and other information about Tennessee Conservation Voters is available at tn-conservationvoters.org.

Earn Big Money for the Sierra Club!

Recycle Your Inkjet & Laser Printer Cartridges

Did you know that some groups claiming to recycle your ink and toner cartridges are actually just throwing them away?

Well, now there's a free and easy way to recycle your ink and toner cartridges with confidence while earning big bucks for the Sierra Club.

This easy program is operated by Better Futures, a local student group that sends out inkjet and toner cartridge collection materials for free. From small, postage-paid inkjet mailers to larger toner collection boxes that are picked up right at your door,



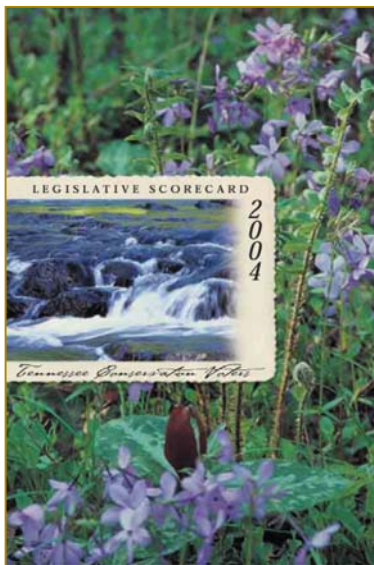
recycling couldn't be easier. In addition, every cartridge sent in helps the Sierra Club earn money.

And those concerned that mailing recycleables will cause extra waste will be happy to know that even the used, plastic mailers will be recycled into waterproof decking material.

If you, your business, or your school would like to help support the Sierra Club by recycling your ink and toner cartridges, here is how you can get set up:

1. **Order.** Call 877-INK-ABCS (1-877-465-2227), or email Recycle@BetterFutures.org, and give them your name and address. Make sure you tell them that you wish to support the Tennessee Sierra Club.
2. **Recycle.** Postage is paid. Just drop cartridges in the mail.
3. **Replenish.** Be sure to purchase recycled inkjet and toner cartridges to help save the environment. The same student group offers hundreds of recycled ink and toner cartridges. Call 1-877-465-2227 or email Jennie@betterfutures.org to order.

Do environmental work, and earn money for your favorite environmental organization!
It's simple; it's easy, and it makes a big difference!





Definitions:

- Sponsorship: a legislator agreed to put his/her name on a bill or amendment as the key promoter/supporter. This means that they are in favor of the bill. +1 or -1 depending on whether the bill was pro- or anti-environment.
- Working for/against a bill: a legislator actively worked to convince other legislators to vote for/against the bill and may have even solicited outside testimony. +1 if the bill was pro-environment; -1 if the bill was anti-environment.
- Taken off notice: a bill was removed from active consideration by a committee, usually as a result of lack of enough support to succeed.
- Public Chapter: official law of the state.

Scoring System:

Voting: actions for a pro-environment bill or against an anti-environment bill earn +1. Actions voted for an anti-environment bill or against a pro-environment bill, earn a -1. The numbers in the columns "Positive Environmental Actions" and "Negative Environmental Actions" refer to the numbers we have used to symbolize the bills in the bill description, which is the third section of the scorecard. Therefore, in order to note which bills your legislator had the chance to vote on, you must simply find the bills that are represented by the numbers in his/her columns. Some bills are shown in a legislator's column more than once, indicating that he/she committed multiple actions on this bill by either voting, sponsoring, and/or working actively for or against this bill.

Legislators with a net score of 2 were awarded a tree  for every 2 positive actions. Legislators with a net score of -2 were given a tree stump  for every 2 negative actions.

*NOTE: Because many of the legislators were not on committees that considered environmental bills, the opportunities for getting positive or negative points varied. Some legislators had the opportunity to accumulate points on as many as 7 bills, while others only had 1 or 2 chances.

The next section lists each legislator and a summary of his/her environmental actions. The last section describes the legislation that was the basis for the Score-

Index of Actions

1. TN Commercial Aerial & Ground Spraying Protection Act (SB810/HB1222). Bill would have ensured that farming with insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides was done in a safer manner. It establishes examination and certification requirements for people applying for commercial application licenses, requires record keeping and notification prior to spraying. Sponsors: S: Jerry Cooper, Ward Crutchfield; H: Mike Turner, Sherry Jones, Kathryn Bowers, Beth Harwell, Joey Hensley. *Positive points for sponsorship only.*

ing was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Deferred to "special committee" of Agriculture committee for research. Sponsors: S: Jerry Cooper, Ward Crutchfield; H: Mike Turner, Sherry Jones, Kathryn Bowers, Beth Harwell, Joey Hensley. *Positive points for sponsorship only.*

2. TN Forest Resources Conservation Act of 2003 (SB934/HB1159). Bill would have required the registration, re-registration and/or permitting of chip mill operators, log staging operations, logging operations, chip transfer facilities, or log loading operations greater than 50,000 tons/year. It also required TDEC to issue a forest resources report on the impact of the facilities on tourism, resources and public health. Public notification of these facilities was also required. Sponsoring was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Taken off notice. Sponsors: S: David Fowler; Douglas Henry; H: Mike McDonald, Russell Johnson, Mike Kernell, Bob Patton, Mike Turner, George Fraley, Joe Armstrong. *Positive points for sponsorship only.*

3. Establishes buffer zone for water quality (SB1825/HB222). Bill (with amendment proposed by sponsor that was not adopted) would have required a fifty-foot buffer zone around streambeds to ensure water quality. Sponsoring was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Deferred to 2005. Sponsors: S: Steve Cohen; H: Mike Turner. *Positive points for sponsorship only.*

4. Removes liability of owners of hazardous waste sites (SB2281/HB2331). Bill would have relieved owner or operator of liability for hazardous waste disposed of at site before TDEC issues certificate of clearance. Also would have authorized subsequent landowners to rely upon certificates of clearance to be recorded by the register of deeds. Sponsoring was an action AGAINST the environment. Final Outcome: Taken off notice. Sponsors: S: Tommy Kilby; H: Jim Vincent. *Negative points for sponsorship only.*

5. TN board for green business development (SB2345/HB3209). Bill would have authorized TDEC to create a new business development program that would encourage the development and commercial use of environmental and energy related products. Sponsoring was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Taken off notice. Sponsors: S: James Kyle; H: Mike McDonald. *Positive points for sponsorship only.*

6. Sinkhole disposal of solid waste (SB2433/HB2276). Bill removes sinkhole disposal of solid waste in some instances from exemption on disposal on private land. Sponsoring and voting for this bill was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Public Chapter 848 effective 7/01/2004. Sponsors: S: Tim Burchett, Charlotte Burks; H: Harry Brooks, Mike Turner, Chris Crider, William Baird, Jamie Hagood. *Positive points for sponsorship only.*

7. Growth Plans (SB2444/HB3143). Bill would have required land use decisions made by the local legislative body and the municipal or county planning commission to be consistent with previously approved growth plans. Sponsoring was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Taken off notice. Sponsors: S: Mark Norris; H: Stratton Bone. *Positive points for sponsorship only.*

8. TN Water Resource Development Agency (SB2452/HB2327). Bill as amended implements a statewide plan to assess rural water needs and provide water to all citizens. Sponsoring and voting for this bill was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Enacted as Public Chapter 754 effective 5/24/2004. Sponsors: S: Jo Ann Graves; H: Mike McDonald, Mike Harrison, Steve McDaniel. *Positive points for sponsorship and committee vote.*

9. Water re-defined as "legally navigable" (SB2515/HB2525). Bill would have changed the definition of "water" in the Water Quality Control Act to those waters that have been adjudicated as legally navigable in a court of competent jurisdiction. Sponsoring was an action AGAINST the environment. Final Outcome: Taken off notice. Sponsors: S: Steve Southerland; H: David Hawk. *Negative points for sponsorship only.*

10. Stop work order for surface mining activities (SB2521/HB3206). Bill would have allowed TDEC Commissioner to issue a stop work order when surface mining activities cause violation of water quality regulations. Sponsoring was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Taken off notice. Sponsors: S: Larry Trail; H: Kent Coleman, Russell Johnson. *Positive points for sponsorship only.*

11. Water pollution control (SB2770/HB2584). Bill authorizes TDEC to deny wastewater treatment discharge permit if there is an economically feasible alternative means of disposal. Sponsoring and voting was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Enacted as Public Chapter 519 effective 4/12/2004. Sponsors: S: Jo Ann Graves; H: Mike McDonald, Charles Curtiss, Ben West, Brenda Turner, Dolores Gresham, Joe Towns. *Positive points for sponsorship only.*

12. Regional air quality authorities (SB2773/HB2668). Bill would have allowed counties to create regional air quality authorities to regulate air contaminant sources and establish air quality standards more stringent than state law for counties in federal non-attainment area. Sponsoring was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Taken off notice. Sponsors: S: Randy McNally; H: Russell Johnson. *Positive points for sponsorship only.*

13. Complaints for air quality violations (SB3059/HB3466). Bill would have authorized citizens to file complaints to the Commissioner of environment and conservation against any person violating of Tennessee Air Quality Act. Sponsoring was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Taken off notice. Sponsors: S: Doug Jackson; H: Kim McMillan. *Positive points for sponsorship only.*

14. Recordation tax distribution (SB3225/HB3193). Bill would have revised the recordation tax distribution for the wetlands, local parks, state lands and the agricultural resources conservation fund, all of which provide land acquisition revenue. Sponsoring and voting for this bill was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Taken off notice although it passed several committees. Sponsors: S: Jeff Miller; H: Tim Garrett, Russell Johnson, Joe McCord, Jamie Hagood. *Positive points for sponsorship and committee vote.*

15. Natural area designation reviews (SB3270/HB3096). Bill would have required TDEC Commissioner to review all areas that have been protected by the natural area designation for 20 years or more and insured that these areas continue to meet the criteria established by the designation. Sponsoring was an action AGAINST the environment as such an action could have resulted in reducing protected areas. Final Outcome: Taken off notice. Sponsors: S: Mark Norris; H: Curry Todd, Joe Kent. *Negative points for sponsorship only.*

16. Emissions testing requirements revised (SB3410/HB3498). Bill gives air board the authority to expand inspection and maintenance for vehicles to non-attainment counties or to those where the county commission adopts the program. Sponsoring and voting for this bill was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Enacted as Public Chapter 926 effective 6/08/2004. Sponsors: S: Joe Haynes, Ward Crutchfield; H: Kim McMillan, Rob Briley, Katherine Bowers, Barbara Cooper, Brenda Turner. *Positive points for sponsorship, committee and floor vote.*

17. Manus Road Cedar Glade in Rutherford County (SB3414/HB3497). Bill designates Manus Road Cedar Glade in Rutherford County as Class II Natural-Scientific Area because of its rare and endemic cedar glade plants. Sponsoring this bill was an action FOR the environment. Final Outcome: Enacted as Public Chapter 482 effective 4/08/2004. Sponsors: Larry Trail, Ward Crutchfield; H: Kim McMillan, John Hood, Kent Coleman. *Positive points for sponsorship only.*

STATE SENATE	2004 Rating	Score	(+) Positive Actions* *Refers to the index of Actions	(-) Negative Actions	2003 Score
Archie, R 6	1	14, 16	16	16	3
Barnes, R 21	1	16	16	16	3
Beyers, R 23	1	16	16	16	3
Blaugher, R 7	1	16, 14	16, 14	16, 14	2
Burks, D 15	1	6, 8, 16, 16	16, 16	16, 16	2
Calhoun, R 8	1	16, 16	16, 16	16, 16	2
Cohen, D 30	2	3, 16	16	16	3
Cross, R 19	1	16	16	16	3
Cross, R 3	1	16	16	16	3
Dixon, D 10	1	16, 14, 16, 16, 16, 17	16, 16, 16, 16, 17	16, 16, 16, 16, 17	6
Dixon, D 23	1	16	16	16	0
Dyer, R 27	1	16, 16	16, 16	16, 16	0
Fowler, R 11	2	2, 14, 16	16	16	3
Fowler, R 19	1	6, 8, 11, 16, 16	16	16	0
Harper, D 19	1	16	16	16	0
Harris, D 29	1	16, 16, 16, 16	16	16	0
Henry, D 11	2	2, 16, 16	16	16	2
Henry, D 24	1	16, 16	16	16	2
Jackson, D 25	4	8, 11, 16, 16	16	16	1
Jones, R 12	1	16	16	16	0
Kilby, D 12	2	8, 16, 16	4	2	2
Kyle, D 28	2	5, 16, 16	14	1	1
McNally, R 27	1	16	16	16	1
McNally, R 5	0	12	16	1	1
McNally, R 9	1	8, 11, 16, 16	16	16	1
Nozick, R 32	-1	7	15, 16	4	4
Patton, R 31	1	16	16	16	0
Raymer, R 2	5	8, 14, 16, 16, 16	16	16	3
Southerland, R 1	1	16	16	16	3
Trail, D 16	3	10, 16, 17	16	16	3
Turner, R 4	1	16	16	16	3

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	2004 Rating	Score	(+) Positive Actions* *Refers to the index of Actions	(-) Negative Actions	2003 Score
Armstrong, D 15	3	2, 16, 16	16	16	0
Baird, R 14	-2	16, 16	16, 16	16, 16	2
Blaugher, R 45	1	16	16	16	0
Bone, D 46	1	16, 16	16	16	1
Bowers, D 77	1	14, 16, 16	16	16	1
Bowers, D 87	3	1, 16, 16	16	16	1
Brooks, R 19	2	6, 16	16	16	1
Burchett, R 97	1	16	16	16	1
Burns, D 28	2	16, 16	16	16	0
Burks, D 45	1	16	16	16	0
Burns, R 24	-1	16	16	16	1
Canada, R 63	No Sponsorship	No Votes			1
Crider, R 27	1	16	16	16	0
Cole, D 62	1	16	16	16	0
Coleman, D 49	3	10, 16, 17	16	16	0
Curtiss, R 66	2	16, 16	16	16	0
Crider, R 79	0	6	16	2	0
Crider, R 44	1	16, 16	16	16	0
Dawson, D 65	2	16, 16	16	16	0
Dixon, R 10	1	16	16	16	2
J. DeBerry, D 90	-1	16	16	1	1
Dobson, R 71	1	16, 16	16	16	2
Dobson, R 64	-1	16	16	16	1
Dobson, R 25	1	16	16	16	1
Fraley, R 73	-1	16	16	16	1
Fraley, D 32	1	16	16	16	1
Fraley, D 82	2	16, 16	16	16	0
Fraley, D 88	2	16, 16	16	16	0
Fraley, D 39	4	2, 14, 16, 16	16	16	1
Gardner, R 54	1	14, 14, 16, 16, 16	16	16	0
Gardner, R 1	1	16	16	16	0
Gearty, R 94	0	11	16	1	1
Hackworth, D 33	1	16	16	16	-1
Hagood, R 18	1	16, 16	16	16	2
Hague, R 97	-1	16	16, 16	2	1
Harris, D 42	1	16, 16	16	16	0
Harrison, D 37	No Sponsorship	No Votes			-1
Harrison, R 97	1	8, 16, 16	16	16	1
Harvey, R 56	0	1	16	2	0
Hensley, R 23	1	16, 16	16	16	1
Hood, D 68	2	16, 16	16	16	-1
Hood, R 20	1	16	16	16	0
Hood, D 88	1	16, 16, 17	16	16	0
Hunter, R 38	1	14, 16, 16	16	16	0
R. Johnson, R 21	7	2, 10, 12, 14, 16, 16	16	16	6
Johnson, R 99	1	16	16	16	0
U. Jones, D 58	1	16	16	16	1
Kernell, R 65	1	16, 16	16, 16	16, 16	1
Kerrell, D 93	5	2, 14, 16, 16, 16	16	16	3
Kilby, D 14	1	16	16	16	3
Lutz, D 10	1	16	16	16	-1
Madlock, D 16	2	16, 16	16	16	-1
McDaniel, R 99	2	16, 16	16	16	N/A
Madlock, R 44	-1	16	16	16	0
McCartee, R 9	1	14, 14, 16, 16	16	16	2
McDaniel, R 72	3	8, 16, 16	16	16	-1
McDaniel, R 85	1	16, 16, 16, 16	16	16	1
McKee, R 23	2	16, 16	16	16	1
McKee, R 62	1	16, 16, 16, 16, 16, 17	16	16	1
Miller, D 88	2	16, 16	16	16	1
Montgomery, R 17	1	16	16	16	1
Munro, R 3	1	16	16	16	0
Osborn, D 55	1	16	16	16	-1
Osborn, R 26	2	16, 16	16	16	1
Patton, R 7	2	16	16	16	1
Patton, R 17	1	16, 16	16	16	1
Patton, R 99	-1	16	16	16	1
Raymer, R 2	1	16	16	16	1
Roberts, D 71	2	16, 16	16	16	0
Rowland, R 34	-1	16	16	16	1
Sarant, R 94	1	16, 16, 16	16	16	2
Sharp, R 30	-1	16	16	16	1
Shaw, R 33	1	16, 16	16	16	-1
Stewart, D 69	1	16	16	16	-1
Stratton, R 33	1	16	16	16	0
Swadley, R 96	1	16	16	16	0
Talbott, D 74	1	14, 16, 16	16	16	-1
Talbot, D 13	0	16	16	16	-1
Talbot, R 11	1	16, 16	16, 16	16, 16	1
Townes, D 84	2	11, 16	16	16	-1
Townes, D 45	1	14, 16, 16	16	16	1
J. Turner, D 85	1	16	16	16	1
J. Turner, D 91	1	16, 16, 16	16	16	1
Vaughn, D 2	2	16, 16	16	16	1
Walker, R 31	2	16, 16	16	16	-1
Walker, R 25	2	16, 16	16	16	-1
Walker, D 41	1	16	16	16	N/A
Walker, D 41	1	16	16	16	N/A
Walker, D 38	1	16	16	16	2
Wood, R 26	0	16	16	16	2
Yates, D 11	1	16	16	16	2

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, October 2nd - Angel Falls Overlook Night Hike. - Cooler evenings and hopefully clear skies will make this easy, 5-mile trail night hike a good time to observe any late season wildlife activity as we hike parallel to the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River enroute to Angel Falls Overlook. There we will be able to view the river gorge some 300-400 feet below from our destination while we take a short break before returning via the same trail. Rain is ALWAYS a possibility; raingear, boots (snakes are active), good flashlight w/ extra batteries and bulb are required. Pre-registration required via phone:



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!

Steve Dyer 865-689-3151 / 865-922-3489, CraigSDyerCDT@msn.com.

Saturday - Sunday, October 2nd - 3rd - Backpack, AT, Stecoah Gap to Wesser, Nantahala National Forest, NC. - Join us for an AT section hike between Stecoah Gap to Wesser. After a car shuttle, we will hike a challenging 6.8-miles to Sasfras Gap and camp for the night. The highlight of the day will be Cheoah Bald (5062'). The bald was established and is maintained by the Forest Service to provide grazing for wildlife. We should have great views of the surrounding mountains and the Nantahala River Gorge. Day two will be a 7.1-mile hike with a lot of steep downhill. Our hike will end at the Nantahala River and the Nantahala Outdoor Center. Pre-register with Beverly Smith, 865-531-8480 (Evenings), blsmith1300@comcast.net.

Saturday - Sunday, October 16th - 17th - Fall Colors Backpack (Bob's Bald from Citico Creek Wilderness, TN-NC). - Roger Jenkins has traditionally led this outing but turned it over this year to Will Skelton. One of the classic locations for fall colors in the Southern Appalachians is Bob and Stratton Balds (generally called Bob's Bald) at 5,341 feet in the Nantahala National Forest. We will do the approach on the South Fork of Citico Creek Trail and return on the North Fork of Citico Creek Trail. Rated Moderate. Pre-register with Will Skelton: 865-523-2272 (H); 865-521-6200 (W); whshome@bellsouth.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

October 9th - 11th - Savage Gulf Backpack - This is a great time of year to see the changing fall colors on the Cumberland Plateau. We will begin our hike at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station, hiking the South Rim Trail to Stagecoach campsite the first day (6 miles). On Sunday, we'll proceed down the Stagecoach Road Trail and then continue on the Connector Trail and wind up at Hobb's Cabin (6 miles). Monday, we will hike the North Rim Trail back to the ranger station (7 miles). Moderate to strenuous. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com

Saturday, October 16th - New Member Potluck Picnic - Calling all new members (and all other members who want to visit)! There will be a new member potluck picnic at 11:00 am at a local park (possibly Percy Warner) Bring food, soft drinks will be provided. Lazy hike at 1 pm. Contact Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or lsmithymanhg@yahoo.com for more information and to confirm the location.

Sunday, October 17th 2 p.m. - Outings Leader Training 101 - We will have an outings leader training seminar to prepare new outings leaders and refresh current outings leaders regarding the outings program. This will be a 2-3 hour seminar held at the home of Katherine Pendleton. For additional information and for directions to Katherine's home, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

Saturday, October 23rd - River Canoe Trip - The Stones River Watershed Association invites the Sierra Club to join us on a seven mile paddle from the home of member Heloise Shilstat to the Veteran's Administration property on highway 231 in Murfreesboro. We will see a natural rock arch, and there is a possibility of seeing minks. Participants must have a boat, paddle, life jacket, lunch, and drinking water. For information, including

boat rental and help with finding a tandem partner, call Heloise at 631-0169 or stillwild@bellsouth.net.

Tuesday, October 26th - REI Maine 100 Mile Wilderness Slide Show - Join us at 6:30 p.m. at REI in Brentwood, TN for a slide show presentation of Katherine Pendleton's August 2004 backpacking trip to the Maine 100 Mile Wilderness section of the Appalachian Trail. For additional information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com

October 29th - 31st - AT Backpack-Wesser, N.C. to Fontana Dam - This will be a strenuous backpacking trip, covering 28 miles of the AT. We will leave Nashville the evening of October 28 and drive to Fontana Dam, spending the night at the trail shelter known as "the Fontana Hilton." Saturday, we will be shuttled to Wesser, N.C., and begin the hike. This trip is for experienced backpackers, and reservations are limited. For additional information, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

October 30th - Bowie Nature Park Day Hike - Join us at 9:00 am for a 5-6 mile easy hike at Bowie Nature Park, in Fairview, TN (SW of Nashville). Bowie Nature Park is located on the edge of the Central Basin and on the western escarpment of the Highland Rim of Middle Tennessee. It was given to Fairview to develop as a park by Dr. Evangeline Bowie in 1992. Some trails are shared with bikes and horses, but receive little use. Go out for ice cream or lunch afterwards at a local sweet shop. Contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com to let her know you're coming.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Thursday, October 7th - Sunset Hike - Susan Faidley of the Chattanooga Hiking Club and the Cherokee Group will lead a 3-5 mile sunset hike on Signal Mountain. The hike will begin at Sunset Point. Meet at 6:00 PM at the Burger King (corner of Hwy 127 and Mtn. Creek Road) for the carpool up the mountain.

Saturday, October 16th - Dayhike - Gerald Davis (Cherokee Group Fundraising Chair) will lead a 5.2 mile hike at Cloudland Canyon State Park. This should be a spectacular hike along the West Rim trail. The leaves should really be peaking! Meet Gerald at 8:00 AM at the Hardees in Tiftonia (exit 174 off

I-24 west)

Friday-Sunday, October 29th to 31st - Join us for our fall car camp at Big South Fork National Recreation Area... We had a great time at the spring car camp in the Smokies and look forward to more food, fun, and good discussions this time around. Bring your bike, your hiking boots, or your hammock and enjoy a wonderful weekend at BSE. If you are interested in this activity you need to reserve a space by 10/24.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

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

FORT PILLOW HIKE: Sunday, October 3, 2004 - 8:30 a.m. departure - Fort Pillow State Park, Tennessee: This hike along the Chickasaw Trail at Fort Pillow State Park is about 6 miles long, and we'll stop for lunch at an overlook of the Mississippi River. Bring water and lunch. If it looks like rain, bring rain gear. 'Tis a little early for fall beauty, but we will see some signs of fall and get to experience nice temperatures. Meet at Snowden School Parking lot, McLean at Parkway. For more information contact Judith Hammond at (901) 276-2819.

OLD FOREST HIKE: Saturday, October 9, 2004 - 10:00 a.m. - The Old Forest Trail. "Second Saturday Hikes" Explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America. Learn about the forest's history, identify big trees and wildflowers and observe firsthand the impact of natural and human forces on forests in an urban setting. Meet at the bridge next to the parking lot at the end of Old Forest Lane in the center of Overton Park. The informative and entertaining trail map to the self-guided mile-and-a-quarter mile loop hike with seasonal bird watching and wildflower-viewing guides is available for free at the Golf House in Overton Park at all other times. For additional information, contact Don Richardson <donrich@juno.com> at (901) 276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends.



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Parkers Lake, KY 42634
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Located on Good Spring Farm, The Farm House Inn offers accommodations for small groups and families. Walk through a diverse forest to waterfalls, cliffs, wildlife areas, fishing ponds or relax and watch farm life and wild life from the Inn's porch. Surrounded by the Daniel Boone National Forest, the Farm House Inn is 20 minutes away from Cumberland Falls State Park and 45 minutes from the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

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

Plan B:

Rescuing a Planet under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble

A Book Review by Richard Simmers

Continued from Page 6

carbon-fixation services! Of course, people can't make money on live trees usually, unless they yield edible fruits, nuts, or syrup, but they sure can prevent some of the cleanup costs after floods; think of all the soil that doesn't erode in forests. Of course, our doubledomes mostly don't expect cloudbursts, like what's-his-name, Dr. Pangloss on Voltaire's *Candide*, I suppose; "all is for the best in this best of all possible worlds", or something like this. And don't miss p. 58, where Walter Lowdermilk's proposed Eleventh Commandment (a positive commandment, as are the two associated with Jesus) is expounded. (This goes back to a 1939 USDA publication.)

"Plan A" is business as usual; "Plan B" is Brown's proposed solution. As part of this, "tax shifting" is discussed (pp. 210-214). Wow, wouldn't you love to see carbon taxes, high taxes (or bans even) on chain saws, ATVs, SUV's, cell phones, pesticides and so forth? (Well, I do own a chain saw; I have hundreds of dead pines to deal with somehow, killed by the recent pine beetle epidemic. Some of them are unfallen dominoes, others lie in piles like giant jackstraws, often with felled or badly bent saplings underneath. There are also fair numbers of dead and dying oaks and some other trees, plus occasional storm-felled trees.)

I do have several problems with this book. One major one is a lack of any real discussion on emerging severe problems with genetically modified (GM) crops, as with "Roundup Ready" soybeans, notably in Argentina (discussed in past issues of *The Ecologist*). Brown discusses soybeans on pages 51-56, including their use in Argentina, but nary a word on this issue. "No-till" agriculture is mentioned (pp. 144-145), but this requires use of dangerous herbicides. There is little mention of the need for organic matter in the soil in many places (but see p. 135). Many of these problems are discussed regularly in *Acres USA* and *The Ecologist*. (Charles Walters, editor of *Acres USA*, has referred to pesticides as being from "the Devil's pantry".) Compact fluorescent lights are recommended (p. 154-155), but their dangers (mercury, radioactivity of some, other health problems related to 60-cycle light) are ignored. All of these are typical "doubledome" solutions, thought out in isolation, rather than as part of a whole (a "holistic" solution); they just tend to create more, and sometimes worse, problems. We need more elegant solutions to these problems (such as lighting).

Don't expect the Bush Administration (regime) to do anything about these problems; they are the epitome of "Plan A". They seem to be marching backwards to the 19th century, or even the medieval crusades era. (See also *Banana Republicans* and *Weapons of Mass Deception*, two recent paperbacks by Sheldon Rampton and John Stauber, © Center for Media and Democracy, Tarcher/Penguin, while you still can do so.)

I recommend that people read and study Lester Brown's book carefully and critically. I would not suggest people "genuflect" to Lester Brown the way many seem to "genuflect" to Bush (because "he sounds right"); don't give away your power to them.

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
Cathy Butcher
at
226-8925



Volunteer Opportunity!

To help the Middle Tennessee Group, to help our senior and disabled recyclers, 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 special thanks to Michelle Pfeffer, who was a frequent volunteer during the summer of 2003.

TTA's 2004 Annual Meeting November 5 - 7, 2004 Pickwick Landing State Park Pickwick, Tennessee

Once each year, Tennessee Trails Association (TTA) members from all across the state gather for a weekend of fun, food, and fellowship. There will be hikes, exhibits, auction and Friday evening entertainment. The Annual Meeting will be held from Friday, November 5, through Sunday, November 7, at the Pickwick Landing State Park and Convention Center, Pickwick, Tennessee. Our hosts for this year's event are the Memphis and Northwest chapters.

Pickwick Landing State Park was a riverboat stop dating from the 1840's. In the 1930's, during the depression, the site was chosen for one of the Tennessee Valley Authority's dams on the Tennessee River. What comprises the park today was once the living area for the TVA construction crews and their families. The property passed from TVA to the Tennessee State Park system in the early 1970s. In early 1999, the state began construction of a new 119-room inn and 6,000 square foot conference center. The new Inn opened July 1, 2001.

2004 TTA Annual Meeting Weekend Schedule

Friday, November 5	
3:00 p.m.	Check-in Begins
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner Buffet
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Entertainment by Kindred Spirit, Lisa LeBleu and Teresa Collard
Saturday, November 6	
7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Depart for Hikes
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Dinner Buffet
6:30 - 6:45 p.m.	Shop the White Elephant Tables and Silent Auction
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	TTA Annual Meeting
8:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Live Auction - proceeds donated to Cumberland
Trail BreakAway	
Sunday, November 7	
7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet
7:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Check Out
8:30 a.m.	Depart for Hikes

For registration form and/or more information contact:

Tennessee Trails Association c/o Jim Clark, 307 S. McCombs, Martin, TN 38237 Phone: 731-587-2225 jclark@utm.edu

What a Waste!

Part I: The Need for a Bottle Bill in Tennessee

By James Baker



Continued from Page 1

- ✓ 961 BILLION aluminum beverage containers – 17 million tons of aluminum.
- ✓ 324 BILLION steel beverage containers – 28 million tons of steel.
- ✓ 276 BILLION P.E.T. beverage containers – 11 million tons of P.E.T. plastic.
- ✓ 190 BILLION H.D.P.E. beverage containers – 18 million tons of H.D.P.E. plastic.
- ✓ 600 BILLION one-way glass beverage containers – 166 million tons of glass.

The most significant environmental impacts of wasting of these beverage containers are in replacement production. That is, using raw materials and vast amounts of energy to make new containers to replace those that were never recycled. For example, to make an aluminum beverage container from bauxite—which is aluminum ore—requires 3 times as much electrical power as remaking the same can from one that is recycled. In addition, dams that make the hydroelectric power needed in the smelting of aluminum

Top - Just some of the recyclable beverage containers removed from the shore of McKellar Lake during a two-hour clean-up event.

Middle - A flotilla of recyclable beverage containers and other litter floats downstream towards the Gulf of Mexico after a rainstorm.

Bottom - Another flotilla of recyclable beverage containers and other litter has floated onto the shore of McKellar Lake in Memphis.

All photos by James Baker



must flood vast amounts of land, displacing indigenous peoples, flooding farmland and open green space. The same goes for glass and plastic containers as well. It takes more energy to make the replacement item than to rework the recycled item.

In addition to wasting energy, one must find and exploit the raw materials for this replacement production. Bauxite must be mined and transported, oil wells must be drilled and pumped, and coal must be mined and transported.

The pollution from these mining, transport and manufacturing processes create megatons of the global warming gas, carbon dioxide, as well as other pollutants that poison the air, water and the land. This creates an additional burden of pollution on the ecosystems of Planet Earth and its 6.4 billion (and rapidly growing) members of the human race.

The damages continue, because we must replace the 115 billion containers that are still wasted each year. Ms. Gitlitz states in the Trashed Cans report that Alcoa is moving ahead with plans to build roads, dams, and an aluminum smelter, in Iceland, that has a capacity of 322,000 tons per year. While destroying a scenic area akin to the Grand Canyon and threatening wildlife in Europe's second largest wilderness, the smelter's capacity is less than half of what U.S. consumers throw away each year: 750,000 tons of cans. Other destructive smelter projects are planned in Brazil, Chile, Mozambique, etc.

Beverage containers litter our nation's roads, parks, beaches and other public places. For example, an Associated Press article in the March 29, 1999 Memphis newspaper, *The Commercial Appeal* stated that Dennis Brezina, the Director of Aluminum Anonymous, Inc., reported that he and his wife canvassed 450 miles of two and four-lane roads in middle and east Tennessee. They found discarded beer cans and bottles at the rate of 1,100 per mile, or one about every five feet. While their study focused on beer containers, informal surveys of litter collected during Tennessee Water Sentinels stream clean-ups in Memphis show that a sizeable percentage of the collected litter is recyclable

beverage containers, but it is no surprise to find a very few aluminum cans. The reason, they are worth money. On most days in Memphis, one can see people, picking up aluminum cans and pushing shopping carts that are loaded with bags of cans. If glass and plastic containers were worth money in the form of a deposit, they would not stay around long if at all if they were littered, and our roads, parks, beaches and other public places would be much cleaner.

This first article has discussed just some of the issues you probably already know as to the frightening environmental cost that billions of beverage containers exact on Planet Earth. The second article will discuss the uphill fight that it will take to get such a common sense law in place in Tennessee. It is my hope, as Chair of the Tennessee Chapter's bottle bill committee that all the environmental groups and watershed associations in Tennessee come together with the Tennessee Chapter-Sierra Club to form a state-wide coalition of organizations as the push begins to get our Legislators to enact Container Deposit Legislation in Tennessee. If you or your group is interested in this issue, and what you can do to help, please contact me. My contact information is under the Chickasaw Group contacts in this newsletter.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION REVOKES PROTECTIONS FOR AMERICA'S WILD FORESTS

Washington, D.C. – One of the most popular conservation policies in American history was dealt a crippling blow, with the recent Bush administration decision to abandon the landmark Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The administration has proposed a convoluted process that will leave America's last wild forests open to destructive commercial logging and road building. This announcement finalizes a controversial decision first proposed last summer to allow individual Governors to decide whether federal lands located in their state should receive federal protection.

The Roadless Rule, designed to protect 58 million acres of roadless wild forests in 39 states, was the result of the most extensive public comment process in history, spanning three years and 600 public meetings. During the rulemaking, the Clinton administration received a record-breaking one million public comments in support of protecting wild forests. To date, the Forest Service has received more than 2.5 million comments from the American people, 95 percent of which favor the strongest protections for these wild forests. From the day President Bush entered the White House, his administration's intentions have been clear: blocking the Roadless Rule was one of the new administration's first decisions, followed shortly by refusal to defend the rule in court.

"The Bush administration's announcement will immediately imperil wild forests across the country, leaving them vulnerable to commercial timber sales and road building," said Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director. "These wild forests are special places of national significance and need a national policy to ensure their proper management."

Already, 440,000 miles of roads are carved into America's National Forests. The wildly popular Roadless Rule helped protect our remaining wild forests and the clean water, wildlife habitat and outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities from more taxpayer-subsidized commercial logging. The Roadless Rule was developed over three years of public hearings and scientific analysis. This policy change is the Bush administration's latest effort to reduce or eliminate decades of National Forest protection and increase spending to benefit timber companies.

"The original policy was designed to protect America's last remaining wild forests, increasingly scarce unspoiled places that provide some of the highest quality fish and wildlife habitat, backcountry recreation and clean water supplies in the country," said Pope.

Under the guise of "preventing fire," the Bush administration's litany of policy changes include an increase of ancient forest logging in the Pacific Northwest, reducing citizen involvement in management decisions, removing scientific analysis in the management of threatened and endangered species and increasing taxpayer subsidies to commercial logging programs. The Bush administration's most pointed effort to dissect protections for wild forests occurred with a Christmas Eve announcement last year to remove the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule.

"The Bush administration has put a former timber industry lobbyist in charge and is now dismantling decades of public environmental safeguards piece by piece. Today's announcement is one more plank in the Bush administration's platform of deciding National Forest management based on the desires of timber industry executives," said Pope.

This policy change is the Bush administration's latest effort to reduce or eliminate decades of National Forest protection and increase spending to benefit timber companies.

Background:

The Bush administration's new policy will render the Roadless Area Conservation Rule meaningless by requiring governors to petition the Forest Service to not construct roads in or otherwise develop inventoried wild roadless forest areas. The administration also indicated that it intends to permanently exempt the national forests in Alaska -- both the Chugach and the Tongass Forests -- from the roadless rule.

The "state petition" process that the Forest Service proposed would require a two-step process for permanent protection of roadless areas on the national forests. First, a state governor would have to prepare an administrative petition "to adjust management direction" for roadless areas in their state. The Forest Service could simply reject this petition out-of-hand. Second, if the petition were agreed to, the Secretary of Agriculture would establish a formal rulemaking process on a state-by-state basis to consider permanent protection of the roadless areas in question. This administrative rulemaking is time-consuming and the administration could simply decide not to grant protection.

The proposed rule would replace the Roadless Rule, leaving all 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas in the United States open to road building, logging, and resource development. Until a state governor petitions for protection, management of inventoried roadless areas would be based on the individual forest management plans, which often require no special protections.

Help Protect Wild Forests – Keep Intact the Roadless Rule!

Take Action: Submit a Comment Today!!
The comment period ends September 14, 2004.

Mail comments to:
Content Analysis Team,
ATTN: Roadless State Petitions
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 221090 - Salt Lake City, UT 84122
Fax to: (801) 517-1014
Email to: statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us
Comments also may be submitted from:
<http://www.regulations.gov>
For more information visit:
<http://www.sierraclub.org/forests>

Date

To Chief Dale Bosworth:

I am writing regarding the proposed changes to the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. [Docket Number: 04-16191] I believe all of America's National Forests should be protected from commercial logging, road construction and other damaging activities. I would like complete protection for all roadless areas in all National Forests. This includes protection from road building, including temporary roads, all logging, mining and oil and gas development.

These wild forests should be protected in order to provide clean water, back country recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other important values. I urge you to abandon this misguided proposal and keep the Roadless Area Conservation Rule intact in the Lower 48 states and Alaska's Chugach National Forest and reinstate the rule in the Tongass National Forest. The Forest Service and the Bush administration should do all they can to protect our last remaining roadless areas.

Name - Address -Phone



WHAT: 6th Annual Tennessee Tree Climbing Championship

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 23, 2004, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CST)

WHERE: Ellington Agricultural Center, Nashville, TN

COST: Free for Spectators
Tree Climbers – \$30 TUFC Member / \$35 TUFC Non-Member

Presented By: Tennessee Urban Forestry Council
Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry

REGISTRATION: www.tufc.com or call (615)352-8985

For more Championship information or to sign up as a judge, contact:
Chairman: Wes Hopper, 901-212-8822, urbn4estry@aol.com, Memphis
Local Arrangements: Carl Absher, 423-240-2729, abshercp@epb.net, Chattanooga
Past Chairman: Michael Bouton, 615-642-3162, mbouton732@aol.com, Murfreesboro

ABOUT THE TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP

This exciting statewide competition promotes tree care professionalism and safety practices. Participants compete for the state title and an automatic berth in the International Society of Arboriculture, Southern tree climbing competition in the spring. The winner of the Southern competition will proceed to the International competition in late summer.

Contestants will compete in five preliminary events:

Throwline: Accurately and timely hit targets at 40, 50 and 60 feet with a weighted throwline and install climbing liners.

Belayed Speed Climb: A timed 60-foot climb into a tree with a belayed climbing line.

Secured Foot Lock: A times 40-foot climb into the tree using a prusik loop and the footlock climbing technique.

Work Climb: Move throughout the crown of a tree and perform specified task in a timely manner.

Aerial Rescue: A simulated accident situation where the contestants must climb a tree to an injured worker, secure them and safely lower them to the ground.

Master's Challenge: The top scorer's of the preliminary events will compete in this Challenge to determine the champion. During this event the contestant must install a climbing line, complete simulated work events in the tree and return to the ground in a specified time limit. Contestants are judged on their knowledge of climbing techniques, use of equipment, safety, poise, continuity and overall productivity.

In addition to the participating tree climbers, a host of judges come from across the state to provide the contest judging and oversee the safety measures for the event.

Report on Corridor J Citizens' Resource Team

By Peggy Evans

Since my last report a lot has happened. I received an Email the second week of August from a woman in Sparta asking me what I thought about the southern loop from SR-111 to the Baxter/Gainesboro interchange on I-40. I attended on August 24th, by invitation, a meeting of the residents along the proposed Corridor J route from near the airport in White County to the Baxter/Gainesboro exit at I-40 in Putnam County.

There were about 300 very angry people there. No government officials were there, and neither were the 2 White County citizens on the Corridor J Citizens' Resource Team (CRT). Mary Mastin & Brian Pad-dock went with me and all three of us spoke to the group. They are

where CARA (Cookeville Area Residents Association) was about 5 years ago. By the time the meeting was over, the group had done the following: voted on a name - Neighbors Against Corridor J, elected officers, designated someone to open a bank account, and collected several hundred dollars.

I attended the subsequent meeting on August 31st where Ann Andrews, project manager for Corridor J, and Rob Dowler of HMB Professional Consulting Engineers parried a lot of questions. Present at this meeting were the two White County representatives on the Corridor J CRT, along with me and another Putnam County member and three Putnam County Commissioners. Two of the commissioners were for Corridor J when it was north of Cookeville, but were now

against it as the route could be in their districts. The crowd was overwhelmingly in favor of I-40 as the link between SR-111 and SR-56, as that has been the route for decades.

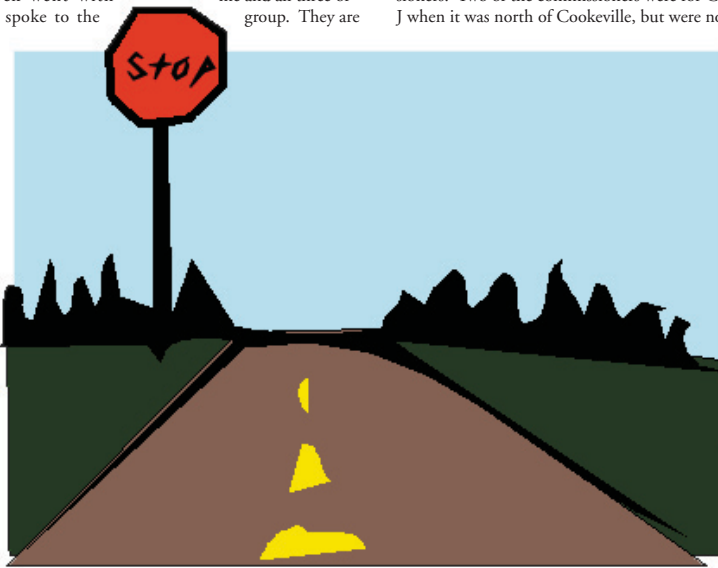
Both meetings were reported on in the Cookeville Herald-Citizen and the Sparta paper. A third group called TOUR (Taxpayers Opposed to Unnecessary Roads) has also formed to fight against the "fifth interchange" - "Northern Loop" - "N-S Connector." So just in the Cookeville area there are three groups fighting Corridor J. Ah, democracy!

The Corridor J CRT meeting of Sept. 2nd was very contentious and long. The White County CRT member did as promised to the Neighbors ... group and explained about the meeting and asked that I-40 be added to the list of possible routes. There was precedent for such a move and it was added. The Cookeville Chamber of Commerce rep was absent and "ably" replaced by a former Cookeville city councilman who is a champion for the road as either a northern connector between SRs 111 and 56 or the northern loop/5th interchange. He explained that the 5th interchange was needed for an industrial park where people from adjoining counties could work, and use improved roads to get there. He was very arrogant and condescending to the other team members, and did not win any friends.

The engineering consultants segmented the roads previously drawn on the map and that caused much discussion as it looked like good old TDOT segmentation. I must admit I did not at first "get it" but then saw what my fellow Putnam County member (a third one) was so upset about. The consultant promised to eliminate the segmentation (we'll see).

As done previously, the team voted thumbs up or thumbs down on eliminating routes prior to the public hearings. Two roads voted thumbs down (one thumbs down 16 to 2, the other 17 to 1) were kept on the map despite the voting. These were near the original corridor, SR-451. The consultant said memorably, "A consensus is not a majority." My Webster's says: "a general agreement, unanimous; judgment arrived at by most of the members." The second definition sounds like a majority (or more) to me. That really did not "sit well" with most members.

The next meeting will present data on the various projected routes re: traffic projections, economic benefits, and environmental aspects.



Help S.O.C.M. Pass Protective Law

Aerial Spraying Threatens People,
Plans And Animals

Continued from Page 5

SOCM's Tennessee Aerial Spraying Protection Act of 2004 (S810 and H1222), proposed 100 foot buffer zones around homes and 300 feet around public buildings, plus a registry of sick people to be notified before spraying.

SOCM's legislation was supported by medical practitioners and the American Lung Association, among others. The only doctor in the Tennessee Legislature is one of our sponsors. Another sponsor is a professional nurse.

limit aerial spraying (didn't in AL, LA & NC) and most importantly "fuels undue public fear over pesticide spraying".

We have noted a severe decline in quail and songbirds since the BWEP. Rural residents say that they have lost most of their fruit trees in recent years. They also claim pets and even livestock have died immediately after spraying. Whatever affects people and animals adversely harms the ecosystem and vice versa.

SOCM urges Sierra Club and other environmental and social justice champions to support our proposed legislation in the coming legislative session in 2005.

Thank you very much for your attention. We look forward to working with the Sierra Club to make Tennessee safer for all forms of life.

The Bill, H1222, was consigned to study this fall by the House Agriculture Committee.

Our main obstacle has been the Tennessee Farm Bureau whose objections are that it will severely

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