

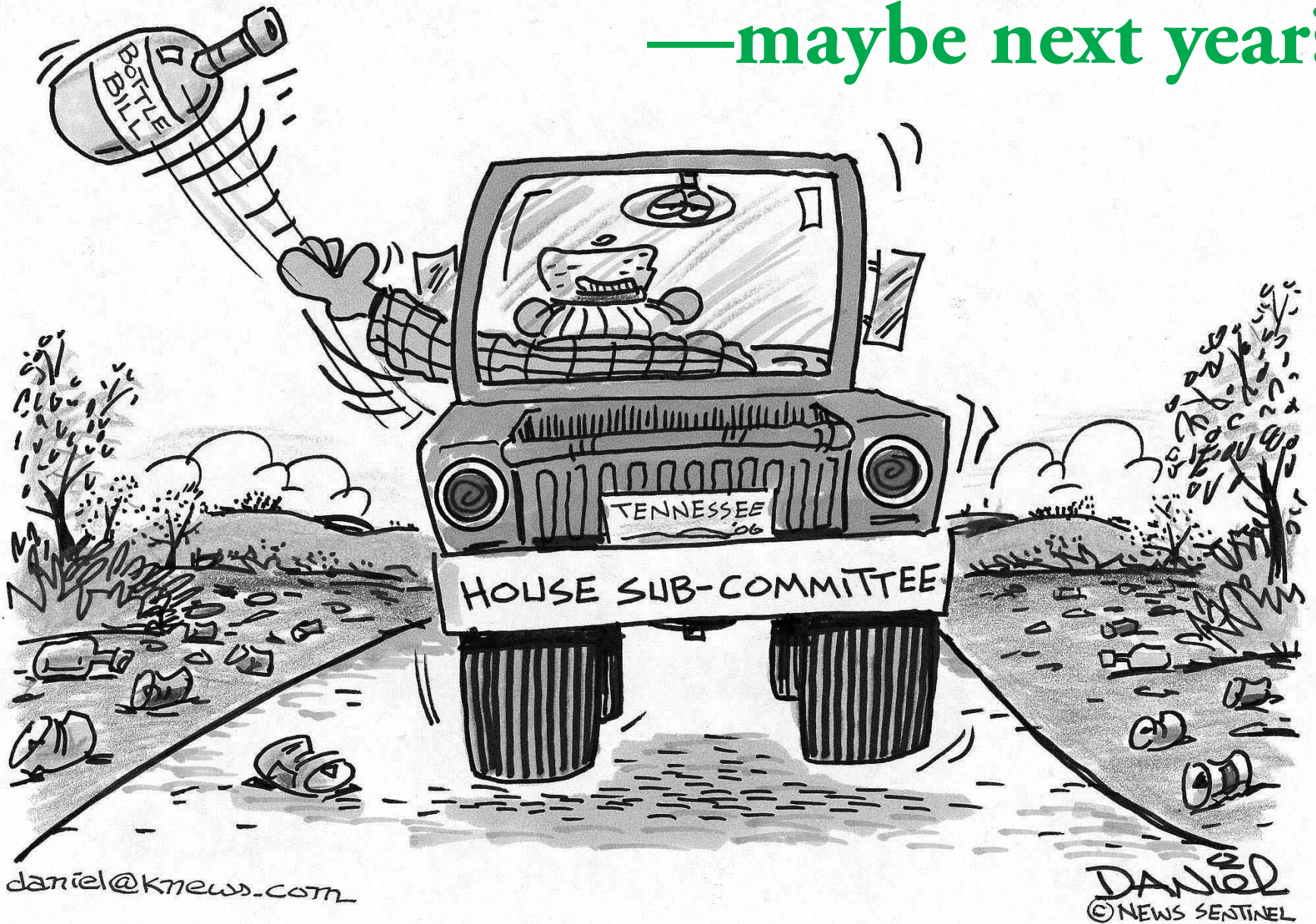
Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 37, Number 6 - June 2006

Container Deposit Legislation —maybe next year?

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Contributed by
Penny Brooks

This year the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club adopted one issue as its goal—the passage of a Container Deposit Bill to benefit the State of Tennessee. The Container Deposit bill would have set up a container recycling program. The bill, written and sponsored by Russell Johnson from Loudon, Tennessee would have accomplished the following: it would have drastically reduced litter along the roadsides, the streams and rivers, fencerows, and drainage ditches. It would have doubled the grant funds for county road cleanups. It would have provided hundreds of opportunities to create profitable small businesses for recycling the containers. It would have conserved enormous amounts of energy and natural resources. Yet, the large majority of the members of the Local Government Sub-committee of the State and Local Government Committee did not vote in favor of the bill. Their reasons did not indicate a knowledge of the process, even though they had been given an opportunity to visit another state that uses container deposit recycling. Eleven other states have such a program and the programs in those states have been very successful.

Rather, the committee members seemed to be swayed by the unsubstantiated claims of hardship made by two convenience-store representatives,” William Beach of Beach Oil in Clarksville, and Bob Rio, vice president of human resources and government relations for North

Carolina-based The Pantry, Inc. Chairwoman Langster, for instance, was concerned about the unsanitary conditions and “accounting nightmare” that the bill supposedly would create for retailers. (In fact, retailers are not required to host a recycling site; most sites will have reverse vending machines that are self-contained and require no direct contact with the materials. Representative Johnson played a videotape in which a person inserts a soft-drink can; reads the electronic tally; then pushes a button for his receipt, which can be redeemed in a number of ways.)

“The power of the opposition truly is mind-boggling,” said Marge Davis, a leading proponent of the Container Deposit bill. “We know that in the eastern part of the state in particular, these legislators collectively received hundreds if not thousands of e-mails, phone calls, visits and hand-written letters from the wide range of Tennesseans who want this bill: farmers, bicyclists, developers, sportsmen, teachers, even advocates for the homeless. And yet during the question-and-answer period, not one of these legislators asked a single question about the documented benefits that Rep. Johnson had listed.

Representative Johnson, sadly, will be leaving the State Legislature to run for District Attorney in his home county. We will miss him as he has had the best environmental record in the legislature over the past three years.

HOW THEY VOTED:

Ben West of Hermitage—YES
Thank you Representative West!

Edith Langster of Nashville—NO

Ulysses Jones of Memphis—NO

Randy Rinks of Savannah—NO

Curry Todd of Collierville—NO

Eddie Yokley of Greeneville—NO

Edith Langster of Nashville—NO

Harry Brooks of Knoxville—NO

Harry Tindell of Knoxville—NO

Park Strader of Knoxville—NO



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Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

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ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

1. Email embedded text submissions, or PDFs, which are preferred to tn.sierra@gmail.com.
2. Photographs should be 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. 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.

PLEASE ...

DON'T FORGET!

If you have not yet made a contribution to our state chapter this year, there still is time. We suggest a contribution of \$10 or more, but any amount you can spare for our chapter will be more than welcome.

Remember, every dollar you send for the state chapter will be used in Tennessee for our environment here at home. And every donation of \$100 or more will get a free copy of the hard-hitting energy-saving DVD Kilowatt Hours.

Please send your contributions to:

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(List in Transition for 2006)

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donrich@juno.com
Vice Chair: Steven Sondheim (901) 761-1793
stevensondheim@yahoo.com
Secretary: Mary Gavlik (423) 434-9535
mlgav@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185
GB1Nature@aol.com
Membership: Dick Mochow (901) 274-1510
dinimo@bellsouth.net

TN Local Groups:

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

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
Chair: James Baker (901) 826-2448
kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com
Vice Chair: Allan Lummus (901) 722-9545
alummus@utmem.edu
Conservation: Steven Sondheim (901) 761-1793
stevensondheim@yahoo.com
Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
No e-mail address

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
Chair: Axel Ringe (865) 397-1840
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Vice-Chair: Beverly Smith (865) 531-8480
Blsmith1300@comcast.net
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dreister@bellsouth.net
Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518
rshrieve@utk.edu

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chapters/tn/mtg
Chair: David Bordenkircher (615) 333-3377
dabordenkircher@mindspring.com
Vice Chair: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
Conservation: Diane Perschbacher (615) 895-1236
Diane@Propson.com
Outings: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com

Watauga Group - Johnson & Carter Counties

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga
Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797627@aol.com
Vice Chair: Dr. Earl Taylor (423) 727-7211
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Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797627@aol.com

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg
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maevans@twlakes.net
Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142
Jmcquail@tntech.edu
Conservation: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
zeblady@twlakes.net
Outings: VACANT

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**

More Campuses, Companies, and Consumers are

CHOOSING cage-free EGGS



Photo courtesy of:
**Organic Valley
Family of Farms**

Moving the animals from stacked cages to the floor greatly reduces the density at these facilities, with cage-free sheds accommodating only around one-quarter the number of hens. Lowering the density of animals at egg-producing operations is an important step for the environment, as less animal waste is produced in the same amount of space, which reduces potential water, air, and soil pollution problems.

In response to student demand, a growing number of colleges and universities around the nation have stopped buying battery-cage eggs. Among the schools to adopt a cage-free egg policy are University of Iowa, Georgetown University, Dartmouth College, Princeton University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Vassar College, University of Rochester, University of Connecticut, and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Several grocery chains, including Whole Foods Market, Wild Oats Natural Marketplace, Jimbo's Naturally, and Earth Fare, now sell only cage-free eggs. Trader Joe's recently converted all of its store brand eggs to cage-free. Businesses are also adopting cage-free egg policies. In April, America Online announced it will serve only eggs from cage-free hens in its cafeteria. Cafes at companies including Oracle Corporation, Cisco Systems, Adidas, Best Buy, and Nordstrom, catered by the institutional food service provider Bon Appétit, are phasing in the use of cage-free shell eggs.

Although demand for eggs raised in cage-free facilities is growing fast, these eggs still represent only a small segment of the market. One barrier is expense. Cage-free eggs can cost as little as 25 percent more or as much as twice the price of battery-cage eggs.

A growing number of educated consumers opt to avoid eggs altogether. Others prefer to support local producers at area farmers markets who offer eggs from pasture-raised hens.

by Susan Prolman,
True Cost of Food Campaign Director for the
Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club

Many environmentalists are aware that significant environmental impacts are associated with the production of beef, pork, chicken, turkey, fish, and dairy. Many of us have decreased or eliminated consumption of these foods in an effort to reduce our ecological footprint. The production of eggs raises similar environmental concerns as the production of other animal products. As is true in other food production, some methods of producing eggs are more environmentally sound than others.

Ninety-five percent of eggs produced in the United States come from hens raised in factory farms that use battery cages to house the hens. This intensive confinement system so inhumane it has been banned in many European countries and will be phased out of the entire European Union by 2012. In the United States, where consumers are just beginning to learn about factory farms, the push for more humane and more environmentally sustainable alternatives has only recently gathered momentum.

In the United States, egg-laying hens are raised in sheds the length of football fields, with battery cage operations housing roughly 80,000 hens. Up to ten hens are crowded into a barren wire cage so small the birds can't spread their wings. Each bird is

afforded less space than a single sheet of paper on which to live, leading to high levels of stress and injury. Cages are stacked one on top of another, with the waste of the birds above dropping down onto the birds in cages below. Because of the low value of egg-laying hens, no individual veterinary care is given. Sick and dead birds are common sights inside battery cages. In the U.S., approximately 300 million hens are raised this way each year.

Environmental problems associated with battery cage facilities include water, air, and soil pollution. Because these operations crowd large numbers of animals into a small area – often millions of birds at a single egg-producing concentrated animal feeding operation – they generate a massive amount of manure and other animal waste. This manure frequently leaks, spills, or runs off into ground and surface water, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating drinking water supplies. These operations also produce dangerous amounts of ammonia and other gases that pollute the air.

The Humane Society of the United States recently instituted a successful campaign to encourage cage-free egg production as an alternative to factory farms. Cage-free facilities house roughly 20,000 hens on the floor of the shed, where the birds can walk, stretch their wings, and engage in other natural behaviors denied to caged hens.

Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, June 13, 2006, 7:30 p.m., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. The HBG will hold a community event presenting an overview of the Interstate 3 issue. I-3 is a proposed interstate running between Savannah, GA and Knoxville, TN. It's route would cross the southern Appalachian mountains, creating massive environmental destruction and impacting the quality of life of many communities. HBG will present plans to mobilize local, state, and federal opposition to the proposal. Find out how you can help!

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, June 27, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., at the 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.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: There will be no program meeting in June. If you have any questions, call Shelli Dimarco at (615) 260-0030.

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, June 28th 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 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@mindspring.com or call 333-3377.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY FIRST THURSDAY MEMBERS GATHERING: (NOTE: New Hours) - Thursday, June 1, 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 Karen Prosser - Membership Chair at (901) 327-9820 or kprosser@bellsouth.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, June 12, 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 Allan Lummus - vice-Chair by June 9 to place items on the agenda at (901) 722-9545 or alummus@utm.edu

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, June 28, 2006, 7:00pm - 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 June program will feature Randy Johnson, who is Director of Solar Engineering at Sharp Manufacturing in Memphis. He will be discussing the basics and practical uses of electrical energy from solar power, rather than conventional sources, such as coal fired power plants. Contact Tom Lawrence - Program Chair at (901) 237-4819 or tomlawrence@bellsouth.net for more information.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

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



photo/Kevin Walsh

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Join Sierra at the Sonnenschein Festival Green Power Day on June 24th. We will have an indoor booth, full of information on how you can save energy in the home, on the road or in the office. Stop by, and if you are interested in being a "booth buddy" for a couple of hours, we can always use the help! For more information, or to volunteer, contact Diane Perschbacher, Diane@Propson.com or 615-895-1236.

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Slanderous Skepticism: Review of Michael Crichton's State of Fear

by Josie McQuail
Upper Cumberland Sierra Club

"The good Earth – we could have saved it but we were too damn cheap and lazy."

-- Kurt Vonnegut

Just because it has footnotes – and 2 appendices, an annotated bibliography, and an epigraph by the author – doesn't mean it's true. That's despite Michael Crichton's Preamble to *State of Fear*, his novelistic screed against growing warnings from scientists and politicians of the effects from global warming:

This is a work of fiction. Characters, corporations, institutions, and organizations in this novel are the product of the author's imagination, or, if real, are used fictitiously without any intent to describe their actual conduct. However, references to real people, institutions, and organizations that are documented in footnotes are accurate. Footnotes are real.

Like the right wing extremists who have co-opted the civil rights movement's tactics to unite against things like abortion and for the display of the Ten Commandments, Crichton uses the genre of novel in order to carry out his revisionist agenda. His message is similar, really, to George Orwell's *1984*: constant crisis, a constant "state of fear," may keep the populace tractable and malleable, and, in the plot of Crichton's novel, keep donor contributions funding private organizations coming in. But this time it's environmental groups like NERF, the fictional National Environmental Resource Fund (according to Ronald Bailey's review in May 2005 *Reason* is "modelled on the real-life Natural Resources Defense Council, whose annual budget is the same: \$40 million") who are the perpetrators, not totalitarian governments.

Sadly, Yeats' lines "*The best lack all conviction, while the worst/Are full of passionate intensity*" seem all too true, and I say that not solely with regard to Crichton's slanted portrayal of environmental activists, but because of the fact that environmental activists seem to be getting a bad rap everywhere. The last book I reviewed in the *Tennes-Sierran* was T. C. Boyle's *Friend of the Earth*. In many ways Boyle, who is, I suspect, much more liberal than Crichton, reveals similar suspicions when it comes to the organized environmental movement. But Boyle sets his novel in a future where dire predictions of global warming – torrential rains and epidemic disease – have come to pass, whereas Crichton wishes to discredit scientific proof of the phenomenon of global warming altogether and shows environmental groups actively creating supposed catastrophic effects of global warming to further their cause.

There should be a special name for the genre of paranoid science fiction Michael Crichton writes: maybe slanderous skepticism? Crichton accuses the environmentalists of his novel of being Machiavellian mass murderers. To lend credence to the concept of Global Warming, NERF activists will generate tsunamis, flash floods, or colossal icebergs, not hesitating to sacrifice innocent victims – in fact actively recruiting them. Crichton's calumnies remind me of the fate of labor organizer turned environmental agitator Judi Barry in the Redwood Summer of 1988, who was accused by the FBI of accidentally blowing up her own car in Oakland CA, while others maintained that logging interests,

alarmed by the large protests against logging she was organizing, had planted the bomb, a charge that the FBI apparently never really investigated.

Sure, Crichton's novel is full of the usual thrilling chase scenes, gratuitous sex, and stereotyped blondes, but it is offensive for other reasons. Not only are environmentalists slandered and women stereotyped (what can you expect in a novel where a lawyer – and NOT an environmental lawyer – is the hero?) but nature is slandered. Though Crichton claims to love nature ("*I personally experience a profound pleasure being in nature. My happiest days each year are those I spend in wilderness*" – "Author's Message"), the views of nature he gives in this novel feature only its destructive aspects: lightning, tsunamis and a poisonous octopus are all wielded by environmentalists as weapons. Native peoples, far from being blissfully in tune with nature, are rapists and cannibals eager to victimize the hapless Americans who land on a tropical isle at the novel's denouement (there is documentation regarding this "truth" of native savagery, too).

Far more disturbing than anything about the novel's abysmal plot, however, is the way it has been greeted by American's political establishment. In Jan. 2005, *Audubon Magazine* (Rev. of *State of Fear*, May-June 2005) reported that Crichton was keynote speaker at a conference called Science Policy in the 21st Century at the neoconservative American Enterprise Institute, a "think-tank" that has 20 former members in Bush's administration, including vice president Dick Cheney. Michael Janofsky in the *New York Times* Feb. 19, 2006, quoted Fred Barnes' book about President Bush, *Rebel in Chief*, and according to Barnes, Bush met Crichton in a White House visit arranged by Karl Rove in 2005, after Bush had "avidly read" Crichton's novel. Novelist and president "talked for an hour and were in near total agreement. The visit was not made public for fear of outraging environmentalists all the more." Further, Janofsky in his article "Bush's Chat with Novelist Alarms Environmentalists" reports, in Sept. 2005 Crichton appeared before a Senate Committee and questioned the 'dubious supporting science' of global warming.

It is now no secret that President Bush's administration has relied on secrecy and lies to further its agenda. What is surprising is that Crichton, a novelist, received the American Association of Petroleum Geologists' annual journalism award in February. Journalist? Environmental expert? Even "novelist" may be too flattering a term for what Crichton is.

In short, don't read Michael Crichton's *State of Fear*. Instead read Kurt Vonnegut's latest reminiscences, *A Man Without a Country*, from which my epigraph is taken. Here is a sampling from Vonnegut's latest book:

In case you haven't noticed, as the result of a shamelessly rigged election in Florida, in which thousands of African Americans were arbitrarily disenfranchised, we now present ourselves to the rest of the world as proud, grinning, jut-jawed, pitiless war-lovers with appallingly powerful weaponry – who stand unopposed.

In case you haven't noticed, we are now as feared and hated all over the world as the Nazis once were.

And with good reason.

In case you haven't noticed, our unelected leaders have dehumanized millions and millions of human beings simply because of their religion and race. We wound 'em and kill 'em and torture 'em and imprison 'em all we want.

Piece of cake.

In case you haven't noticed, we also dehumanized our own soldiers, not because of their religion or race, but because of their low social class.

Send 'em anywhere. Make 'em do anything.

Piece of cake.

The O'Reilly Factor.

So I am a man without a country . . . (86-7)

Of course, another arrogant act of the U.S. is its refusal to sign the Kyoto Protocols which President Bush says would 'hurt our economy.'

As depressing as it might be, I would rather read Vonnegut's "facts" than Crichton's "fiction" any day – and I don't need any footnotes to convince me of the truth behind Vonnegut's words.

(The opinions expressed in this review are the opinions of the author, Josie McQuail and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Sierra Club.)



photo/Carlos Paes

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Attention Students: BE A FORCE FOR CHANGE

Every year, the Sierra Student Coalition runs a series of week-long summer programs for environmentally minded high school and college students. While there, you will meet people who share a common love for the environment and new ideas for how to make things better. The programs combine rustic settings and outdoor activities with intense training on how to plan and run environmental campaigns, communicate effectively and build campus environmental groups. Guest speakers provide new insights into the problems facing our planet and how all of us can get involved to solve them. Many past participants have gone on to lead their student environmental groups and Sierra Club Chapters to new levels of organizing and effectiveness. Get more information at www.ssc.org or by calling 1-888-JOIN-SSC

2006 Student Summer Training Program dates and locations:

June 19-25 North Carolina • June 26-July 2: Minnesota • July 17-23: Washington • July 24-30: Environmental Justice, near Los Angeles, CA
August 14-20 Pennsylvania • Puerto Rico: Dates TBA: (Native Spanish-speakers only, please)

Outings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Friday - Sunday, June 9 - 11, 2006: Charlie Rond Memorial Weekend - White River. The White River was one of the favorite places of Charlie Rond - our late Chair. Cabin and tent camping, hike, fish, canoe. Reservations required. Contact Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819.

Saturday, June 10, 2006 - 10:00am - The Old Forest Hike - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. Second Saturday Hikes. Explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America. 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 or donrich@juno.com. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club. NOTE: There will not be Second Sat. hikes in July or Aug.

Wednesday, June 21, 2006 - Time TBA. Summer Solstice Sunset Walk along the Mississippi. Would you volunteer to lead this easy walk? Contact Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819 to volunteer.

Friday, June 23, 2006: Time TBA. Film: An Inconvenient Truth, Malco Ridgeway Theater in Memphis, Tennessee. The Malco Ridgeway is located at 5853 Ridgeway Center Parkway, Memphis, TN 38120. Their phone is: 901-681-2047 and their website is: <http://malco.com/>. At press time, members of the Chickasaw Group have not received additional information beyond what is published here. Please check our website at: <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/> for further updates and outing coordinator contact.

Saturday, June 24, 2006 - 3pm. Canoe and kayak float on the Wolf River Harbor. Meet at put-in near canoe rental store on Mud Island. Sponsored by Friends for Our Riverfront and Sierra Club. Contact Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819.

Saturday, June 24, 2006 - 4 to 8pm. Sierra Club table in conjunction with One River Mississippi Celebration. A great chance to see the One River Mississippi Celebration and to help get Sierra Club's message to the public. Call to volunteer some hours. Contact James Baker (901) 826-2448 or kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com

Saturday, June 24, 2006 - 6:30 to 9pm. One River Mississippi Celebration. Mud Island. For more information on this interesting program that showcases how the this great river links all of us, please see the website: <http://www.onerivermississippi.org/>. Contact Jill Johnston (901) 278-2713 or djhjnstn@memphis.edu

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.

Tuesday, July 4, 2006: 3:00pm until dusk. Chickasaw Group Fourth of July Picnic. Meeman - Shelby Forest State Park. Picnic shelter # 5 on Poplar Tree Lake. Bring a dish to share. Group provides drinks and burgers. Signs will be set to guide the way. Contact James Baker (901) 826-2448 or kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee: "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. The June show is an interview of Randy Johnson who is Director of Solar Engineering at Sharp Manufacturing in Memphis. He will be discussing the basics and practical uses of electrical energy from solar power, rather than conventional sources, such as coal fired power plants. A different program is aired, usually each month. For the schedule, please see the website: <http://www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/18SCHD.htm> 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 or rutschman@rhodes.edu

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Tuesdays in June. Bike Ride: Take a morning bike ride exploring the bike paths around Stones River Battlefield with one of our new outings leaders, Edie McFarland, who has an extensive background in cycling. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Stones River Battlefield Visitor Center. For additional information contact Edie McFarland at 615-896-1344. Please call and let Edie know if you are planning on riding with her.

June 9-10. Full Moon Backpack-Walls of Jericho: Join Katherine Pendleton for a full-moon backpack. We'll backpack in the evening 2.5 miles and set up camp at a primitive campsite that has a creek nearby. On Saturday, we'll explore the area known as The Walls of Jericho. Total mileage 5-7 miles and rated moderate on the descent and strenuous on the ascent. For information and to register contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

June 16-18. Gregory Bald Backpack: The middle of June is a glorious time of year on Gregory Bald in The Great Smoky Mountains National Park when the flame azaleas are in full bloom. Join us as we backpack a strenuous trail to campsite #13. We will car camp on Friday night and backpack Sat. and Sun. Total mileage approx. 16 miles. Participants will furnish their own gear and food. For additional information and registration for a limited number of reservations contact Katherine Pendleton at 675-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

Future Trip:

August 3-12, 2006. Olympic Mountains Backpack: Make plans now to join Katherine Pendleton for a 10 day trip to the Pacific Northwest in the Olympic Mountains in Washington. Katherine led a trip to this area in 2003 and is familiar with this area of Washington. The backpacking trip will begin in the HOH Rainforest and end in Sol Duc at the hot springs resort. Participants responsible for their own gear, airfare, food, incidentals, and share of rental car. The trip is rated strenuous. For information related to the trip itinerary and other details, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

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/choke/index.htm>.

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)

All HBG outings may be accessed at this website: <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome/>

Saturday, June 3, 2006. National Trails Day. Activities sponsored by different agencies will be ongoing on Trail Days. Traditionally, we meet at the GSMNP Sugarlands visitors' center. For details call Barbara Allen, (865) 558-9214 (H) or 215-5180 (W), b-tallen@email.msn.com.

Sat-Sun, June 3-4, 2006. Bald Mountains Backpack. The Bald Mountains are the high blue mountains you see looming on the eastern skyline as you drive north on I-81 near Greenville; the Appalachian Trail runs right along the top of the highest ridge (with a high point of 4,530 feet). A big chunk of the mountains are currently protected from roads and clearcutting in a variety of categories (Scenic Area, Backcountry Area, and Wilderness) although two much larger Roadless Areas in TN and NC there were previously identified by the USFS are at risk under the current administration's national forest plans. We'll camp either on a grassy bald atop Bald Mountain (no water) or in an open forest about .5 miles off the bald near the Jerry's Cabin AT shelter (with water), both on the AT. We'll hike up to the AT from the Old Forge Campground via the Jennings Creek, Poplar Cove, and Sarvis Creek Trails (about 5.3 miles to Jerry's Cabin) and return to the trailhead on the AT, Round Knob Connector Trail and dirt road, and the Little Jennings Creek Trail (about 5.1 miles). Rated Moderate. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; W 521-6200; whshome@bellsouth.net.

Sat-Sun, June 10-11, 2006. Beginner Backpack TBA. This will be a short-drive easy-to-moderate rated hike with emphasis on accommodating new backpackers. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or rshrieve@utk.edu (email is preferred).

Sat-Sun, July 1-2, 2006. Backpack, Forney Creek, Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park. We will start at the Clingmans Dome parking lot and head out the A.T. to the intersection of the Welch Ridge Trail down to the Jonas Creek Trail down to Campsite #70 for a first day total of 10.8 miles. We should have great views and see a part of the Smokies that doesn't get a lot of visitors. On Sunday we will head up the Forney Creek trail which has several deep creek crossings and back up to the Dome a total of 8.9 miles. Beautiful scenery - and a remote section of the park add up to a very enjoyable trip. DIFFICULTY - RATED DIFFICULT DUE TO ELEVATION GAIN AND CREEK CROSSINGS. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: sharvey86@aol.com; phone 865-986-4608 (days), 865-986-6798 (evening).

Sierra Club members are 750,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.



photo/Clara Natoli

Spring Chapter Meeting at Pinson Mounds

Contributed by
various Tennessee Chapter members

The Spring Chapter Meeting at Pinson Mounds State Park brought together five Sierra Club Groups from around the Tennessee Chapter, plus several groups that we have been wanting to celebrate and acknowledge for their efforts in preserving Tennessee's natural heritage. It was also an opportunity for members of the Chickasaw Group in Jackson, TN to meet with other Sierra colleagues from elsewhere in Tennessee. On Friday night, these early arrivals partook of some Memphis Bar-B-Que and a talk by Evelyn Keele – lead organizer of Friends of Harris Creek, a small watershed protection group in Jackson, TN. Along with Evelyn, came Lendon Noe, an art instructor at Lambuth University in Jackson, and a freelance artist. Ms. Noe is doing a natural history of Harris Creek and brought along some art, both on wood blocks and in a sketchbook.



A close-up of just one of the types of aquatic macro – invertebrates (aquatic insects) caught in Harris Creek. By looking at the variety and numbers of these insects as well as fish, the health of a given waterbody can be determined. Photograph by Sue A. Williams.

On Saturday morning, one set of hikers, including Liz Dixon, Mary Mastin, Catherine Murray, Ron Shrieves, Dean Whitworth and David Carter went with a Park Ranger to tour the large Native American mounds that the park is internationally noted for. These mounds date back to the early Woodland, pre-Mississippian culture of 2,000 years ago. Another outing went to Harris Creek with Evelyn; Mary Ann Martin – fellow Friends of Harris Creek member, Dianne Smothers – a Sierran in Jackson, Nate, Dianne's son, Dr. Nick Ashbaugh – a biology professor at Lambuth University and his son, Owen. Sue Williams, Gloria Griffith, Judith Hammond, and Steven Sondheim went to Harris Creek as well. Dr. Ashbaugh showed the assembled Sierrans how to catch aquatic macro – invertebrates (aquatic insects) and fish to evaluate a stream for pollution. The results show that Harris Creek is deserved of its status as a "reference stream" by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Such streams represent the baseline conditions that exist given the prevalent land use patterns in the watersheds of most regions.

On Saturday night, two members of the Tennessee Ancient Sites Conservancy, President Mark Tolley and founding Board member Bill Anderson gave a program about the work of the Conservancy in protecting Tennessee's ancient sites. Chapter members also learned of the local threats to Pinson Mounds by the expansion plans of an onsite State Forestry tree farm encroaching onto unexcavated archeological areas.



From left to right – Ranger Saad, Catherine Murray, Ron Shrieves, Julian Prewitt, Dean Whitworth, and Mary Mastin explore this internationally recognized ancient site. Photograph by David Carter.

The members of the Tennessee Chapter applauded the hosting that the Chickasaw Group did for this meeting. The food was great, thanks to Julian Prewitt with Chickasaw Group for the quiches. Helpers in food preparation, dishwashing and facility cleanup included Janet King, Gloria Griffith, Catherine Murray, Carl Leathers, Bill Terry, Sue A. Williams, Diane Pershbacher Phifer, and David Carter.



Dr. Nick Ashbaugh and his son, Owen, prepare to net aquatic insects in Harris Creek. Photograph by Sue A. Williams.



Above: The stairs to climb to the top of Saul Mound. Below: Saul Mound. Photos by Shanna Petersen.



TENNESSEE CHAPTER SUMMER MEETING

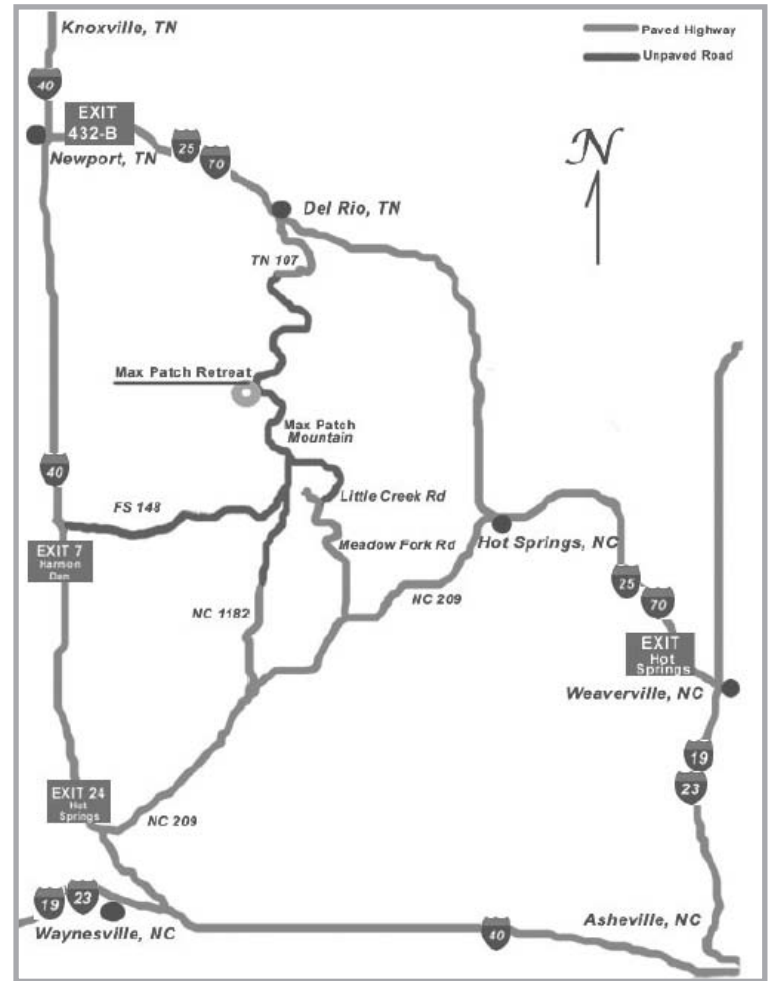
July 21-23, 2006
Sterchi Lodge at Max Patch
 Hosted by the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

•••everyone is invited•••

Join us, and return to an old favorite,
 the Sterchi Lodge at Max Patch
 in the Great Smoky Mountains!

SEE THE JULY ISSUE OF THE TENNES-SIERRAN FOR
 MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION
 OR ONLINE AT WWW.TENNESSEE.SIERRACLUB.ORG.

Directions (see map to the right of this ad) From Knoxville: Take I40-E through Newport and across the NC state line. Exit the interstate at Exit 7 (Harmon Den). Turn left at the end of the exit ramp, where the blacktop road almost immediately becomes gravel, an all-weather road. Drive approximately 6.8 miles and make a sharp left turn just past a brown forestry sign. (You will also see a sign pointing to Max Patch at this turn. Drive approximately 2 more miles, passing the Max Patch Trailhead on the right and a large pond on the right. Approximately .2 miles beyond on the left is the driveway to Sterchi Lodge. It is possible to approach the lodge by taking Highway 25 through Newport to Del Rio, turn right on 107 for several miles until reaching Round Mountain Road. Turn left there, and follow that road approximately 10 miles. The driveway to Sterchi Lodge will exit to the right (a sharp turn). If you see the Max Patch Trailhead on your left, you have missed the driveway. Turn around and use directions from Knoxville to locate driveway.



Commitment has its rewards

Since 1892, the Sierra Club has been committed to preserving the American wilderness. And the rewards are all around us. From our mountains to our forests to our rivers—and the wildlife that inhabit them all—the Sierra Club has successfully campaigned to protect Earth’s natural beauty for decades.

The need for vigilance continues in many of our wild places. You can carry on the fight by becoming a Sierra Club Life Member. Your dues go right to work in a special Life Member Fund that supports vital Sierra Club conservation programs.

So enroll on your annual renewal form, and become a Sierra Club Life Member. And make a commitment that will have impact today—and tomorrow!

I am pleased to enroll as a Life Member of the Sierra Club.

Please enroll me as an individual Life Member.

- Full payment of \$1000 is enclosed.
- \$350 first annual installment is enclosed.

We are enrolling as joint Life Members.

- Full payment of \$1250 is enclosed.
- \$450 first annual installment is enclosed.

New Member Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City/State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (optional) (____) _____
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Please make your Life Member dues payable to the Sierra Club.

I prefer to charge my VISA MASTERCARD AMEX

Account number _____
 Expiration date ____/____
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F94Q **W4300** 1

Sierra Club Life Member Program, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

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.

photo/John Rivers



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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.

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