

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 36, Number 4 - April, 2005

When Does it End?

Illegal Dumping and Water Quality

By James H. Baker-Project Director - Tennessee Water Sentinels

While vast strides in cleaning up our nation's waters have taken place since the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, significant sources of water pollution remain to be dealt with. One of those sources may, right now, be secretly being unloaded down the road from where you live. That source, illegal dumping. Illegal dumping affects rural and urban residents alike. It is a human health hazard, it is not pretty and it adversely affects water quality in many ways.

Water; whether it is rain, stream, or lake will leach out organic and toxic materials from what has been dumped. These materials will then injure or kill fish and aquatic life. Toxic materials in surface or ground water must be removed prior to making the water suitable for human consumption. That increases its cost, and if the materials are not removed, they pose a health hazard.

Illegal dumping occurs because the people who do it know that they have many advantages over law enforcement and environmental regulators. They know that there are staffing and funding challenges for these personnel. They know that it takes just a few minutes to unload that trailer or truckload of old tires, garbage, oil or other material onto a dead-end road or roadside ditch, even in urban areas. They also know that many citizens, myself included; would be reluctant to confront them at their favorite dumping sites, out of concern for our personal safety.



Realistically, illegal dumping will not ever be stopped. But, we environmental activists can help government agencies minimize it – considerably. As an activist, create a cordial working relationship with an affected community, local law enforcement officials and environmental regulators. Listen to what they say. Let them see you as a person with potential solutions to the problem, not as a source of complaints. Consider partnering with government agencies in a trash cleanup, that is, ask them supply the trash containers and heavy equipment, and you supply the community volunteers and work two or three hours to clean up a severely trashed area. In the December 2004 issue of The Planet there is an excellent article of how Rich Israel, the New York Water Sentinel did all of the above and had an extremely successful series of clean ups of illegal dumping sites in early fall of 2004. On the web, see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/planet/200408/cleanstreets.asp>

You project can change community attitudes. If an area is clean, it is less likely to attract litter and illegal dumping. Involving a community increases the caring of that community for its immediate area as they will see that their actions will make a difference in the reduction in litter and illegal dumping.

As Project Director of the Tennessee Water Sentinels, I have developed some expertise in conducting trash clean ups, and can provide you with information as to what you should and should not do. If I do not know the answer, I can contact Rich Israel. As I am able, I would be most willing to assist in your efforts. Please contact me by

phone at 901-826-2448 or by e-mail at:
kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com



Second from Top: In addition to tires, someone illegally dumped 7, 55-gallon drums of unknown materials. Note lake in the background. There is great potential to contaminate this lake if these drums were to leak or be dumped. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) are partnering to cleanup the site (new black drums).

3rd from Top: There were hundreds of illegally dumped tires in this section of the site. There were many hundreds further down this road. Tires make an excellent breeding area for mosquitoes that can carry West Nile Virus, and other diseases.

Bottom: Tennessee Water Sentinels applauds TDOT's and TDEC's efforts in cleaning up this site. In addition, the access to the site has been restricted through a new barrier.

Photos by: James Baker



Be a Delegate to the Sierra Summit

By Clark A. Buchner

All Members of Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club are eligible to declare their candidacy to represent the Tennessee Chapter as a Delegate to the Sierra Summit in September. To be selected, members must attend the Administrative Session of the next Chapter ExCom Meeting at Fall Creek Falls State Park (See the advertisement for that meeting in this issue of Tennes-Sierran for additional details) at 10:00 AM on Sunday morning, May 1, 2005.

The CCL Delegate, Don Richardson, is an automatic Delegate to the Summit, thus rounding out the Six (6) positions available as chapter delegates from the Tennessee Chapter.

However, there are other Delegates (to the Summit) positions for:

- A. "Delegates at Large" category (two positions to be selected)**
- B. "Members under age 30" category (one position to be selected)**
- C. "Senior Leadership" category (one position to be selected)**
- D. An "Outings Leader" category (one position to be selected)**

The above "other" delegate positions will be selected at the May 1, 2005 meeting (at described above).

Each Group in the Tennessee Chapter may also select a Delegate to the Sierra Summit, and any member of those respective Groups wishing to declare their candidacy to represent their Group must attend the April Executive Committee meeting of their respective Group or a special called April meeting by their Group Chair. Members desiring to be a candidate for their Groups position (only one position per group) will need to contact their Group Chair to determine whether the regular ExCom Meeting in April or a special meeting set for Delegate selection will be the set meeting for this purpose.

This is the only announcement that will be made about Delegate Selections for the Sierra Summit.

Announcement prepared by:

Clark A. Buchner
Delegate at Large - Tennessee Chapter
Secretary - Council of Club Leaders Exec Committee
Member Sierra Summit Mobilization Team

Member wishing additional information about the Summit and duties of a Delegate, may contact me in the evenings at my home telephone: 901-327-2545

Information About the Sierra Summit

The Sierra Summit will take place September 8 -11, 2005 at the Moscone Center in San Francisco, CA. This will be the largest single gathering of Sierra Club members ever held in the 112 year history of the Club. In essence it will be a national convention of Sierra Club members, gathered together from the grassroots to enjoy one another's company, exchange ideas and information and set future direction for the Club. The Summit is conceived to

Continued on Page 7

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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My new address is:

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Boulder, Colorado
80322-2968

Attach mailing address label in this box, or fill in current name, address & Membership ID#
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Sierra Club Officers

(List in Transition for 2005)

Tennessee Chapter:

Chair: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
donrich@juno.com
Vice Chair: Liz Dixon (865) 693-4236
dixon@cs.utk.edu
Secretary: Caty Butcher (615) 347-1480
JLCLBUTCH@comcast.net
Treasurer: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 366-4738
GB1Nature@aol.com
Membership: Dick Mochow (901) 274-1510
dinimo@earthlink.net

TN Local Groups:

Cherokee Group - Chattanooga

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee

Chair: Terry Miller (423) 842-5053
trmcha@comcast.net
Vice Chair: Henry Spratt, Ph.D.
Henry-Spratt@utc.edu
Conservation: Rick Gehrke (423) 843-9625
rick.gehrke@comcast.net
Outings: Chris O'Connor (423) 867-4957
chris_o77@yahoo.com

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw

Chair: Charlie Rond (901) 452-8150
chasrond@bellsouth.net
Vice Chair: Karen Prosser (901) 327-9820
krprosser@bellsouth.net
Conservation: James Baker (901) 372-6717
aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net
Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
Jhammond@tnqio.sdps.org

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome

Chair: Axel Ringe (865) 397-1840
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Vice-Chair: Beverly Smith (865) 531-8480
Blsmith1300@comcast.net
Conservation: David Reister (865) 670-8991
dreister@bellsouth.net
Outings: Roger Jenkins (865) 690-3257
mcdonaldjenkins@twohikers.org

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chapters/tn/mtg

Chair: Caty Butcher (615) 347-1480
JLCLBUTCH@comcast.net
Vice Chair: Jeremy Doochin
Doochers87@aol.com
Outings: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com

State of Franklin Group

- Bristol/Johnson City/Kingsport

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/sofg

Chair: Linda C. Modica (423) 753-9697
lcmmodica@aol.com
Conservation: Catherine Murray (423) 929-8163
Cfvcatherine@worldnet.att.net

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg

Chair: Peggy Evans (931) 432-6680
maevans@twlakes.net
Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142
Jmcquail@tntech.edu
Conservation: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
zeblady@twlakes.net
Outings: John Harwood (931) 528-6395
jharwood@tntech.edu

Tennessee Sierra Staff:

Rita Harris, Community Organizer
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org

Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed

**Sierra Club Celebrates
The Wilderness Act
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1964-2004**

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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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Chickasaw Group News

Compiled by Various Chickasaw Group Members

Riverwoods Exploratory Hike

A dozen enthusiasts from the Chickasaw Group struck out on a Sunday afternoon into the controversial Riverwoods Natural Area of Germantown intent on seeing for ourselves the woodlands that Germantown wants to cross with its proposed Wolf River Parkway.

Owned by the Memphis Garden Club and protected as a designated State Natural Area by the Tennessee Department of Energy and Conservation (TDEC), the area now is threatened by various Germantown and State Legislative proposals that would de-designate or modify its status to allow the construction of the road.

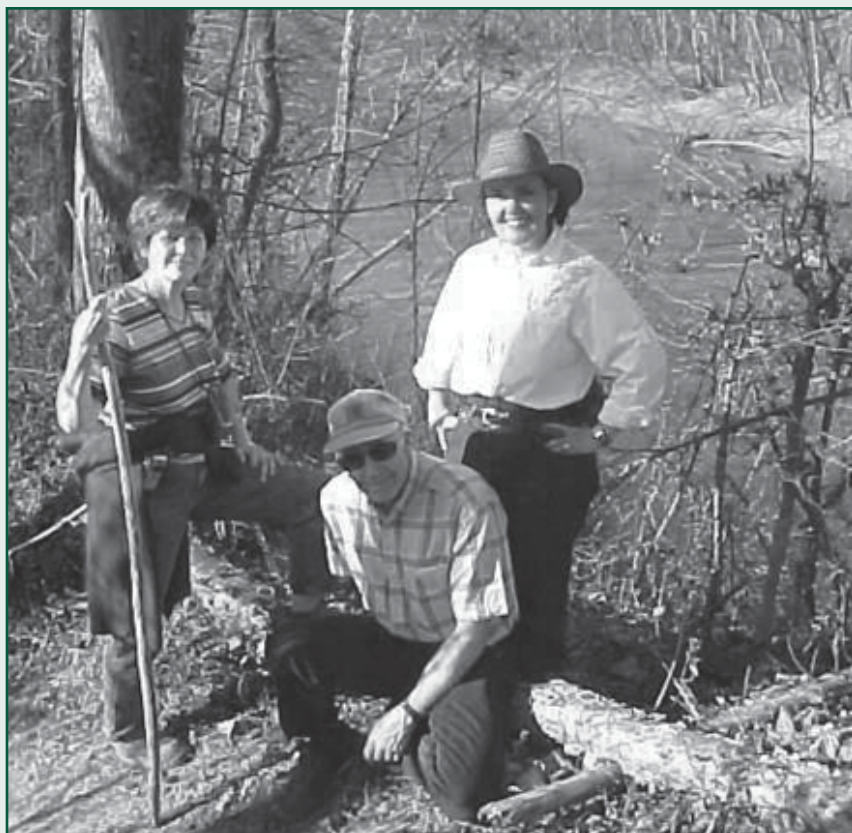
Outings Chair Judith Hammond led the group into the area but left the hike to four of us who continued into the Natural Area, sometimes bordering the Wolf River. Along the way we met a man who claimed to have built a number of trails in the area, which criss-crossed their way among the woods and brush. He showed us an area staked out for an archaeological dig with little evidence the area had been explored.

Throughout there were a number of orange strips tied to trees which he claimed were "survey" markers by someone who apparently was "surveying" the area, presumably for road construction.

Although there were no other hikers, mountain bikers abounded and we were several times required to wait off the trail while the bikers sped through.

The Memphis Garden Club, which had the Natural Area designated in 1977, claims the City of Germantown has refused to allow them to post signage or build trails in the area. It was obvious those "rules" have not prevented the mountain bikers or others to enter the area and use it for recreation.

Right Top: Susan Collins, Eddie Ellsworth and Carolyn Pierce in the Riverwoods Natural Area beside the Wolf River.
Photo by Charlie Rond



President Bush Visit

On Friday, March 11, 2005, President Bush spoke in Memphis as part of his tour to gather popular support for his proposals to change Social Security. Two members of the Tennessee Chapter attended the event as interested observers. They also observed the rally that was beginning at the High Point Pinch, a downtown restaurant. While our members were going in to hear the President; the members of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, State Representative Kathryn Bowers, Mr. Jerry Lee of the state's AFL-CIO, and others had choice words for Mr. Bush's proposals. To the surprise of all at the rally, the only "no-show" was 9th Congressional Representative Harold Ford, Jr. Instead of supporting his political and labor allies with his attendance, Rep. Ford chose to be inside with Mr. Bush. Later on, the rally marched on the building where Mr. Bush was speaking. About 200 people marched the sidewalks without any interruption. As our two members were entering the building, they saw more three demonstrators displaying signs very close to the crowd. The largest and most notable sign was one that stated "The Emperor Has No Brain". These demonstrators left, or were told to leave, in very short order.

While most of Mr. Bush's speech and panel discussion dealt with Social Security, he did touch lightly on energy and environmental policy. He told the mostly partisan crowd that we, as Americans, need to conserve energy, as well as develop our own energy reserves. He said this development can be done in a way that will protect the environment. He also touched on freedom, terrorism, and other regular Bush topics. Mr. Bush was briefly interrupted at least three times during the Social Security speech by unidentified individuals imbedded within the crowd who called out "no", "not true", and "all lies" to various points about the proposed changes to Social Security. Others pointed out these people quickly in the crowd and security personnel escorted them out. Our members later found out that these three were not arrested nor was any information about them written down. After the event, our members overheard an unidentified person tell someone else that, "these demonstrators are really getting into these events now". Clearly, those few imbedded individuals were cause for concern.

A lesson was learned from Mr. Bush's visit, and must be passed along to the rest of the Chapter activists. Due to concerns about the President's security, a very short period of time will lapse from the time the event is publicly announced to the time it happens. Our members learned about the event from the newspaper and e-mail on Monday, March 7 and quickly worked to get two passes. It would benefit all Group Chairs and Political Chairs to prepare several generic plans, press releases, and a core of volunteers that can be called on to take appropriate actions for future visits to Tennessee by the President. Remember, fortune favors the prepared.

RightBottom: President Bush (Center) makes a point in his speech about Social Security.
Photo submitted by the Chickasaw Group



North Shore Road Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Drafted by Ted Snyder,
North Carolina Chapter - 13 Feb 2005
Submitted by Axel Ringe,
Havery Broome Group - Tennessee Chapter

A few days after Pearl Harbor, Congress passed an act authorizing TVA to build Fontana Dam on the Little Tennessee River in western North Carolina. Work commenced immediately. TVA quickly learned that the reservoir would flood about three quarters of the length of a state road, NC 288. That road was the only access for owners and residents of land along the northern shore of the reservoir. The War Production Board refused to release manpower or materials for the reconstruction of the road above the water line.

NC 288 was originally built by the Forney Creek Road District, using funds from a bond issuance. It defaulted on the bonds, and the obligation was assumed by Swain County, N.C. The State of North Carolina then took responsibility for maintenance of the road, giving it the designation of NC 288. The State did not assume the obligation to repay the bonded indebtedness.

Faced with the inability to rebuild the road, TVA decided to acquire all the private land serviced by it. That would extinguish all rights to the road. The land serviced by NC 288, some 44,400 acres, was in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park acquisition boundary, but had not been acquired due to lack of funds. In any event, Swain County was entitled to compensation for the taking of its road, the bonds for which it was still obligated to pay.

To accomplish its task, TVA, The Department of the Interior, the State of North Carolina and Swain County, NC entered into a contract, known as the 1943 Agreement. TVA agreed to acquire the 44,400 acres of land, and to transfer them to Interior, for incorporation in the Park. Interior agreed that after the war it would build a new road, part of its "Around the Park" project, having a width of at least 20 feet and a dustless surface. North Carolina agreed to donate \$100,000 toward the acquisition costs of the land. Swain County agreed to accept the new road instead of monetary compensation.

In 1948 Interior built a 0.93 mile segment of the proposed road at the end of Fontana Dam. By 1962 it had built, in several segments, an additional 6.2 miles at the other end of the project, near Bryson City, NC. Interior was worried about the damage being caused by the construction, and convened a panel of experts to examine it. In April 1962 the panel reported "[T]he damage to the landscape and natural park values is so severe and the future maintenance will be so great that the Service should hold in abeyance

Continued on Page 8

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, lcmodica@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)

PROGRAM MEETING: For additional information, contact Rick Gehrke 423-843-9625 or email rick.gehrke@comcast.net

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, April 7, 2005, 6:00 - 8:00pm - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "FIRST THURSDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston jdjhstn@memphis.edu at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING: Sunday, April 10, 2005, 1:00 - 3:00pm - 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) 826-2448 or aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, April 11, 2005, 6:30pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell Street, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. For more information, contact Charlie Rond chasrond@bellsouth.net (by April 8 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150.

THIRD TUESDAY GATHERING: Tuesday, April 19, 2005, 6:00 - 8:00pm - Cafe 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.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, April 23, 2005, 6:00 pm - Memphis Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee Chickasaw Group Club Membership Chair Jill Johnston and Treasurer Joe Kyle will conduct their popular backpack clinic where they will demonstrate backpacks, tents, cookware and other compact and clever devices designed to make the sport of backpacking increasingly easy. For more information, contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

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. For April, Membership Chair Jill Johnston will talk about backpacking, the upcoming clinic where she will demonstrate backpacks, tents, cookware and other compact and clever devices designed to make the sport of backpacking increasingly easy and her upcoming trip on Sylamore Creek in the Ozark National Forest of Arkansas. If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, April 12, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. The program is on HIKING PERU'S INCA TRAIL presented by several Sierra Club members who did this famous trek in July of 2004. It is often listed as one of the worlds top treks and lived up to that reputation in terms of mountain scenery, personal experiences, and historical sites, but not in terms of a wilderness trek for it was often crowded. The 26 mile trail starts in the Inca's "Sacred Valley," climbs to near 14,000 feet at "Dead Woman Pass" and ends at the truly impressive Machu Picchu ruins, with numerous Incan ruins along the way. Beverly Smith put the trip together, and will be joined by Will Skelton, John Dunlap and Barbara Allen in showing and telling about the trip. Call Beverly Smith at 614-1242 for further information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, April 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)

CONSERVATION MEETING: Tuesday, April 5 at 6:00 p.m., Atlanta Bread Company, 1720 West End Ave, Nashville. Come and join us if you want to become more involved in Middle Tennessee conservation issues. Our main focuses this year are in wetlands and air quality. We have a program where you can share any of your talents, from publicity to biology to listening! Call Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com for more information.

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, (April 14), 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Please join us for an enjoyable evening of food, conversation and education. After the presentation, we will have a brief discussion of recent government actions or decisions that affect the environment and what we, as a group, can do to help protect our natural resources. Volunteer opportunities available with our group will be highlighted. Light refreshments will be served; please feel free to bring your favorite reusable cup and napkin. For more information on this program, contact Shelli Dimarco at (615) 260-0030. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) Non-members are always welcome!

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, (April 27) at 6:30 p.m. Conservation review and issues are first on the agenda! 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 you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Caty Butcher at jlclbutch@comcast.net or call 226-8925.

WETLANDS MEETING: Saturday, April 9, 2005, Place and time TBD. Interested in learning more about wetlands, mitigation and how you can assist with citizen monitoring and enforcement? Join us for a workshop hosted by Barry Sulkin, director of PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility), which will educate us on wetland mitigation monitoring and enforcement. Contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com for more information.

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!

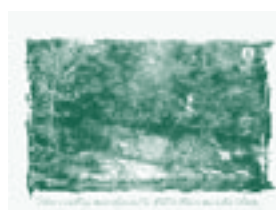
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If you would like to be active in the Save Our Smokies campaign, please contact Beverly Smith at 865/531-8480 or blsmith1300@comcast.com
 Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Fundraising Workshop Planned for April Chapter Meeting

Ann Harris, a member of both the Tennessee Chapter and the Sierra National Training Committee, will conduct a training workshop on Saturday, April 30th from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM at the spring Tennessee Chapter meeting at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Ann has an extensive history of training, planning, and organizing at both the local and national level. Her workshop will focus on fundraising.

This workshop is targeted for Group Chairs, Group Conservation Chairs, Chapter Excom members, and Chapter Conservation Issue Committee chairs, but any member of the TN Chapter is welcome to attend.

Highlights of the Fundraising Workshop

By Ann Harris

Fundraising for nonprofit organizations is both a privilege and a challenge. For small nonprofit organizations, the opportunities for meeting needs are great, and at the same time the challenges may be extraordinary and may also seem to be insurmountable.

A training workshop designed to meet the specific needs of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club while establishing the financial stability and future work of Tennessee Activists will be a part of the 2005 April Chapter meeting at Falls Creek Falls. The training will consist of the process for the Chapter to become strategically and financially stable while meeting current and future needs.

The exceptional work being performed by the Tennessee Chapter, with the small funding available today is an example of the passion that exists in the Chapter. Fundraising training for Chapter, Group and others is the first step in the process that can lead to increased funding and increased work on those same passions.

Fundraising is often one of the components or processes that are neglected-----not intentionally, but due to limited personnel, lack of setting priorities, insufficient knowledge, or dependence on a major funding source that may not be renewed.

This training will provide an understanding of what components are vital to engage the funding resources through training and mentoring by the Sierra Club Chapter Fundraising Skills Committee. This training will provide information, processes, provide examples, provide after training support to groups as needed and engage the Ex-Com into the fundraising process. The training will help make the move to take the Tennessee Chapter from the "fixed income" funding to the world of funding to meet the passions and needs of many more Tennessee communities. Maybe staff?

To receive the most of the training, bring your sense of humor, pad and pencils, masking tape, Group Chairs, Conservation Chairs, and any member of your group that is interested in supporting the fundraising tasks or perhaps a guest that might be your new fundraising chair. Leave closed minds at the house.

Training and a new way of thinking is necessary. This training is vital to the future of the Tennessee Chapter and the issues we face today and issues yet to come.

Saturday Evening Program

Carl Leathers will challenge your knowledge of conservation and environmental history with a short quiz following dinner on Saturday night. So, brush upon on your facts and figures regarding the history of our movement. Rumor has it that there will be prizes.

Saturday evening following Carl's environmental quiz we will show the DVD "How Democrats and Progressives Can Win: Solutions from George Lakoff, the author of "Moral Politics: How Liberals and Conservatives Think." Here is a statement from the back of the DVD case.

"Language is a powerful political tool. Conservatives use terms like 'tax relief' and 'war on terrorism' to get the public to think about issues their way. UC Berkley Linguistics professor George Lakoff explains how progressives can be just as effective, if not more so, how we can use language to effectively frame public in terms of *our* values, the traditional American values. By 'reframing' the debates that are polarizing our country, we can take America back."

The DVD is 25 minutes in length. Discussion regarding the content of this presentation will undoubtedly be discussed at the bonfire.

The April Chapter meeting brings with it our semi-annual event, The One Thin Dollar Silent Auction. The auction will follow the Lakoff presentation. Please bring items for the auction and money for purchases.

As always, all proceeds from the auction go towards the cost of the Tennessee Chapter's lobbyist.

Don't Forget, Spring means Silent Auction!

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 7 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 Spring Meeting (see below 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 dollars to buy all the good stuff!

Tennessee Chapter Spring Meeting

April 29th to May 1st Fall Creek Falls State Park

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/parks/FallCreekFalls/>

Directions

From Nashville take I-40 East to Cookeville. Turn right onto 111 South (exit 288). Park entrance is on the left on Highway 284 (45 miles).

From Knoxville, take I-40 West to Crossville to Peavine (exit 322). Take a left off the exit, turn right at the light and follow Highway 101 to Highway 30. Turn right on Hwy 30, park entrance is approximately 6 miles on the left.

From Atlanta, take I-75 North to Chattanooga, take I-24 toward Nashville, take Hwy 27 North toward Dayton and follow Highway 111 North to the park entrance on the right.

Hosted by the Middle Tennessee Group (MTG). Join us at Fall Creek Falls State Park. We will occupy the main Group Lodge 1, where bunks are provided, but bring your own bedding, pillow, and towel.

Activities will include early Saturday morning hikes (birdwatching, Falls overlooks, etc. A fundraising workshop (see article above), Silent Auction, and a short evening program on Saturday evening.

The cost for the entire weekend is only \$30.00 per person (1/2 price for children under 12 years old). This includes lodging, Saturday breakfast and dinner, and Sunday breakfast.

Please RSVP to Caty Butcher at :
615-226-8925 (H) - 615-347-1480 (Cell) - JLCLBUTCH@comcast.net

Registration Info Needed: Number of Attendees & Names;
Number of carnivores; Number of herbivores

Payment due upon
arrival

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)

April 2, 2005 (Sat, 9 AM). Thirteenth Annual Greenways 5K Race - The HBG cosponsors (with the Knox Greenways Coalition and Knoxville Track Club) an annual 3.1 mile race on the Third Creek Greenway in Knox County. Registration is at West High School on the day of the race; by mail before race day. Cost is \$ 15 if pre-registered, \$20 on race day. West High School is on Tobler Lane (from Kingston Pike in Sequoyah Hills, turn north on Forest Glen, then right on Tobler Lane to the school). A greenways T-shirt



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!

with original design, food, and live music are provided. Contact Will Skelton for information/applications: Home 523-2272, Work 521-0363; email whshome@bellsouth.net.

April 3, 2005 (Sun). Dayhike - up to Mt. LeConte via Boulevard and descend via Alum Cave Bluff, GSMNP - We'll hike from Newfound Gap on the AT to the Boulevard. The trail travels a rambling route northward on and near the crest of the Boulevard to Mt. LeConte. From the Boulevard's crest you can look into Porters Creek valley. We'll pass over Anakeesta Knob, which is the high point of Anakeesta Ridge and on to Mt. LeConte. From Mt. LeConte we'll descend on the Alum Cave Bluff Trail, the steepest trail to Mt. LeConte and probably the most used trail. Hike 12.9 miles, rated moderate. Round trip drive approx. 130 miles. Pre-register with Barbara Allen at 865-558-0214 or email btallen@msn.com.

April 9-10, 2005 (Sat-Sun). Backpack - Benton MacKaye Trail, Upper Bald River Wilderness, Cherokee National Forest - The new Benton MacKaye Trail, from Springer Mountain in Georgia to the Smokies, is now nearly completed in the CNF. It passes through the CNF's proposed Upper Bald River Wilderness and we're going to backpack the section from the Tellico River to the Bald River Road. The trail climbs over Sugar Mountain and is about 7 miles of relatively easy hiking. Saturday night we'll camp on the trail below Sugar Mountain, and may explore Bald River off-trail to its uppermost headwaters. Rated Easy. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; W 521-6200; email whshome@bellsouth.net.

April 23, 2005 (Sat, 10 AM - 10 PM). EarthFest - A celebration of Earth Day at the World's Fair Park - The Harvey Broome Group will have a booth and will need volunteers to man the booth as well as help set up and take down the exhibit. There will be exhibits, activities for children, music, food and fun! Contact Allan Miller: 577-6226, email almiller@discechange.com.

April 30 - May 1, 2005 (Sat-Sun). Backpack - Hazel Creek GSMNP - We will take the hired boat out of Fontana Marina over to the Hazel Creek trailhead and hike up to campsite number 84 - a beautiful site next to the creek (for any fishermen in the group). After setting up camp we would have an optional dayhike up to the Bone Valley Cabin (5.2 miles round trip with 5 wet creek crossings). The Bone Valley Cabin is listed as the most remote cabin in the Smokies. On Sunday morning we would hike out taking time to look at the old logging operation that took place in this area - there are structures still standing of the old kilns used and you can still see the depressions of the old holding ponds used to hold the timber until it was ready to be processed. Rated Easy to Moderate: hiking distance - 5 miles to the campsite with the optional 5.2 mile round trip to the cabin; there will be a charge for the boat ride. Approximate round trip miles - 150 miles from Food City in Alcoa, TN. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: email sharvey86@aol.com; phone 865-986-4608 (days), 865-986-6798 (evening).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, April 1-3 - Smoky Mountains Backpack - Plans are tentatively being made to backpack this weekend in the Smokies or from Stecoah Gap to Fon-

tana Dam. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 evenings or email Katibug1959@aol.com

Saturday, April 2 - Murfreesboro Wetlands of Sinking Creek Cleanup - Meet at the Crossing strip mall on Memorial Drive for cleanup of a local creek bed. This is a joint venture between the Stones River Watershed Association and the Sierra Club. Call Heloise at 615-896-6278, or e-mail her at stillwild@bellsouth.net for a time and what to bring.

Sunday, April 3 - Old Stone Fort Wildflower Scouting - Walk for four or five miles in the afternoon, along the riverside and the ridge. The bluebells and hepatica should be in bloom (and maybe 40 others!). Call Heloise at 615-896-6278, or e-mail her at stillwild@bellsouth.net.

Saturday, April 9 - Short Springs Hike - This short but not easy hike will give you a chance to view wildflowers at Short Springs, then on to Rutledge Falls. Both are near Tullahoma, TN. Alice Jenkins will lead this trip. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com for time and location.

Sunday, April 17 - Flat Rock Cedar Glade Hike - Join us for a 3 mile walk at the Flat Rock Cedar Glade in Rutherford County, east of Murfreesboro. This is the largest cedar glade preserve in Tennessee. Contact Heloise at Heloisew@bellsouth.net or 896-6278 for a time.

Saturday - Sunday April 16-17 - 3rd Annual Wilderness 1st Aid Training - Join us for the third annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training (WFA) at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Landmark Learning, LLC, will perform the training again this year. WFA is a 16 hour/2 yr certification course which covers the most common traumatic, medical, and environmental issues that occur in the backcountry. Check the Tennes-Sierran for detailed information and the signup form. For questions, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 evenings or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

Saturday-Sunday, April 16-17 - ZOO DAYS - Volunteer at our booth at the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere for a few hours either day. We hand out postcards to obtain signatures to send to the President/legislators and ask folks about the environment, telling them that the Sierra Club is out there to protect it. Lots of children come by and it's a great time to plug recycling. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com for more info and the volunteer schedule. You can tour the zoo for free yourself if you volunteer. Some refreshments provided.

Saturday, April 23 - Earth Day Celebration at Centennial Park - Mark your calendar to volunteer for a couple of hours or to stop by and visit the Sierra Club booth from noon - 6:00 pm. Some free items like calendars, bumper stickers and little plants will be available and refreshments for our volunteers. We need folks to obtain signatures on postcards from the visitors to the park. This is a perfect day to talk to folks about what the Sierra Club does and how we are involved in keeping attention on our own environment. Plus it is A LOT OF FUN!!! Come on out. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com for more info and the volunteer schedule.

Monday, April 25 - Outings Leader Training - Outings Leader training is for anyone who is interested in becoming an active outings leader and is a Sierra Club requirement for being an outings leader. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. at The Atlanta Bread Company on West End Blvd. in Nashville. For additional information, questions, or directions to the training, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 evenings or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

Saturday, May 7 - Oaklands Creek Cleanup - Join the Stones River Watershed Association cleanup of Oaklands Creek, which runs behind Oaklands Mansion in Murfreesboro. Call Heloise at 896-6278 or e-mail her at stillwild@bellsouth.net.

Sunday, May 8 - Cedars of Lebanon Wildflower Hike - Cedars of Lebanon State Park wildflower hike through cedar glades and rock outcrops. Five miles. Call Heloise at 896-6278 or e-mail her at stillwild@bellsouth.net.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

SHELBY FOREST WILDFLOWER HIKE: Saturday, April 2, 2005, 10:00am - Mee-man-Shelby Forest State Park, Memphis, Tennessee. Chickasaw Group Chair Charlie Rond will lead this wildflower hike at Mee-man-Shelby Forest State Park on the first Saturday in April. A number of wildflowers such as Blue Phlox, Solomon's Seal, Spicebush and various Violets should be in bloom. Meet at the visitors center at 10:00am. Bring water and a sack lunch or snacks. Raingear may be needed and boots or sturdy tennis shoes if it is muddy. Contact Charlie Rond <chasrond@bellsouth.net> at (901) 452-8150.

Memphis Botanic Garden Hike: Sunday, April 10, 2005 -11:00am. Signs of Spring Walk. Memphis Botanic Garden. Join a walk through the Memphis Botanic Garden at 750 Cherry Road, Audubon Park, Memphis, Tennessee. We will walk with Tennessee Master Gardeners to see the flowers and changes that come with Spring in the Botanic Garden. We will walk through all the special areas of the garden, snow or shine. Contact hike leader Judith Hammond at (901) 276-2819.

Wolf River Harbor Cleanup: Saturday, April 16, 2005 -10:00am-12noon. Auction Street Bridge Boat Ramp, Memphis, Tennessee. Meet at 10:00am at the public boat ramp under the Auction Street bridge, just north of the Pyramid. The closest major intersection is North Front Street. Join members of the Chickasaw Group and the Sierra Club Water Sentinels as we pick up trash and litter and make Wolf River Harbor look better. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Participants are advised to wear sturdy shoes that they do not mind getting muddy and clothing appropriate to the weather conditions. For more information, contact James Baker at (901) 826-2448.

Lichterman Nature Center Tabling: Saturday, April 23, 2005 -9:00am-2:00pm. Lichterman Nature Center, Memphis, Tennessee. Come join us at Lichterman Nature Center for a celebration of the Earth! EarthFest is family oriented festival that includes live musical entertainment, environmental information, interpretive nature walks, children's Earth art activities, animal presentations and fun for the whole family! Bring a picnic lunch and relax by the lake or enjoy exploring the three miles of trails that lead you through 65 acres of forest, lake and meadow habitats. Admission is free from 10 am until 11 am. After that Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5.50 for seniors and \$4.50 for children (ages 3-12) for non-members. Admission is free for members. For more information, call Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713 or Lichterman at (901) 767-7322, ext. 121.

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.

Old Forest Hike: Saturday, April 9, 2004 - 10:00am - 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 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.

Be a Delegate to the Sierra Summit

By Clark A. Buchner

Continued from Page 1

be an event that will take place every two years. The year 2005 was chosen as a beginning point in that it is a non-election year.

Many cities around the country were considered as the launching spots for such an event. The mayor of San Francisco stepped forward to assist the Club by obtaining the Moscone Center, and put the efforts and energy of the city into helping Sierra make this event a successful new venture for the Club.

In the past two or three years the club has been working with Professor Marshall Ganz of the Harvard School of Government, to study and evaluate the organizational structure of the club in order to be a more effective at local, regional and national levels. Professor Ganz suggested a few years ago, that all major groups in America, such as physicians, engineers, religious orders, labor unions and various trades people have national conventions, and the Sierra Club would do well to conduct such an event on a regular basis. The opportunity of such a gathering opens the doors to bring in the larger body of Club members into engagement with more active members to build a stronger organization dedicated to the enjoyment and protection of our planet home.

This is monumental undertaking on the part of the Club, and it has a mixture of elements designed to appeal to the strong activist as well as to the general membership. Will this event be fun? Yes! Will it be purposeful? Yes! Is it important that members of the Tennessee Chapter participate? Yes!

Yes to all of those questions. There will be some Direction Setting sessions that will be important and hopefully those will set new courses of action for the Club to have a more integrally connected relationship between the grassroots, regional considerations, governance committees and the national organizational as well as establish closer connections of staff and volunteers to achieve Club purpose. It is most important that we have members from Tennessee Chapter there to see that we have a place at the table.

Selection of Delegates to the Summit is an important first step, and this needs to be accomplished and submitted on the part of our chapters and groups by the end of May 2005. The Chapter message that the Delegates take to the Summit Direction Setting will need to be resolved by the July 2, 2005 deadline, to be placed on the agenda. Selection as a Delegate is only one part of it, as this will not be an inexpensive undertaking on the part of participating individuals. Tennessee Chapter will have to decide whether we can give partial reimbursement to our Delegates toward the Summit registration fee. Airplane tickets to San Francisco along with the expenses of hotels, surface transportation and meals will be borne by individual participants. It is my understanding that Delegates will be able to have Beyond the Bay (travel agency for the Club) obtain club discounts for air fares and hotel rates, and I do not have the details of that at this time. Thinking in a realistic mode, I believe the range of eight hundred (\$800.00) to a thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) out-of-pocket expenses should be expected for those wishing to attend this event. There will be arrangements for people that wish to camp, there will be some in-home hosting available, as there are some



3rd Annual Wilderness First Aid Training
April 16th & 17th
Fall Creek Falls State Park
A wilderness first aid course where you invest 16 hours for a 2 year certification

Last Chance to Sign Up!

There's still room for you to join us at the third annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training (WFA) the weekend of April 16th and 17th at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Landmark Learning, LLC, a long term partner with SOLO (Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunity) will perform the training again this year.

Course: WFA - 16 hours / 2-yr certification. Originally called Backcountry First Aid, this course was the first wilderness medical training to be taught anywhere in the world. WFA covers the basics and the most common traumatic, medical, and environmental issues that occur in the backcountry.

When: April 16th and 17th

Where: Fall Creek Falls State Park

What is included: Training by highly qualified instructors, mid-morning snacks, lunch, mid-afternoon snacks

Not included: Breakfast, dinner, lodging

Lodging: We plan to camp in the state park. Make your own arrangements.

Cost: \$135, non-refundable (we commit to Landmark, you commit to Sierra)

Other: Membership in Sierra is required. You can join on line at <https://ww2.sierra-club.org/membership/> or Katherine can send you a membership form. Introductory memberships are \$25.

Questions: Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email at katibug1959@aol.com.

Enrollment: Complete form and send with check to Katherine Pendleton

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

3rd Annual First Aid Wilderness Training Registration Form

Name _____ Phone # _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Previous 1st Aid Training _____

I am interested in camping with the other training participants YES ___ NO ___

Group Dinner at the Lodge YES ___ NO ___

Non-refundable payment of \$135 is due ASAP/Immediately

NOTE - breakfast, dinner and lodging not included

Please send payment to:

Katherine Pendleton - 105 Catamaran Court - Nashville, TN 37217

250,000 Club members within a three hour drive of San Francisco, and of course having a shared hotel room helps reduce costs as well.

To think of us having a full contingency of twelve (12) members of the Tennessee Chapter allotment to serve as Delegates to the Summit, is a fairly tall order, yet I remain hopeful that we can at least come close. I encourage you as members to participate. Your Chapter Chair, Don Richardson, and I will be there to represent you, and I hope there are others that will join us. Don and I will also help to keep you informed and appraised of how you may participate in this grand event.

For more information check out the website for this event at <http://www.sierrasummit.org>

See you in San Francisco,

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.

The Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Seeks a New Volunteer Newsletter Editor for the Tennes-Sierran

If you are a member in good standing, PC and Internet savvy, have proven and excellent communication/organizational skills, are able to commit to attending quarterly Tennessee chapter meetings, and have a "media" vision to share with our membership, we'd love to hear from you.

Graphics software (Adobe InDesign CS) is provided, however, we recommend that the new editor have a PC computer with Windows 2000, 1.0GHz Pentium® 4 Processor, 256 RAM, CD-RW Rom, or better, IP service and email in place. A high-speed (DSL or Cable) Internet connection is recommended, however, dialup is sufficient.

Software orientation and some procedural training will be available as well as ongoing support and consultations from former newsletter editors. There are also other training opportunities offered by Sierra Club in which the new editor can participate alongside other state newsletter editors throughout the USA.

Our new Editor will ideally assume responsibilities beginning with the September 2005 issue of the Tennes-Sierran. The September 2005 issue of the Tennes-Sierran begins production the end of July 2005. All materials, including software, templates, file archives, etc. will be transferred to the new editor at the Summer 2005 Tennessee Chapter Meeting. The summer chapter meeting will be held July 29-31, 2005 - Sterchi Lodge at Max Patch in the Great Smokies Mountains.

Please consult <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/guidelinesforsubmission.htm> for current standards of operation and production calendar. Then contact Rachel Floyd at Rfloyd557@aol.com, or call 615-406-9204 if interested.



North Shore Road Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Drafted by Ted Snyder, North Carolina Chapter Sierra Club - 13 Feb 2005
Submitted by Axel Ringe, Havery Broome Group of the Tennessee

Continued from Page 3

the plans for [the] project. . . ." And it further concluded: "The committee is of the opinion that continuation of such damage to natural park values is indefensible from either the standpoint of conservation or visitor use."

After that, Interior requested no more funding for the construction.

Congressman Charles Taylor (R. NC) in whose district this land lies, attached a rider to the Department of Transportation Appropriations for 2000, appropriating \$16 million for further construction of this road. Faced with that, Interior has commenced work on an Environmental Impact Statement on further road construction.

Since 1943 many environmental laws have been enacted, which will severely constrain if not prohibit any further construction. This threatened southwest quadrant of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the largest unfragmented forested mountain tract in the East. Its forests are a haven for neotropical migratory birds. It provides unbroken habitat for both plants and animals. The terrain consists of numerous finger ridges, all precipitous, and any road construction will require mammoth cuts and fills in unstable rock and soil. Along any route, the rock to be exposed contains iron pyrite, which, when exposed to groundwater or rainwater, leaches sulfuric acid, which sterilizes any stream into which it drains.

At this time, the EIS study has identified three alternates which involve construction in this roadless zone of the Park. (1) Partial construction of a 4.7 mile segment. (2) Full construction near the lake shore, 27.4 miles long, ending at Fontana Dam, and then crossing the top of the dam on an existing roadway. [This route is not likely to be built because of national security concerns for Fon-

tana Dam and its installations.] (3) Full construction on a route deeper in the Park, and continuing to NC 28 below Fontana Dam, a length of 34.1 miles. The second alternate, along the lake shore, would require construction of three bridges across embayments where the water is too deep to use ordinary pier supports. Those crossings would utilize "non-conventional structures" (defined as steel-arch bridges and cable-stayed bridges) with spans ranging from 1,500 to 3,000 feet, and height above footings of 300 to 600 feet. [The Brooklyn Bridge has a span of 1595 feet.]

A comparable road now approved and ready for construction is a 20 mile segment of US 64 through the Ocoee River gorge in nearby Tennessee. It crosses the same acidic rock, and typically steep and fragmented terrain, and is estimated in its EIS to cost two billion dollars. It is not an exaggeration to say that two lanes of such a road, in the Smokies, is likely to cost one billion dollars.

The County Commissioners of Swain County, NC, in which all of the proposed road lies, by a vote of 4-1 have asked for a cash settlement in lieu of any further construction. The Sierra Club, the major national conservation organizations, and all the regional and local conservation organizations are and have been supporting the effort of the County Commissioners to obtain a cash settlement. A group of local residents have formed their own organization, Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County, and is waging a campaign for a cash settlement. The Governor of North Carolina, one of the four original signatory parties to the 1943 Agreement, also supports a cash settlement.

Construction of the road is sponsored by Congressman Charles Taylor, and by a small but vocal group

of descendants of persons buried in cemeteries in the Park, who want a road for cemetery access. This despite the fact that the 1943 Agreement does not mention cemeteries in any place, despite the fact that in 1943 the then living descendants were given the option of having the graves moved, free of charge to cemeteries outside the Park, and despite the fact that they sued in federal court to require the road to be built, and lost in District Court, in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and had a further appeal denied by the U.S. Supreme Court.

A cash settlement alternate is now one of the options being considered in the Environmental Impact Statement. Swain County is asking for a settlement of \$52 million. The citizens group employed a CPA to calculate the present value of the road, taking its value in the 1940's and adjusting it for interest it would have earned and for inflation. Their consultant arrived at that figure. Swain County proposes that the principal be lodged with an agency of the State of North Carolina, and that it only be permitted to spend the interest. The principal could only be spent on approval by a vote of two-thirds of the registered voters of the county. The proposed settlement, invested at five percent, would yield the county \$2.6 million a year. In its 2004-2005 budget, the county expects to collect \$2,684,365 in *ad valorem* taxes.

If the road were built on its longest alignment, it would terminate on NC 28 below Fontana Dam. A recent traffic count shows 280 vehicles a day passing that point. NC 28 is a modern road, four-lanes for

half its length between Bryson City and Fontana Dam. Swain County receives two cents of the state sales tax. Every time a tourist buys a tee shirt or mug for \$10, the county collects 20 cents. Merchants in Bryson City would have to sell 13 million tee shirts a year to give the county an equal benefit to a cash settlement. That's 35,616 tee shirts a day, rain or snow, winter or summer.

Swain and adjoining Graham County in NC and Blount County in TN are famous among motorcycle enthusiasts for their "blacksnake" roads. US 129 from far western Swain County to Tallassee, TN is called the "Dragon's Tail." Bikers bring their machines here by trailer from all over the country. Graham County spends more money rescuing injured bikers from the Cherokee Skyway and carrying them to the regional hospital than it gains in tourist revenue from the road. Should a North Shore Road be built, it would become the third blacksnake road radiating from one central point in Swain County.

Archeological sites in the Great Smoky Mountains National park are kept secret to save them from vandalism and looting. The cemetery locations along the north shore of Fontana are not secret. Easy road access to them would expose them to vandalism and looting.

A cash settlement with Swain County is the only reasonable, logical and non-damaging alternate under consideration.

For more information contact tedsnyder@nuvox.net or (864) 638-3686.

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group
Tennes-Sierran
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Nashville, Tennessee 37212

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