

# Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 36, Number 10 - October, 2005

## SPRAYING the riverbanks results in

*It was a hot morning in mid-August when John Gary, a fellow Water Sentinels colleague and I went out on the Mississippi River in his boat to conduct volunteer water quality sampling.*

by James H. Baker  
Project Director –  
Tennessee Water Sentinels

We had no sooner reached the location for collecting the first sample, than an alarm sounded...the main engine was overheating. John shut it down, deployed the electric trolling motor and we began the slow float back downstream to Memphis. As we drifted along like the characters in the Mark Twain book, Huckleberry Finn, we kept an eye on the river barges, and used the trolling motor to stay out of their way and off of the riverbank. As we came closer to Memphis, John saw it first; a person was spraying something along the riverbank at Mississippi Greenbelt Park. He suggested I get my camera ready, which I did. We also saw a photographer for a television news station shooting video of the river. He identified himself as working for WMC-TV Channel 5. He was taking video of the very low river stage. When we pointed out the spraying, he stated that he had seen spraying along the riverbank of other parks that border the Mississippi River. As we drifted further along, I noticed that a lot of bank vegetation was withering. I suspected herbicides were being sprayed.

My suspicions were confirmed the next day, when I went back to the same park to meet a television reporter from the same TV station. I could smell the herbicide, and I knew from the smell, what it was...2-4 D. The TV cameraman and I observed a

female worker spraying herbicides on all the riverbank vegetation. The wind was blowing moderately, and herbicide spray mist was blowing about and getting on the worker. In addition to her regular clothes, her only personal protective equipment was a jacket, a straw hat, and a pair of gloves. When she saw us, she cut off the sprayer and began to wind up the hose to leave. While the woman took my card, she refused to answer any questions from the TV cameraman or me. She referred me to Mr. Benny Lendermon, the President of the Riverfront Development Corporation (RDC). When I looked at the bottle

that the concentrated herbicide came in, I saw it was indeed...salts of 2-4 D. When the worker saw me looking at the bottle, she grabbed it and hid it under her jacket.

In a follow up letter to Mr. Lendermon of RDC with copies to Mayor Herenton of Memphis, the members of the Memphis City Council, the local office of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Water Pollution Control office, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and members of the press, I made the following points:

**1. Economics:** Memphis has a \$10M shortfall in the budget. The City of Memphis has entered into a Management Agreement with RDC to maintain a number of parks along the Mississippi River. In short, taxpayer money is used by RDC to maintain these parks. Why is RDC using taxpayer dollars to pay employee salaries and to buy equipment and herbicide to kill vegetation that is not obstructing any views of the Mississippi River? This vegetation will die back this winter anyway.

SEE DEAFENING SILENCE - PAGE 3



## DEAFENING SILENCE



Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

**Tennes-Sierran**  
The monthly newsletter of the  
Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

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or street address: Shanna Petersen, Tennes-Sierran Editor  
2703 Adobe Hills Place  
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**ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

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

1. Email text submissions, or PDFs are preferred. Send to [tn.sierra@gmail.com](mailto:tn.sierra@gmail.com) either with embedded text messages, or attached files.
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 CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your disk or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted; 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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**Please notify the Editor  
when changes are needed**

# Congressmen Pombo, Tancredo Propose Selling Off America's Heritage

## Statement of Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director

"One day after Congressman Pombo's (R-CA) bill to raze the Endangered Species Act passed out of committee, Pombo released a draft bill to sell off America's National Parks and open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and America's coasts to dangerous drilling. The irresponsible legislation fails to decrease oil dependence or save consumers money, but instead focuses bizarrely on items like selling naming rights and advertising in National Parks and destroying millions of acres of the heritage Americans cherish. The draft bill comes on the heels of Congressman Tancredo's (R-CO) radical bill to sell off 15 percent of America's public land.

"In one of the most stark illustrations of Congressman Pombo's divergence from the Republican Party's traditional values, he has proposed selling off for development Theodore Roosevelt Island, named after the Republican father of the conservation movement.

"Congressman Pombo's proposal would put 15 National Parks covering millions of acres on the auction block for "energy or commercial development". These natural treasures would be sacrificed based on the arbitrary criteria that they receive less than 10,000 visitors a year. These national park units range from small historical sites like the Frederick Law Olmstead National Historic site in Massachusetts to vast swaths of federal land and the breathtaking landscapes and wildlife of Lake Clark National Park in Alaska.

"These public lands are icons of our natural and cultural history. They belong to us all and it is not up to congressmen Pombo or Tancredo to offer them to the highest bidder. They are an invaluable resource that have been protected for the benefit of future generations. Although Pombo may be targeting lesser-known parts of our national Park system, this is obviously the camel's nose under the tent. At a time when development is encroaching on our open spaces and green places closer to home, Americans value the places set aside for their historical significance, or as a haven for wildlife, or beloved destinations where American families recreate.

"Congressman Pombo's bill also calls for opening the Arctic Refuge and

more of America's coasts to drilling even though it is not the answer to lowering our dependence on oil - and it threatens the health of our coasts and sensitive aquatic habitats. For example: The Coast Guard estimates more than 7 million gallons of oil were spilled from industrial plants, storage depots and other facilities around southeast Louisiana. That is about two-thirds as much oil as spilled from the Exxon Valdez tanker in 1989. But unlike the oil from the Valdez, which poured from a single source, these oil spills are scattered at sites throughout southeast Louisiana.

"The United States can never drill its way to energy independence. The United States is responsible for 25% of the world's oil consumption, and yet we have less than 3% of the world's oil supplies. Additionally, the Energy Information Administration has estimated the effect of oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge on the price of gasoline would be less than \$0.01 per gallon in 2025 - that's about a penny 20 years from now.

"The answer isn't on the supply side of the equation - it is on the demand side. Cars with better fuel economy use less gas, requiring consumers to buy less gas. More efficient appliances and homes use less natural gas, easing the demand for drilling in sensitive places. This is not a time to advance a narrow political agenda of the auto and oil industry - the people of the United States need real solutions to save them money at the gas pump and curb the heat-trapping pollution that causes global warming. There is a better way. By using more efficient engines, smarter transmissions, and better materials automakers can make all vehicles average 40 miles per gallon within ten years. It's time to encourage and promote the use of renewable energy sources including solar and wind power.

"This is just the latest attempt by Congressmen Pombo and Tancredo to undermine America's bedrock environmental protections and special places. In addition to pushing controversial measures to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and off America's coasts, Pombo is also assaulting the Endangered Species Act, and working to weaken the National Environmental Policy Act which allows communities to be involved in the decision-making process for federally funded projects."

## Deafening Silence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**2. Aesthetics:** Citizens do not want to walk along the trail at Mississippi Greenbelt Park and the other RDC managed parks and see vast stretches of dead and dying vegetation during the growing season.

**3. Environment, worker health and public safety:** There is the environmental impact of using herbicides near public waters. These herbicides can wash into the river when it rains. The Mississippi River already contains a host of pollutants from upstream agricultural operations and municipalities. There is also a potential that this spraying was being done below the elevation of the Ordinary High Water Mark. Why cannot RDC be a leader in the Memphis community in regards of environmental issues?

In regards of worker health and public safety, when I observed the worker spraying, there was a moderate wind blowing up the slope of the bank. As the worker sprayed from her "9 o'clock" to her "3 o'clock" position, she was spraying directly into the wind when she was at

the "11 o'clock" position. I observed spray mists blowing back on her on several occasions. Instructions for all herbicides state clearly that one should not spray unless the wind is calm. This is an employee training issue in hazard communication (HAZCOMM) as listed in the **Code of Federal Regulations - 29 CFR § 1910.1200**. In addition, there were no signs warning members of the general public that spraying was going on and to stay clear of the area. One's only warning would be a faceful of mists that smelled of herbicide.

There is a better way for RDC to remove vegetation that may be obstructing any views. One could use selective removal with hand or power tools, rather than engage in the "nuclear option" of wholesale destruction of bank vegetation. It would save taxpayer dollars, be more environmentally responsible, be more pleasing to the eye, and protect worker health and public safety.

About a week after the above incident, John and I did get the samples. On that day, I did see this same

worker driving a tractor and towing the spray rig to go back and spray more of the riverbank.

On September 16, I checked to see how much bank vegetation was dead or dying. For over a half mile of riverbank at Mississippi Greenbelt Park, some of the vegetation was dead. However, there is a silver lining. It does appear that RDC stopped their spraying operations, hopefully for good. There is a point on the bank at Mississippi Greenbelt Park where dead vegetation gives way to live vegetation. I hope that it was my letter that made the necessary difference.

As of press time, the only response to my letter has been deafening silence from the RDC, the public officials and the environmental regulators. In addition, despite what appeared to be a good story for the evening news, the video was never aired. I guess that something more newsworthy than wasted taxpayer dollars, park aesthetics, and human health and the environment was found.

# Meetings

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Tuesday, October 11, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. What is PACE 10? KUB is picking up the pace of its wastewater improvement program to more quickly address environmental needs and meet regulatory requirements. PACE 10 — an accelerated, 10-year wastewater system improvement program — will help clean up area waterways, and improve Knoxville's quality of life. You can hear more about the PACE 10 program, including the Private Lateral Program announced earlier this year, as well as other KUB initiatives from Wayne Loveday, KUB's Director of Plants and Collection Systems, guest speaker for the October 11 Sierra Club meeting. Call Priscilla Watts at 865-966-4142 or sigmtngirl@earthlink.net.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Tuesday, October 25, 7:30 p.m. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Interested in becoming more involved in club issues or finding out what drives the local Sierra Club, then this meeting is for you. Call Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840 for more information.

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING:** Thursday, October 6, 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 at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Monday, October 10, 2005, 6:30pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Group Chair Charlie Rond (by October 8 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 409-8150.

**MONTHLY THIRD TUESDAY:** Tuesday, October 18, 2005, 6:00-8:00pm - Cafe Francisco, 400 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "Third Tuesday" monthly gatherings where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Wednesday, October 26, 2005, 6:00 pm - Memphis Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. Do you want to know what went on at the Sierra Club Summit in September 2005? Several of the delegates will give a report to the membership. For more information, contact Judith Rutschman at (901)767-5916.

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

## STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

**STRATEGY MEETING:** 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, lcomodica@aol.com.

**PROGRAM MEETING:** 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.

## DON'T FORGET THE FALL CHAPTER MEETING OCTOBER 28-30!

(See page 8 for details.)

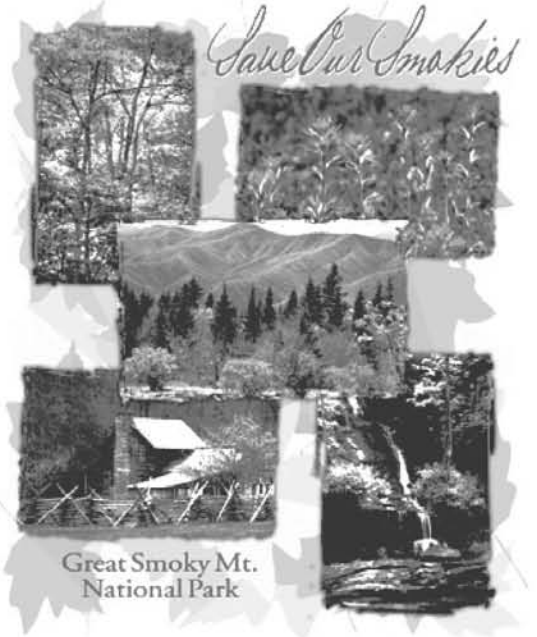
## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Thursday, (October 13), 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Kate Prevost from US PIRG will visit us and present "Oil on Ice," a one-hour documentary that examines the battle over oil development within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This is a classic struggle in a stunning place, featuring the dramatic wildlife that adapted to this environment and the cultures of the Gwich'in Athabaskan Indians and Inupiat Eskimos that rely on this wildlife for their subsistence. The issue of oil extraction from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge brings to a sharp focus the broader debate over energy conservation vs. unbridled consumption. It also dramatizes the choice between technologies based on fossil fuels and those that draw upon renewable, efficient, and non-polluting energy resources. The new paradigm is a mode of living with the Earth rather than extracting from the Earth. 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, (October 26th) at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are first on the agenda! Come and get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting on the 4th floor at 2021 21st Avenue South (the old St. Bernard Academy Building). We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or email Diane@Propson.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to David Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com or call 333-3377.

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blsmith1300@comcast.com  
Your help would be greatly appreciated!

**CONSERVATION MEETING:** Join the Conservation Committee for their next meeting October 4th at 6:15 pm in the Sierra Club office, which is located at 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436. (the old St. Bernard Academy.) We'll be discussing steps for moving forward with the wetlands project, and planning for the next Kilowatt Ours energy conservation shows. For more information, contact Diane Perschbacher Phifer at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com.

## UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Knoxville)

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

# What to Read ...

## A List of Suggested Sources for Information on Modern Environmental Thought

### *Sensitivity to and an appreciation of the natural world is probably an acquired taste.*

By Carl Leathers

Many people never learn to get pleasure from sleeping on the ground in a place where stars are a dominant feature. Really good water can only be found in an undeveloped place. If you have read John Muir, other joys and insights are rewards enough for a relationship with the great outdoors.

But what of the serious environmentalist? What are the basic tenets necessary to recognize the connections with the human condition and the planet on which we depend for survival, enjoyment and realization.

Ideally, early childhood spent in a relatively unspoiled and unpolluted area can be a basic foundation. While change can be incremental or accelerated, some baseline experience is important in observing and quantifying these changes, as they occur over time. Add to this the poet's expression of deeper and more sensitive insights, and scientific measurement of factors affecting life and the life support system, and one has a foundation for understanding the human population/environmental dilemma.

Anyone who has the consciousness level and the sensitivity to understand these relationships will undoubtedly be appreciative of literature – poetry and prose. I will attempt to develop a short bibliography of basic works for the prospective scholar.

For modern historical perspective, I recommend a study of the Christian Bible and the later evolution of the Christian religion, due to the fact that the concept of one God above creation and the attitude that man has dominion over God's creation has set the stage for scientific thought and subsequent contempt for the natural world.

Next, read the nature poets leading up to Henry D. Thoreau and Sir Walter Scott, author of the most beautiful poem written in English. Early insights into our field of concern may be found in the works of George Catlin and Bernard de Voto. Include Black Elk, a Lakota Shaman, for Native American philosophy.

I list without comment the more modern literature:

**John Muir – My First Summer in the Sierra; The Yosemite**

**Jared Diamond - Guns, Germs and Steel; Collapse**

**Harvey Broome – Faes of the Wilderness; Harvey Broome: earth man**

**Michael Frome – Battle for the Wilderness; Strangers in High Places**

**Garrett Hardin – The Tragedy of the Commons; Living Within Limits**

**John McPhee – Encounters With the Archdruid**

**The Rockefeller Commission Report – Population and the American Future – 1972**

**Rachel Caron – Silent Spring**

**Paul Ehrlich – The Population Bomb**

**Mark Hertsgaard – Earth Odyssey**

**Vance Packard – The Waste Makers**

**Aldo Leopold – Sand County Almanac**

**Horace Kephart – Our Southern Highlanders**

**Environmental Action – Earth Tool Kit**

**George Laycock – The Diligent Destroyers**

**Harry Caudill – Night Comes To The Cumberland**

**Louis Crisler – Artic Wild**

**Fairfield Osborne – Our Plundered Planet**

**Wendell Berry – The Long Legged House; The Unsettling of America; A Continuous Harmony; Remembering**

**Paul Swatek – The User's Guide to the Protection of the Environment**

**Garrett De Bell – The Environmental Handbook**

**Helen Leavitt – Superhighway – Super Hoax**

**Gene Marine – America the Raped**

**John D. Unruh, Jr. – The Plains Across**

**John Stewart – Winds in the Woods**

**Gregg Easterbrook – A Moment on the Earth**

**Tony Hillerman – The Best of the West**

**James Lovelock and Lynn Margalis - The Gaia Metaphor**

**Wallace Stegner – Angle of Repose**

**John McPhee – Basin and Range, Rising From the Plains; In Suspect Terrain**

**Nicholas Roosevelt – Conservation: Now or Never**

**Environmental Action – Earth Day – The Beginning**

**David Attenborough – Life on Earth**

**Patricia Caulfield – Everglades**

**Barry Commoner – Making Peace With the Planet; The Closing Circle**

**Rene Dubos – So Human an Animal**

This is, of course, not a complete list. There are additionally, hundreds of current books, periodicals, newsletters and newspapers, which are rich sources of information. *The Atlantic Monthly* has been an outstanding proponent of scientific environmental articles. High Country News, which publishes in Paonia, Colorado, has been a leader of environmental advocacy for over thirty years. World Watch Institute, The Club of Rome, The Carrying Capacity Network and Population/Balance are important references for an informed reader.

The challenge is daunting, but we have no choice but to persevere. I close by quoting three thought provoking authors.

“The effort to understand the universe is one of the very few things that lifts human life a little above the level of farce, and gives it some of the grace of tragedy.” **The First Three Minutes** – Steven Weinberg

“The greatest beauty is organic wholeness, the divine integrity of the universe, of life and living things.... If you would love, love this, not man apart from this.” **Not Man Apart** – Robinson Jeffers

“It is commonplace for all religions that the man looking for vision and insight must live a while in the wilderness” Lorem Eiseley

# 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.

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**Saturday, October 8, 2005 - 10:00am - The Old Forest Trail**, Overton Park, Memphis. **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 at (901) 276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends.

**Friday-Sunday, October 14-16, 2005 - 10:00am - Fiery Gizzard Backpack**, South Cumberland State Park, Tracy City. The curiously named Fiery Gizzard is a little known but very beautiful short trail in the Grundy Forest of Tennessee between Tracy City and Monteagle. It's one of the best hiking experiences in the South. The trail is easy, shady and very, very scenic. It's the perfect spot to drag a friend who's never been hiking. Fiery Gizzard is a long canyon at the edge of the Cumberland Plateau. The canyon is very narrow, with tall stands of pine forming a thicket overhead. The thicket and several cool streams give the place a climate surprisingly different from the surrounding plateau. Even on the hottest summer day, the Gizzard is pleasantly cool. The trail features three picturesque waterfalls and some nice rock formations. For additional information, contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713.

**SERVICE OUTING:** Saturday, October 15, 2005 - 10:00am-12noon. Wolf River Harbor Cleanup 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-Sierra Club and the Tennessee 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. After the cleanup, please join us at Cafe Francisco for snacks and drinks. For more information, contact James Baker at (901) 826-2448 or e-mail at [kimo\\_aubrey@yahoo.com](mailto:kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, October 22, 2005, 9:00am - Pinson Mounds State Archeological Site**, Tennessee. Pinson Mounds is a historic archeological site a few miles from Jackson, Tennessee. It is a grouping of at least 15 earthen mounds, a geometric enclosure, habitation areas and related earthworks in an area that incorporates almost 1,200 acres. Pinson Mounds is the largest Middle Woodland period mound group in the United States, and dates to about 1-500 A.D. The Native Americans who built the mounds lived long

before historically known Native American tribes, and used the site for ceremonial purposes. The largest mounds were used for various ceremonies, while a few of the smaller mounds, as well as the Twin Mounds, held burials. Pinson Mounds is a national historic landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Meet at 9:00am at Borders Book Store in Germantown for the drive to Jackson, Tennessee. For additional information, Contact Group Chair Charlie Rond at (901) 409-8150.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**Saturday, October 22 - Make a Difference Day Clean-up**, We will do some clean work at a local park or state natural area in observance of the nation wide "Make a Difference Day" 8:30 AM till 10:30 AM. However, this will be an unofficial group effort. Bring gloves and some water and refreshments. Call to register Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email [lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com](mailto:lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, October 23 - Fall Color Caney River Float**, Come and enjoy the fall river mists, chasing kingfishers, counting herons, and photographing peaked autumn color (and friends) on the Caney River! We will leisurely paddle from the dam to Betty's Island. TVA generating schedule will determine the pace of the float, but it's a great ride any way you do it! Bring your own kayak or canoe (rentals can be obtained at the Big Rock Market, 931-858-0967), river snack, and bright smiles. Pre-register by contacting Rachel Floyd at 615-406-9204 or [rfloyd557@aol.com](mailto:rfloyd557@aol.com).

## 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.

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!

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

For information on upcoming outings, contact Chris O'Connor at [chris\\_o77@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_o77@yahoo.com) or visit our web site at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ Cherokee/index.htm>.

**Sunday October 9th 1:00 PM**. Join us for a 5 to 6 mile loop hike at Fort Mountain State Park in Georgia. We will utilize some of the more lightly traveled trails at Fort Mountain in our pursuit of waterfalls, lakes, fern grottos, views, and fall foliage. The trails are flat to rolling and in good condition. This will be the first of three joint hikes with the Chattanooga Hiking Club, so registration is required. To sign up for this hike, or for more information contact Chris O'Connor at

423-867-4957 (e-mail: [chris\\_o77@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_o77@yahoo.com))

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

(For a complete list see website at [www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome))

**Oct 15-16, 2005 (Sat-Sun). Fall Colors Backpack - Fodderstack Trail**, Citico Creek Wilderness and Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness, TN-NC. This year we're going to traverse the boundary between two of the South's great wilderness areas, Citico Creek to the west and Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock to the east. We'll start at Beech Gap on the TellicoRobbinsville Highway and make our way 12.26 miles (over 2 days) along the high mountain ridge separating the two wilderness areas to Farr Gap. There should be great views of fall colors on both sides of the ridge. We will be hiking mainly on the Benton MacKaye and Fodderstack Trails. Rated Moderate. preregisterwith Will Skelton: H 523-2272; W 5216200; email [whshome@bellsouth.net](mailto:whshome@bellsouth.net).

**October 28-30, 2005 (Fri-Sun). State Chapter Meeting - Pickett State Park**. Hosted by the Harvey Broome Group, Contact: Axel Ringe, email [onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net).

**Nov 5-6, 2005 (Sat-Sun). Backpack - Gregory Bald, GSMNP**. This trip starts at the Twenty Mile Ranger Station where we hike up the Twenty Mile trail to the Long Hungry Ridge Trail, then on to Gregory Bald and the wonderful views. We cross the bald to campsite #13 (8.9 miles the first day). On the second day we complete our loop down the Wolf Ridge Trail and back to our cars (6.8 miles the second day). Rated difficult - 4,880 feet of elevation gain in 7.7 miles. Not suitable for Children. Approximate round trip driving miles - 134 miles from Food City in Alcoa. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: email [sharvey86@aol.com](mailto:sharvey86@aol.com); phone 865-986-4608 (days), 865-986-6798 (evening).

See page 8 for details!

See page 8 for details!

FALL 2005 TENNESSEE CHAPTER QUARTERLY MEETING

**FAMILY FUN WEEKEND**

OCTOBER 28-30, 2005 • PICKETT STATE PARK

# Coverage of the

more information is available at <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierrasummit/>



## Delegates Choose Clean Energy as Club's Top Priority

by John Byrne Barry  
Direction Setting

After six months of chapter and group meetings leading up to the Summit and eight hours of deliberation once there, 700 delegates chose "Building a New Energy Future" as the Club's top priority over the next five years. Nearly two-thirds of delegates voted it the most important priority.

Also ranking high were "Building Vibrant, Healthy Communities" (52 percent), "Defending Federal Lands/Public Waters" (49 percent), and "Protecting People and the Planet from Pollution" (46 percent).

The deliberative sessions, spanning eight hours over two days, marked the first time this many Club delegates have gathered in one place to discuss and vote on priorities. Delegates, seated ten to a table, recorded their votes on wireless hand-held "option-finder" keypads that looked like oversized garage door openers.

Ken Langton, chair of the Grand Canyon Chapter (Arizona), said the direction setting was "one of the Club's finest hours—the most impressive display of democratic, large-

scale, collective decision-making I have been involved in all my adult years in this country."

Delegates didn't just vote on conservation priorities, but on the Club's effectiveness in pursuing them. For example, 64 percent of delegates felt that Building a New Energy Future should be a top priority, but they rated our effectiveness in pursuing this goal at 3.2 (out of 10). By contrast, while 49 percent ranked Defending Federal Lands/Public Waters as a top priority, it garnered a 5.5 effectiveness rating.

Delegates also voted on how the Club should best invest its resources to reach these goals. The results: (1) seeking new allies and building coalitions, (2) creating media visibility, and (3) bringing people together.

Finally, delegates chose the top three ways to impact environmental decision-makers. They were: (1) influence voters' electoral decisions, (2) focus on state policy-makers, and (3) influence local decision-makers about specific places.

## Political Will is a Renewable Resource

by John Byrne Barry  
Plenary Session - Al Gore

Former Vice President Al Gore quoted Winston Churchill, Upton Sinclair, the Bible, and President George W. Bush, and the contrast was not pretty.

Gore, who received multiple standing ovations from an audience of 2,000 at the opening morning of Sierra Summit 2005, made good use of quotes as well as references to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath to underscore his theme of moral responsibility in a time of crisis, specifically global warming.

Gore went to the Churchill well the most. "We are entering a period of consequence," said Churchill as the storm was gathering over Europe before World War II. Gore drew a parallel to the current situation regarding global warming. Just as was the case with Europe in the 1930s, "the warnings about global warming," he said, "have been extremely clear for a long time."

Churchill also acknowledged that many of his countrymen did not want to prepare for war. He understood their desire to deny reality, but said they should hear the truth, that it was a time to "recover our moral health."

He pulled one quote from Upton Sinclair: "It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it."

His Bible reference: "When there is no vision, the people perish."

And then President Bush: "Nobody could have predicted the levees would break."

Gore lambasted the president and his administration not just for its woefully inadequate response to Katrina, but its willful ignorance of scientific evidence about global warming.

Over the past century, said Gore, we have developed a new and unprecedented relationship with the planet as a result of a quadrupling of population and our industrial emissions' influence on the climate. "We have a moral responsibility to deal with the consequences of that new relationship. This is not about scientific debate. It's about who we are as human beings. It's about our capacity to transcend our limitations."

But we have the vision and know-how and technology we need to address global warming, said Gore, but we lack the political will. "But political will is a renewable resource," he said, garnering one of the longest ovations of the morning.

He urged the Sierra Club, as its delegates deliberate on priorities, to make global warming a priority, and "make this a moral moment."

"There are those who say the problem is too big," he said. But then he rattled off a list of big problems that we've addressed, from freeing the slaves to sending a man to the moon to giving women the vote.

"This is a time for those who see and understand and care and are willing to work."

He means us.

- The full transcript of the speech is available online at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierrasummit>.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

The City of Memphis will host the next household hazardous waste collection event on **Saturday, November 5, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.** in the parking lot of Tim McCarver Stadium in the Mid South Fairgrounds. Tim McCarver Stadium, now demolished, is the former home of the Memphis Redbirds and is located just off Central Ave. on Early Maxwell Blvd.

Early Maxwell Blvd. is located between East Parkway and Hollywood.

Residents of Memphis will be notified by notices left on garbage carts one week before the event. Other forms of advance notice will be through the local media and MLGW utility bills. On the event day there will be signs on Central and East Parkway directing residents to the location.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events are funded by the State of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and coordinated locally by the governments of Memphis and Shelby County.

In addition, there is a chance for members of the Chickasaw Group to volunteer. There are these fabulous perks:

1. Volunteers get to drop off their household waste...no line...no waiting.
2. There's that fabulous recycle t-shirt, and other goodies.
3. Good food.
4. Warm words of appreciation.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact James Baker at 901-826-2448 or [kimo\\_aubrey@yahoo.com](mailto:kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com) or call the City of Memphis Solid Waste Management Division at 901-576-6851.

## "X" Marks the Spot: Documented Statewide Litter Cleanup - Memphis Event

(Because there is treasure in our trash)

**Saturday, November 5, 2005 from 2 p.m. till 4 p.m.**

Help prove that beverage containers are more than just a "minor portion" of roadside litter. We will meet at the site of the Household Hazardous Waste event, and choose a route to walk, pick up beverage containers and other litter, and fill out the report for the TN Bottle Bill Project. This way, we can do both events the same day, in close proximity to each other, by combining trips and saving fuel.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact James Baker at 901-826-2448 or [kimo\\_aubrey@yahoo.com](mailto:kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com). For more information, see: <http://www.tnbottlebill.org/events.htm>

# FALL 2005 TENNESSEE CHAPTER QUARTERLY MEETING Family Fun Weekend

## OCTOBER 28-30, 2005 • PICKETT STATE PARK

Pickett State Park Group Lodge

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

### FEATURING:

FRIDAY EVENING: Eco Theater; bring your favorite environmental video or DVD.

SATURDAY: Choose from a variety of hikes and bird walks, short and long.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON: Conservation meeting.

SATURDAY EVENING: A program of interest AND our semi-annual Silent Auction to raise money to fund our lobbyist in Nashville.

SUNDAY MORNING: Administrative meeting.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON: Help clean-up, then more hikes.

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

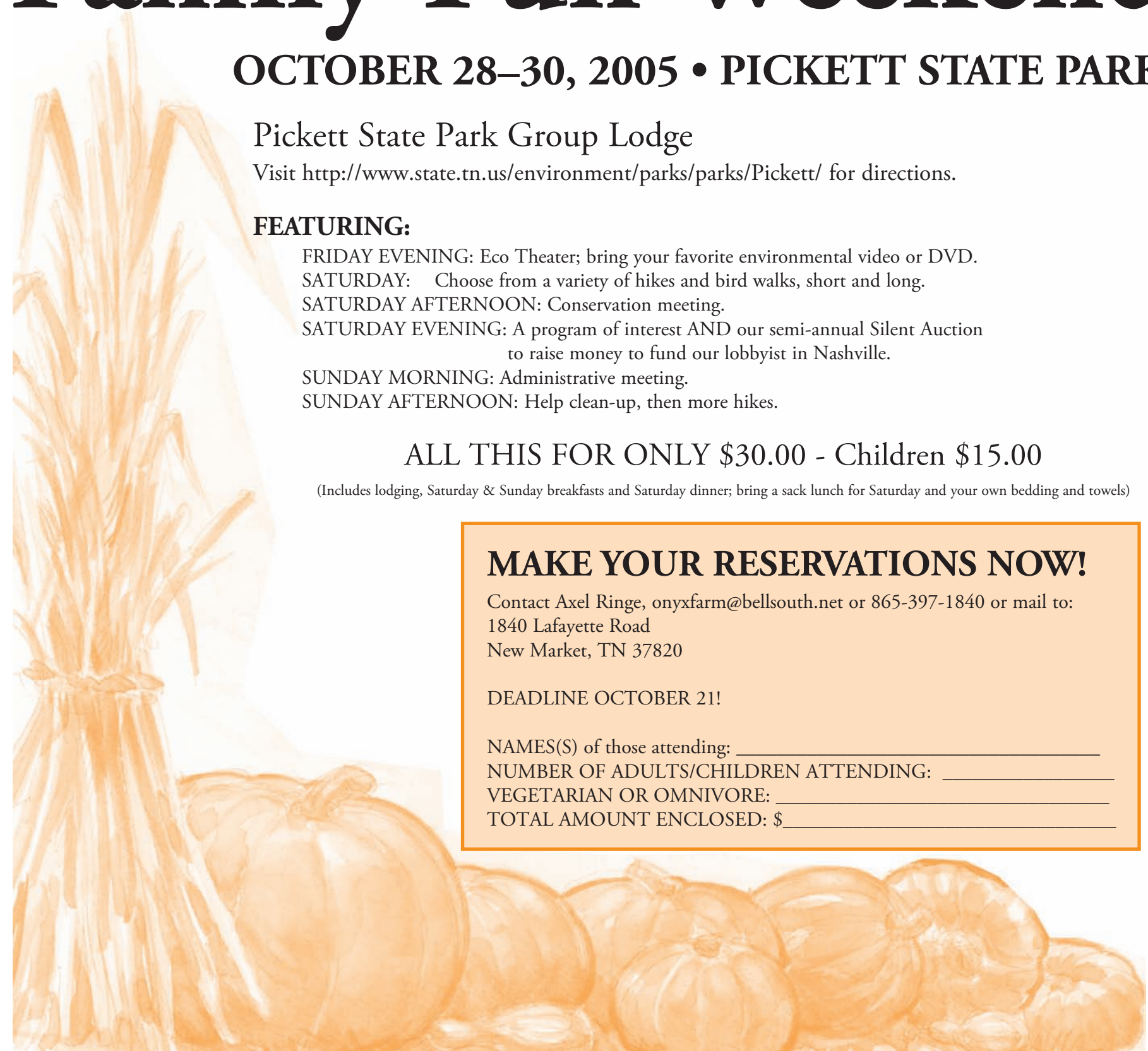
(Includes lodging, Saturday & Sunday breakfasts and Saturday dinner; bring a sack lunch for Saturday and your own bedding and towels)

### MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

Contact Axel Ringe, [onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net) or 865-397-1840 or mail to:  
1840 Lafayette Road  
New Market, TN 37820

DEADLINE OCTOBER 21!

NAMES(S) of those attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER OF ADULTS/CHILDREN ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_  
VEGETARIAN OR OMNIVORE: \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Quarterly Meeting • FALL FAMILY FUN WEEKEND • Pickett State Park • October 28-30 • REGISTER NOW

### SEEKING DONATIONS

#### 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 Fall Meeting (see above).

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. To make a donation without attending the meeting, please contact someone you know who is going, or 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 your money to buy all the good stuff!

### Volunteer Opportunity!

To help the Middle Tennessee Group, to help our senior and disabled recyclers, to have fun and to meet other Sierrans, 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](mailto:dabordenkircher@mindspring.com).

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

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