

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 38, Number 10 - October 2007

Middle Tennessee ALTERNATIVE HOMES TOUR October 20-21

Photo and Article
Contributed by Maria Moser
Middle Tennessee Group Reporter

Alternative homeowners will open their houses for viewing during the FREE Middle Tennessee Alternative Homes Tour on October 20 and 21.

In conjunction with National Solar Energy Month, the Global Village Institute for Appropriate Technology and the Center for a Holistic Ecology are hosting the event after the annual Solar Installation Course held in early October.

"Our mission is to help people see that it is possible to live off the grid. We want to foster an attitude of conservation and show people that what is good for the environment can be good for the pocket book," said Jennifer Dauksha English, Program Director for the Ecovillage Training Center. The center was founded by Albert Bates, author of *Climate in Crisis* and *Post-Petroleum Survival Guide*.

The Tour will showcase off-grid and grid-tie homes, passive solar, solar hot water heaters, windmills, alternative vehicles, naturally built homes, water catchment systems, organic gardening and more.

The Local Economic Development and Green Education, LEDGE Initiative, which received a \$50,000 grant from the US Department of Agriculture recently, will hold many such events throughout the year, English said.

"Tennessee gets a lot of its power from coal mining. Our goal is to make the concept of renewable energy more accessible to people and let them know supplementing the grid system is a real option," English said.

Different homes are showcased each day in the Tennessee counties of Lewis, Wayne, Lawrence and Hickman. The tour sponsors, who belong to the American Solar Energy Society, www.ases.org, will begin the tour at The Farm in Summertown, TN.

Registrations for the tour or Solar Installation Course can be made by contacting Ms. English: ecovillage@thefarm.org or 931-306-9355. The tour is free to residents of Middle Tennessee. Donations are encouraged.



There is a fee if accommodations, meals or transportation are needed. To arrange for lodging, meals and shuttles contact the Farm's Inn for details at the inn@thefarm.org. Ride sharing is recommended.

English said that simply changing to energy efficient light bulbs, using energy efficient appliances and unplugging those appliances, when not in use, could cut energy bills by half – depending on initial energy use.

For grid-tied homeowners wanting solar panels, local zoning laws can be an obstacle.

"The more urban the home the more zoning laws are in place. If enough people are interested, the zoning laws can be changed," said English who encourages energy consumers to at least participate in TVA's Green Power Switch program of buying energy credits.

English suggested the movie, *Kilowatt Ours*, which provides a wide-open view of the value of conservation.

"The film, by Nashville resident Jeff Barrie, sheds light on the environmental issues related to Tennessee's current energy production and consumption. It also explains what homeowners can do to conserve energy and to utilize more appropriate technologies.

"Appropriate technology means utilizing efficient technologies that generate the least amount of waste for the highest yield, taking into account both the social and ecological costs locally and globally, she said.

English and her husband, Matthew, own a 94-acre farm on the tour. Her 2000-square-foot home, is off the grid, meaning there are no TVA power lines.

"I hope there are many ecologically minded people who come to learn about integrating energy-saving technology for home use. We are happy to open our home for that purpose," she said.

To meet their energy needs, which are conservative, the couple spent about \$5,000.00, buying nine solar panels, a windmill, a battery bank and inverter. The English's have a backup generator for the washing machine, high-energy power tools and the vacuum cleaner. Wood is a primary source of home heat, cooking and warm water with on demand propane and solar.

"We really do live simply and conservatively. Our appliances, like our refrigerator and freezer are energy efficient. We unplug almost everything. The AC/DC adapter blocks on computers and telephones draw a lot of energy," said English.

The English's home has no air-conditioning, but it was livable during the heat of summer.

During the day, the windows were covered with trellises and the house opened at 6 p.m. and shuttered at 7 a.m.

"We coped with the heat during the 105 degree weather by using fans and shades over the windows. The inside temperature reached 85 degrees," she said.

As the weather cools, the English family will take the chill out of the air using wood, supplemented with some propane.

"There is a sense of satisfaction knowing that we are a living example of self-sustainability. The world can be changed if others will transition to alternative sources of power and foster an attitude of conservation," she said.

For a list of solar tours, including the October Solar Fest on October 6th in Jackson County, look online at www.ases.org/tour



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Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

The Chair's Corner

Dear Tennessee Sierra Club Members,

In the September issue of the *Tennes-Sierran* you read an article regarding a summit for a sustainable Tennessee to be hosted by Tennessee Conservation Voters and Tennessee Environmental Council in November at Lipscomb University in Nashville. I want to update you on the planning progress of this summit. The Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee will commence on Thursday, November 15, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. and conclude on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.

The TN Chapter is participating in this summit. I have been attending planning sessions during which I have advocated for structuring an agenda to accommodate volunteer schedules. A Friday evening social gathering and Saturday sessions were added to the summit agenda specifically to accommodate volunteer schedules and to largely focus on engaging grass root volunteers in working towards a sustainable Tennessee.

I strongly urge you to plan on attending as much of the summit that will fit into your schedule as well as become involved before November by joining one of the working groups including healthy communities, natural infrastructure, or clean energy. The working groups will develop a draft Conservation Agenda and Action Plan which will be refined and approved during the summit. For more information and to find out how you can be a part of the process, please contact TEC executive director, John McFadden at 615-330-5364 or TCV executive director Chris Ford at 615-269-9090.

October 10th is the early registration deadline for the Georgia Chapter Retreat which will be held at Epworth by the Sea on Saint Simons Island, Georgia November 9-11, 2007. Several Tennessee Chapter members are planning to attend this retreat which offers a variety of outings and workshops. Greg Haegele, National Sierra Club Conservation Director, will be the key note speaker at the Saturday night banquet during the retreat. For additional information contact Genie Strickland at 404-607-1262; ext. 221 or genie.strickland@sierraclub.org or visit <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/retreat>.

A new style chapter t shirt is available for fall featuring a long sleeve version of the "Passenger on Spaceship Earth" design. The t shirt is black and can be obtained for a donation of \$23 to the TN Chapter Sierra Club. Contact your local group chair or P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229 or www.tennessee.sierraclub.org to obtain your t shirt and make a bold statement wearing your new shirt!

Make plans now to attend the Tennessee Chapter Meeting at Pickett State Park October 26-28, 2007. Harvey Broome Group is hosting this year's fall meeting. Contact Axel Ringe for additional information at onyxfarm@bellsouth.net. If you wish to join us for Friday night supper at the German restaurant Bacarra's, contact me by October 24 at Katibug1959@aol.com or 615-943-6877. Come to the chapter meeting prepared for good food, hiking, the silent auction, awards presentation, and fellowship. I look forward to seeing you there!

Katherine Pendleton
Chair, Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter



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As one of the many members and friends of the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club, I respectfully request that the State Legislature of Tennessee authorize the creation of a motor vehicle license tag honoring the Tennessee Chapter. Upon the authorization and subsequent issuance of a Tennessee license tag honoring the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club, I pledge to purchase this tag for use on one or more of my motor vehicles.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

Once you have signed the form, please clip and mail to
Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter, P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229.
Thanks so much for your support!

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:
Email: tn.sierra@gmail.com

Shanna Petersen, Editor

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.

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

Executive Committee Hears RAIL Solution Presentation

Contributed by David Foster,
Executive Director, VA RAIL Solution

Michael Testerman, Vice Chair of RAIL Solution, addressed the Executive Committee of the Tennessee Chapter – Sierra Club



during its August 4 retreat at the DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, TN. His presentation summarized RAIL Solution's experience in Virginia opposing a massive rebuilding of Interstate 81 from border to border as an 8 – 12 lane truck toll-road, and the group's grassroots campaign for a rail alternative.

"Citizens of Virginia's I-81 corridor found themselves being offered an unacceptable plan for adding carrying capacity to their Interstate," Testerman said. "The magnitude of this project would forever change the character of the mostly rural and ecologically sensitive I-81 corridor through Virginia. Virginia's I-81 corridor has the third most bio-diverse ecosystem in the United States."

Testerman's illustrated talk recounted the history of the fight launched by RAIL Solution to defeat the massive truck road proposal and to advance a meaningful rail alternative. The Draft Environmental Impact Study ignored most of the impacts to the environment and concentrated on various tolling scenarios that would maximize revenues to pay for the super-sizing of I-81, recalled Testerman.

In November 2005 when the DEIS was released, it ruled out dedicated truck lanes but dismissed rail as having any significant impact on the scale and scope of I-81 improvements. Truck-only lanes were dropped, yet a mega-sized I-81 "solution" remained. RAIL Solution responded by drafting and successfully getting legislation through the 2006 Virginia General Assembly session that would require the commonwealth to determine what rail improvements would enable intermodal trains to divert 60% of through-truck traffic in Virginia. If the highway project was driven by trucks, removing 60% of through trucks would greatly reduce the scope and urgency of new highway construction.

Virginia and Norfolk Southern agreed to fund and conduct a joint study to fulfill the legislative directive of House Bill 1581. Results from the study will be known late in 2007, and should help validate RAIL Solution's contention that equivalent freight-carrying capacity can be provided on the parallel rail line at far lower environmental and economic cost than doubling highway capacity.

In addition to the HB-1581 initiative to plug what RAIL Solution saw as a major hole in the I-81 environmental impact analysis, the group began early in 2006 working with the new administration of Governor Kaine in pursuit of a more reasonable I-81 policy for Virginia, one that would target scarce available funds on safety problems and capacity chokepoints, but rely on rail for major long-term new capacity in the corridor. When the governor announced his I-81 policy later in the year, it took just this course. In October 2006, RAIL Solution also got the Commonwealth Transportation Board to request that the findings of this multi-state rail feasibility study be considered before large-scale upgrades to I-81 are undertaken.

As a result, Testerman said, a saner I-81 policy prevails in Virginia. In the latter part of his presentation, Testerman went on to extrapolate on the Virginia experience and set out a vision for other states in the I-81 Corridor and the nation. "Passenger trains and truck-competitive intermodal trains need infrastructure designed specifically to match highway performance. Just as road transportation was transformed by creating the Interstate Highway System, modern rail transportation requires a task-spe-

cific tier of infrastructure, developed as corridors of national significance, to allow that mode not only to add capacity, but to match the performance levels of our Interstates," Testerman said. "We call it the Steel Interstate." [see sidebar]

Trip Pollard of the Southern Environmental Law Center in Charlottesville, VA was also present at the Monteagle meeting. Pollard and the SELC have worked closely with RAIL Solution in Virginia. During discussion following Testerman's talk, Pollard and others emphasized that the time is ripe to be promoting rail alternatives to new highway expansions.

After lunch the Executive Committee returned to vote on a resolution drafted by Brian Paddock, the Chapter's transportation chairman. In it the Sierra Club calls on Tennessee to promote rail as an alternative to highway widening plans in the I-40/I-81 Corridors. A public outreach and education program is timely and needed in Tennessee because public hearings on the future of the I-40/I-81 are just getting underway. RAIL

Solution stated a willingness to be involved in the push for balanced planning and intermodal solutions where alternatives get fully evaluated for their environmental impact.

RAIL Solution's Transportation Vision for America -- the "Steel Interstate" -- a network of high-capacity rail corridors

The concept of a steel interstate system in the U.S. is rather analogous to the Interstate Highway System that has been built out over the last 50 years. That has given us a core national network of high-capacity, grade-separated roads that made travel faster and safer than on the old system of U.S. Routes.

Today's railroads are like the old U.S. Routes – built a long time ago and often seriously under-engineered and lacking in capacity to handle the demands of today's shipping volumes. Therefore, a dollar of transportation investment made today can often have a bigger impact in increased freight-carrying capacity when invested in rail instead of in more highway lanes.

Rail leads in better safety, much lower emissions, greater energy efficiency, and far less land use. But there is another pivotal consideration. Today in the U.S. our national transportation system is virtually 100% dependent on oil. We need to be planning now to cope with a world without cheap and abundant oil, or without oil at all!

Railroads can be readily electrified, so our steel interstates can be powered by whatever fuels (nuclear, coal, solar, wind, hydro or biofuels) are then being used for electrical generation.

With proper planning over ensuing decades, we can have a core national steel interstate system in place before oil becomes prohibitively expensive or runs out. Featuring a network of high-capacity, electrified rail lines, it would be the backbone for movement of both goods and passengers in this country

Long-distance trucks can also be carried on such trains. Though this has been done in Europe for some time, the knee-jerk approach to accommodating trucking growth in the U.S. has always been to build ever more lanes of highway.

Currently the railroad system in the United States lacks the capacity, reliability, and speed necessary for this type of service. But the time has come to explore public/private ventures to bring public investment into a steel interstate system. Equivalent capacity can be put in place at lower economic and environmental cost than adding more roads.

Railroads in the U.S. have done a fine job developing long-haul intermodal business, but it is focused almost entirely on moving ocean shipping containers, mostly to and from ports. Millions of trucks on the nation's highways remain a huge, untapped opportunity and challenge. As a nation we need an "open" intermodal approach, a technology that can handle not only shipping containers but all kinds of trucks and trailers.

TDOT Rolls Out Interstate 40 and 81 Corridor Study for Public Comments

As this is written TDOT is holding a series of public meetings in September on the Interstate 40 and 81 Corridor Study. The period for written comments is open until October 22nd. Send your input to:

*Project Comments,
Tennessee Department of Transportation,
Suite 700, James K. Polk Building,
505 Deaderick Street,
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0332.*

**For more information, go to
www.tdot.state.tn.us/i40corridor**

The Transportation Committee believes that TDOT must approach this review from a global perspective without a predetermined preference for highway widening.

Here is what we think TDOT should do:

- Determine future levels of incremental capacity needed in the Corridor. Be sure to weigh the effects of rising fuel costs and the growing shortage of oil in years ahead when forecasting demand.
- Rigorously assess, through side-by-side comparison, the environmental and economic costs of providing needed new capacity both via rail and highway.
- Embrace the lowest cost, lowest impact combination of new capacity that will get the job done.
- We are long past the time when every problem of congestion and growth can be solved with more lanes of highway. A smarter transportation paradigm is required for the 21st Century, one that includes a meaningful role for railroads.

Here are some advantages of rail:

- Safety.** Some proposals seek to put trucks in separate lanes, but safety is most enhanced when as many through trucks as possible are removed from the highway altogether and carried on trains. Likelihood of spills and accidents involving hazardous materials is also reduced.
- Energy.** According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, trains are more than three times as fuel efficient as trucks, moving a ton-mile of freight.
- Pollution and Public Health.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says trains also produce three times less emissions per ton-mile of freight handled.
- Land Use.** For equivalent through-put, railroad track has a far smaller footprint on the land than highway lanes. It can often be added within existing right of way, disrupting far fewer farms, homes, and businesses.
- Passengers.** Rail corridors upgraded to move freight provide an enhanced opportunity to operate intercity passenger trains at reasonable speeds.
- Congestion Reduction.** Diverting as many through trucks to rail as possible can reduce the scope and urgency of highway expansion needed, saving money for citizens and taxpayers in road construction and maintenance costs.
- Economic Benefit.** Truck-time competitive freight rail service would boost the economic advantages of our region. Imposing high tolls to pay for interstate widening would damage regional businesses and economic development.

FALL FAMILY MEETING

Friday - Sunday October 26 - 28 • Pickett State Park

Enjoy beautiful autumn weather and fall colors without having to fight the crowds.
Have we got a deal for you!

FOR ONLY \$40, YOU CAN ENJOY:

Hiking • Good Food • Bonfire with ghost stories and s'mores
Children's Activities • Children's Hike (other children's activities may be available)

PLUS

A Silent Auction to benefit our chapter's lobbying and legislative program (see page 7)

AND

An opportunity to volunteer for a day (Oct 27) at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Event starts at 10:00 am.

Sign up at <http://bigsouthforkvolunteer.blogspot.com> and to get more information.

The Executive Committee will be meeting on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, but those not on the Executive Committee may join in the activities, strike out on your own on nearby trails, or just enjoy the peace and quiet of a fall weekend. Lodging is in cabins that accommodate about 20, and family cabins (accommodating more than one family) will be available. Camping among the surrounding trees is another popular option (the cost for the week end is the same for camping as for staying in the cabins). Bring your own bedding, towels, and lunches. If you want additional beverages, you need to bring your own. Snacks on Friday night, breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, and Saturday night dinner are provided.

ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE SO FAR:

- o Hidden Passage Trail. 11-mile loop trail, rated moderate to strenuous. Hiking boots recommended.
- o Hazard Cave - 2.5 mi loop, easy. Can be extended to include a natural bridge.
- o Double Falls - Moderate with one steep climb out of the gorge
- o Twin Arches - Loop to Twin Arches. About 6 mi, moderate.
- o Big South Fork Scenic Railway trip - ride as a group or on your own through deep gorges and steep cliffs. Visit a museum that shows the life of a coal company town and the Blue Heron Mining Camp as well as live music before the train's departure. \$15 adults, \$7.50 age 3-12. 1-800-GO-ALONG or <http://www.bsfsry.com/>
- o Program on Saturday night.

Directions: I-40 to Exit 317. Hwy. 127 north (46 miles). Turn right on Hwy. 154, travel 12 miles to the park entrance. OR, I-75 north from Knoxville to Exit 141. Hwy 63 to Huntsville. Right onto Hwy 27 north to Oneida. Left onto Hwy 297 through Big South Fork NRRRA. Right onto Hwy 154, follow to Pickett State Park.

2007 FALL FAMILY MEETING AT PICKETT STATE PARK REGISTRATION FORM

To register, please clip out and mail this registration form by October 20, to:

Axel Ringe, Chair - Harvey Broome Group
1840 Lafayette Road - New Market, TN 37820

If you know you will attend but are unable to mail your registration by the deadline, please contact Axel at onyxfarm@fastmail.fm by the deadline date in order to be assured of meals.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____

Number of adults @ \$40 _____

Number of children under age 12 _____ (half-price @ \$20) What ages? _____

Number of vegetarians _____ Number of omnivores _____

Total enclosed _____ (Make check payable to Harvey Broome Group Sierra Club).

CHICKASAW GROUP NEWS

Contributed by various members

Chickasaw Group August Program Meeting

Katherine Pendleton, chair of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, visited Memphis in August and was guest speaker at the August 22 Program Meeting at the Central Library. Her topic was sustainable, nutritious food. She showed the documentary film, "The Future of Food" and took questions from the group. The film presented the disturbing truth behind the unlabelled, genetically engineered foods we find in stores today. There are patents on many of the modified seeds that produce the food we eat. Some farmers have actually been sued by seed companies for crops that accidentally grew on their land. Anyone who eats should be alarmed about the health implications of these alterations to our food supply. To learn more about the film, visit the website www.thefutureoffood.com. "From the prairies of Saskatchewan, Canada, to the fields of Oaxaca, Mexico, this film gives a voice to farmers whose lives and livelihoods have been negatively impacted by this new technology."

Bicycle Rally in Memphis

In early September, over 25 bicyclists held a rally celebrating the presence of bicycles and pedestrians on the streets of Memphis. It started in Overton Park and ended at Peabody Park.

Anthony Siracusa from the Revolutions Community Bicycle Shop, along with Nancy Ream and Don Richardson from the Chickasaw Group, delivered comments to the local TV news about the links between bicycle-pedestrian friendly communities and attractive urban environments. Memphis City Council candidates Mary Wilder, Bob Schreiber, and Bryan Stephens also commented on their visions for a more bike-friendly Memphis.

One mark of a healthy and vibrant city is an active cycling and pedestrian community. Each day, a growing number of cyclists and pedestrians can be seen traveling through Memphis as they go to work, school, grocery, or taking a fun ride or walk to just enjoy being outside. Many nice afternoons and evenings, one can see people out walking, often with a canine companion.

As with any outdoor activity, there is always an element of risk; however, the ante is raised in Memphis. Despite a Bike-Ped Master Plan, not a single foot of Memphis' streets have been

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP NEWS

Contributed by various members

ICO GROUP/OUTINGS LEADERSHIP RETREAT

September 7-8, Celeste Dye, new Middle TN Group Inner City Outings Chair and Katherine Pendleton, Middle TN Group Outings Chair and Chapter Chair, took a mini-retreat to the Smoky Mountains for a hike up Alum Cave Trail, spending the night in the trail shelter on Mt. LeConte. This was Celeste's maiden voyage to the Smokies since she recently relocated to Middle Tennessee from California.



Katherine Pendleton and Celeste Dye. (Photo by Henry, Mt. LeConte Lodge staff)

The hike up Alum Cave Trail provided spectacular views of distant mountains and as we neared the top of the mountain we were mesmerized by an incredibly beautiful sunset containing a kaleidoscope of colors. The distant mountains were awash with purple and blue coloring with a brush of fog that is the famous signature of the Smokies.

After a visit to LeConte Lodge we arrived at the trail shelter after dark and were astonished to find it devoid of other hikers, a rarity for a Friday night! It was a special experience having the shelter to ourselves without a symphony of the usual snoring of other shelter inhabitants. We woke up the next morning refreshed for our trip down the mountain.

On our descent from Mt. LeConte we encountered 93 hikers and promoted the local Sierra Club groups to several individuals. An entourage from Kentucky we met included Jerry Reddin who was hiking the trail barefoot! Jerry discussed with us some interesting ideas related to composting.

We stopped in Maryville for supper en-route to Nashville and were delighted to become acquainted with a local college student interested in starting a student coalition group at Maryville College.

Our retreat was inspirational and restful during which we discussed plans for our new Middle Tennessee ICO group and long standing MTG Outings program. On our next leadership planning retreat we are expecting to have a number of other NEW leaders attend. Could that new leader be YOU?



Bicyclists assemble for rally. Photo by James Baker.

striped off to reserve that space for cyclists. Plans are afoot to have another greenway, known as the Greater Memphis Greenline, join the Vollintine-Evergreen Greenline, the single rail-to-trail that Memphis enjoys. This is in sharp contrast to the neighboring City of Germantown, which has striped some of its streets for cyclists. In addition, there is a scarcity of public education around Memphis to educate motorists on how to conduct themselves in a safe manner around bicyclists.

Other rallies are planned, and as one learns best from experience, it is hoped our elected and appointed representatives accept the invitation of learning about the Memphis cycling and pedestrian experience. The experience may bring some sensitivity to this issue that will benefit Memphians' health and welfare.

Ruins of Paradise

Mixing Pleasure with Service at the U. S. Virgin Islands National Park

By Dallas Smith,
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Member

A group of six men and ten women, Sierra Club members from across the country, made a trip of volunteer service to the U. S. Virgin Islands National Park this past February. We camped at the Virgin Islands Environmental Resource Station (VIERS), a collection of rustic cabins within the Park on the southeast side of St. John Island. The camp serves as a center for environmental research and study.

In addition to work clearing weeds and brush from archeological sites the trip schedule provided ample time for recreational activities—hiking, snorkeling and sightseeing. Four of us decided to go sea kayaking one day. A half-mile from our cabins, VIERS maintains a small lab building at the edge of Great Lameshur Bay. There were two kayaks there. One of them leaked, we'd heard, but we ignored that hearsay.

Pete, a retired professor from New York, and Karen, a traveler from Milwaukee, took one boat. Lynn and I took the other one. Lynn owns kayaks back in Minneapolis. She's a dermatologist too. It's always good to have a doctor around. Being a greenhorn, I paddled from the front seat, Lynn in back. We followed Pete and Karen out of the bay, skirting a steep, rocky shore.

Our kayaks were plastic shells having a molded depression on top where paddlers sat. Essentially you sit on top of a hollow void. In front of me, ours had a six-inch opening capped by a lid. I took the lid off and looked down in there to discover water washing about. I reported the water to Lynn and put the cap back on.

We reached the mouth of the bay, and the waves hit harder. The boat kept listing to the right. I wondered if Lynn was causing that.



Bay rum and sugar ruins at Little Lameshur Bay.

"It's leaning to the right," I complained. We shifted and got straight again. Soon it started leaning right again. Attempts to correct it caused a listing to the left. We couldn't keep it straight. It listed either right or left, ponderously so.

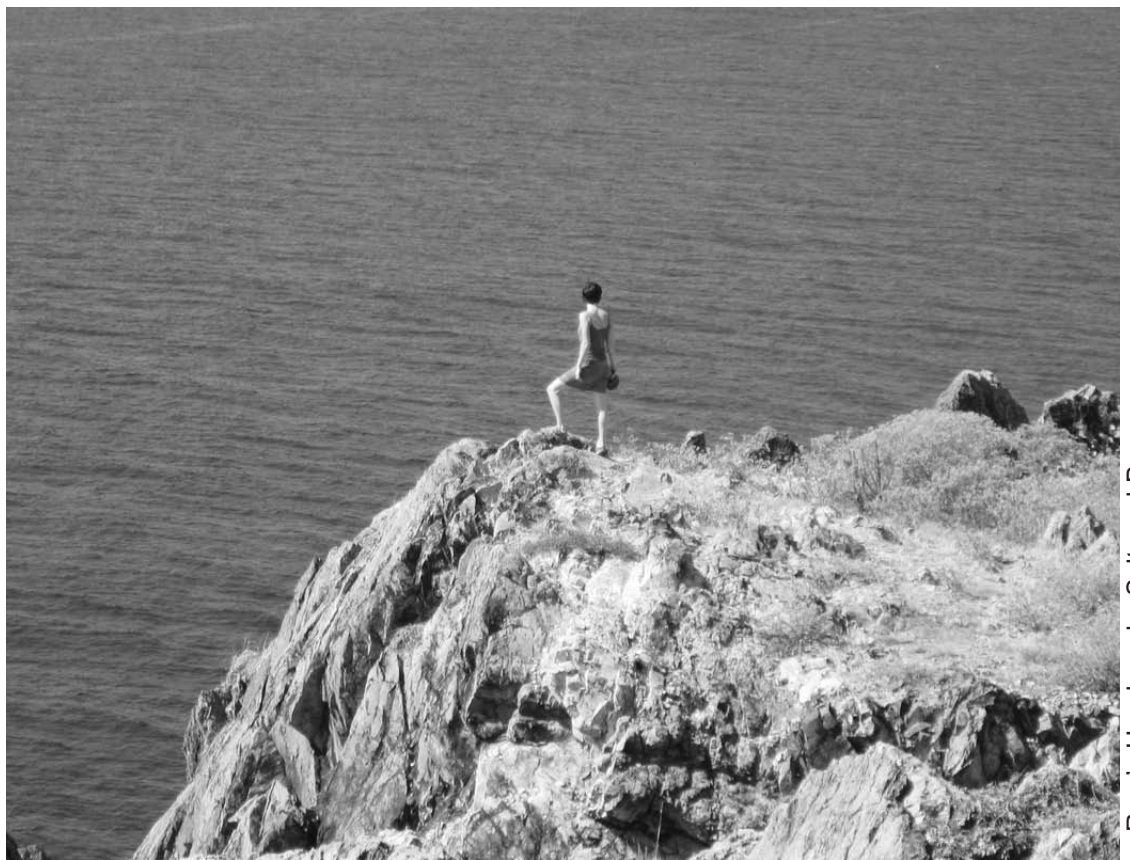
Our boat was filling with water. We'd already turned the rocky corner at the mouth. Waves pounded. We yelled to Pete and Karen that we had to turn back. That suited them. Both boats turned back toward the dock, Pet and Karen in front, Lynn and I plodding along behind.

Our boat was leaning far to the right, toward the waves. Once again we tried to correct. We rolled to the left. The waves helped. We kept on rolling.

"Whoa," I heard Lynn cry. Then the water smacked my ears.

"Now we swim," Lynn observed. We swam, swam in our sandals, which we were both wearing. Lynn pushed at the back of the boat and I pushed at the side. Meanwhile Pete and Karen, unaware that we'd tipped, paddled happily on toward the dock, far ahead. There was no use yelling. Waves crashing made too much noise.

The waves pushed us closer and closer to the steep rocks. Finally we saw Pete and Karen turn back, realizing our plight at last. Meanwhile, I was caught between the boat and the rocks, try-



Ram's Head marks Saltpond Bay.

ing to keep the hull from crashing against their sharp edges.

We drifted dangerously close as the rescue boat approached. For a moment, I gained footing on a submerged rock, and pushed against our boat. To no effect. The waterlogged kayak probably weighed a thousand pounds by now.

As Pete and Karen arrived, the waves knocked me off the rock. In deep water again, I started kicking hard, pinched between the boat and shore rocks. Then disaster! Just as Pete got a hold on our floundering boat, it happened. It was that close. If he'd only arrived a minute earlier...

The pain shot through my right foot. I screamed. I started to yell, but realized there was no use; the sea didn't care. It was done now. I'd kicked my foot into a sea urchin, an evil prickly animal that looks like a pincushion radiating porcupine quills, all black, mean, sinister. The venomous needles had gone deep into the top of my foot and toes, where my sandals offered no protection.

Pete and Karen took our crippled boat in tow, leaving Lynn and me behind for still more swimming. My foot was on fire. But pain wasn't my problem.

In an instant, I'd seen my training for the Country Music Marathon blown to shards. That was the problem. The needles break off under the skin and their barbs prevent removal. How could I run with a foot full of needles?

Lynn and I swam on to a cove in the rocks and finally dragged ourselves out. We walked. My foot hurt. Lynn and I discussed a treatment one of the other campers had previously described to me—applying urine to the stings. "If you need to stop, go ahead," Lynn said. What could I lose? Lynn was a doctor after all. I told her I would, that I could wash up at the dock, which was maybe a quarter-mile away. She discreetly drifted out of sight on down the trail.

My foot had four black tattoos on the top, where the needles had embedded. Another needle had centered my little toe precisely in the red spot where my running shoe rubs. Another needle had gone into the side of my big toe near the front and out the other side. After I washed up, helped stow the boats and walked the half-mile walk back to camp, my foot felt better. That didn't improve my marathon prospects though. The stickers were still there. Their barbs guaranteed they'd stay there.

Vinegar was the answer, Lynn thought. She found some at the camp's laundry room and soaked my foot in it. Gloria, a medical malpractice lawyer, former nurse, sprang into action with the best treatment of all. She read in a first aid book words of pure joy to my ears. She read how the needles dissolve in a few days, and that vinegar helps them dissolve.

The needles dissolve! Then she read the most amazing statement of all, something like: "Rum taken internally speeds the process." We had rum!

But I didn't need it. The needles dissolve, the book says. That was all I needed to know. Dead no longer, my marathon plans roared back to life.

A sea urchin was everyone's nightmare. Campers imagined I was in terrible pain. How could I stand it? First a falling palm frond brains me. Now this. I was picking up a reputation.

I went and took a shower. My foot never bothered me again.

SIERRA CLUB SERVICE TRIPS

America's public lands and wilderness need your support, and hands-on teamwork is a great way to give something back.

Accommodating all levels of skill and stamina, service trips include a variety of tasks, such as building and maintaining trails, repairing meadows, helping archaeologists, and eradicating non-native vegetation.

For more information on our service trip program, check out our website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/service.asp>

Outings

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver.

If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiver.PDF>,

or call 415-977-5630, for a printed version.

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

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

For information on upcoming outings, please visit our web site at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee/index.htm>.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Saturday, October 13, 10:00-12:00pm – Sierra Club/Park Friends Second Saturday Hike The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. The Old Forest Hike. Hike the trail through the only urban forest of its type in the region. Located in Overton Park, this moderate hike includes portions of the Old Forest Arboretum. Identify wildflowers, native trees, and learn Memphis History from its original landscape. The hike is co-sponsored by the Park Friends. Meet on the bridge at the end of the Old Forest Lane. For additional information, contact Don Richardson at (901) 276-1387 or donrich@juno.com.

Saturday, October 13, 12:30-3:00pm.- Wolf River Harbor Clean Up – Sierra Club Water Sentinels. Meet under the Auction Street Bridge off Front Street. Please call to confirm meeting place. Signs will be set to guide the way. Gloves and bags provided. Wear clothes and shoes appropriate to the weather conditions and that you do not mind getting muddy. For more information contact James Baker at (901) 826-2448 or tn_water_sentinel@yahoo.com.

Saturday, October 27, 10am. – Chickasaw Group Guided Nature Hike at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. – Meet at the Visitor's Center parking lot. Join Naomi Van Tol for a three-mile hike along the bluffs and bottomlands of this 14,000-acre Tennessee State Park. You'll learn about the park's fascinating human history and natural habitat as you explore the Woodland Trail loop. Our pace won't be strenuous, but please bring water and be prepared for steep hills. For more information, contact Naomi at (901) 278-2396 or Naomi@spiny.com.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee: "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program on cable channel 18. For the complete "Nature of Conservation" schedule on cable channel 18, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc/schedule. The October program will feature Rita Harris, Sierra Club Environmental Justice Organizer. She will talk about the upcoming environmental conference on November 3, 2007, entitled "Protecting Where We Live, Work, and Play: What YOU Can Do!" For more information, or if any groups or individuals in the community have a special concern and would like to see a program on it, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

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

October 6-7. Gourmet Backpack. Cherokee National Forest. This trip has become a Harvey Broome Group tradition, with everyone trying to make the most outrageous, non-backpacking type food that one can imagine. If you can dream it up, you can cook it in the backcountry. Frozen margaritas, Caesar salad, roasted Cornish game hens, seafood Newburg, hot fudge ice cream sundaes, cheesecake, blueberry pancakes - it has been done in the woods on this trip. (limited to 12 hikers) Mileage will be less than 3.0-miles on a relatively flat trail. Rated: easy. Pre-register with Beverly Smith, 865-531-8480 (Evenings), email: blsmith1300@comcast.net (email preferred).

October 20-21. Fall Colors Backpack (Lower Snowbird Creek Roadless Area, North Carolina). The Snowbird Creek Roadless Area is a huge mountain basin watershed located just south of the Cherohala Skyway in Graham County, NC. It has been proposed as a wilderness area for many years, but local politics has prevented that designation; however, it remains protected for the time being as a Roadless Area. Years ago the HBG spent a three day weekend exploring up to the Skyway. This time we'll drive the Skyway into North Carolina and do a large loop hike in the lower part of the Snowbird Creek watershed. Hopefully will see some great fall colors at some elevation during the drive or hike over the weekend. We'll definitely see the numerous waterfalls in the area, including Sassafras Falls, Big Falls, Middle Falls and Upper Falls, and will camp near Middle Falls. Rated Moderate. Drive is about 170 miles round trip. Preregister with Will Skelton: Home 523-2272, Cell 742-7327; email whshome@bellsouth.net.

November 3. Dayhike, Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga. We will hike several trails on Lookout Mountain, stopping at Sunset Rock and Point Park for the great views of Moccasin Bend, Chattanooga and the historic Lookout Mountain Battlefield. Rated: moderate, about 8.0 miles. Drive: 230 miles round trip. Dinner in Chattanooga if group is interested. Pre-register with Beverly Smith, 865-531-8480 email: blsmith1300@comcast.net (email preferred).

November 11. Dayhike, Rock Creek Day Hike (Cumberland Trail). The Cumberland Trail Association is in the process of developing what promises to be a truly outstanding long distance trail in Tennessee. Extending from Kentucky to Georgia, it is called the Cumberland Trail. One of the newest sections is in Rock Creek Gorge just north of Chattanooga. This 7.2 miles trail section follows Rock Creek and its deep pools, with several gorge overlooks, three natural bridges, and numerous other rock features. It was constructed as part of the CTA's 2003 "Big Dig" and "BreakAway" trail construction events, with one bridge and some trailhead paving remaining to be completed this year. Rated Moderate. Drive: approximately 180 miles round trip. Preregister with Will Skelton: Home 523-2272, Cell 742-7327; email whshome@bellsouth.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

October 4 Percy Priest Greenway Bike Ride: Meet at the Percy Priest Greenway at 5 p.m. for a 6-8 mile bike ride. The greenway is paved and moderately hilly. This will be the last training ride for the TN Chapter Sierra Club team riding in the "Jack & Back." For additional information and directions contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com

October 13 Moss Wright Park Walk/Tour Mansker's Station. HIKING AND HISTORY! Stroll Moss Wright Park Loop Trail and afterward tour Historic Mansker's Station Frontier Life Center and the Bowen House (oldest brick home in Davidson County), Goodlettsville, TN. Admission free to Sierra Club members. Meet at the Visitor Center (Caldwell Lane) at 8:30. Hike the 2 mile, level gravel loop trail that follows Mansker's Creek. Then set the "wayback machine" to the 18th century for your personal tour of the fort and plantation house. Contact Joy Mayfield at joy.mayfield@comcast.net for additional information and to register for this trip. Rated easy. (Education)

October 11-15 Outings Leader 201 Trip to Preble, New York. There is space available for Outings Leader 201 training being conducted by the National Sierra Club Outings that will be held in Preble, New York. This training will have emphasis regarding Inner City Outings. Celeste Dye, Middle TN Inner City Outings Chair and Katherine Pendleton, Middle TN Group Outings Chair will be attending the training and driving there. There is room for one additional participant to ride with us. We will leave Nashville October 11 and return on October 15. We will camp one night along the way going to New York and one night along the way returning to Nashville. For additional information regarding the trip and how to register for the training contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or Katibug1959@aol.com. (Education)

October 18 Outings Leader Training 101: Outings Leader Training 101 is one of the requirements for one to become a certified outings leader. Being involved with the outings program of the Sierra Club is a great opportunity to meet new people and

be involved with part of the core mission of the Club related to exploring, enjoying, and protecting the planet. The training will be held at the home of Katherine Pendleton from 6:30-8:30 p.m. with a light supper served. For additional information and directions to the training location contact Katherine at 615-943-6877 or Katibug1959@aol.com.

October 21 Service Project with Downtown Presbyterian Church: One of Sierra Club's initiatives focuses on building alliances with faith based communities. We have an opportunity to provide community service through participating with the Downtown Presbyterian Church in their mission of providing a meal to the homeless on Sunday, October 21, 2007 at the Downtown Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN. We will assist church members with cooking and serving breakfast to approximately 140 homeless individuals. We need 4-6 volunteers to help out from 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. We are also looking for donations of items to distribute to the homeless including socks, nail clippers, t shirts, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and soap. Downtown Presbyterian Church provides breakfast to the homeless each Sunday morning throughout the year and seeks donation items including grits, cheese, sugar, sausage, gravy, and paper napkins. For additional information, to sign up to help with this project, or donate items listed, please contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com. This is a great opportunity to make the Sierra Club known to a wider community and we encourage your support.

October 29 Future of Food Film in Clarksville, TN: Currently we have an extension of the Middle Tennessee Group functioning as a committee in the Clarksville area. This committee is seeking to obtain group status. Katherine Pendleton, TN Chapter Chair will be showing the film "The Future of Food" at an organizational meeting on October 29, 2007 from 6-8 p.m. at the public library in Clarksville, TN. For additional information including directions to the library, contact Amanda Whitley at whitley_amanda@hotmail.com or 931-553-4264.

November 10 Beaman Park Hike: Beaman Park Creekside Trail. 12 miles NW of Nashville, experience the serenity of this 1500 acre treasure in Nashville's park system. With its deep hollows, forested slopes and pristine streams you will feel transported far from the big city. Trail approximately 2 miles. Contact Joy Mayfield at joy.mayfield@comcast.net for additional information and to pre-register. Rated moderate. (Conservation)

November 22-24 Thanksgiving Smokey Mountains Backpack: Celebrate Thanksgiving outdoors as we hike one of the most scenic loop trails in the Smokey Mountains. We will begin our hike at Cosby Campground taking the Low Gap Trail to the AT and stay the first night at Cosby Shelter. Day two we will hike the AT going North stopping off at Mt. Cammerer Fire Tower to enjoy the 360 degree views there. We will proceed from Mt. Cammerer on the AT to the Lower Mt. Cammerer Trail and camp the second night at Campsite 35. Trip limited to 8 participants. Rated strenuous. For additional information and to pre-register contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com. (Education, Conservation)

TENNESSEE CHAPTER (All Members)

November 9-11, Georgia Chapter Retreat. The Georgia Chapter has invited the TN Chapter to attend their annual retreat that this year is being held at Epworth-by-the-Sea on St. Simond Island, GA.

March 1-8, 2008, Clair Tappaan Lodge Ski Trip. Make your reservation now to go with MTG to Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge for a week that you will never forget! Several TN Chapter members traveled to Clair Tappaan in February, 2007 for a ski trip with the Kentucky Chapter and had a memorable experience. Clair Tappaan Lodge is located 7000 feet in California's Sierra Nevada 45 minutes west of Reno, Nevada. Activities planned for our week at Clair Tappaan include cross country skiing and a guided overnight snowshoeing trip to Peter Grub Ski Hut. Skiing classes are available. Accommodations are in bunk beds equipped with mattresses. Bring your own bedding and towel. Restroom and shower facilities are shared with two men's and two women's bathrooms. Meals are served family style. Price for the trip is \$499 per person and includes lodging, all meals from supper on March 1 thru breakfast on March 8, overnight snowshoeing trek, and transportation from airport to lodge and back to airport. Trip price does not include airfare, ski rental, ski lessons, ski fees, incidentals, breakfast and lunch on March 1 and lunch and supper on March 8. Reservations are limited. Non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due by December 1, 2007. Complete information regarding equipment rental rates, cross country skiing activities planned, accommodations, and any other inquiries may be directed to Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Program Meeting: October 8, 2007. Tiffany Gibby who attended the Al Gore Climate slideshow training (1 of 1000 selected) will present a 1 hour presentation follow by an hour of interactive discussion on what can we do (in our own backyards) to help curb global warming. For information please contact Ayla Callihan, Interim Chair, 423-715-1756, or ayla-callihan@utc.edu.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: October 4 & November 1, 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. Anyone interested in learning about the Sierra Club is invited. For more information, contact Juliet Jones, Vice Chair, at (901) 374-0582 or juliet101@comcast.net.

Chickasaw Group New Members Welcome Party: Sunday, October 7, 5:00-7:00pm. You are invited to a Wine and Cheese Party at the home of Ed and Juliet Jones. All new members (people who have joined in the last 6 months) are welcome. Address: 5071 Anchor Cove, Memphis TN 38117. Phone (901) 374-0582.

STRATEGY MEETING: October 8 & November 12, 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 Tom Lawrence by October 5 (October meeting) or November 9 (November meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

Forest Faire 2007 on the V & E Greenline: Saturday, October 20, 10:00am to 3:00pm, 1625 Tutwiler Ave. Between Dickinson and Avalon Streets, one block north of North Parkway. Join us for programs and demonstrations of tree-planting and urban forestry, plant swaps and tree sales. Community organizations supporting the issues of urban forest neighborhoods will also be on hand with information tables. For more information, call (901) 276-1782.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, October 24, 2007, 7:00pm - Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar, Memphis, TN. Come at 6:30pm for social time! Program meeting starts at 7:00pm. What do the whales of Hawaii, the Grand Canyon, and the High Sierras have in common? Answer: they have all been visited by Chickasaw Group Sierra Club members! Those who attend the October meeting will hear presentations by each traveler about their trips to these exciting destinations. The public is invited. For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com.

Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Quarterly Meeting and Outings Saturday-Sunday, October 27-28. - Pickett State Park, Jamestown, TN. Pickett State Park is adjacent to the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River National Recreation Area. There are unusual arches and rock formations. Hike through the forest and see beautiful streams under a clear fall sky! Stay in dorm-type cabins and eat in the big lodge. Kids are welcome. Memphis carpoolers will leave on Friday, October 26. For carpool information contact Judith Hammond at (901) 276-2819 or judithhammond@bellsouth.net.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

OCTOBER PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, October 9, 7:30pm, at Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. Knoxville's Michael Fairman will present a program on his motorcycle trip with a friend to Colombia. They drove to San Francisco, turned left, and then, with a slight hangover, headed southward ("all you have to do is keep the ocean on your right"). Mike drove a '72 BMW that he and some buddies had restored. He and his friend went down Baja, crossed to mainland Mexico, and continued through Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama to where the road ended 30k from Colombia. His personal "Motorcycle Diaries" is filled with stories: sleeping on beaches in fishing villages, playing soccer with villagers, "having quality motorcycle crashes," repairing broken cycles in the grueling mid-day sun, heading down paths for eight hours of river crossings, riding across stick bridges they felt nervous about even walking on, and more. All welcome. For information, call John Finger at 865-573-5908.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, November 13, 7:30pm, at Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. Will Skelton presents a powerpoint on the recent visit he and several other HBG members made to China, noting the highs, lows, and in-betweens. Partake of Chinese geography, cuisine, environmental issues, and much, much more! All welcome. For information, call John Finger at 865-573-5908.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING: The fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (four times a year at a minimum) in the lower level meeting room of the Putnam County Public Library. Please contact Peggy Evans for meeting details at maevans@twlakes.net or (931)432-6680

Meetings

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, October 11, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.

If you wonder what lands we are actually succeeding in preserving in our state, please attend this exceptional program presented by David Kelley of the Nature Conservancy. David will speak about the Conservancy's efforts to preserve 124,000 acres on the northern Cumberland Plateau. Included in this land tract are some of the most important forests, mountains and streams left in North America.

The state recently approved 82 million dollars for just this project alone! So, with this terrific support they are hard at work to raise the additional funds needed to purchase this land. David will also tell you what they have accomplished in the past year, accompanied by a slide show. Be sure to attend and discover what our own state has to offer for future generations. And all because we care and work at it!

NOTE: In November we will meet at the same place, same time, on November 8th. Our program will be presented by Tami Coleman, coordinator of the project Cents (Conservation Education Now for Tennessee Students) and will consist of the original slide show, "An Inconvenient Truth", as first presented by Al Gore. Even if you have seen the movie, this is a spectacular presentation...so please come!

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, October 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the old St. Bernard's Academy Building, 2021 21st Avenue South, 4th floor. Conservation issues are first on the agenda. All members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or email Diane@Propson.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net or call 792-2590.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

PROGRAM MEETING: October 3, 2007, 7:30 pm. Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Gray, TN, 136 Bob Jobe Road, off exit 10 (Eastern Star) of I-26. Contact Vincent (423-747-1967, cleanenergy @ excite.com) for more information.

Executive Committee Meeting: October 3, 2007, 6:30 pm. Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Gray, TN, 136 Bob Jobe Road, off exit 10 (Eastern Star) of I-26. Contact Vincent (423-747-1967, cleanenergy @ excite.com) for more information.

WATAUGA GROUP

PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith, (gla4797@earthlink.net), (423) 727-4797 for more information.

DONATIONS, PLEASE!

\$ilent Auction for Defenders of Tennessee

The Defenders of Tennessee is a Sierra Club program that was formed for the purpose of funding our own lobbyist in the Tennessee Legislature. For the past 9 years, our lobbying efforts have paid off in getting good legislation passed and bad legislation stopped. One of the ways we fund this program is through a silent auction at our Fall Meeting.

Please visit your local outdoor, health food, music, wine (heh, heh) or other stores and restaurants and ask them to make a donation of goods or gift certificates.

We also need your donations of new or good old things such as crafts, outdoor equipment, books, CD/DVDs, homemade items, etc. Plants and flowers always sell well.

If you are not able to attend the meeting but want to help, please contact someone you know who is going, or call your local chair listed on page 2 of this newsletter to arrange for someone else to take your donations to the meeting.

And, if you are coming to the meeting, don't forget to bring \$\$ to buy all the good stuff!

Sierra Club Announces 2007 National Awards

A former vice president, a New York Times reporter, and a California Assemblyman who have helped raise awareness of global warming are among those receiving awards from the Sierra Club this year.



Former Vice President Al Gore, who has spent 30 years making the world aware of the dangers of global warming, will receive the Sierra Club's top award, the John Muir Award. Between his earliest political career in 1976 as a representative of Tennessee's Fourth District, and his two-term vice presidency beginning in 1993, Gore helped set the political and popular stages for prime-time environmentalism. He was one of the first politicians to grasp the seriousness of climate change and to call for a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. He held the first congressional hearings on the subject in the late 1970s. Since then, he has presented the science behind global warming and its predicted catastrophic effects more than 1,000 times. His message finally reached the broad public consciousness with the 2006 documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth." The film has won numerous awards, including two Academy Awards. His paperback book of the same name also reached number one on the New York Times Best Seller list.

On July 7th, 2007, Gore reached a record-shattering global audience with his Live Earth Concerts, when he orchestrated 24 hours of concerts on seven continents asking for each person watching to make a pledge to take action for the environment. He has been nominated for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on climate change. "Al Gore is the embodiment of the principles for which John Muir passionately devoted his life: to protect a place for its own sake, for our sake, and even in spite of us; a place we call Earth," said Sierra Club President Dr. Robbie Cox.

Tom Friedman, foreign affairs columnist for the New York Times, is receiving the David R. Brower Award, which recognizes a professional journalist for stories pertaining to the environment. In the past year, Friedman has devoted many of his columns to the environment, particularly international environmental issues such as global warming.

Fabian Núñez, who serves as speaker of the California Assembly, is receiving the club's Distinguished Achievement Award for pushing through the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, the strongest measure ever enacted in the United States to curb global warming.

Another California legislator also will be honored by the Sierra Club this year. Congressman Mike Thompson, who represents California's first congressional district, is receiving the club's Edgar Wayburn Award. Thompson helped pass national legislation in 2006 that guaranteed protection for 431 square miles of wilderness in Northern California.

To see a list of other award recipients, or for more information on the Sierra Club awards that were presented September 29th during the Sierra Club's Annual Dinner in San Francisco, visit www.sierraclub.org/awards.

Spaceship Earth T-Shirts



Size	Qty Blue	Qty Natural	Total Qty	
Small	_____	_____	_____	X \$16/Shirt = \$ _____
Medium	_____	_____	_____	X \$16/Shirt = \$ _____
Large	_____	_____	_____	X \$16/Shirt = \$ _____
X-Large	_____	_____	_____	X \$16/Shirt = \$ _____
2X-Large	_____	_____	_____	X \$16/Shirt = \$ _____
				T-Shirt Order Sub-Total = \$ _____
				Shipping & Handling @ \$5.00/Shirt = \$ _____
				Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Ship To: _____
 Name _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Contact Phone Num: _____

Please make check payable to TN Chapter Sierra Club
 Mail To:
 Spaceship Earth T-Shirt
 TN Chapter Sierra Club
 P. O. Box 290306
 Nashville, TN 37229

OR
 Visit us on-line at

<http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/earthtshirt.htm>
 To pay by e-check or credit card

The Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club
Seeks a New Volunteer
Newsletter Editor
for the
Tennes-Sierran

Shanna is relocating with her family!
Resulting effect? The Tennessee Chapter is seeking
a replacement volunteer newsletter editor.

If you are a member in good standing, PC and Internet savvy, have proven and excellent communication/organizational skills, are able to commit to attending quarterly Tennessee chapter meetings, and have a "media" vision to share with our membership, we'd love to hear from you.

Graphics software (Adobe InDesign CS) is provided, however, we recommend that the new editor have a computer with Windows 2000, 1.06GHz Pentium® 4 Processor, 512 RAM, CD-RW Rom, or better, IP service and email in place. A high-speed (DSL or Cable) Internet connection is recommended, however, dialup works.

Software orientation and procedural training will be available as well as ongoing support and consultations from former newsletter editors. There are also other training opportunities offered by Sierra Club in which the new editor can participate alongside other state newsletter editors throughout the USA.

Our new Editor will ideally assume responsibilities beginning with the January 2008 issue of the Tennes-Sierran. The January 2008 issue of the Tennes-Sierran begins production the end of November 2007. All materials, including software, templates, file archives, etc. can be transferred to the new editor as soon as that person is identified.

Please consult <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/guidelinesforsubmission.htm> for current standards of operation and a sample production calendar. Then contact Rachel Floyd at Rfloyd557@bellsouth.com, or call 615-406-9204 if interested.

Farewell from the editor's desk—

After nearly a decade living in Williamson County, I am moving to the Pacific Northwest. I'm excited about the new adventures awaiting, and homesick already for the people and places I am leaving behind.

It's been over two years since I began as the volunteer editor for *The Tennes-sierran*. I have truly enjoyed learning more about the Tennessee Chapter, meeting members and feeling the gratification of knowing that I am doing my part.

We all wish we had endless funds or endless free time that we could donate to make a difference. For me, being a stay at home parent/freelance artist has not allowed for endless time, and certainly not endless funds! This position was my way of contributing. Thank you for the opportunity. If you are looking for a way to become an active member, consider being the next editor.

So many of you are out there every weekend and many weeknights working hard - to make our planet a safer place. Thank you for all you do.

As I head west and create a new home in Seattle, there will be so many places in Tennessee I will miss. My absolute favorite place in Tennessee is Burgess Falls. If you've never been - please - go sometime on my behalf!

If you'd like to reach me, my personal email will remain the same shanna.petersen@gmail.com.

Thank you and best wishes to each of you! *-Shanna Petersen*



©Shanna Petersen

GROUP ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING IN CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE

Please attend a Sierra Club Group Organizational Meeting in Clarksville, TN
 Featuring the Award Winning Documentary Film "The Future of Food"
 Presentation of Film by Katherine Pendleton, TN Sierra Club Chapter Chair

Monday, October 29, 2007 6-8 PM
Clarksville Montgomery County Public Library
 350 Pageant Lane, Clarksville, TN 37040

Contact Amanda Whitley for additional information at
whitley_amanda@hotmail.com or 931-553-4264

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

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