

# Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 37, Number 2 - February 2006

## Every morning in Tennessee, the sun shines first on the Watauga Group



### The Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club is pleased to announce the formation of the Watauga Group Sierra Club

... serving Johnson and Carter Counties. Johnson County citizens have been working with the Tennessee chapter for several years in their efforts to protect public waters, including the Watauga watershed, from factory farming. In the fall of 2004, the Tennessee Chapter CAFO Committee was formed, co-chaired by Gary Bowers, Conservation Chair of the Tennessee Chapter and Steve Ferguson, Doctor Earl Taylor and Dean Whitworth of Johnson County. Urged on by membership drives by Dean and with the enthusiasm and dedication of Catherine Murray, Johnson County residents presented their bylaws for approval at this winter's State ExCom meeting at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

## 4th Annual..... Wilderness First Aid Training May 6th & 7th, 2006

See Registration Information  
on Page 8

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

Join us at the fourth annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training (WFA) the weekend of May 6th and 7th at Fall Creek Falls State Park.

Landmark Learning, LLC, a long term partner with SOLO (Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunity) will perform the training again this year. This educational weekend features top notch training in an outdoor setting by field experienced instructors. Here are some comments from previous participants:

*"Essential skills for anyone going into the backcountry"*  
-- E. Plakaus

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

### Wilderness First Aid Training

**When:** May 6th and 7th

**Where:** Fall Creek Falls State Park

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

**Not included:** Breakfast, dinner, lodging, Sierra membership

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

**Cost:** \$140, non-refundable (we commit to Landmark, you commit to Sierra)

**Payment due:** April 10th

**Enrollment:** Complete form and send with check to Katherine Pendleton - see page 8 for form and additional information.



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

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**SEND ARTICLES TO:**

Email: [tn.sierra@gmail.com](mailto:tn.sierra@gmail.com)  
or street address: Shanna Petersen, Tennes-Sierran Editor  
2703 Adobe Hills Place  
Thompson Station, TN 37179

**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.**

**Sierra Club Officers**

(List in Transition for 2006)

Tennessee Chapter:

- Chair: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387  
[donrich@juno.com](mailto:donrich@juno.com)
- Vice Chair: Steven Sondheim (901) 761-1793  
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- Secretary: Mary Gavlik (423) 434-9535  
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TN Local Groups:

Cherokee Group - Chattanooga (in reorganization)  
[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee)  
contact: Terry Miller (423) 842-5053  
[trmcha@comcast.net](mailto:trmcha@comcast.net)

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw)  
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[kimo\\_aubrey@yahoo.com](mailto:kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com)

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[stevensonsondheim@yahoo.com](mailto:stevensonsondheim@yahoo.com)

Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819  
No e-mail address

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome)  
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[onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net)

Vice-Chair: Beverly Smith (865) 531-8480  
[Blsmith1300@comcast.net](mailto:Blsmith1300@comcast.net)

Conservation: David Reister (865)670-8991  
[dreister@bellsouth.net](mailto:dreister@bellsouth.net)

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Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chapters/tn/mtg](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chapters/tn/mtg)  
Chair: David Bordenkircher (615) 333-3377  
[dabordenkircher@mindspring.com](mailto:dabordenkircher@mindspring.com)

Vice Chair: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877  
[Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com)

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Outings: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877  
[Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com)

State of Franklin Group (in reorganization)

- Bristol/Johnson City/Kingsport  
[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/sofg](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/sofg)

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville

[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg)  
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**Please notify the Editor  
when changes are needed**

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F94Q W 4300 1

# Students Vote in favor of Clean Energy

By Tyler Pannell  
TTU student and SEAC officer

According to TTU student organizer Tessa Thomason, "We worked really hard to educate students about energy use today and how this initiative can improve the quality of life for people at our school, in our state, and throughout the region. Obviously our hard work paid off!"

In fact, the Student Environmental Action Coalition, which headed up the Clean Energy campaign gave over 70 class presentations and sponsored numerous showings of the documentary "Kilowatt Ours", during the three weeks between the SGA Senate vote and the student referendum.

They also set up laptop computers in the University Center on the day of the vote to encourage as many students as possible to take part in the historic event – historic because it represents the first time that students at Tech have ever demanded a new fee to support a practice they feel is socially and ethically responsible.

Surprisingly, this is not the first time that students at one of Tennessee's major Universities have demanded an increase in tuition to support Clean Energy practices. Both the University of the South at Sewanee and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville successfully implemented clean energy fees within the last two years. In fact, UTK is now TVA's largest purchaser of Green Power and has increased demand for the program by about 15%. Also, in September, Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) passed a Clean Energy referendum with 88.6% student approval. TTU, UTK, MTSU, and Sewanee were capable of pulling off their incredible victories (seemingly against the odds) by organizing, networking, and learning from each other's mistakes and now are sharing their ideas with other Universities throughout Tennessee and the Southeast.

Now that TTU's Clean Energy Bill has been approved by the student body, it will be presented to a series of committees that oversee the execution of new fees. After receiving the approval of the Buildings and Grounds, Student Affairs, and Academic Affairs Committees, the bill will be passed along to President Bell for endorsement before being sent off to the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR). Luckily MTSU's Clean Energy Proposal will also be on the Board's agenda this summer, so TBR will have two very persuasive reasons to approve of the new fees.

Hopefully this is the beginning of a cleaner,

greener future for Tennessee's only technological University. Also, hopefully, the successes at Tennessee's colleges and Universities will help inspire local organizers in the Sierra Club to more actively pursue grassroots community Clean Energy campaigns.

The success of TTU's Clean Energy campaign would not have been possible without the assistance of Nick Algee and Liz Veazey of the Southern Energy Network and the Upper Cumberland Chapter of the Sierra Club, which organized the Cookeville showing of Jeff Barrie's documentary Kilowatt Ours. To get involved with one of Tennessee's campus environmental organizations, contact:

Tyler Pannell from TTU  
at ttuseac@gmail.com or check out their website at <http://orgs.tntech.edu/seac/>  
Monica Brown from MTSU  
at mtsu.sea@gmail.com or check out their website at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~sea/>  
J.P. Plumlee from UTK  
at speak@utk.edu or check out their website at <http://web.utk.edu/~speak/>

Finally, the students who worked on Tennessee's Clean Energy campaigns would like to acknowledge the sacrifice that generations of Appalachians have made in service to our country's energy demands. They would also like the residents of coalfield communities to know that they are not alone in the struggle against Mountaintop mining. Several students from both MTSU and TTU have already decided to take part in Mountain Justice Summer in 2006 to end the oppression of coalfield communities.

On Thursday, October 27th students at Tennessee Technological University (TTU) voted overwhelmingly in favor of a Clean Energy

Initiative that will increase tuition by \$8 per semester, allowing the University to increase its energy efficiency and buy Green Power (renewable energy) from TVA. This effort, which began on Oct. 3rd when TTU's Student Government Senate voted 19-1 in favor of a Clean Energy Bill, was added to the Homecoming Ballot in the form of a referendum – the first one in over a decade.

The result of the referendum was a landslide victory for clean energy. Of the 2848 votes cast, 2522 votes favored the Initiative, while only

326 votes were against it. That comes to a total of 88.5% student approval - and considering that over 30% of the student body voted (more than in any previous SGA election), it represents a major stand on the part of TTU's student body in favor of a clean energy future for Tennessee.



photo/Kevin Walsh

It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

**Add your voice to protect the planet. Join the Sierra Club today.**

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# Meetings

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Thursday, February 9, 2006, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) This month's program is a must for all of us who support, or want to know more about, proposed container deposit legislation. Our very special guest is Representative Russell Johnson (R) of Loudon, Tennessee. Representative Johnson is a Sierra Club member and is the recipient of the Tennessee Conservation Voters "Legislator Friend of the Environment" in 2003 and 2004. Among his other responsibilities in the House of Representatives, he is Chairman of the Wildlife Subcommittee of the Conservation and Environment Committee. Representative Johnson's voting record has consistently been one of the best in the House of Representatives as shown in the Legislative Scorecard of the Tennessee Conservation Voters.

Representative Johnson has vigorously pursued container deposit legislation for the past three years. As a young man, before plastic soft drink bottles were found everywhere (including on our roads and in our waterways), he would search on his bicycle for returnable glass bottles to redeem. Governor Bredesen has shared with Rep. Johnson that he did the same thing growing up. Our task now is to convince Governor Bredesen and others that it can work again, and even better, now that we have reverse vending machines and more recycling centers to take most of the burden off of grocery stores.

We can clean up our roadsides and landscapes, save landfill space and natural resources, and create jobs by promoting recycling of glass, plastic and metal containers. This legislation would create another avenue for fundraising for schools and non-profits and would save farmers money by avoiding fouled equipment and loss of livestock. This is a win, win, win situation. Please attend to learn more about this important initiative and to show your support. For more information on this program, contact Adelle Wood at (615) 665-1010. Non-members are always welcome!

**CONSERVATION MEETING:** Tuesday, (February 7, 2006), 6:00 p.m. Please join the Conservation Committee for its next meeting to come up with action plans based on the conservation goals determined at the annual retreat. The conservation meeting will take place at 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436, in Nashville. For more information, contact Diane Perschbacher Phifer at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Wednesday, (February 22, 2006) at 6:30 p.m. in the Sierra Club office, which is located at 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436, in Nashville. 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. 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 e-mail Diane@Propson.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to David Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@mind-spring.com or call (615) 333-3377.



**Representative Russell Johnson** will speak on February 9 at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville.

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** February 14, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Fellow Sierra Club member, Knoxville resident, and recent author, Ron Miller gained a fondness for travel and at the age of 29, set off to explore the world. What he thought would be a five-month journey blossomed into more than three years of travel throughout the world. Ron will present slides of his global adventures to the planet's most beautiful landscapes along with some insights into the world's many exotic cultures.

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Tuesday, March 8, 2004, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Our March program is our slide show introduction to the yearly Harvey Broome Group Outings program. We will have slides of many of the places to which we will be going. And it will be a great opportunity to meet the outings leaders face to face and discuss upcoming trips. Call Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 for more information.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** February 28, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. We urge all Harvey Broome Group members to join us as we discuss and plan strategies for issues of concern to the group. These meetings provide you an opportunity for input into issues of concern to you. Please join us! For more information contact Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840.

## 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, lcmodica@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.

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

### MONTHLY FIRST THURSDAY MEMBERS GATHERING:

(NOTE: New Hours):

Thursday, February 2, 2006, 5:30-7:00pm - 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 Karen Prosser at (901) 327-9820 for more information.

### STRATEGY MEETING:

Monday, February 13, 2006, 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 James Baker by February 9 to place items on the agenda at (901) 826-2448.

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Wednesday, February 22, 2006, 7:00 pm - NOTE: NEW LOCATION, Memphis Public Library and Information Center - Poplar/White Station Branch at 5094 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee (at the base of Clark Tower)

The February meeting will feature Keith Kirkland Executive Director of the Wolf River Conservancy. He will be discussing the Wolf River and their conservation successes. For more information, contact interim Program Chair - James Baker at 826-2448.

**OUTINGS PLANNING MEETING:** Sunday, February 12, 2006 - 2:30pm - Memphis Botanic Gardens at Audobon Park, Memphis, Tennessee. The Gardens are located at 750 Cherry Road. Join Outings Chair Judith Hammond in planning the 2006 Outings calendar and participate in a brief training. That training will be a short DVD from the national Sierra Club for Outings leaders. All interested members are welcome. For more information, contact Judith Hammond at (901) 276-2819.

## 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.

# Sierra Defenders Update

The Sierra Club is a volunteer organization with no paid staff in Tennessee, and without the Defender program, we would not have a strong voice in the state legislature. Our advocacy and lobbying work consists of three vital activities: phone calls and letters from our members to our lawmakers; volunteer lobbying; and the work of our professional lobbyist, Mike Murphy. Mike is a veteran of the Tennessee House of Representatives and a longtime conservation activist. As such, Mike is uniquely qualified because of his contacts within the legislature and his knowledge of the issues.

We have a large number of faithful contributors, for whom we are very grateful and without whom we could not continue. Through normal attrition, however, we have lost some of our longtime supporters. Donations through December have been lower than at this point in time in the past, while our expenses have increased. If you have not donated in the past, please consider doing so now as your New Year's gift to the environment. If you have donated in the past but have not renewed your support yet, we hope to hear from you soon. We need your help with this campaign. Please become a Defender so that we can continue with this critical work.

The Defenders campaign is in its 11th year, and we are proud of the strides we have made. The Sierra Club has become a stronger and more visible presence in the state legislature, which allows us to work more effectively towards passage of legislation that protects our air and water and promotes environmental justice and smart growth.

Any donation will be appreciated, but please give as generously as you can. Donations are NOT tax deductible. Please return the form below with your check made out to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. THANK YOU!

Bill Terry, Legislative Co-Chair

Penny Brooks, Legislative Co-Chair

## takeACTION

### Yes! I'd like to help!

Amount of donation:  \$50  \$125  \$250  \$500  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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May we publish your name in the Sierra Club newsletter as a donor?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

(OPTIONAL) Your e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sending our letter of appreciation to you electronically will allow us to conserve paper and save money. We will not divulge the address nor use it for other purposes.

No letter of acknowledgement is requested \_\_\_\_\_

## sincere thanks to December donors

(through January 9)

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Mary Lynn Dobson

John and Chris McCarthy

Jack and Ruth Neff

Joe Prochaska and Catherine Soudoplatoff

Don Scharf and Teri Davis

Bill Terry and Adelle Wood

Glen and Martha Wilson

## The Middle Tennessee Group Winter Planning Retreat

All MTG members are invited & encouraged to attend this year's MTG Planning retreat!

This is your chance to help plan the 2006 year agenda for MTG's 2500 members, set goals, develop project plans, and appoint individuals who are interested in helping with each project. The Middle Tennessee Group has many new & exciting plans & we want your input!

**What would encourage you to come to group events or to get involved?**

**What things would you like to change?? Come & let your voice be heard.**

**This retreat is for people of all ages! Bring a friend or a family member!**

No matter what involvement level you have in the Sierra Club, this is the perfect opportunity to do as little or as much as you would like!  
(Remember if you don't let your voice be heard, you can't complain!)

A potluck lunch will be served (please bring a dish of food).

The meeting will be held in the pool house behind the main house (please proceed through the back gate). To RSVP and/or for directions, questions, or comments please contact Jeremy Doochin at doochers87@aol.com or at 260-5528.

**WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!!**

**Feb 4, 2005 • 9am-4pm  
4411 Tyne Blvd • Nashville**

# Outings

## 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!

### HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Check the Harvey Broome Group Website for a complete list of scheduled outings. We are in the process of planning outings for 2006 and will present the 2006 schedule at the March program meeting.

**February 18-19 (Sat.-Sun.)** Backpack. Location and details to be determined. Contact Beverly Smith at 865-53-8480 evenings and email [blsmith1300@comcast.net](mailto:blsmith1300@comcast.net).

### MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**Saturday, February 11 - Dinner and a Movie**  
Join Katherine Pendleton for an urban outing in Green Hills in Nashville. Let's see an early movie and then get a bite to eat. Maybe we can try out the new Cheesecake Factory if the wait time isn't too long. For information regarding meeting time and place contact Katherine by Friday, Feb. 10 at 615-943-6877 or email [Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com).

**Saturday, February 18 - Volunteer Work Opportunity**, Volunteer work opportunity at a state natural area, possibly in the Hickory Hollow Mall area. Be ready for lifting/moving objects and cleaning the outdoors to make the area more pleasant for the wildlife. Please bring gloves and enthusiasm. Some refreshments provided. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email in advance at [lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com](mailto:lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com).

**Sat./Sun., February 25-26 Bear Waller Gap Backpacking Trip**, Join one of our new outings leaders, Tammy Day, on this educational trip on a trail which is considered by some to be one of the finest trails in Middle Tennessee including Cedar Glades and hardwood forests dominated by oaks and hickories, maple, poplar, ash, dogwood, and redbud. At a point near the Defeated Creek entrance to the trail, a rock outcropping overlooking the trail contains fossils of animals that lived in this area about 300 million years ago when it was under 40-60 ft. of ocean. It extends along the wooded and rugged shoreline of Cordell Hull Lake for over 5 miles, passing waterfalls, old homesites, and rocky overlooks. Total distance will be 11.2 miles roundtrip and it is rated difficult. The backcountry campsite is about 4 miles into the hike. We will stop and set up camp then walk to the Tater Knob Overlook (total distance 5.6 miles). A hiking patch is available for purchase for \$3.50 after completion of this hike by contacting The Nashville Historical Trails, BSA Troop 254, P.O. Box 299, Madison, TN 37116. For more information on the trip details, please email Tammy Day at [tlday@comcast.net](mailto:tlday@comcast.net), or call in the evening to 615-904-0009.

**March 2-5, 2006 Lawn & Garden Show Thursday-Sunday, March 2-5, 2006:** Volunteers needed to staff our table at the Nashville Lawn & Garden Show at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. Pick any 3-4 hour shift during the hours of 10 AM-9PM Thursday through Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM to 5 PM. Must enjoy talking to the public and answering questions. You get free admission to the center which you can roam before or after your shift! Contact Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email in advance at [lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com](mailto:lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com)

**Sunday, March 19 -** Enjoy a spring hike at Montgomery Bell State Park in Dickson County. About 6 miles and no poison ivy yet! Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email in advance at [lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com](mailto:lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com)

### CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**Saturday, February 11, 2006 - 10:00am - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. SECOND SATURDAY HIKES.** OLD FOREST HIKE: 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 and the Sierra Club.

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.

**Sunday, February 12, 2006 - 1:00pm - Signs of Spring Walk**, Memphis Botanic Gardens at Audobon Park, Memphis, Tennessee. The Gardens are located at 750 Cherry Road. Join Outings Chair Judith Hammond to look for the first signs of Spring. Meet in the lobby of the Botanic Gardens building. For more information, contact Judith Hammond at (901) 276-2819.

#### TELEVISION PROGRAM:

Monday - 1:30pm, Tuesday - 4:00pm, Wednesday - 11:30am, Wednesday - 11:00pm, Thursday - 7:00am. WPYL-Channel 18 - "The Nature of Conservation," is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. The February show is an interview of Andrew Couch of the West Tennessee Clean Cities Coalition. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the month. If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

### 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>.



## summer, fall 2005

by Richard Simmers

This past summer and fall were mostly hotter and drier than normal, though not like the extremely hot or dry summers such as 1980 and 1988.

Although Cookeville was reportedly very dry, the weather station there is located in the valley towards Sparta, and considerably more rain fell in the Brotherton area (including Barnes Hollow) eastwards past Monterey, especially on June 27-28 and in August-October; consequently there were some gorgeous autumn colors late in October into early November, peaking the first week of November, even near Monterey! Other more drought-stricken areas had poor foliage colors. The Nashville area fared better than some others in regard to rainfall. The earliest local frost was Oct. 17, with heavier frosts Oct. 26-30; I picked some okra and pole bean pods for lunch Oct. 20, plus a few tomatoes Oct. 21; I noticed some frost injury Oct. 22. The first hard freezes came Nov. 17-18; these killed remaining kudzu or canna foliage.

Tropical storms were a very prominent weather feature this season, and for the first year I can recall, the named storms ran through the alphabet and up to Epsilon, at least, for the Atlantic. Much of our summer rainfall was associated with tropical systems; the remnants of "Arlene" in June, "Dennis" in July (well over 4 inches near Monterey!), "Katrina" Aug. 29-30 with gale-force winds, "Tammy" Oct. 6-7, likely "Rita" in Sept., and so forth. June and July were on the wet side E of Monterey, but I did plenty of watering during a dry spell in late June.

Locally (Putnam Co.) we had over half an inch of rain in October, more than a bone-dry (no rain) October years ago at Barnes Hollow. In November there were 2 stormy rainy spells, Nov. 13-16 and 27-28, both with tornadoes reported (15th especially); the latter storm had sustained gale force or stronger winds in Cookeville.

Early in November I went for walks in my ravine with the big hardwood trees, for the first time in a few years at the upper end. I located a cucumber tree (new here!), several large northern red oaks and shagbark hickories, several American chestnuts (saplings) and sugar maples, as well as more common trees. Maidenhair ferns grew in a few largish patches. (E of Monterey)

I had a good breeding season for the birds at my place E of Monterey. Blue grosbeaks, a male and a female, were seen or heard at intervals; their small relative the indigo bunting nested in my main garden in a young dogwood next to a big dog fennel clump. A white-eyed vireo sang often from Apr. 20 to June 27, then was silent until Sept. 7. Two sharp-shinned hawks were seen June 18. A pair of bluebirds attempted to

breed. Acadian and great crested flycatchers were noted a few times. Pine and back-and-white warblers seemed less frequent (1 pair each rather than 2 pairs) this season near the main gardens; both were seen July 10 along (or on, for pine warbler) my driveway in a mixed-species flock. Hooded warblers were still numerous, ovenbirds a bit less so. Northern parula and black-throated green warblers were observed early in spring but later retired into the woods for the most part. Blue-headed vireos were quite numerous, with 2 or 3 singing at times near the gardens. A brown thrasher (pair?) was seen visiting my main garden and was present all season. Wood thrushes sang occasionally in the adjoining woods. Cardinals were present all season also, as were towhees, flickers, scarlet tanagers, tufted titmice, white-breasted nuthatches, gnatcatchers, and various other common birds. Field sparrow, yellow throat, and yellow-throated warbler appeared at times.

There was a good fall migration here later on; although I missed seeing large flocks, I observed a blue-winged warbler Sept. 1; a female golden-winged warbler Sept. 4; several chestnut-sided, magnolia and Blackburnian warblers; a nice redstart was seen Sept. 5, a bay-breasted warbler Sept. 28. Many of the winter birds were slow to arrive, including kinglets (golden-crowned Oct. 20), winter wren (Oct. 15), yellow-rumped warbler (Oct. 17), and hermit thrush (Oct. 17). An unexpected northern harrier was seen Nov. 3 near a ridge top pond. Purple finches had arrived by Nov. 1. My first sandhill crane flocks flew over Nov. 12.

Many amphibians had a good breeding season; I observed a group of 18 maturing tree frog tadpoles at a woodland pool July 26, and southern leopard frog tadpoles were frequent early in the season at two ridge top pools. Some southern leopard frogs were breeding Sept. 17, but the tadpoles (seen Oct. 14) were lost when this pool dried up (by early Nov.). Newts were seen courting, male close to a female, on Oct. 31 at another pool. I observed on Nov. 11, in daylight, an adult mole salamander (*Ambystoma talpoideum*) close to a larger pond.

Some of you may recall that a few years ago I wrote about armadillos approaching Chattanooga. I recently heard from Deb Beazley that dead armadillos have been seen on Old Hickory Boulevard on the outskirts of Nashville! They should be over most of middle Tennessee in a couple of years. They should be in the Chattanooga area by now, and likely in West Tennessee.

I can (happily) report that Asiatic ladybug populations seem to have plummeted; only a few made it inside my cabin this fall, compared to thousands several years ago. Likewise at the Warner Park Nature Center, Nashville. Unfortunately I can report that such invasive plants as privet, Amur honeysuckle (still mostly with leaves Dec. 15), wintercreeper (*Euonymus*) and Oriental bittersweet are increasing around Cookeville.

Butterflies had a very good season, especially the migrants, and especially after Labor Day. This was a good swallowtail year; I saw 5 pipevine swallowtails Sept. 17 (4 at Barnes Hollow), a personal high count, and 2 giant swallowtails (plus 6+ spicebush and 10+ tiger swallowtails) on Aug. 7 at Barnes Hollow. Monarchs had a fine flight; on Sept. 30 from Monterey to Sand Springs I counted around 30 (best number in years). Cloudless sulphurs had an excellent flight year also; some good days were 29 on Sept. 24, 34+ on Sept. 30, and 45+ (8+ at my place E of Monterey) on Oct. 1 (all in Putnam Co.); several (up to 8) were visiting thistle flowers in September at Barnes Hollow. Little yellows were scarce, sleepy oranges frequent. A fine big southern dogface Nov. 7 in Cookeville, only my second for Putnam Co., had an extensive rosy-pink wash on its hind wings beneath. Gulf fritillaries had an excellent season, with 2 often at Barnes Hollow and a maximum of 5 on Nov. 7 in Cookeville, as did also variegated fritillaries and painted ladies. Red admirals seemed scarce; buckeyes had a good late flight (my first Sept. 30). I had two November observations of pearl crescents, the later on Nov. 10, in Cookeville.

As frosts gradually kill off flowers in the countryside, butterflies seek out plantings or weedy flowering patches in warmer suburban areas. I found an equivalent to a feeding station for butterflies on Oct. 31 behind the King Buffet in Cookeville; it was a largish patch of prairie golden-asters and frost asters. Here I noticed a few monarchs, 3 gulf fritillaries, 5+ painted ladies, 1-2 American ladies, 5+ buckeyes, a checkered white, orange sulphurs, sachems, and a common checkered-skipper. On Nov. 2 there were 3 gulf and 2 variegated fritillaries, 2 American ladies, 3+ buckeyes, 6+ sachems, and 1 checkered-skipper. On Nov. 4 I saw here 2 cabbage whites, 3 gulf fritillaries, 1 monarch, 2+ American ladies, 2+ buckeyes, and 1 orange sulphur. On Nov. 7 I observed the dogface here, also 5 gulf and variegated fritillaries, several orange sulphurs, 1 clouded sulphur, 1 pearl crescent, 4+ buckeyes, a cabbage white, 1 checkered-skipper, but no ladies, nor monarchs. On Nov. 11 I noted here 3 checkered-skipper, sachems (several), a clouded skipper, a probable fiery skipper, a female checkered white, 1 cabbage white, 1 (fresh) painted lady, 1 variegated fritillary, 1 sulphur, and 2 buckeyes.

The hard freeze ended this party. I did not spend much time each day looking (about 15-25 minutes), and turnover during each day may have been rather substantial, as most were well-known migrant butterflies. Note that cloudless sulphurs did not visit these flowers (I saw one only on Nov. 2 in this area); they prefer larger or more tubular flowers such as morning glories. A planting of purple verbenas and yellow Lantanas at the Willow Avenue Wendy's had some butterflies at it Nov. 6, and reportedly the Abelia hedge at TTU was good again this year. Virtually all of the Cookeville butterflies were seen and studied closer than 6 feet away, often 3-4 feet.

# Wilderness First Aid Training

May 6th and 7th • Fall Creek Falls State Park

(Continued from Page 1)

**Enrollment:** Complete form and send with check to Katherine Pendleton

**Other:**

- 1 – 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
- 2 – Participant must have health insurance coverage
- 3 – Participant must sign Sierra liability waiver
- 4 – Participant must sign SOLO/Landmark Learning liability waiver

**Questions:** Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email at [katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:katibug1959@aol.com)

**Note:** This course is not for Wilderness First Responder recertification

**Value:** 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.

**Membership:** We require membership in return for the value pricing offered. By becoming a member, you will receive both the Chapter (state of Tennessee) newsletter and the national Sierra Club publication, Sierra Magazine. Each of these publications will help to keep you aware of challenges to great outdoors and suggest actions that you can take to preserve the things about nature that we value.

## takeACTION

### 4th Annual First Aid Wilderness Training

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous First Aid Training: \_\_\_\_\_

**A non-refundable payment of \$140 is due by April 10th**

\* to participate in this training you must be a Sierra Club member

\* introductory Sierra Club memberships are \$25

o go to <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/> to join on line

o please send me a membership form \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE - breakfast, dinner, lodging/camping, and Sierra membership are not included in the course fee of \$140

I am seeking recertification of a previous SOLO WFA certification. YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

\* Note-this is not a recertification class for Wilderness First Responders

I am interested in information on the following

\* camping with the other training participants YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

\* buffet dinner at the park lodge YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

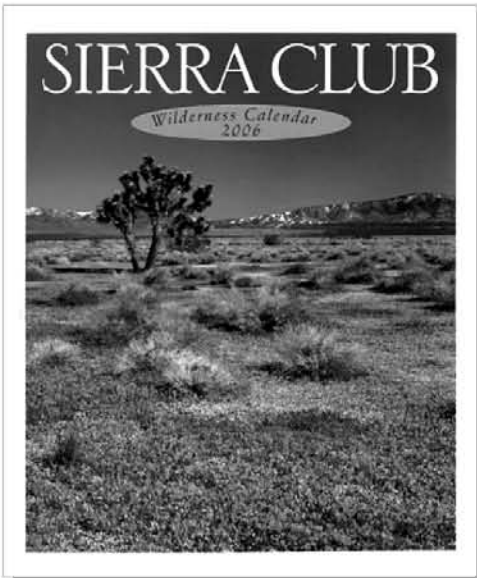
If you answered yes to either of the above, information will be emailed to you by April 20th.

I am an omnivore \_\_\_\_\_ a vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check to: Katherine Pendleton  
105 Catamaran Court  
Nashville, TN 37217

## SIERRA CLUB 2006 CALENDARS

**Sierra Club 2006 Engagement Calendar**— Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.



**Sierra Club 2006 Wilderness Wall Calendar**—Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

### ORDER FORM

| Item                | Cost    | Quantity                          | Total |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Engagement Calendar | \$12.95 | _____                             | _____ |
| Wilderness Calendar | \$11.95 | _____                             | _____ |
|                     |         | <b>Subtotal</b>                   | _____ |
|                     |         | <b>Shipping (10% of subtotal)</b> | _____ |
|                     |         | <b>Sales tax</b>                  | _____ |
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*Make checks payable to "Sierra Club" and mail to the return address shown on your newsletter*

### 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).

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