

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 36, Number 2 - February, 2005

They're Back! The 2005 Tennessee State Legislature

What you can do for your Tennessee environment

Submitted by Penny Brooks and Bill Terry, Co-Chairs
Legislative Committee of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club

Every year the Legislature meets and considers bills related to Tennessee's environment. Whether the bill passes or fails depends in large part on YOUR help in supporting a good bill and opposing the bad bills. You are the biggest asset that Tennessee's environment has. There are over 6,500 of you and you can make a huge difference in the legislature's commitment to protecting Tennessee's air, water, landscapes, forests, and ecology.

We have included in this edition of the Tennes-sieran a stamped return post card. Please tear it out, fill it in and put it into the mail. By doing this you are committing to helping us get some good legislation passed in the legislature this year. Sending it in gives you a choice of receiving one or all of the following:

Action alerts: These are emails and phone calls letting you know that a bill is coming up for a vote and asking you to call your legislator(s) to ask them to vote for or against the bill. The alerts include a rationale for the bill and information about who to call, what to say.

Legislative Updates: These are weekly updates on the progress of environmental bills. They are compiled by Stewart Clifton, lobbyist for Tennessee Conservation Voters.

Legislative Calendar for the week: This is a weekly list of meetings of subcommittees and committees and which bills coming up for a vote. The advantage of having a calendar is that you can plan visits to the Capitol, letters and calls to legislators. This list is prepared by Mike Murphy, the Sierra Club lobbyist.

What will we do with the information from the post card? We will enter your information into a database that can be sorted by representative and senatorial district. If your Senator or Representative is going to vote on an important environmental bill and we think a call from you would help him/her make up his/her mind, we will email you an alert. The Legislative Update is mainly informational so you can track bills. We will not give away or sell the information you give us to anyone; we will not use it for any purpose other than legislative issues.

Do you feel a little uneasy about calling a legislator? Those of us on the Legislative Committee all felt that way when we started talking to our legislators, but we got over it. Most of the time, when you call, you will get a secretary who will be friendly and gracious. She/he will want your address and the number of the bill you are supporting or opposing (we will give you this information), and they may ask you why you support or oppose the bill (we will help you with this too). The calls can be made to a toll-free number so that there is no long distance cost.

Here is what a few phone calls accomplished last year: Helped pass a bill that restricted sinkhole deposit of solid wastes, stopped a bill to relieve operators of hazardous waste disposal operations from liability, stopped a bill to restrict definition of "Tennessee waters" to just those that are navigable, helped pass a bill that would allow expansion of vehicle emission testing to counties that are

in "non-attainment" of air quality standards. Hundreds of phone calls and letters also persuaded the Governor to restore some of the land acquisition funds that he had taken the previous year.

Without your help, we would have only one person, our lobbyist Mike Murphy, to defend our environment against polluters and other interests that don't care about future generations. With you we are an force of hundreds, maybe thousands. Please take the time to send in the post card. Tennessee's environment is depending on you. Questions: Call or email Penny Brooks (615-792-5306/penny.h.brooks@vanderbilt.edu) or Bill Terry (615-665-1010/hikebike@comcast.net).

The Legislative Process

Every year a number of environmentally related bills are introduced into the State Senate and State House of Representatives. Here is what happens:

- (1) A legislator decides to introduce a bill-either because a constituent or group wants the bill introduced or because the legislator him/her self wants the bill. That legislator usually becomes the "sponsor" of the bill and will often try to get other legislators to "sign on" to the bill
- (2) The legislator gets the bill written in official language and "drops it in".
- (3) Each bill is sent to a standing committee in each -usually the Senate Environment, Conservation, and Tourism Committee or the House Conservation and Environment Committee. Each of these has subcommittees that must consider the bill.
- (4) Depending on the PERCEIVED support for a bill, it is either put "on notice" or deferred for a short period or indefinitely. Being put "on notice" means that it will be brought up in the committee for discussion and voted on.
- (5) If it passes the committee, it will go to the full body for a vote; if it involves money, beforehand it will probably go to the Finance Committee for further discussion and vote; if it passes, it will go before the full body for a vote

The best place for you to have an impact is in Step 4, when the bill is coming up before the subcommittees and committees. Then is when a phone call from a constituent or interested party makes a difference. But, legislators have short memories. If a bill does not come up that week, you may have to call again the next week.

Occasionally a bill makes it all the way through the legislature and is signed by the governor and becomes law. It is a long and difficult process, but every step forward to protect our environment is worth the effort.



Dogwood Alliance Targets Bowater, Inc., An Effort to Protect the Cumberland Plateau

By Caroline Keicher, and Kelly Sheehan

One of the most beautiful areas in our state is under attack from the irresponsible and devastating practices of industrial logging. The native hardwood forests of the Cumberland Plateau and Southern Appalachian Region are being lost at incredible rates, as are our forests across the South. Nearly 6 million acres of Southern forests are logged every year, primarily for the production of paper. Unless we act, we risk watching our ecological heritage reduced to a few sparse acres spattering a once rich landscape.

For this reason, the Dogwood Alliance, a network of 70 organizations protecting southern forests and communities from the impacts of unsustainable industry forest practices, is targeting the largest paper company operating in the Cumberland Plateau and Southern Appalachian region: Bowater, Inc.

Based in Greenville, SC, Bowater owns approximately 260,000 acres on the Plateau, and owns or manages an additional 211,000 acres in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina. Bowater has already converted much of the native mixed hardwood forest to biologically sterile pine farms over the past several decades, managing an astounding 67% of this land (315,000 acres) as short rotation pine plantations. The company was still converting natural forests to plantations as recently as 2003.

There are four unsustainable forestry practices used by Bowater and other companies in the Cumberland Plateau and Southern Appalachian region that are most concerning for Dogwood Alliance: large scale

Continued on page 5



Look for your reply postage card in the insert of this issue of the Tennes-Sierran

Attention! Tennes-Sieran Readers

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Tennes-Sierran
The monthly newsletter of the
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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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davidorr@kornet.org
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zeblady@twlakes.net
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 366-4738
GB1Nature@aol.com
Membership: Dick Mochow (901) 274-1510
dinimo@earthlink.net

TN Local Groups:

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www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee

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Outings: Chris O'Connor (423) 867-4957
chris_o77@yahoo.com

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Vice Chair: Karen Prosser (901) 327-9820
krprosser@bellsouth.net
Conservation: James Baker (901) 372-6717
aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net
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Jhammond@tnqio.sdps.org

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Chair: Axel Ringe (865).397-1840
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
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Blsmith1300@comcast.net
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dreister@bellsouth.net
Outings: Roger Jenkins (865).690-3257
mcdonaldjenkins@twohikers.org

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

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

Chair: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
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

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www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg

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jharwood@tntech.edu
Grp Newsletter: Heather Hardison
nushu@citlink.net

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
40th Anniversary
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.

Enclose check and mail to: Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

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A response from the TN Chapter CAFO Committee By Steve Ferguson

It remains our opinion that TDEC did not properly consider the impact of a proposed CAFO on the creeks, wells and ground water of Johnson County when they issued a permit to High Mountain Holstein in the minimum time. For instance, TDEC's permit would allow three lagoons to be built right over a significant wet weather stream that is often filled with rushing water. The little valley that will be excavated for the lagoons is a traditional waterway that leads into a tributary of Roan Creek. Also of concern, are the many family wells and homes in close proximity to proposed dairy facilities that will house 699 dairy cows (plus calves), the largest such CAFO in Tennessee. Unbelievably, no specific hydrology study was done on this area

while the permit was being considered to determine where the seepage from the lagoons might go.

Yes, TDEC did hold the required Public Hearing on the General CAFO Rules last spring in Greeneville and yes, citizens from Johnson County presented Saya Qualls and staff with numerous oral and written questions outlining, in detail, our concerns. These questions were thorough and based on scientific studies of the negative impacts of factory farms. We cited research that unequivocally demonstrated that factory farms (CAFOs) are major sources of water, soil and air pollution in many places across the country where they have been permitted. Some sources used by Johnson County citizens in making their arguments were materials from the American Public Health Association, the National Academy of Science, EPA, USDA, University of Iowa, Duke University, Colorado College Department of Economics, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club and others. TDEC seemed totally unaware of these studies and less than expert in talking about their own General Permit Rules that were being discussed at the Hearing that evening.

Illustrating TDEC's apparent lack of commitment to the oversight of CAFOs in Tennessee, Ms Child admitted in correspondence, that the Department of Environment and Conservation has never done a study of any kind on the already permitted CAFOs in Tennessee. Such studies would seem warranted considering documented evidence of harm done in other states and in reference to Tennessee's own 303(d) list. One might conclude that TDEC doesn't want to know about and be accountable for the potential damage these entities can do and may be doing around the state.

At the two "informal gatherings" held in Mountain City in August by TDEC and the Department of Agriculture, county citizen's numbering nearly 500 at the first meeting and over 300 at the second, voiced their strong opposition to the plan; again calling attention to national research studies demonstrating numerous problems with factory farms. Lagoon construction and seepage, run off, toxic gas emissions and volatile organic compounds, groundwater contamination, hormones and antibiotics, loss of property values, animal waste disposal and over application of waste, traffic, noise and lights were all subjects of inquiry.

Within a few days after the final meeting on August 31, the permit was granted without further study or hesitation. It appeared that TDEC had given little or no consideration to the many significant issues that very much concerned the residents of our county on the occasion of those meetings. We all know that there is an important difference between hearing and listening, and listening they did not do.

Lastly, in response to Ms. Child's postulations about a citizen's right of appeal, Joe McCaleb, attorney for the Johnson County Citizen's Committee, stated that "there is clearly NO provision in the Tennessee Water Quality Act that allows third party (citizen, non-permit holder) to actually appeal a permit, either general or individual. There is a provision known as Section 118(a) that allows citizens the privilege of filing a complaint with the Commissioner, if the citizen sees an act of pollution or sees a permittee violating its permit. THIS IS NOT A PERMIT APPEAL. This process is long and drawn out : (90 days for the Commissioner to act on the Complaint which is ALWAYS denied; then 30 days to appeal to the Water Quality Board; and then at least 60 days and usually much longer, before any Complaint is heard by the Board). All along the way TDEC applies resistance. This means that there is a minimum of six months from the date the Complaint is filed, to any decision. In the meantime, the permit and the pollution goes on as if nothing is happening and the citizen has NO authority to stop it.

In my 33.5 years as an attorney, I know of no case of this sort in which the citizen has prevailed in front of the Water

Quality Board.

There is another procedure, not in the Water Quality Control Act, but in the Administrative Procedures Act (APA); known as a Petition of Declaratory Order. Again, this procedure is NOT a permit appeal. This Petition of Declaratory Order was used for the first time in 1999 by the citizens I represent in the Spencer Case in order to challenge a permit which allowed Spencer to discharge into the now famous Rumbling Falls Cave. TDEC's legal counsel fought tooth and nail to prevent the citizens I represented, from using that approach, but they lost. That case was heard before the Water Quality Board who eventually ruled against us, after it had ruled for us. We appealed and the decision was reversed by the Davidson County Chancery Court, the first ever.

Since then, TDEC's legal department has claimed this process as a permit appeal procedure. It is clearly not by statutory definition"

Sincerely,
Steve Ferguson, Johnson County Citizen's Committee for Clean Air and Water

January 13, 2005

Dear *Tennes-Sierran* Readership:

I have high regard for the Sierra Club and would like to share some additional information not presented in the January 2005 *Tennes-Sierran's* front page article regarding a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) in Johnson County. Tennessee's CAFO rules are more stringent and more protective than the federal EPA standards for CAFOs. As proposed, the Johnson County dairy operation is just under the EPA size threshold for regulation, so if it were to locate in a state regulated under EPA's national rules, no permit would have been required.

Our citizens can expect Tennessee's CAFO program to defend Tennessee's waters and thereby protect human health and environment. Our requirements for nutrient management planning, maintenance of buffer around application areas, and special requirements for liquid waste systems are designed to keep animal waste from contaminating our waters.

TDEC recognizes public input is important and critical for our work. Prior to the issuance of the Johnson County CAFO General Permit, there was a public hearing in Greeneville to take citizen comments in April 2004. Because there was so much public interest regarding the Johnson County proposal, a group of senior Environment and Conservation staff from Nashville made two additional trips to Mountain City to seek input and answer questions in person. Meaningful information was shared and input collected at all these events.

The Johnson County project was granted coverage under the CAFO general permit on September 3, 2004 - the very end of our deadline for making a decision on this issue. The permit met all criteria outlined for water quality control measures at animal feeding operations. It is important to note our department's authority to regulate CAFOs is limited to aspects of the facility that affect, or are likely to affect, waters of the state. The department scrutinized this proposed operation to be sure that it met all requirements of the rules. Meeting all the requirements of the rules, the department authorized the proposed operation.

TDEC is sensitive to citizens' rights of appeal. Currently, Tennessee citizens do have the right to file a legal proceeding to challenge the issuance of an individual permit, the issuance of a general permit or coverage under a general permit. The department remains engaged in discussions on how we may continue to enhance the present avenues of appeal available to citizens.

The mission of Environment and Conservation is to protect, preserve and improve Tennessee's natural resources, and my expectation is that we will fulfill that responsibility with an attitude of service and sense of accountability. While we do not agree on every issue, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the Sierra Club toward our shared goal of a cleaner Tennessee.

Sincerely,
Betsy L. Child
Commissioner,
TN Department of Environment and Conservation

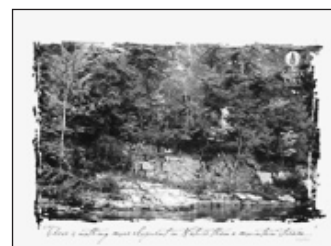
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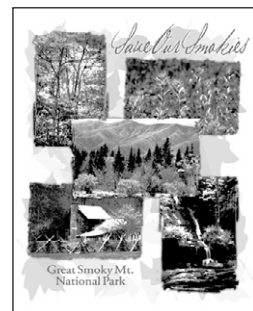
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Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, February 8, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. For our February program, we welcome Kim DeLozier, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. No surprise - Kim will be talking about wildlife in the Park, elk, bears and other wild critters, their status and what they face in the future. Kim puts on a good program so this is one you won't want to miss. Call 966-4142 for more information

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday February 22, 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, (February 10) at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Caroline Keicher of the Dogwood Alliance will present a program on how they are working to protect southern forests and communities from the impacts of unsustainable forestry practices. The Dogwood Alliance works to change the way paper companies do business, holding paper companies accountable for the environmental and social impacts of their business practices while creating financial incentives for positive change by creating market demand for environmentally sound products.

The Dogwood Alliance is currently focusing on the Cumberland Plateau and Southern Appalachian region, a place of beauty, diversity, and awe. This area is home to the South's largest remaining intact hardwood forests, is the global center of freshwater aquatic diversity, and is a virtual "Salamander kingdom", with the richest concentration of salamanders of any temperate region of the world. It is also home to hundreds family-owned sawmills and hardwood businesses and is a hotspot of tourism and whitewater recreation.

Yet the forests and way of life in this area are being destroyed for the production of disposable paper products through logging endangered hardwood forests and replacing them with lifeless pine farms. Chemical fertilizers and herbicides are being sprayed from airplanes to make sure only the pines grow back. Many of the chemicals are linked to making people sick and degrading the water quality.

This talk will focus on the biological diversity and ecological richness of the Cumberland Plateau and Southern Appalachian region, along with the growing threats to this precious ecosystem. We'll discuss what's being done right here in Nashville to join the rest of the Southeast's efforts to protect this area, and what you can do to help.

For more information on this program, contact Shelli Dimarco at globalpeace04@hotmail.com or call (615) 260-0030. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, which is accessible only from Granny White Pike.) Regardless of membership or activism status, everyone is encouraged to attend our program meetings. We welcome you to join us for this informative program.

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, (February

23) at 6:30 p.m. Conservation 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.

MTG ANNUAL PLANNING RETREAT: Saturday, February 19th—Please join us for our annual meeting from 9 AM to 4 PM to plan and establish our group's goals for the new year! We will have a potluck lunch, so bring something to share with others. Whether you are a regular, or have not been active in the past, we want to hear exactly what you want the MTG Sierra Club to be! Do you have ideas for improvements or for outings, volunteer activities, or new topics of concern? If you want to do more for the environment and the world, the new year is a great time to become active in the MTG Sierra Club! Join us! We want to hear from you! The meeting will be held at 4411 Tyne Boulevard. Directions are below. To RSVP or for questions, contact Jeremy Doochin @ 665-1572 (Home) or 260-5528 (Cell) or @ doochers87@aol.com.

Directions: To the Guest House at 4411 Tyne Boulevard From our usual meeting site at St Bernard Academy:

- Take Hillsboro Road toward Green Hills
- Continue straight on Hillsboro Road for several miles, passing Green Hills Shopping area and pass Harding Place (where Hillsboro Road narrows to two lanes). Go until the next light at Tyne Boulevard
- At Tyne Blvd turn right
- go about ½ mile to 4411 Tyne Blvd, which is on the left

- From I-65: -Take exit at Harding Place
- Travel straight west on Harding Place several miles to Hillsboro Road
- At Hillsboro Rd. light, turn left
- Go to next light at Tyne Blvd.
- Turn Right onto Tyne Blvd.
- go about ½ mile to 4411 Tyne Blvd, which is on the left

The meeting is in the guest house (behind the pool) in back of the main house.

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, 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, February 3, 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, February 13, 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) 372-6717 or aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, February 14, 2005, 6:30pm - University of Memphis Alumni Center, 635 Normal 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 February 9 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150.

THIRD TUESDAY GATHERING: Tuesday, February 15, 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, February 23, 2005, 6:00pm - Memphis and Shelby County Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tennessee. "On the Road in Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia: Field Work, Adventures, and Observations in Southern Argentina," is Membership Chair Jill Johnston's February program presentation. In November and December of 2004, Jill traveled to South America as a field assistant on a GPS project conducted by the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the University of Memphis. The project, funded by the National Science Foundation and NASA, seeks to understand the processes involved in the development of the Andes and the cycle of large earthquakes that periodically occur in Argentina. The work entailed setting up sophisticated GPS recording equipment in an area of southern Patagonia in and near one of the premier national parks in Argentina, the Parque Nacional Los Glaciares, which contains one of the earth's few advancing glaciers. Staying in the park and on remote estancias provided not only a unique working environment but also an opportunity to learn about the land, conservation practices, and the people of southern Argentina. For more information, contact Jill Johnston at 278-2813.

Dogwood Alliance Targets Bowater, Inc., An Effort to Protect the Cumberland Plateau

By Caroline Keicher, and
Kelly Sheehan

Continued from page 1

in Calhoun, TN, and drives most of the cutting on the Plateau.

Between its operations in the U.S. and Canada, Bowater, Inc. churns out about three million tons of newsprint a year. In addition, the company makes paper used in magazines, catalogs, advertising circulars, book paper, pulp for the open market, and lumber products.

While Bowater has reported a net loss for the past two years, CEO Arnie Nemirow brought in over \$3 million in compensation, including stock options, in 2002. Because it is the largest paper company operating in the Cumberland Plateau and Southern Appalachian region, changes in Bowater's forestry practices are essential to protecting this critical ecosystem. Dogwood Alliance is building on years of citizen resistance to Bowater's practices in the region by challenging Bowater to:

- 1) Stop logging and buying wood from endangered forests.
- 2) End unsustainable forestry practices, including the conversion of natural forests to plantations, large-scale clearcutting of natural forests, and the aerial spraying of chemical fertilizers and herbicides.

- 3) Maximize the use of post-consumer recycled waste in all of its paper products to take pressure off of natural forests.

Here in Nashville, we will be rallying grassroots support to pressure Bowater to change its practices. We will be collecting petitions, writing letters, and organizing concerned citizens and organizations into powerful and effective coalitions. We will also be holding a "Real Neighbor" tour to illustrate the truth about what it means to live next to a Bowater logging operation.



Photo by Mack Pritchard

To get involved here in Tennessee, or to find out more about the campaign, contact Caroline Keicher at 615.248.6500 ex. 101 or ckeicher@greencorps.org. Let us know if your group is interested in having us to stop by on our "Real Neighbor" tour.

You can also send an email to Bowater's CEO from our website, www.dogwoodalliance.org, or contact Bowater CEO Arnie Nemirow directly at 55 E. Camperdown Way, Greenville SC 29602-1028, phone: (864) 271-7733, fax: (864) 282-9482.

Group News

by Charlie Rond

Germantown's precedent-setting push for a proposed Wolf River Parkway through the Riverwoods Natural Area prompted the formation recently of a Shelby County Conservation Coalition that includes the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club.

Tentatively called "SC3," the coalition was a response also to proposed development on Gray's Creek and at Shelby Farms. Keith Kirkland, Executive Director of the Wolf River Conservancy, called the meeting to discuss the problem areas.

Joining Keith were Carolyn Pierce, President of Ten-

nessee Trails Association and Vice Chair of the Chickasaw Group and her fellow TTA members Gloria Linski and Freddie Felts; Laura Adams, President of Shelby Farms Park and Steve Sondheim of

FOSP and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC); Jeanne Arthur, Conservation Chair of the Garden Club of Memphis, and Group Chair Charlie Rond, Conservation Chair James Baker and Don Richardson, State Chair of the Sierra Club.

The Mayor of Germantown, Sharon Goldsworthy, has suggested that the "Wolf River Parkway" be approved through the Riverwoods Natural Area and that the area be moved or de-designated.

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Director Betsy Childs spoke recently to the Garden Club of Memphis and said no change would be allowed to the area without legislation or

until a "locally-approved" plan was adopted. The Germantown plan was submitted to TDEC, which oversees the Riverwoods Natural Area, but not to the Garden Club that is the owner of the natural area. Assistant TDEC Director Jim Fyke said there is no way the area would be violated without the approval of the Garden Club.

One of the options mentioned for Riverwoods is enlargement and movement to an area known as the Lovitt property which lies to the east and along the north side of the Wolf River.

The Sierra Club's concern is that a precedent would be set by de-designating or moving the natural area that could adversely affect any or all of the other 69 natural areas in the State of Tennessee.

Winter Chapter Meeting

Snow and icy temperatures may have reduced the turnout but did not deter a jovial mood, good food and an excellent program at the Winter Chapter Meeting at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

John Jefferson of the Dogwood Alliance gave a Power-Point presentation Saturday night on the state of clear-cutting, pulp mills and forestry harvesting on the Cumberland Plateau and the Southeast U.S. It was an excellent program and we thank John for traveling from Knoxville to make the presentation.

Don Richardson was elected chair of the Tennessee Chapter to succeed Liz Dixon and action was deferred until the upcoming Spring meeting to select a Vice Chair.

Chickasaw Group hosted the weekend and fed the Chapter ExCom with lasagna and salad and bread on Saturday night along with lemon and strawberry pies prepared by Group Vice Chair Carolyn Pierce.

Left: The
Tennessee
Chapter
ExCom in
a group
shot from
the Winter
Meeting
Sunday,
January
22nd

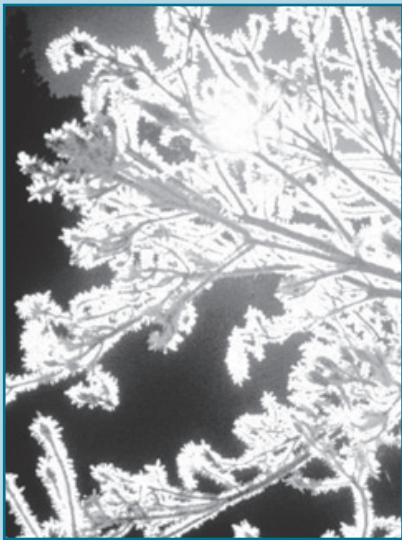


Outings

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/SignIn-Waiver.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-Sunday, February 19 - 20, 2005 - Backpack to Somewhere - We know everyone will be ready for an early spring backpack. We have just not set the location yet. Pre-register with Beverly Smith. Contact the leader no later than 3 days before the beginning of the hike.



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!

Evening phone number 865-531-8480; email blsmith1300@comcast.net

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday February 5 - Sandhills Cranes at Hiwassee Water Refuge - Join us at the Hiwassee Water Refuge, north of Chattanooga, to watch the sandhill cranes. The local school has talks, slide shows, buses to the refuge, all FREE. Buy your own lunch and you need to bring gas money for the carpool, souvenirs, & hot chocolate. Cameras with telescopic lenses take the best photos. People share their telescopes or bring their own. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com to register by Thursday evening to make sure that the trip is on and where/when to meet.

Saturday & Sunday February 5 to 6 - Charit Creek Lodge - This is our 3rd annual trip to Charit Creek Lodge. We have a cabin reserved for 12 people. Cost is \$17.14/person. We will do some day-hiking on this trip in Big South Fork. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com

Saturday, February 12- -Ft Negley and Nashville Cemetery Visit - Join us for a visit to the newly opened Fort Negley, followed by a quick tour of the Nashville Cemetery. Fort Negley, built in 1862 to assist the Union with maintaining control of Nashville during the Civil War, was opened in December to the public. There's about a mile of blacktop and boardwalk trails which take you around and in the portions of the fort which have been restored, along with signage describing the times and history. Nashville Cemetery, which opened in 1822, contains a mixture of early settler, Union and Confederate soldier, and African-American graves. Located close to the I40/I65 interchange, south of downtown Nashville. Contact Diane at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com for details.

Sunday, February 13 - Cardwell Mountain Day Hike - A five plus mile hike to the top of a middle Tennessee "mountain" (450' or so elevation). This is on private property adjacent to Cumberland Caverns, but the owner, Mr. Martin, welcomes hikers. We will meet at the McDonald's at the first Murfreesboro exit off I-24. Call Heloise at 615-896-6278 or e-mail her at stillwild@bellsouth.net. Boots and drinking water are required for this hike.

Sunday, February 20 - Narrows of the Harpeth Canoe Trip - Cold weather paddle five miles plus around the Narrows of the Harpeth at that State Natural Area near Kingston Springs. Easy take out and a two minute shuttle! BYOB (bring your own boat) and your cold weather clothes. Long underwear and rain gear can substitute for a wet suit or

a dry suit. Afterwards we will walk to the ridge above the Montgomery Bell tunnel and to a nearby ridge to see a petroglyph of a mace. Life jackets and drinking water are required for this outing. Call Heloise at 615-896-6278 or e-mail her at stillwild@bellsouth.net.

Thursday - Sunday, March 3 to 6 - Volunteer at our booth at the Lawn and Garden Show - All shifts needed. Must be outgoing, happy people and willing to approach people as they walk by. Get into the show FREE by volunteering. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com.

Sunday, March 13 - Early Wildflower Hike - Early search for wildflowers hike, location to be decided. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com.

NOTE: Places and times are subject to change. Contact the outings leader for further information, and check the newsletter or website (<http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/mtgoutings.htm>) for updates. Also, all participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

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)

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

Saturday, February 12, 2004 - 10:00am - The Old Forest Trail Hike - 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.

Sunday, February 13, 2004 - 11:00am - Botanic Garden Walk - Signs of Spring Walk, Memphis. Botanic Garden. Join a walk through the Memphis Botanic Garden at 750 Cherry Road, Audubon Park, Memphis. This is the first in a series of strolls that will let us see how the plants and garden look in the winter. We may see Spring arrive, as early wildflowers begin to bloom. We will walk through all the special areas of the garden, snow or shine. Contact hike leader Judith Hammond <mailto:jhammond@tnqio.sdps.org> at (901) 276-2819.

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:

Greater_Smoky_Mountains_Coalition-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

You will receive a subscription confirmation message. Just reply to the confirmation message, and your subscription will be complete.

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

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.

Many thanks to DariusThieme for many weeks of devoted work at our recycling site!



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**

Please join us for 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 (Stoneheart Open Learning Opportunity) will perform the training again this year. Landmark's WFA training as described on their website:

WFA - Wilderness First Aid - 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.

This class includes:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| - the anatomy of a crisis | - shock | - muscular skeletal injuries |
| - the correct procedure to protect yourself and others on your trip while caring for the injured | - blisters | (ie, sprains and strains) |
| - the patient assessment survey | - burns | - fractures |
| - vital signs | - hypothermia | - splints |
| - the physical exam | - frostbite | - dislocations |
| | - lightning | |
| | - allergies | |

This class does not include CPR.

Please join us for this educational weekend that features top notch first aid training in an outdoor setting by instructors that have actual in the field experience. Last year's training featured hands on learning, fellowship, group dining and just plain fun. Here are some quotes from previous year's participants.

"An excellent course-very informative-very knowledgeable creative instructors-a must for all trip leaders or anyone who hikes outside organized trips." -- Miram McClendon

"There is no way that anyone should venture into the backcountry without a basic level of competence in first aid. The WFA course should be at the top of everyone's skill acquisition wish list. Simply outstanding." -- Tim Scholl

"A highly recommended course...essential learning for anyone who ventures into the backcountry, and a great group of folks with similar interests. I thoroughly enjoyed it." -- Robin Johnston

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
 What is 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)
 Payment due: Due in full by March 15th
 Other: Membership in Sierra is required. You can join on line at <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/> or Katherine can send you a membership form. Introductory memberships are \$25.
 Questions: Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email at katibug1959@aol.com.

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. Space is limited, so enroll now. To enroll, please complete the form below and send it to Katherine Pendleton. Katherine must receive your check by March 15th to insure your reservation in this top notch training program.

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 by March 15th

NOTE - breakfast, dinner and lodging not included

Please send payment to:

Katherine Pendleton - 105 Catamaran Court - Nashville, TN 37217

More Thanks to Our "March Window" Contributors

Every year, the Tennessee Chapter initiates a local fundraising effort in March, when the national Club does not send out fundraising solicitations. This is called our "March Window". This year's campaign was for support of the Tennessee Chapter's work in Tennessee and for our local PAC (Political Action Committee).

Listed below are additional contributors to 2004's campaign. Many thanks to them for their generous contributions - and the many others who contributed, but did not check the "box" to release your name in the Tennes-Sierran.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alan Moore | John Hicks |
| Algis Sidrys | John J. Ross |
| Allan W. Dale | John Guthrie |
| Anne H. Fouquet | Jules M. Fontenot |
| Anne Horgan | Julia Ann Walker |
| Anne Goetz | Keith Biggs |
| Anne H. Fouquet | Kenneth Bunting |
| Axel Ringe | Lee R. Mynatt |
| Barbara Sims | Leonard & Betty Stark |
| Barbara Collins | Lois A Loy |
| Ben Petty | Lois Thomas |
| Bill Terry & Adelle Wood | Louise Edwards |
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| Bobette Dudley | Margaret Olson |
| Boyd Gibbs | Marjorie Hipple |
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| | Tom & Kathy Davis |
| | Wade Davies |



Defenders of Tennessee 2005 NEEDS YOU!

THE TIME TO JOIN IS NOW!

The Sierra Club, Tennessee Chapter thanks this month's contributors to the **Defenders of Tennessee** (December 5-January 5):

Bill Terry and Adelle Wood
Craig Canan
Daniel and Rosalie Russo
Dr. & Mrs. Reginald S. Lowe, Jr.
Glen and Martha Wilson
Jack Lyle and Mary Buckner
Joe Prochaska and Catherine Soudoplatoff
Joe Anderson and Binney Stumpf
John and Chris McCarthy
Ken Brame and Judy Mattox
Mayo Taylor
Ruth Gutierrez
Sharon Boyce
Stewart and Louise Clifton
Tom Cullen and Wray Estes
Tom and Murray Gatti
Anonymous

The Chapter's annual **Defenders of Tennessee** campaign funds our advocacy and lobbying activities, and we invite new members, as well as all Sierrans who have not yet joined the **Defenders**, to join as your 2005 gift to the environment. During the past 8 years, this program has been very effective in representing the Sierra Club's environmental agenda on Capitol Hill. Our **Defenders** can be very proud of the work we have done and the accomplishments of our Legislative Committee and our lobbyist, Mike Murphy. The Tennessee Chapter is able to hire a lobbyist such as Mike only because you and other dedicated members donate to this once-a-year solicitation.

Your contribution is not tax-deductible but is critical in enabling us to continue to have an advocate on "the hill". Contributions of any size are valued and are very important in enabling us to continue this vital program. The **Defender** campaign brings in only a portion of the funds that we need to carry out our legislative and lobbying activities, and we must make up the balance out of our dwindling reserves. *We are proud that this campaign is a volunteer activity, so all donations go to support the **Defenders**.*

We invite YOU to join the **Defenders**. Please fill out the form below and send your check made out to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. **Thank you!**

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

(Optional) Your e-mail address, if you want to receive acknowledgment of your donation electronically rather than by hard copy. (We will not use this for other purposes).

May we publish your name in the TennesSierran as a donor? Yes _____ No _____

For the Time Being

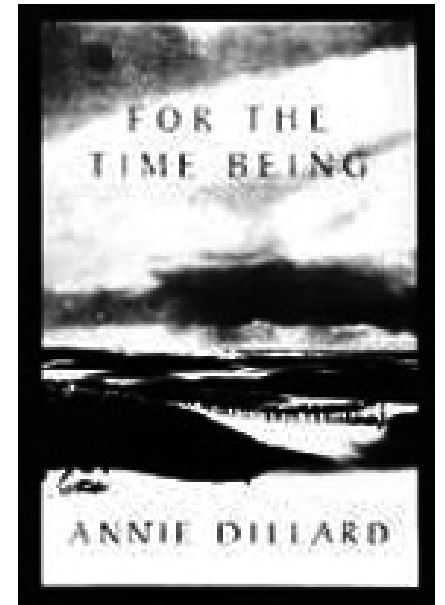
ISBN: 0375403809
Author: Dillard, Annie

A Book Review By Micah Stover

For any of you that have ever read the work of Annie Dillard before, then certainly you will not have to strain to recognize the uniqueness and poignancy of her voice in her most recent novel entitled *For the Time Being*. This novel along with her others works such as *Holy the Firm* or *Teaching a Stone to Talk*, illustrates a consistent style and general thematic exploration. Dillard often is identified with many of the great transcendentalist philosophers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson or Henry David Thoreau. She localizes her focus and attention to questions that grapple with the seemingly paradoxical nature of human existence. To aid her in this existential exploration, Dillard examines Nature with precision and scrutiny.

For the Time Being is structured somewhat differently than her other works. Each chapter begins with a section entitled "Birth", followed by "Sand", "China", "Clouds", "Israel", "Encounters", "Thinker", "Evil", and finally concluding with a section entitled "Now". Initially I thought this structural division seemed really interesting. I was anxious to understand in the process of reading how this structural division played into the overall thesis of the text. I must admit however that as much as I loved the text itself, I struggled to understand the intent behind these divisions. As a result of this dilemma, I have come to one of three possible conclusions. The first possibility is that perhaps I, the reader, have failed to see some sort of overarching connection or symbolism. The second possibility is that I, the reader, mistook what was simply intended as a method of style to be something more or greater; and then failed to see it because in actuality there was nothing there to see. In other words, perhaps Dillard had two simultaneous tasks at hand when she was writing this book, the stylistic task and the literal, thematic task. Perhaps she didn't intend for her audience to try to connect the two.

As I began to contemplate how to write a summary of such a vast work, it seemed apparent that I would need to shed some light onto the interconnectedness of the work as a whole. But this task was problematized by the fact that, as I noted above, I wasn't sure I understood the interconnectedness of it all myself. Thus I began to flip back through the text, paying special attention to those sections or passages I'd marked as being especially significant. This proved to be very helpful because what I realized in so doing was that the interconnectedness of the novel was definitively there, although it was a quite



subtle, abstract and highly metaphorical interconnectedness.

Clearly the book offers up a study pertinent to the realm of metaphysics. Interspersed throughout the text are references to almost all the world religions or holy texts. The book is presented in a nonlinear fashion. It is packed full of aphorisms, tiny nuggets from a contemplative and questioning mind. Also interspersed throughout the text are quotations from numerous religious scholars and thinkers. This is the part that is all quite clear and self-evident.

But, now to elaborate on the subtler, more abstract and metaphorical quality at play, that which relates to the structural component of the novel, the component which becomes increasingly important once certain correlations have been drawn. The novel opens with a collection of quotations that were said to have been found in a bottle on the beach. I think this introduction is vastly significant. The quote is as follows, "The legend of the Traveler appears in every civilization, perpetually assuming new forms, afflictions, powers, and symbols. Through every age he walks in utter solitude toward penance and redemption." The Traveler is that being in the world which most exemplifies for Dillard the metaphysical path. The Traveler is that being which most easily and fluidly moves and shifts through all of the various sections and subheading of the novel. He moves in and out of the realm of paradox not in doubt, but in expectation and longingness. He is solitary in this world precisely because he cannot find a fitting niche within the social construct. And he pays the price of loneliness and angst. But he is redeemed through the faith that transcends culture, context, and paradox.

Ultimately, Dillard has lived up to the precedent established by her earlier works. She has remained true to her own sense of a highly poetic style of prose and in delivering the reader, through the journey of the text, on a fruitful philosophical endeavor. Although this book is bit denser in nature than say *Teaching a Stone to Talk* or *An American Childhood*, the true Dillard fan will not be disappointed in the least.

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group
Tennes-Sierran
2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

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