

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 37, Number 5 - May 2006

Sierra Members Celebrate Earth Day



Julian Prewitt (far left) and Steven Sondheim (center) enjoy quality time with some of the wildlife at Lichterman Nature Center. The barred owl had been hit by a car and cannot return to the wild. Photo by David Carter.



Middle Tennessee Group Sierrans spent a beautiful Earth Day afternoon discussing the issues at the celebration in Centennial Park, Nashville. Photo by Diane Perschbacher Phifer.



At EarthFest at Lichterman Nature Center, several Chickasaw Group Sierrans, including Julian Prewitt (far left) and Karen Prosser (dark shirt, center-right) answer questions about our Building Environmental Communities (BEC) project to protect Memphis' parks and to expand the greenway system around Memphis. Photo by James H. Baker.

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enjoy
protect



Gary Bowers hands out stickers to visitors of every age at the Earth Day celebration in Centennial Park, Nashville. Photo by Diane Perschbacher Phifer.



Charles Sears and Mary Mastin at Upper Cumberland Group Earth Day 2006. The Upper Cumberland Sierra Club had plants for a donation, small Magnolia Trees for planting, or a huge basket of Day Lilies free to those joining the Sierra Club. Caption information submitted by Josie McQuail. Photo by Brian Paddock.



Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: tn.sierra@gmail.com
or mail: Shanna Petersen, Tennes-Sierran Editor
2703 Adobe Hills Place
Thompson Station, TN 37179

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS 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.



Attendees at the TN Chapter's March Strategic Planning Retreat have just finished over 10 hours of meetings to learn more about ourselves organizationally and strategically. In the business of protecting the environment of Tennessee, one must plan strategically in order to win substantial victories.

Photo by Sue A. Williams.

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(List in Transition for 2006)

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rshrieve@utk.edu

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

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Conservation: Diane Perschbacher (615) 895-1236
Diane@Propson.com
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Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville

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Jmcquail@tntech.edu
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Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org

**Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed**

Middle Tennessee Group ANNUAL RETREAT

Contributed by
Diane Perschbacher

Intrepid members braved a brisk day, with a hint of snow, to join the group for the 3rd Annual MTG retreat on February 4th. Facilitated by Margo Farnsworth from the Cumberland River Compact, we started by sharing some of our earliest memories of nature. Volunteers recounted wonderful stories of crafting mudpies, taking tadpoles home to watch them grow into frogs, and visiting their grandfather's farm. Each person had a unique and telling tale of why they enjoy the outdoors and strive to protect it.

After understanding why each one of us cared about nature, (and a food break!), we further defined the group's main strategic goals for the year by dividing into smaller groups to define each goal and activities leading towards that goal. Individuals signed up to take the lead in each area after consensus was reached.

Goal #1

Find and Develop 5 more Activists and 10 more Volunteers

How? By word of mouth, tabling, food outings, an MTG group e-newsletter and educational programs. We will develop a communication plan and a recognition plan as well as use signup sheets to reach out to our membership. (Follow-up was identified as a weakness, as we don't keep track of involvement and why people decided to join.) Leader: Linda Smithyman (615-822-1979 lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com), with other interested individuals.

Goal #2

Enhance Awareness of the Container Deposit Issue and Pass Legislation

How? By Earth Day tabling, February's program meeting where Congressman Russell Johnson provided updates on the bill, word of mouth and publicizing the issue. Leader: Bill Terry (615-665-1010 hikebike@comcast.net), with other interested individuals.

Goal #3

Public Education on Energy Efficiency in Home/Office/Travel

How? By Kilowatt Ours showings, tabling, development of a presentation on the "Green Office", and research on Middle Tennessee renewal energy vendors. Leader: Diane Perschbacher (615-895-1236 Diane@Propson.com), with other interested individuals.

Goal #4

Educate Ourselves on What it Takes to Hire Chapter Staff

How? By spearheading the Strategic Funding Workshop, plus research on what it takes for the Sierra Club to hire staff. Leader: Gary Bowers (615-361-7572 gb1nature@aol.com)

Goal #5

Wetlands

How? By finding activists who are interested in promoting the wetlands slideshow and other activities. Leader: Rachel Floyd (615-792-2590 rfloyd557@bellsouth.net), with other interested individuals.

Goal #6

Create Follow up/Tracking/Communication Strategy to Apply to All Goal Areas

How? By tracking people and keeping records for systemic follow up to improve our communication for all of the above goals. Leader: Dave Bordenkircher, with other interested individuals.

Before "excusing" us for the day, Margo explained "Leadership Mountain", a way to activate people into the group, plus gave us a new tool to use: the Gigger! What's a gigger, you may ask? It's a person who "reminds" you of upcoming deadlines: your spouse, your great, great, great aunt, or a fellow Sierran. All of us needed to pick a Gigger before we could leave!

We're very excited to work on the activities highlighted during the retreat. If any of the activities pique your interest, contact the person leading that effort, and they will be happy to work with you!

Thanks to our Defenders

Many thanks to our March donors
(through April 9)
to the Sierra Defenders fund,
who include:

Anonymous Donors

Nancy K. Anderson

David Bordenkircher

Steven Dronen

Eleanor Lewis

Edward and Elizabeth Neher

Lynnise Roehrich-Patrick

Charlene Smith

We greatly appreciate all of our contributors, both our new Defenders and those who have supported this program for the past decade. You have made it possible for the Sierra Club to continue its advocacy and lobbying activities, without which we would not have been able to reach important environmental goals.

Thank you!

Penny Brooks and Bill Terry,
Legislative Co-Chairs

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.

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Email _____

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I prefer to charge my VISA MASTERCARD AMEX

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Signature _____

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



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Meetings

CHICKASAW GROUP

(Memphis)

MONTHLY FIRST THURSDAY MEMBERS

GATHERING: (NOTE: New Hours) - Thursday, May 4, 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, May 8, 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 May 5 to place items on the agenda at (901) 826-2448.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, May 24, 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): As increased traffic congestion creates the need for new roads (i.e. Shelby Farms), inner city schools close, and trees are cut down to make way for new neighborhoods, Smart Growth has become the hottest environmental, social, and political topic for the Mid-South. Terri Harris and Teri Sullivan, with the Leadership Academy, offer a presentation about the basic principles of Smart Growth and their community action project to educate the community. Then Steven Sondheim and members of the Building Environmental Community (BEC) Campaign will lead a Smart Growth discussion on encouraging greenspace and safe access to and through neighborhoods. Join Steven and the BEC to launch the campaign "Keep the Parks, Grow the Greenways". For more information, contact interim Program Chair - James Baker at (901) 826-2448.

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: May 9, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Recently the Forest Service met with trail enthusiasts seeking input concerning trail opportunities in the Cherokee National Forest. The Ocoee/Hiwassee and the Tellico Ranger Districts are interested in getting a better sense of where visitors use designated trails, gated roads and undesignated routes. Doug Byerly, Recreation Program Manager/Landscape Architect of the Cherokee National Forest, will present a program on the Cherokee National Forest Strategic Trails Analysis. This is a good opportunity to provide the same kind of input for the entire Cherokee National Forest. Come and receive information from Doug, provide input on the trail, and learn of volunteer opportunities!

STRATEGY MEETING: May 22, 7:30 p.m. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Join us at the monthly strategy meeting to conduct business and discuss issues of concern to the group. This is your opportunity to learn how the group functions, issues of concern to the group and a great opportunity to inform the group of issues of interest to you.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP

(Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m. - Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Sizwe Herring, with EarthMatter's Tennessee, will share a follow up presentation on what's happening with the Gateway To Heritage Gardens and Beautification Project initialed jointly with Sierra Club 3 years ago. You can expect to hear up-to-date information regarding local Environmental Justice issues including the relevance of communities working together to solve local environmental problems and find pollution solutions. Additionally, Sizwe will report on the Eastwood Community Garden the Middle Tennessee Group Sierra Club helped start in East Nashville 2 years ago . . . It's thriving quite nicely with 10 raised beds and blackberry bushes! Light refreshments will be served. 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, May 24th 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@mind-spring.com or call 333-3377.

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.



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.

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Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W4300 1**
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photo/Carlos Paes

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Q&A with our members

Contributed by
Joy Mayfield and Carl Leathers

Have you ever wondered what motivated your fellow Tennes-Sierrans to join The Sierra Club? Might you be curious as to just how far back some of our memberships go? Have you ever thought about what others want to see the club accomplish? Well Carl Leathers, Chair of the Environmental Education Committee posed just these questions to the members who attended the quarterly meeting at Cedars of Lebanon State Park in January. Here are the questions, followed by a sampling of replies:

1. What is your definition of an environmentalist?

"Someone who cares about the earth, its environment and the creatures living on it."

"One who cares enough about the natural state of the earth to put extensive effort into its preservation."

"One who seeks to preserve the natural world."

"An individual who is concerned about our surrounding planet and its dwindling carrying capacity."

"An individual devoted to protection of the natural environment and to high standards of regulation for air and water quality. Willing to spend personal resources to advance the cause."

2. When did you join The Sierra Club?

"I joined the Sierra Club in 1967."

"I joined in 1992."

"I joined in 1994."

"I joined in 1971."

"I joined in the summer of 2004."

"I joined in 1991."

"I joined in 1984."

"Earth Day 1969."

"1980."

3. What do you hope to accomplish as a member of The Sierra Club?

"I hope to learn more about my local ecosystems and grow more appreciative of this miraculous gift."

"To use my talent as part of a larger group to try to prevent further degradation of the planet and indeed to reverse the negative effects of human habitation in the past century."

"To save as much of our natural environment as possible - clean water, air, forests and wild places."

"Get people to take action to protect nature."

"I will work to slow the bastards down to preserve as much as possible for my grandson."

"I want to make a difference."

What is noteworthy in these responses is the well grounded definitions of the environmental movement. It is also interesting to note that while some members were motivated to join the club out of concern for specific issues, others joined the club to be part of a collective voice speaking as advocates for preservation and protection of the planet.

freecycle

Contributed by
Bill Dickerson

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE- Due to the relentless strain that our environment has been subjected to, there is a growing need for alternative methods of recycling on local and global levels. The Freecycle Network™ was originated in May of 2003, in Tucson, Arizona, by Deron Beal. Beal, the founder and executive director of Freecycle™ envisioned an organization that could motivate residents of the Tucson area to save the desert landscape from being taken over by landfills. The network has grown into 3,443 communities, and 2,050,072 members around the world. An increase in members of 105% in one year. This amazing movement is probably the most effective project ever conceived for worldwide ecology.

This unique program provides individuals and non-profits an electronic forum to "recycle" unwanted items. One person's trash can truly be another's treasure. Items that would normally be thrown away now have a way of reaching those who can get extended use out of them through the Freecycle™ network.

Recycling is also a very significant way to reduce our energy usage. Take for instance the recycling of one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours (Reynolds Metal Company). Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours. Every pound of steel recycled saves 5,450 BTUs of energy, enough to light a 60-watt bulb for over 26 hours. Recycling a ton of glass saves the equivalent of nine gallons of fuel oil.

Local Moderators and Owners have volunteered to moderate and maintain the web group. These groups are dependent on the participation of local residents who are motivated by generosity and concern for the environment. Desoto County Mississippi and Tipton County Tennessee also have local groups and like all of the Freecycle™ groups are moderated and owned by local volunteers.

Another winning attribute of this Freecycle™ program is the immediate availability of "Free Stuff". There are many needy souls and non-profit organizations that can benefit by participation in the program. There are strict rules that must be followed for members to maintain their membership to assure safety and etiquette in the community. Local residents are invited to join by following this link:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MemphisTNAreaFreecycle/>

Our community demands that a system of alternate recycling be in place for the benefit of local residents. We are encouraging everyone to participate in the effort to keep our landfills free of items that can be recycled.

...it's contagious!

EDITOR'S NOTE:
by Shanna Petersen

I had been considering writing a piece about freecycle before I received Bill Dickerson's article. Why? Well, I have not stopped talking about freecycle.org since I became a member of the Franklin-Columbia Group a few months ago. Not only is it saving landfill space - it is entertaining as well. I have seen posts for all sorts of things. My favorite being, "Offer: Free Male Donkey" which gave me something to laugh about for an entire afternoon. But the premise is no laughing matter - I've received several items including a 27" tv that otherwise would have gone to the landfill. And offered items - the largest being a DP exercise bike. Think of how much landfill space is being saved when large items like these are freecycled! And it helps others to save money or have something they otherwise could not afford - which fosters a sense of community. I would encourage everyone to go to the website and check it out:

<http://www.freecycle.org>

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

Outings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Saturday, May 6, 2006: 8:30am - 2:00pm. Memphis in May Canoe and Kayak Race - Sierra Club booth. Booth is in Jefferson Davis Park. A great chance to see the race. Call to volunteer some hours. Contact James Baker (901) 826-2448.

Sunday May 7, 2006: 9:30am - 4:00pm. Wolf River Annual Clean Up - with Bluff City Canoe Club. Meet at Bateman Bridge put in on Highway 57. Bring lunch, water, gloves. Garbage bags provided. River canoe experience a must. Contact Bill Rehberg (901) 725-9747.

Saturday - Sunday, May 13 - 14, 2006: Annual Sylamore Creek Easy Back Pack and Car Camp, Ozark National Forest, Mountain View, Arkansas. One of the most beautiful car campsites anywhere in the USA! Backpackers will camp at a primitive campsite on the creek. Contact Jill Johnston (901) 278-2713 or Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819.

Saturday, May 13, 2006 - 10:00am - Old Forest Hike. The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee: Second Saturday Hikes. This is our annual "Save Our Snakes" hike. Memphis Zoo herpetologists will be our guides as we seek serpents in the Old Forest. 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. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

Saturday, May 20, 2006: 1:30pm-3:30pm. Toxic Tour. Rita Harris, the Sierra Club, Memphis Environmental Justice Organizer will take us to see some of the top ten environmental polluters in Memphis. We will also visit some successful "clean ups". Meet at the Sierra Club office parking lot (rear), 2600 Poplar Ave. Contact Rita Harris (901) 324-7757.

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 May show is an interview of Mark Follis of the Old Kia Kima Preservation Association, which is working to restore the original Kamp Kia Kima in Hardy, Arkansas. Mark, along with members of the association have restored the buildings and he is conducting an inventory of the natural environment. A different program is aired, usually each month. For the schedule, please see the website: <http://www.memphislibrary.org/tc18/18SCHD.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.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiver.PDF>, or call 415-977-5630, for a printed version.

Transportation to the outing including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

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

Sat.-Sun., May 6-7, 2006, Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Training - Fall Creek Falls State Park. This is the fourth annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training (WFA). WFA covers the basics and the most common traumatic, medical, and environmental issues that occur in the backcountry. Space is limited, so enroll now. To enroll, please contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or at Katibug1959@aol.com. HBG coordinator: Ron Shrieves, 865-922-3518, rshrieve@utk.edu. The cost this year is \$140/person. (HBG will subsidize \$50 for current/future outings leaders.)

Saturday, May 13, 2006, Experience BACKPACKING 201, or "TRY IT - YOU'LL LIKE IT!" This second annual backpacking forum sponsored by the Harvey Broome Group of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, is to be held on May 13th from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM. The emphasis this year is giving those interested in backpacking an opportunity to see, touch, feel, and try the sort of equipment that experienced backpackers have found to be useful or necessary. The venue is in the Smokies in a spot that will give us lots of room to spread out and give you a hands-on experience. You'll see what gear is considered necessary, and what is considered as optional. You can experience the feel of a 30 or 40 pound pack on your back, set up and crawl into various styles of tents, and check out the difference in brands and styles of sleeping bags. We will demonstrate stoves and even do a bit of backcountry cooking. There will be local experts to answer your questions. If you came to our forum last year, this will be a opportunity to expand your knowledge. But last year's forum is not a prerequisite - if you are curious about what it takes to begin backpacking, come on out! The class will be followed up by an (optional) actual backpack the weekend of June 10 and 11th. For details check the Harvey Broome Group "Outings" web page: <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome/>. Please preregister by May 5 with Ron Shrieves, email: ronaldshrieves@comcast.net, phone 865-922-3518 (home) or 865-974-1722 (work); or Steve Harvey, email: SHarvey86@aol.com; phone 271-7227 (cell), 986-4608 (work).

Sat.-Sun., May 20-21, 2006. Big Frog Mountain Backpack. One of the largest protected Wilderness areas (45,059 acres) in the entire Southeast is the combined Big Frog Mountain Wilderness, mainly in TN, and Cohutta Wilderness, mainly in GA, along the TN-GA state line east of Chattanooga. We will hike in the Big Frog Wilderness, and will camp at a wonderful high elevation campsite just below the 4,224-foot summit of Big Frog Mountain. Saturday we'll hike in on the Big Frog Mountain Trail, about 5.8 miles, and on Sunday we'll exit on the Licklog Ridge Trail (about 5.7 miles). Rated Moderate. Pre-register with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; W 521-6200; whshome@bellsouth.net.

Saturday, May 27, 2006. Canoe - Wildlife Float, Rankin Wildlife Management Area, Douglas Lake. Experience this unique complex of lake, river, swamp, and mudflat with the Chairman of the Rankin Bottoms Project. Rankin has just been unanimously selected as a Tennessee Important Bird Area, primarily for its exceptional warm-season water bird populations. We'll explore backwaters accessible only by canoe or kayak and get acquainted with some of the wildlife that inhabits this wetland paradise. The float is suitable for paddlers of any skill level - no currents to contend with. Rankin is best appreciated at a slow pace. We'll meet at 8:30 AM at Rankin Bridge boat launch. Break at the coal tipple around noon, return to the boat launch approx 2:30. 6-8 miles of flat water paddling, route through the willow thickets and distance to be improvised. Pre-register with Michael Sledjeski at mtnsylva@msn.com or 423-487-3161. Canoe rentals (\$25) available.

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 Visitor Center. For details call Barbara Allen, (865) 558-9214 (H) or 215-5180 (W), b-tallen@msn.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!

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Sun., Mon., May 7-8, Hobb's Cabin Backpack. Join Katherine Pendleton for an overnight hike to Hobb's Cabin in Savage Gulf. Total mileage approx. 16 miles and rated moderate. The cabin has room for 6 people. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

Tuesday, May 9, 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.

Sat., Sun., May 13-14, Beginning Backpack. Want to learn how to backpack? This trip will provide a good start at learning backpacking basics at Savage Gulf. We will hike an easy to moderate trail (approx. 4 miles), camp out at a campsite and hike back to our starting point on an easy trail (approx 3 miles). Participants will need to provide their own gear and food. Information regarding gear, trip registration, meeting time, directions to Savage Gulf, etc., may be obtained by contacting Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com. Please contact Katherine no later than May 11 if interested in participating on this trip.

May 27-29, Annual Memorial Day Trip, Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Creek Wilderness Area. We will be leaving Friday evening and will camp at Rattler Ford Group Camp near Robbinsville, NC. Saturday and Sunday will be devoted to day hikes, and the trails will be moderately strenuous with elevation changes of 1,000 feet or more. The scenery and terrain are much like those in the Smokies, but without the crowds. Participants can expect great hiking, camaraderie around the campfire, the sounds of a creek that runs through the campground, and even hot showers after the day on the trail! Pre-registration is required, and group size is limited. Contact Bill Terry at 615-665-1010 or hikebike@comcast.net.

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.



In late March and early April, there were two litter clean ups that Chickasaw Group members planned and executed. Member Jesse McCabe planned the March clean sweep along with City of Lakeland's Natural Resources Director - Eric Bridges. They, along with ten honors students from Bolton and Arlington High School cleaned up IH Park in Lakeland. In the photo, the white bags contain recyclable beverage containers and the black bags contained other trash and litter. Photo by Jesse McCabe.



On a blustery and chilly April afternoon, James Baker – the Tennessee Water Sentinel, along with four other Chickasaw Group members, three employees of the City of Memphis stormwater pollution department and one employee from the City's recycling department conducted a clean sweep of Wolf River Harbor. In the photo, there about 15 bags of recyclable beverage containers, 13 bags of other trash, two car tires and two car batteries in the bed of the pick up truck. Not a bad haul for a small group. Thanks go to Chickasaw members; Susan Collins, Sue A. Williams, Richard Bryant, and Julian Prewitt. Thanks also to Memphis employees Adrienne Pinson, Joy Williams, Sharon Gordon, and Don Hudgins. Photo by James Baker.

Join us for an OUTING

by James H. Baker
Chair – Chickasaw Group

In 1901, one of the founders of the Sierra Club - John Muir said, "If people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish." He knew then that if one wants people to go to bat for the environment, they have to be taken outdoors to show them what needs protecting. As a veteran of 17 national Sierra Club outings, of which many were in the "4-corners" area of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, I learned from my outings leaders about the conservation challenges that these areas faced. What works at the national level, also works at the local and regional level. The Chickasaw Group leads outings, not only to get outside and have fun, but also to see firsthand what threatens these areas. Below, you will find a list of outings for 2006. Please clip this article and place it on your bulletin board or other place you frequent for information. The list will continue to grow, so please check for updates in your monthly Tennes-Sierran and our website at: <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/>

JUNE

Saturday, June 3, 2006: National Trails Day.

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.

Wednesday, June 21, 2006: Time TBA. Summer Solstice Sunset Walk along the Mississippi. Would you volunteer to lead this easy walk?

Saturday, June 24, 2006: Time TBA. One River Mississippi Celebration. Mud Island. Contact Jill Johnston (901) 278-2713.

JULY

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. Contact James Baker (901) 826-2448.

Friday - Sunday, July 21-23, 2006: Sierra Club Quarterly Meeting and Outings. Max Patch Lodge. A favorite place for Tennes-Sierrans to gather. Worth the drive! Hikes on Saturday and Sunday. Contact Don Richardson (901) 276-1387.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 10, 2006: 10:00am - 3:00pm. Hike to Baker Pond, the headwaters of the Wolf River, in Holly Springs National Forest. Then we will travel to the nearby Strawberry Plains Audubon Center in Holly Springs, Mississippi to the Hummingbird Migration Festival (\$5.00/car). Bring lunch or buy it there. We'll first meet at the Citgo gas station/store located at the NE corner of Mississippi Highways 72 and Hwy 5 at 10:00am. Contact Jennifer Couch (901) 274-5729 or jcouch04@bellsouth.net

Saturday, September 16, 2006: 8:00am - 7:00pm. Cooper - Young Festival. Sierra Club booth. Call to volunteer a few hours. Contact James Baker (901) 826-2448.

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 7, 2006: 1:00pm - 3:00pm. Wolf River Harbor Clean Up - Sierra Club Water Sentinels. Meet under the Auction Street Bridge off Front Street. Please call to confirm meeting place. Gloves and bags provided. Contact James Baker (901) 826-2448.

Friday - Sunday, October 20-22, 2006: Fiery Gizzard Backpack. The Fiery Gizzard near Sewanee is a favorite hiking and backpacking spot. This trip will be moderate and is 7 miles round trip. Contact Jill Johnston (901) 278-2713.

Friday - Sunday, October 28-29, 2006: Sierra Club Quarterly Meeting and Outings. Pickett State Park. Near Jamestown TN, adjacent to the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River National Recreation Area. Contact Don Richardson (901) 276-1387.

NOVEMBER

Saturday - Sunday, November 4-5, 2006: Buffalo National River Trails. Near Jasper, AR with Tennessee Trails. These hikes are moderate and 5 and 8 miles round trip. Contact Woody Pierce (901) 755-5635.

Saturday, November 11, 2006: 10:00am-til?. Riverwoods State Natural Area with Wolf River Conservancy, Germantown. See this floodplain forest now saved from development. Wear sturdy shoes. Contact Vincent Ciarmatarro (901) 859-1701 or shamen@midsouth.rr.com

DECEMBER

Friday, December 8, 2006: 6:00pm - 10:00pm. Holiday Party. Birch Porter & Johnson law offices on Court Square, Memphis. Bring a dish to share. There will be a cash bar. Contact James Baker (901) 826-2448.



This aerial photo taken in January 2005 is the Maymead Potter Quarry in Johnson County, TN. Photo: property of Watauga Watershed Alliance formerly J4CAW.

an update on the issue of **MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL**

Contributed by Gloria Griffith,
Chair, Watauga Group Sierra Club

Sierra Club, Appalachian Voices, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Coal River Mountain Watch, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, and coalfield residents held a congressional briefing on mountaintop removal in Washington, DC in February 2006. The briefing was a huge success, with more than 30 congressional offices in attendance, and was important in gaining support for the Clean Water Protection Act (HR2719).

Since the return from Washington, the bill gained two more co-sponsors for the Clean Water Protection Act (HR2719); Representative Ellen Tauscher from CA and Representative Adam Schiff from CA. The total number of co-sponsors is now up to 66!

Mountaintop Removal has already buried up to 1500 miles of Appalachian Streams. Many of these polluted and buried Appalachian streams serve as tributaries to major American Rivers on both sides of the Continental Divide, emptying into both the Gulf and Atlantic Ocean.

The Clean Water Protection Act (HR2719) and mountaintop removal mining is attracting national attention. The first link is to an article in National Geographic, March 2006 issue. The second link is to Orion's January/February 2006 issue. Finally, the last link is to the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, which had a cover story on mountaintop removal and online slideshow.

<http://en.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=70201595&u=649243>
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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)

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.

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