

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 38, Number 9 - September 2007

A Chicken in Every Pot? A Car in Every Backyard? Sierra Club's True Cost of Food Campaign

Contributed by Gordon La Bedz,
Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption Committee

In the 1928 presidential campaign of Herbert Hoover, a Republican paid newspaper advertisement promised prosperity in the form of "a chicken in every pot and a car in every backyard, to boot."

Hoover's prosperity has arrived in spades with food and with cars. Yet, less than 100 years later, worries about global warming and suburban sprawl are making most Sierrans doubt the wisdom of the cars, even suggesting we should often forego the private automobile in favor of public transportation or even bicycles.

It now seems that we should often forego the chicken, too.

Despite the assurance of "Big Agribusiness" that our food is the most affordable in history, the Sierra Club's *True Cost of Food* campaign exposes the hidden costs to our planet of our meat-rich, pesticide-laden, and transportation-heavy diet.

At the end of 2006, the United Nations released a report *Livestock's Long Shadow - Environmental Issues and Options*. This report on the environment and livestock (beef cattle, dairy cattle, chickens, pigs, and other animals domesticated for food uses) had a stunning conclusion: "The livestock sector emerges as one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global." It turns out that raising animals for food is a primary cause of land degradation, air pollution, water shortage, water pollution, loss of biodiversity, and not least of all, global warming.

The following are findings from the UN Report:

Air Damage

Animal agriculture is responsible for 18 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions as measured in CO₂ equivalents. By comparison, all transportation emits 13.5% of the CO₂. In addition to CO₂, environmentally toxic gases produced by livestock include nitrous oxide, methane, and ammonia generated from the animals' intestines—belching, flatus, and manure. The report says "The impact is so severe that it needs to be addressed with urgency."

Livestock:

- Produces 65 percent of human-related nitrous oxide, which has 296 times the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of CO₂.
- Accounts for 37 percent of all human-induced methane (which is 23 times as warming as CO₂).
- Generates 64 percent of the ammonia, which contributes to acid rain and acidification of ecosystems.

Diversity Damage

Livestock's very presence in vast tracts of land and its demand for feed crops also contribute to loss of other plants and animals; livestock is identified as a culprit in 15 out of 24 important ecosystems that are assessed as in decline. The loss of species is estimated to be running 50 to 500 times higher than background rates found in the fossil record.

Water Damage

The livestock business is among the most critical users of the earth's increasingly scarce water resources; in addition, contributing to water pollution, excessive growth of organisms, depletion of oxygen, and the degeneration of coral reefs, among other things.

The major water-polluting agents are animal wastes, antibiotics, hormones, chemicals from tanneries, fertilizers, and the pesticides used to spray feed crops.

In the United States livestock is responsible for 55 percent of the erosion and sediment, 37 percent of the pesticide use, 50 percent of the antibiotic use, and a third of the load of nitrogen and phosphorus put into freshwater sources.

Widespread overgrazing disturbs water cycles, reducing replenishment of above and below ground water resources. Significant amounts of water are withdrawn for the production of feed.

Land Damage

The total area occupied by grazing livestock is equivalent to 26 percent of the ice-free terrestrial surface of the planet. In addition, the total area dedicated to producing feed crops for these animals amounts to 33 percent of the total arable land.

Clearing forests to create new pastures is a major source of deforestation, especially in Latin America where, for example, some 70 percent of former rainforests in the Amazon have been turned over to grazing. The forests are the major "sinks" for removing the greenhouse gases from the atmosphere—they are the "lungs of the Earth."

University of Chicago Study

The journal *Earth Interactions* published a study on diet, energy and global warming by Pamela Martin and Gidon Eshel, Assistant Professors in Geophysical Sciences at the University of Chicago.

In their study, Eshel and Martin compared the energy consumption and greenhouse-gas emissions that underlie five diets: average American, red meat, fish, poultry and vegetarian all equaling 3,774 calories per day.

The vegetarian diet turned out to be the most energy-efficient, followed by poultry and the average American diet. Fish and red meat virtually tied as the least efficient.

The scientists concluded that the food people eat is just as important as what kind of cars they drive when it comes to creating the greenhouse-gas emissions that many scientists have linked to global warming. They wrote that both the burning of fossil fuels during food production and non-carbon dioxide emissions associated with livestock and animal waste contribute to the problem.

The average American drives 8,322 miles by car annually, emitting 1.9 to 4.7 tons of carbon dioxide, depending on the vehicle model and fuel efficiency. Meanwhile, Americans also consume an average of 3,774 calories of food each day.

In 2002, energy used for food production accounted for 17 percent of all fossil fuel use in the United States. And the burning of these fossil fuels emitted three-quarters of a ton of carbon dioxide per person.

That alone amounts to approximately one-third the average greenhouse-gas emissions of personal transportation. But livestock production and associated animal waste also emit greenhouse gases not associated with fossil-fuel combustion, primarily methane and nitrous oxide. While methane and nitrous oxide are relatively rare compared with carbon dioxide, they are — molecule for molecule — far more powerful greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide. A single pound of methane, for example, has the same greenhouse effect as approximately 50 pounds of carbon dioxide.

"We neither make a value judgment nor do we make a categorical statement," said Eshel. "We say that however close you can be to a vegan diet and further from the mean American diet, the better you are for the planet. It doesn't have to be all the way to the extreme end of vegan. If you simply cut down from two burgers a week to one, you've already made a substantial difference."

Individual Choices

Three times a day we can help the planet by shifting our food choices towards more:

- Plant-based
- Organic
- Locally-grown

This is nothing doctrinaire, simply the more you make these choices the better. How much better, you ask? The Club's *True Cost of Food* campaign wants you to know that your individual food choices definitely make a difference in planetary health, either positive or negative.

What's on your plate?

For more information see:

Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption: www.sierraclub.org/sustainable_consumption
True Cost of Food Campaign: www.truecostoffood.org



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Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

The Chair's Corner

Dear Tennessee Sierra Club Members,

Many thanks to the Chickasaw Group for putting on an excellent chapter meeting in August at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, TN. The meetings were well attended. Dave Mitchell from Chickasaw Group conducted a Red Cross first aid course for our members at a significantly reduced rate. Thank you, Dave, for teaching the course and helping several TN Chapter members complete their outings leader certification.

Celeste Dye from Middle TN Group came before the TN Chapter Excom seeking chapter approval for beginning an Inner City Outings Program in the Nashville area and was wholeheartedly given approval to do so. Celeste recently moved to the Nashville area from Los Angeles, California and will be the MTG ICO Chair. Please contact Celeste at greyceleste@yahoo.com or 323-828-8892 if you are interested in becoming involved in the ICO. There are many ways in which you may volunteer and help get children involved with outdoor activities.

The end of August, I visited Chickasaw Group and showed the film The Future of Food to a receptive audience. Thank you, Chickasaw Group for your hospitality! During my visit, Judith Rutschman interviewed me regarding The Future of Food. This interview can be viewed on WPYL Channel 18, Memphis. The schedule of this interview can be found at www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/schedule.

While visiting the Chickasaw Group I met with Rita Harris at the Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program office and she informed me of the Sierra Club Grassroots Environmental Conference to be held November 3, 2007 from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in Memphis. Please hold the date for this event and consider attending this event including workshops and speakers about topics that affect our health, safety, and general environment. For more information call 901-324-7757.

I am pleased to report that the Cherokee and State of Franklin Groups are working towards coming out of reorganization status. Both groups are holding regular meetings. State of Franklin Group has certified four outings leaders since the end of July and held their first outing the end of August. For meeting location and times of these group meetings please contact Cherokee Group Interim Chair Ayla Callihan at 423-715-1756 or ayla-callihan@utc.edu or State of Franklin Group Interim Chair Vincent Whitright at 423-747-1967 or cleanenergy@excite.com.

There is interest in the Clarksville area regarding forming a group. For information regarding regular meetings contact Amanda Whitley at whitley_amanda@hotmail.com or 931-553-4264.

As always, I am available for your comments, questions, concerns, or conversations at 615-943-6877 or Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org.

Katherine Pendleton
Chair, Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

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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.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP NEWS

Sierra Club Participates in Nashville Adventure Science Museum's First Green Science Day

Contributed by Thom Scott

Sierra Club Middle Tennessee volunteers manned a red worm composting booth Saturday, August 18th at the Nashville Adventure Science Museum's first annual Green Science Day. 1,074 visitors to the museum learned about a wide range of green topics, specially geared to educate children, including the Sierra Club's offering on composting.



Volunteer Diane Perschbacher encourages Rob King to place red worms into the composting bin.

Diane Perschbacher, an avid red worm composter herself, built a plywood composting box and was able to save some red worms from their likely fate at a local bait shop. Perschbacher, along with Jennifer Thompson, Curtis King, Betsy Garber, Steve Vining and Judy Martin, spent Saturday letting children pick up worms and set them free in the composting box, extolling the virtues of composting along the way.

Perschbacher says "In back yard composting, microorganisms, which multiply in the heat, break down the waste. In

red worm composting, the worms break down the waste. This is great for people who want to compost inside, even in the smallest of apartments."

Composting is important: the average American household could save up to 8 pounds of waste a week by composting, resulting in as much as a 25-35% reduction in landfill waste. In addition to saving landfill space, it produces top quality gardening soil.

Perschbacher brought some soil from her home compost and let kids hold it and the worms in their fingers.

Red worm composting is easy to do in your home. It requires the following ingredients: kitchen scraps, shredded newspaper or sawdust, leaves, dirt, water and, of course, red worms. Individuals can purchase their worms at local bait shops, but they are available online from a variety of sources as well. Red worm composting is best done inside during extreme heat, as the worms cannot tolerate temps over 90 degrees. This is in contrast to traditional composting outside, where heat speeds up the composting process.

Notice from the Transportation Committee

The first round of the Regional Stakeholder meetings on the I-40 I-81 Corridor Study is intended to provide a project overview, a listing of corridor deficiencies, and an initial array of potential solutions. In each of six areas of the state, two meetings will be held on the same day. The Regional Stakeholder meetings, with the MPO/TPO and RPO staffs and technical committee members, will be held during the afternoon. In the early evening, the Public Involvement meetings will be open to other stakeholders including the general public, interested organizations and agencies.

The six cities in which the meetings will be held are Memphis, Jackson, Nashville, Cookeville, Knoxville, and Kingsport, to provide the broadest possible opportunities for stakeholder engagement. It is anticipated that the afternoon and evening meetings will be held in the same locations; those locations are now being scheduled. The afternoon meetings with staff and technical coordination committee members, are expected to run between 1:30 and 3:30 PM local time. The evening meetings, with the public and other stakeholders, will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 PM local time.

The dates for the Round 1 Stakeholder and public meetings are as follows:

Tuesday, September 4 - Nashville	Thursday, September 13 - Kingsport
Monday, September 17 - Memphis	Tuesday, September 18 - Jackson
Monday, September 24 - Cookeville	Tuesday, September 25 - Knoxville

For more information, please contact Brian Paddock, 931-268-2938 voice & fax, or bpaddock@twlakes.net.

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October Solar Fest!

Saturday October 6, 2007

Celebrating the first year of clean green electricity from 4 Kw of Solar Panels on an energy efficient passive solar home in Jackson County, TN!

11 AM to 2 PM (CDT) see the solar home as part of the National Solar Tour sponsored by the State of Tennessee Energy Office.

Solar Workshop at 2:30 PM (CDT) on financial incentives: the TVA Generation Partners, the Federal Tax Credits and a new pilot grant program for businesses - by Gil Melear-Hough, TN Director of Renewable Programs at Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. For a list of solar tours: www.ases.org/tour

Visit the solar home of Brian Paddock & Mary Mastin and celebrate solar power!

Party / Celebration / Fundraiser - \$10 per person - 4pm to 8pm.

- Beer Tasting by Brew Meister Jon Jonakin
- Some snacks provided, contributions appreciated
- For Sale - Sierra 2008 Calendars

Directions: 360 Roberts Hollow Lane, Cookeville, TN. 38501 (931-268-2938) Going north out of Cookeville on HWY 135 (Burgess Falls Rd, Willow St. Exit off Interstate 40), approx. 4 mi. past Jackson County Line, after Dodson Branch Elementary School on right and Community Center on left, Take first left (opposite Dodson Branch Baptist Church) on to Lankford Hill. Take second road to left, Roberts Hollow Lane & follow that to the end to cedar house at top of hill.

The Party is a fundraiser for the environmental organization of your choice. (SACE, SOCM, Sierra, TEC, TCV or TCWN).

CHICKASAW GROUP NEWS

Contributed by various members

Shelby County Becomes a “Cool County”

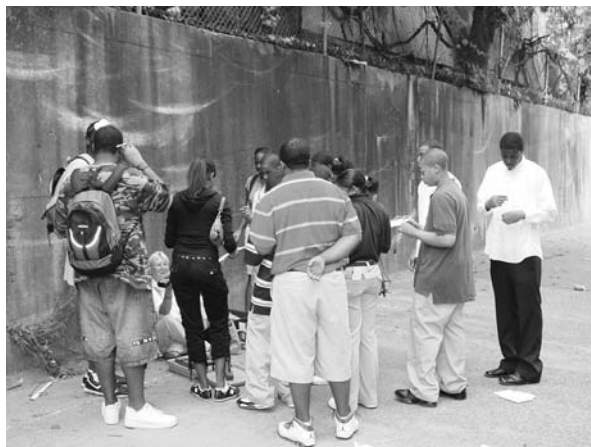
A healthy planet and a healthy economy don't have to be mutually exclusive goals. Shelby County took a step toward both of these goals on July 16, when Mayor AC Wharton was among the first in the nation to sign the U. S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration.

Mayor Wharton is taking the lead to fight global warming on a local level with a pledge to cut our countywide greenhouse gas emissions by a whopping 80% by the year 2050, an average 2% yearly reduction. The Cool Counties declaration also urges the federal government to adopt legislation requiring an 80% reduction nationwide by the year 2050 and calls for national fuel economy standards to be raised to 35 miles per gallon within the next decade.

Meeting this ambitious goal for Shelby County will not be easy, but we all know that a small change can add up to big money. Skyrocketing energy bills are persuading cities and counties across the nation to get serious about cutting energy use in order to cut costs. Increased energy efficiency in government means that we all save money, and it also gives us cleaner air.

If you are among the Sierra Club members who live in Shelby County, please take a minute to thank Mayor Wharton for making us one of the first Cool Counties in the nation. You may write to him at 160 N. Main Street, Suite 850, Memphis, TN 38103, e-mail acwharton@shelbycountyttn.gov, or call (901) 545-4500. Let's encourage our elected officials to keep moving in the right direction!

Tennessee Water Sentinels—Youth Outreach



Above: Students inspect water for pollutants
Below: Students identify insects in their water samples. Photos by James Baker



Bad dogs and raw sewage were among the many challenges to the students who participated in the three-day Water Sentinels water testing program. James Baker of the Water Sentinels assisted Sharon Gordon of the Memphis storm water department in teaching the SWEEP and PEEP students the ropes of field testing for water quality. SWEEP is the Solid Waste Environmental Engineering Enrichment Program, and PEEP is the Pre-Engineering Enrichment Program.

On the first day much illegal dumping was found in the Cypress Creek area. Cypress Creek may be lined with concrete, but it was blighted by garbage and used motor oil. While field screening showed only low concentrations of industrial pollutants, the students, Sharon, and James walked a section of the creek and found the oil, garbage, and a potential raw sewage leak all within a quarter mile of the testing site.

On the second day, the students did a rapid bio-assessment at a concrete drainage ditch that empties into the Wolf River in Germantown near Shelby Farms Park. Low concentrations of aquatic animals were found, possibly because the flow of water from nearby residential and commercial development wash them away.

To see a stream in its natural state, the students visited Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park on the third day. Lack of rain meant low water in all the creeks and a shortage of aquatic insects. There were plenty of other things to observe in Shelby Forest, and to see snakes, fish, and insects there was always the excellent park Nature Center.

The SWEEP and PEEP youths each got a Sierra Club backpack and a Water Sentinels t-shirt. They also took with them a better knowledge of the techniques of field testing and a greater appreciation for the natural world.

Diversity Training in Memphis



The Sierra Club Diversity Council met in Memphis. Photo by James Baker.

National Sierra Club's Diversity Council met July 27-29 in Memphis to lay out the framework for a long-range plan to bring more diversity and inclusiveness to our organization overall. The Council members visited the National Civil Rights Museum during their stay and had dinner with local Chickasaw members. The Diversity Council is composed of eleven volunteers and staff people representing different parts of the United States, different communities and different cultures. (See Diversity Council webpage on Clubhouse)

This is an important and necessary task the national Board of Directors has identified as a way to bring people together from all walks of life, all cultures, and from all communities to bring grassroots pressure to bear on the vast environmental problems we are facing, such as global warming. We need everyone to make change happen, and to be as effective as we can be!

Chickasaw Group July Program Meeting

Scott Triplett of Mid-South Geothermal, LLC gave a presentation on the latest in geothermal heating and cooling at the Chickasaw Group program meeting on July 25. First, he explained what geothermal is. One type of geothermal uses hot sources within the earth (such as volcanoes), but the kind of geothermal Scott talked about uses the natural temperature difference between the air and the earth to do heating and cooling. This technology has been around a while, but it's becoming increasingly popular.

This type of geothermal (or geoExchange or heat-pump), technology has long been practical for large buildings, such as factories or schools. Now many private homes use it, too. There is money to be saved here. Initial costs may be higher, but the ongoing energy saved means the higher cost may be paid back in as little as five years. Scott showed a map of North America with varying temperatures just ten feet below the earth's surface. The average is 58° F. Plastic or metal pipes sunk in the ground can use this natural difference to heat or cool a house.

In addition to saving money (which everyone loves to do) geothermal systems are environmentally friendly (which Sierra Club types love). Unlike gas furnaces, no fossil fuel is burned so there is zero on-site production of greenhouse gases. This also reduces our dependence on foreign oil. The EPA has determined that none of the transfer materials (refrigerants) used in these systems are toxic. The EPA supports geoechange as a viable alternative energy source. Thus Scott showed the meeting attendees how to save money, how to save nature, and even how to say things like “cementitious grout!”

The Corps Reform Network (CRN) Invites You To a 1-Day Workshop...

...for clean water advocates titled Hard Corps Training Made Easy, taking place in Memphis, Tennessee at the Comfort Inn Downtown (100 N. Front Street, Memphis 38103) on Saturday, September 29, 10am to 3pm. There is no registration fee, and lunch will be provided. If you're too far from Memphis for a day trip, arrive on Friday Sept. 28th and stay overnight in downtown Memphis. The Corps Reform Network will pay for a one night's stay at the Comfort Inn Downtown Hotel, provided that you make your reservation through training coordinator George Sorvalis no later than September 7.

The goals are to enhance your ability to protect and restore local rivers, wetlands, and other waters managed or impacted by the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), to formulate strong arguments, and to connect you with experts that have successfully influenced Corps projects. Featured trainers include Barry Sulkin, former Chief of Enforcement, Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation, Jim Wood, Arkansas Wildlife Federation, and David Conrad, Senior Water Resource Specialist of the National Wildlife Federation.

Contact CRN Coordinator George Sorvalis for a registration form today at (202) 797-6617 or sorvalisg@nwf.org. Registration forms are due September 7. Find more about the CRN

Chickasaw Group Looking for Excom Volunteers

The Chickasaw Group is looking for a few good volunteers to serve on our 2008 Executive Committee for a two-year term. Our ExCom meets monthly in Memphis to plan and implement programs, outings, and conservation campaigns on behalf of 1,130 Sierra Club members in west Tennessee.

If you are interested in service on the Chickasaw Group ExCom, or if you would like to nominate someone else, please contact Naomi Van Tol at naomi@spiny.com or 901-278-2396.

Help the Sierra Club stay active and growing in Tennessee!

Ruins of Paradise

Sierra Club Members Aid Archeology at Virgin Island National Park

By Dallas Smith,
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Member

Sixteen Sierra Club members camped at the Virgin Islands Environmental Resource Station (VIERS) during February 10-17. That Station consists of 19 rustic wooden cabins in the Virgin Island National Park on the south-east side of St. John.

Our purpose was to help clear vegetation away from some of the ruins needing archeological study and from areas around the Station itself.

We soon learned that water is scarce, rain collected in cisterns being the only source. The island currently suffers in a drought. Peggy, our trip leader, told us it was the driest she'd ever seen it. We were limited to one three-minute shower per day. Scott, the Station's manager, instructed us to not flush the toilets unless "absolutely necessary." Exactly what that meant was left delicately unexplained.

On a Sunday, our first full day on location, we took a hike out to Ram's Head, a high rocky hill guarding the entrance to Saltpond Bay and looking south over the Caribbean. The terrain is reminiscent of the deserts of Arizona and South Texas. Organ pipe, Turk's cap, century plants and various thorny trees grow in hard rocky soil. Some of the trees had turned brown from the drought.

As in the desert, many of the plants can painfully stick the unwary. Some are capable of greater evil. The Manchineel tree, the one Columbus called the "death tree," bears a crab apple which is poisonous. The leaves and bark alone can cause massive outbreaks of a rash on the skin, like over-zealous poison oak. It only grows near water, so you don't have to worry about it all the time.



Campers remove mother-in-law's tongue at VIERS. Photos by Dallas Smith.

Kyle and I sat resting at the water's edge, looking into clear, shallow water at a different hazard. Kyle is an engineering student at Purdue. He's also in the Army where he drives an 80-ton Abrams tank—he knows how to make it bunny hop. We saw black blobs scattered about on the submerged rocks.

"Sea urchins," Kyle said. The dreaded sea urchin, bane of snorkelers, we already knew about. It looks like a jet black tennis ball full of finger-length black needles. Step on it and the needle-like spines go deep into your foot and break off under the surface. The needles are venomous and thus cause a painful sting. Another charming feature: barbs prevent their removal. People go to the emergency room.

Kyle told me an amazing story about a young woman who suffered a hard encounter with one. The pain was excruciating, he said. She called the doctor. He told her to put urine on the needle wounds, to go to the shower and pee on her foot, as Kyle put it. Something about chemistry, the urine neutralizes the toxin and makes it quit hurting. Not a folk remedy, the doctor prescribed it.

In snorkeling I always gave the sea urchins plenty of room. They were on the rocks every-



Ruins of bay rum and sugar plantation, Little Lameshur Bay.

where, an evil crop of pincushions.

In September of last year an AP story indicated that 40 percent of the coral around the U. S. Virgin Islands had died due to record high water temperatures of 2005. Another source said 50 percent. I wondered about that, and wanted to see for myself. Although we went snorkeling at several places, I never saw the massive amounts of dead coral I expected. Perhaps I was in the wrong place, or perhaps the coral has recovered. The issue has important implications. Coral is like the forest of the ocean, and sea life depends on it for shelter and food.

I also wondered if the warm temperatures contributed to an infestation of sea urchins. Pete, a retired professor from New York, answered that. According to him, a few years ago the sea urchins died off, and the present population, in fact, represented recovery to a normal number.

Our service work consisted of grunt labor. On four mornings we removed unwanted vegetation. Call them "weeds" if you want to. One of the most obnoxious weeds presented a waist-high wall of green blades standing upright. Each blade was pointed at the end, and it had come to stay. It's called mother-in-law's tongue. It had to be pulled out by the roots or cut off at the ground. At the VIERS campus itself the plant had invaded in two dense stands. We removed and carted away each stand, burning not being permitted.

At Little Lameshur Bay near our camp the ruins of a bay rum and sugar plantation sprawls down to the sea. The jungle has overrun the buildings, except for the plantation's great house, which sits high on a hill overlooking the bay and is used as the park ranger's residence. The park is considering making the ruins into an interpretive center. First, archeologists must study the site. The dense vegetation has presented a hurdle.

On two days we worked in these ruins removing the omnipresent mother-in-law's tongue, century plants and brush. The archeologist, Ken Wild, who happened to be from Chattanooga, talked to us about the importance of the site.

During the 1700's and 1800's the Danes owned what is now the U. S. Virgin Islands, and there were close to 200 such plantations on St. John. In those days most of the land was cleared for the cultivation of sugar cane. The work was carried out by slaves imported from West Africa, racked like cordwood in the holes of ships.

On one of our hikes, five of us sought out the remote great house of a past plantation. Defunct and decaying now, the opulent structure sits shrouded by the jungle high on a hill overlooking a broad bay. The remains suggest its past splendor.

A courtyard surrounds the main entrance. Twin concrete stairs lead to a landing at the door. Beyond lies a great hall, now inhabited by bats. On both the north and south side, porticos with arched openings extend the length of the house.

One can imagine a cool breeze wafting through those verandahs at sunset, imagine the owner sitting there gazing out over his spread, all of it framed by the Caribbean's turquoise waters. On this splendid estate his family lived a life of privilege and luxury, at the expense of slaves.

Now trees improbably catch hold of the lintels and eaves, sending roots inching into cracks and joints, crumbling the walls. With the old force of time's steady ooze, the jungle creeps through the building, eating away its secret heart.

As we left, I photographed the date proudly cast in tall numerals on the masonry of a courtyard gatepost: 1844.

SEE PART 3 IN THE OCTOBER TENNES-SIERRAN

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 our website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/service.asp>

Outings

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, September 8, 10:00-11:30am – 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, call Don Richardson at (901) 276-1387 or donrich@juno.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/tlc18/schedule. September program: "The Future of Food" with Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter Chair Katherine Pendleton. Is it really safe to eat the food you find in the grocery store? Are we becoming guinea pigs for companies that want to genetically engineer our grocery products for larger production agendas and higher profits? In this episode, host Judith Rutschman talks with Tennessee Chapter chair Katherine Pendleton about the new film, "The Future of Food". The film offers an in-depth study of the disturbing truth behind much of the unlabeled and genetically engineered food that has been lining the shelves of grocery stores for several years. 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/>

September 8. Dayhike, GSMNP - Thomas Divide /Kanati Fork trails. (Note this hike was mistakenly listed for Sept. 10 in the August issue of the Tennesse-Sierran). This is a 4.7 mile wildflower trail off the Newfound Gap Road. Though it's late for wildflowers, at least it will be cool at these elevations. We will begin at the Thomas Divide trailhead 3.5 miles south of the Newfound Gap soon passing over a 5,000 knoll where hunters used to flush out turkeys at nearby Turkey Flyup. We will continue on down the trail for 1.8 miles to the junction with Kanati Fork Trail. This will take us into Kanati Fork Valley and the Kanati trailhead. We will then shuttle back up to our cars at Thomas Divide. Distance 4.7 miles, rated moderate. Driving time from Knoxville, about 2 hours. Pre-register with Priscilla Watts, 865-966-4142; email sigmtngirl@earthlink.net.

September 22-23. Backpack, Saint Mary's Wilderness (Virginia). This is one of Virginia's most popular wilderness areas, and justly so. St. Mary's Falls, a fifteen foot wide waterfall that drops into a deep and narrow gorge, is probably the area's principal feature, but it also has numerous other waterfalls, forested mountain coves, a high mountain river, and remnants of old coal mining operations. We'll probably hike in from the Blue Ridge Parkway just south of Staunton, VA, and see much of the river on a partial loop hike. Rated moderate. Because of distance, we may drive up Friday night and stay in a campground or motel north of the Roanoke area. Drive is about 325 miles each way. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

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

10 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!

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).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

September 6 - Cedars of Lebanon Dayhike. Would you like to see a grove of Juniper trees? Considered unusual by early botanists, we will hike the five mile Hidden Springs Trail, discovering the natural rock gardens called "cedar glades." We will try to spot one (or more!) of the nineteen indigenous rare and endangered species of plants that grows here, and no where else in the world. Loop trail is easy to moderate. Cedars of Lebanon State Park is located approx: 31 miles East of Nashville in Wilson County. For exact directions and registration, contact Celeste Dye at greyceleste@yahoo.com. 323-828-8892.

September 10 - Outings Leader 101. A requirement of the Sierra Club to become an outings leader. This class covers the basics of being an outings leader. There is no charge for the training. A light supper will be served. For meeting place and time contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

September 14-17 - AT Section Backpacking Trip. Plans are in the works for a section hike on the Appalachian Trail on the section from Max Patch to Hot Springs. Rated strenuous. For additional information contact Katherine

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.

Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

TENNESSEE CHAPTER (All Members)

October 6-7, Jack & Back Bike Ride. The TN Chapter is participating as a team riding in the Jack Daniel's "Bike to Jack & Back" October 6-7. The ride starts in Franklin, TN at Page High School and finishes at Motlow State Community College in Lynchburg, TN. This is a beautiful, scenic ride through Tennessee's countryside just on the brink of fall. Enjoy a tour of the incredible Jack Daniel's Distillery, and feast on all of the Jack Daniel's fixin's that you can eat, as well as some Lynchburg Lemonade during the program and party on the hill! The National MS Society and local sponsors will provide rest stops every 10-12 miles, supplied with refreshments to support you along the route. SAG trucks, Bike Mechanics and Medical staff are also there to help you throughout the weekend. To register, visit <http://www.ms-midsouth.org> and sign up under TN Chapter Sierra Club. You can also contact Katherine Pendleton for more information at 615-943-6877 or Katibug1959@aol.com. Come on out and join Sierra Club in this ride to help our community and let our community see who we are.

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.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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Card Number _____

Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

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**
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Meetings

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

For information on upcoming events, please visit our web site at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee/index.htm> or contact Ayla Callihan, Interim Chair, 423-715-1756, or ayla-callihan@utc.edu.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: September 6 & October 4, 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 Juliet Jones, Vice Chair, at (901) 374-0582 or juliet101@comcast.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: September 10 & October 8, 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 September 7 (September meeting) & October 5 (October meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 237-4819 or bus@the-cave.com

The Sierra Club at the Cooper-Young Festival. – September 15: The Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club will once again have a booth at the annual Cooper-Young Festival. The event celebrates the arts, community organizations, the historic neighborhood of Cooper-Young, and lots more. Meet new people, hang out with friends, talk about the environment! Volunteer to help us at the booth. For more information, contact Teri Sullivan at (901) 320-7191 or tsullivan24@comcast.net.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, September 26, 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. There will be a presentation on "Environmental Justice" by Rita Harris, Environmental Justice Coordinator for the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club's Environmental Justice program started in the fall of 1999 locally. Just what is "environmental justice" and why is it important to a growing number of people across the United States? Does the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) do enough to protect our families and communities? Join us to learn more about what is going on with communities that are fighting for clean air, clean water, and the cleanup of hazardous waste sites. For additional information, contact Rita Harris at the Sierra Club Environmental Justice office: (901) 324-7757 or rita.harris@sierraclub.org.

Greening Greater Memphis Action Expo. Thursday, September 27, 5-7:30pm Goldsmith Civic Center at the Memphis Botanic Garden. Open and free to the public. The Sierra Club and more than 20 "green" organizations will be hosting tables for citizens to sign up for volunteer-driven projects in many areas of interest to help make Memphis a greener, cleaner, safer, walkable, bikeable, more livable community. Call (901) 767-7275 for details.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, September 11, 7:30pm, at Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. Our speaker will be Katherine Medlock, Executive Director of the Alliance for the Cumberlands, "a partnership of public and private organizations unified in their commitment to protect the Cumberland Mountains and Plateau

Region of Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, West Virginia, and Virginia." Its mission is "to bring people together to achieve the ecological and economic sustainability of natural and human communities" in the region. Katherine will provide an overview of the Alliance, then concentrate on two of its programs: 1) the Cumberland Plateau Natural Heritage Corridor; and 2) the Cumberland Plateau Nature Trail. She is a Knoxville native who received her degree in Biology at Maryville College and then did graduate work at Eastern Kentucky University in aquatic biology. Her thesis centered on a small Cumberland Plateau stream in Kentucky. She worked a short time for TVA's stream program, then moved to Georgia for a job with Georgia Forestwatch, a non-profit organization. There she fell in love with non-profit conservation work. Before moving to Georgia, she and her husband had "spent many happy days rambling through the Cumberland Plateau," so she "jumped at the chance" to return to Tennessee as part of the Alliance. All welcome. For further information call John Finger at 865-573-5908 or email www.alliance-forthecumberlands.org.

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.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, September 25, 7:30 p.m., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. We urge all Harvey Broome Group members to join us as we discuss and plan strategies for issues of concern to the group. These meetings provide you an opportunity for input into issues of concern to you. Please join us! For more information contact Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, September 13, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. With more and more news emerging about the dangers of pollution, we are all concerned what our own state is doing to combat this problem. Come to this Sierra Club program and get involved in this challenging presentation. Barry Stephens will discuss current air quality concerns in Tennessee, including ozone, fine particulate matter and regional haze. Don't complain, come and get the inside scoop! Barry has been employed by the state for 33 years and is currently director of the Division of Air Pollution Control and technical secretary of the state's Air Pollution Control Board. Barry is a registered professional engineer who received his undergraduate degree in metallurgical engineering from Vanderbilt. He went on to earn a master's degree in environmental engineering from Vanderbilt and is a member of the International Air and Waste Management association. This is another eye opener program you won't want to miss! If you have any questions, please call Martha Wilson, 376-2535.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, September 25 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.

OCTOBER PREVIEW: On Thursday, October 11, David Kelly of the Nature Conservancy will be presenting an outstanding program which will include many beautiful shots of Tennessee lands the Conservancy has helped acquire and conserve.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP

MEETING: August 30 at 6 p.m. at the Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 136 Jobe Road, Gray, TN. The contact person is Vincent Whitright, Interim Chair, 423-747-1967 or cleanenergy@excite.com.

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.

WATAUGA GROUP

PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith, (gl4797@earthlink.net), (423) 727-4797 for more information.

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Tennessee Conservation Voters and Tennessee Environmental Council join forces to sponsor

A SUMMIT FOR A SUSTAINABLE TENNESSEE

By Penny Brooks, Immediate Past Chair of Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) and Chris Ford, Executive Director TCV

In a statement released on August 10, 2007, executive directors John McFadden (Tennessee Environmental Council) and Chris Ford (TCV) announced the inaugural **Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee**, to be held November 15 and 16, 2007 at Lipscomb University in Nashville.

"As executive directors of agencies that are chartered to serve state and issue-wide environment and conservation organizations in Tennessee, TEC and TCV are working together to begin a collaborative process--how it evolves rests entirely in the hands of the conservation community's leadership. We are hopeful that in recognizing the benefits derived from speaking with increased influence and credibility on behalf of Tennessee's natural interests we will see broad representation from Mountain City to Memphis. Participation and support from these organizations and individuals collectively assures that all of us will better serve the people of the Volunteer State."

"Save the Date" E-cards for the Sustainable Tennessee Summit '07 were issued in mid-August and recipients of the invitation are encouraged to share them with friends and family who may be interested in attending. The E-card invitation was linked to a one page website, where participants were asked to complete a pre-conference conservation survey. The survey data collected will be distributed among

three **Working Groups: Healthy Communities**, co-chaired by Dodd Galbreath and Bridget Jones; **Natural Infrastructure**, co-chaired by Mike Butler and Greg Wathen; and **Clean Energy** co-chaired by Louise Gorenflo, and Gil Melear-Hough. Sierra Club members are encouraged to fill out the survey (10 to 20 minutes to complete) and participate in the issue groups. The survey data for Sierra Club members who do participate and indicate the Sierra Club as the organization with which they are most closely affiliated will be returned to Gary Bowers, Conservation Chair of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The announcement by TCV and TEC further elaborated on the process:

"The Working Groups will develop a draft Conservation Agenda and Action Plan, which will be refined and approved during the two-day Summit. Following conclusion of the Summit, we will use what we have learned from your feedback to immediately begin the work of refining and improving our process to ensure greater buy-in and representation of the organizations and individuals of Tennessee that we seek to serve more effectively."

Ford and McFadden added that "Organizations and individuals across the state are doing great work to address the conservation issues facing Tennessee. Through structured and targeted collaboration the Summit aims to produce a more integrated approach for focusing on and addressing

these most pressing issues. Rather than duplicating efforts and competing for limited resources, the vision of the Summit is to launch an effort working toward a shared agenda to better position our organizations, share expertise, replicate successful models, and pool resources, thus having a greater impact on Tennessee's environment and residents' quality of life."

Both McFadden and Ford have served in their respective directorships for less than one full year and enjoy a strong working and personal relationship. During a "parking lot conversation" earlier this year, both discovered that other was spending significant time asking one simple and direct question: how do our state's conservation organizations increase the unified voice of the greater environmental community while encouraging individual missions and focuses and honoring our rich heritage of activism and achievement?

The collaborative effort will continue year-round through issue forums, conference calls, and committee work. The goal is continual conversation, coordination, and collaboration during the months between each year's Summit.

For more information and to find out how you can be a part of the process, please contact TEC executive director, John McFadden, jfm@hughes.net or 615-330-5364 or TCV executive director Chris Ford tcved@bellsouth.net or 615-269-9090.

SIERRA CLUB'S DIVERSITY COUNCIL EXPANDS EFFORTS TO INCLUDE ALL PEOPLE IN PROTECTING THE PLANET

Diversity Statement and online surveys begin the comprehensive process

By Andy Bessler,
Sierra Club's Environmental Partnership Program

The Sierra Club's Diversity Council today announced several steps in an effort to internally diversify the Sierra Club around the country. While the Sierra Club remains the nation's largest and most effective grassroots environmental advocacy organization, work remains to make sure the Sierra Club reflects all the diverse communities found across America. The Sierra Club Board of Directors established the Diversity Council in 2006 to help craft a strategy for diversifying the Sierra Club and demonstrating a commitment to diversity from the national to the local level.

"The Diversity Council has been working hard over the past

year because if we do not diversify, we won't meet our conservation goals as an organization," said Diversity Council Co-Chair and Sierra Club Board member Sanjay Ranchod. Within the past year, the Sierra Club Board of Directors has approved an official Diversity Statement that reflects Sierra Club's commitment to diversity at the staff, volunteer and membership levels. The statement was circulated to Sierra Club leaders across the country for their feedback and consensus via an online bulletin board.

The Diversity Council also conducted an online survey of Sierra Club volunteer and staff leaders to find out how they felt about efforts to diversify the Sierra Club. Survey results indicated that 70% of respondents agree that Sierra Club needs to diversify to achieve our conservation goals.

"Sierra Club leaders know in their hearts that change is needed," said Mark Walters, Diversity Council Co-Chair

and a volunteer leader of the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings Program. "But to change, folks simply need to know how to and that is where we can help."

With a clear mandate from Sierra Club leaders around the country to act, the Diversity Council met in Memphis, Tennessee the weekend of July 27-29th to begin drafting a long range plan to diversify the Sierra Club nationally and locally. Council members will be seeking comments from everyone after a draft plan is presented to the Board of Directors at their October 2007 board meeting. Until then, the Diversity Council urges all Sierra Club leaders to do their part to make the Sierra Club reflect the face of America and educate themselves about efforts to diversify the Sierra Club.

For more information on the work of the Diversity Council, visit www.clubhouse.sierraclub.org/diversity or www.sierraclub.org/diversity

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

Help Wanted in Upper Cumberland Group

Upper Cumberland Group is seeking applicants for the positions of

OUTINGS CHAIR
and
PROGRAM CHAIR

If interested please contact Peggy Evans, UCG Chair at 931-432-6680 or maevans@twlakes.net

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