

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

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DuPont New Johnsonville Landfill Permit **ON HOLD** TDEC CONSIDERS DIOXIN QUESTION AT THE FACILITY

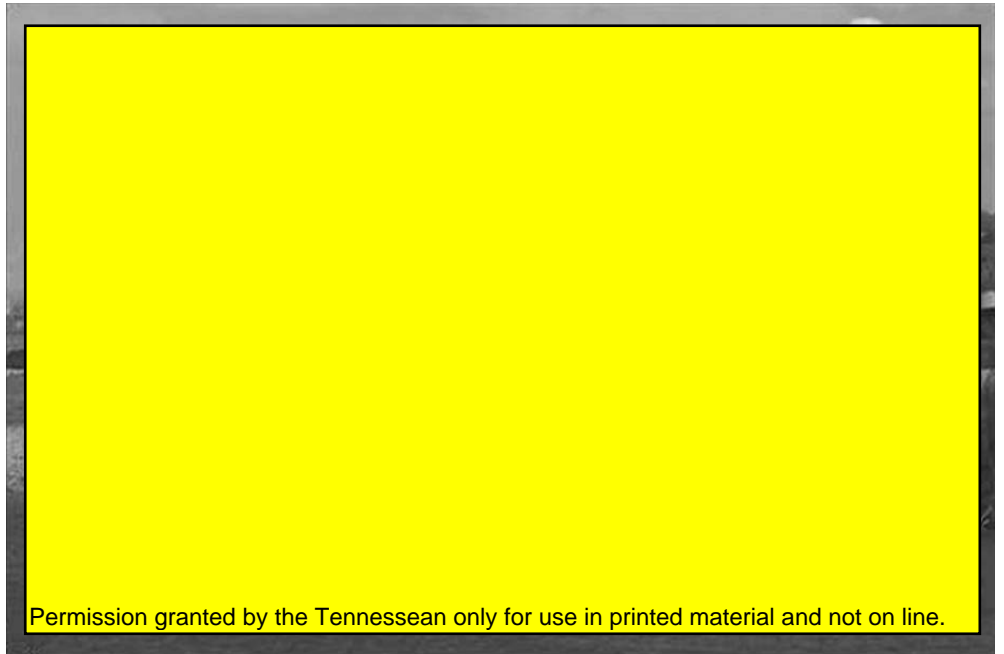


Photo by John Partipilo. Reprinted from *The Tennessean* with permission.

By Maria Moser,
Middle TN Group Reporter

The Tennessee Chapter, under the banner of the National Sierra Club's initiative of "Safe and Healthy Communities", is supporting the United Steelworkers International Union (USW) in its investigation of dioxin at the DuPont New Johnsonville Plant in Tennessee.

"The Blue/Green Alliance (USW/Sierra Club) is one of the most important initiatives undertaken by the environmental movement in decades. Our new alliance allows us to address the great challenge of the global economy in the 21st century – how to provide good jobs, a clean environment and a safer world" said Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club.

Located on the Tennessee River, the chemical giant is 80 miles west of Nashville on U.S. Hwy 70. The 48-year-old plant produces 350 thousand tons of titanium oxide, annually.

Titanium dioxide is a white powder used as pigment for paints and coatings, as whiteners and coatings for paper and paperboard, as pigment for plastics, and in specialty applications such as food and pharmaceuticals.

One byproduct of this process is dioxin - a hazardous waste that ranks as one of the most environmentally toxic substances known to man. According to the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory, the DuPont New Johnsonville plant released in excess of 24 pounds of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds into the environment in 2004.

"There has been little vocalization of citizens' concerns about the New Johnsonville plant, but there is good reason to believe that pollution and/or sickness in New Johnsonville is a problem," said Joan Hill, USW Education Representative in Nashville.

According to the Tennessee Cancer Registry, Humphreys County has one of the highest cancer rates in Tennessee. Five of the top ten counties reporting incident rates border the Tennessee River.

"We are concerned about dioxin affecting local community health and the environment," Diane Perschbacher, the Middle Tennessee Group Conservation Chair said. "The point of our involvement is to determine if any toxins exist in the community and what needs to be done to protect the health of New Johnsonville and the surrounding area residents."

The danger of dioxin is clear. In their report **Health Risks from Dioxin and Related Compounds - Evaluation of the EPA Reassessment** released in July 2006, the National Research Council of The National Academies stated the following in the preface of their report:

2,3,4,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD), also called dioxin, is among the most toxic anthropogenic (editor's note: man-made) substance ever identified. TCDD and a number of similar polychlorinated dioxins, dibenzofurans, and coplanar polychlorinated biphenyls (dioxin-like compounds (DLCs) have been the subject of intense scientific research and frequently controversial environmental and health policies. Animal studies have demonstrated potent effects of TCDD, other dioxins, and many DLCs on tumor development, birth defects, reproductive abnormalities, immune dysfunction, dermatological, disorders, and a plethora of other adverse effects.

At this juncture, the DuPont Johnsonville Plant is requesting a permit from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Solid Waste Management Division to modify an existing landfill permit on the 1500-acre complex.

"I am concerned that unacceptable amounts of hazardous waste, such as dioxin, lead and other heavy metals may be present or placed in the landfill. We urge testing of the soil and water in and near New Johnsonville and the river, to determine if any toxins are present in the community," Perschbacher said.

DuPont representatives contacted Gary Bowers, Conservation Chair of the Tennessee Chapter, and offered to give members of the Sierra Club a tour of the facility.

"I declined their invitation for the time being and suggested a visit at a later date might be more meaningful. While a tour would be interesting, we believe that DuPont needs to come forward and prove they are willing to work with state officials regarding dioxin in the landfill," he said.

TDEC officials were unaware of the hazardous material and on the verge of issuing DuPont's permit when USW researcher April Dreeke questioned the release data.

In fact, TDEC issued a Notice of Intent to Issue Permit for a Solid Waste Disposal Facility, of which the following is an excerpt:

No hazardous waste, as required by the Tennessee Hazardous Waste Management Act...shall be accepted for disposal at this facility. Following an in-depth review of the application, DSWM (Division of Solid Waste Management) has made a preliminary determination that this proposal meets the applicable requirements...It is the present intent of DSWM, pending consideration of any contrary information received during the public comment period ending on December 26, 2006, that this permit shall be issued.

Through combined efforts of The Blue/Green Alliance and the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC), TDEC put the permit issuance on hold.

"We just want a safe place for people to live. TDEC is acting responsibly by seeking additional information prior to reaching a final decision on whether to grant the permit application," Bowers said.

TDEC granted a February 6 public hearing at which a number of Sierra Club members, USW representatives, TEC members and other interested people, including community residents were present. DuPont New Johnsonville management was present, also.

"April contacted me and asked us to activate our local membership in the area. We made a number of calls requesting Sierra members to write or call TDEC, asking for a public hearing regarding the issuance of the permit." Bowers said.

The USW represents about 200 workers in plants in Humphreys and Benton County, but not the New Johnsonville DuPont plant itself, and over 1600 employees at other DuPont plants across the country. Hill said that USW has contacted other union members in the area, and knocked on doors in the New Johnsonville and across the river in Benton County.

SEE "Dioxin" PAGE 3



Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

The Chair's Corner

Dear Tennessee Sierra Club Members,

April is a busy month for Tennessee Sierra Club members with the Spring Tennessee Chapter Meeting, Earth Day Festivities, and the Board of Directors election.

If you haven't already done so, please forward your reservation for our chapter meeting April 27-29 at Camp Ahistadi in the Cherokee National Forest to Gloria or Wilbert Giffith. Please consider arriving Friday evening for the welcome dinner hosted by Watauga Watershed Alliance.

The Watauga Group has put a great deal of effort into planning activities for this chapter meeting and I encourage you to take advantage of an opportunity to take a bike ride on the Virginia Creeper Trail on Saturday morning or see the play "Married Alive!" at the Barter Theatre on Saturday afternoon. Additionally, there will be live music and our semi-annual silent auction on Saturday night.

Earth Day was founded by John McConnell on March 21, 1970 in San Francisco, California. John McConnell stated "Earth Day is to remind each person of his right and the equal right of each person to the use of this global home and at the same time the equal responsibility of each person to preserve and improve the Earth and the quality of life thereon."

Earth Day is on April 22 this year and celebrated in many areas on April 21. Please consider becoming involved with your group's planned activities or visit an Earth Day celebration in your area.

The ballots for the 2007 Sierra Club Board of Directors are in the mail and voting ends April 23, 2007 at noon EDT. Your 2007 ballot includes 11 candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2007-2010 term.

The Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club endorsed five candidates as follows: Clark Buchner (TN), Allison Chin (CA), Robert Cox (NC), Ayelet Hines (MD), and Jerry Sutherland (OR). Take a moment to vote in this important election which will impact our club's future.

Many thanks to those who have sent in Defenders and March Window donations. At this printing we have received \$13,665 in Defenders donations and \$4300 in March Window donations. These contributions are vitally important to our chapter for lobbying (Defenders) and chapter programs (March Window). If you haven't yet sent in your donation please consider doing so. It's a way to put your environmental dollars to work right here in Tennessee.

Katherine Pendleton
Chair, Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter

Sierra Club Officers

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

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EMAIL YOUR NEW ADDRESS TO:

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Or complete this form and
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Name: _____

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Attach mailing address label in this box,
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Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

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Thompson Station, TN 37179

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

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Address changes are processed much faster if you include your
Sierra Club membership number. To find your membership
number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

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.

DIOXIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Many of those that we have talked to were interested to learn what might be in their air, their water, their neighborhood. Many residents have long suspected something," she said.

Sierra Club, the USW, and TEC organized a community event in New Johnsonville on January 31 to raise awareness of the issue, locally.

Bowers, who spoke at the landfill permit public hearing, said "The DuPont titanium dioxide plant in Edgemoor, DE treats the waste generated as hazardous and it is disposed of in a hazardous waste landfill in South Carolina. Knowing the toxicity of dioxin, we find it extremely troubling that TDEC would consider issuing this permit. We urge TDEC to reject this application for permit modification."

Following the hearing, Bowers provided a DVD titled "Dioxin, Duplicity and DuPont" and his public hearing comments to Paul Sloan, Deputy Commissioner of TDEC.

The documentary, aired on the cable television program, "Sierra Chronicles", tells the story of the potential link between serious health problems in the community and DuPont's titanium dioxide plant in Delisle, Mississippi.

The documentary follows the court case of a local oyster fisherman whose cancer appeared to be caused by dioxin, produced by the DuPont plant. The jury awarded a \$14 million settlement and DuPont has appealed the judgment.

"The United Steelworkers has an ongoing DuPont Accountability Project. For example, residents and workers from communities near DuPont plants personally made their grievances known at DuPont's annual shareholder meeting in 2006," Hill said.

Sierra's overall goal of the Safe and Healthy Communities conservation initiative is to foster vibrant, healthy communities with clean water and clean air, and that are free from toxic chemical threats.

"This concern is the driving force behind our actions regarding the DuPont New Johnsonville titanium dioxide plant and the presence of dioxin. We believe that our members in the New Johnsonville area have a right to a safe and healthy community for themselves and their families to live. We hold both TDEC and DuPont accountable for providing this," Bowers said.

"We have reached the point in the development of a global economy where we can either use our planet's resources for long-term sustainability or create an ever more dangerous polarization of wealth and poverty," Pope said.

Your Help is Needed with the DUPONT DIOXIN ISSUE

By Gary Bowers – Chapter Conservation Chair

This DuPont landfill permit issue generated a front page story on the cover of the Nashville Tennessean on Sunday, 02/25/2007. You can read this article at <http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070225/NEWS0201/702250386>

As this issue of the *TennesSierran* went to press, the future actions and dates related to the New Johnsonville Safe and Healthy Communities issue were unknown. For information on the status of this potentially very serious issue and the steps to take to hold both DuPont and TDEC accountable, please go to the following web page <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/DupontAction.htm>.

Letters to the editor of the Tennessean may be submitted at <http://www.tennessean.com/opinion/popups/submit-editor.shtml>. LTE's to your local newspaper are also in order.

If you would like to become active in working on this issue, please contact Diane Perschbacher at Diane@Propson.com, Gary Bowers at gb1nature@aol.com, or call the Sierra Club office at 615/386-3640.

Welcome Middle TN Group Reporter

We are pleased to announce that Maria Moser, one of our MTG members, has volunteered to write articles covering MTG activities for the Chapter newsletter. Maria has extensive experience in this field of endeavor, having served as both an in-house editor and a reporter/photographer. We welcome her expertise and look forward to her ongoing contributions to this publication.

Her debut story was this month's cover article regarding the DuPont New Johnsonville landfill permit and dioxin. The picture at right shows Maria working on that story.



5th Annual Wilderness First Aid Training

Join us at the fifth annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training (WFA) the weekend of June 2nd and 3rd at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Landmark Learning, LLC, our training provider for the previous four years, will perform the training again this year. Landmark will be teaching the National Outdoors Leadership School (NOLS) WFA curriculum. This educational weekend features top notch training in an outdoor setting by field experienced instructors.

June 2nd & 3rd

Fall Creek Falls State Park

COURSE: WFA - 16 hours / 2-yr certification. Fast paced and hands-on, this two day course covers a wide range of wilderness medicine topics for people who travel in the outdoors or who spend time in the backcountry as either a passion or profession. In this course you will learn to prepare for the unexpected. You will acquire knowledge and skills that will help you make sound decisions in emergency situations. This course is ideal for trip leaders, camp staff, outdoor enthusiasts, and individuals in remote locations. This NOLS course is pre-approved by such organizations as the American Camping Association and the U.S. Forest Service.

WHAT IS INCLUDED: Training by highly qualified instructors, mid-morning snacks, lunch, mid-afternoon snacks

NOT INCLUDED: Breakfast, dinner, lodging, Sierra membership

LODGING: We plan to camp in the state park. You will receive information regarding the area of the park where we will be camping, should you want to be in the area with other participants. Camp sites may be shared, and the logistics of this can be worked out when you check in with the on the ground organizers. Regardless, you are responsible for securing your own camp site.

COST: \$150, non-refundable – Sierra commits to Landmark, you commit to Sierra

PAYMENT DUE: May 1st

OTHER INFO:

- Participant must have health insurance coverage and complete a health form
- Participant must sign Sierra liability waiver
- Participant must sign NOLS/Landmark Learning liability waiver

ENROLLMENT: Send this participant form and a check to Katherine Pendleton

QUESTIONS: Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email at Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org

NOTE: This course is not for Wilderness First Responder recertification

VALUE: Wilderness first aid classes of this caliber often cost up to twice this amount. Sierra's goal in providing this training is to help insure the safe enjoyment of the great outdoors, and we price this course accordingly for our members.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership in Sierra is required. You can join on line at <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/> or Katherine can send you a membership form. Introductory memberships are \$25. We require membership in return for the value pricing offered. By becoming a member, you will receive both the Chapter (state of Tennessee) newsletter and the national Sierra Club publication, Sierra Magazine. Each of these publications will help to keep you aware of challenges to great outdoors and suggest actions that you can take to preserve the things about nature that we value.

5th Annual First Aid Wilderness Training

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Previous First Aid Training: _____

A non-refundable payment of \$150 is due by May 1st

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

* introductory Sierra Club memberships are \$25

_____ I will go to <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/> to join on line

_____ Please send me a membership form.

NOTE - breakfast, dinner, lodging/camping, and Sierra membership are not included in the course fee of \$150

I am seeking recertification of a previous WFA certification. YES ___ NO ___

If yes, previous certification is NOLS ___ SOLO ___ Other _____

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

I am interested in information on the following

* camping with the other training participants YES ___ NO ___

* buffet dinner at the park lodge YES ___ NO ___

If you answered yes to either of the above, information will be emailed to you by May 15th.

I am an omnivore _____ a vegetarian _____

Please mail this completed form with a check to:

Katherine Pendleton
P.O. Box 290306
Nashville, TN 37229

Trouble in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

PART TWO OF A THREE PART SERIES

Fran Mauer hikes along Mancha Creek. Photo by Dallas Smith.



By Dallas Smith
Member, Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

As an expert on the wildlife of the Arctic Refuge, Fran Mauer often got calls from hikers proposing a journey through this wilderness. One guy planned to traverse the Refuge on just the food he could find and wanted to know if that was possible.

"It is if you've got the stomach of a caribou," Fran had told him. Fran said he never heard of him again. Another time there was a solo hiker who had nothing to eat but a bag of Power Bars. Power Bars every day. Power Bars for breakfast, Power Bars for lunch, and Power Bars for supper.

The north country attracts strange people.

Fran was the assistant leader of our group of six as we hiked through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge this past June. He is a former wildlife biologist for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a superb storyteller with a skewed sense of humor.

But he'd been serious about the caribou. They have the stomach for the food they can find here, which includes lichens I would not want to eat. He showed me lichens whose names alone are off-putting: elk horn, white worms, dead man's fingers, to list a few. Their names are accurate.

Groups of caribou streamed past us each day, all migrating north to their ancestral calving grounds on the Arctic coastal plain, members of the 123,000-strong Porcupine herd. The cows go first and were already there, Fran said. We were seeing yearlings and bulls headed to join them. It is that coastal plain that some want to drill for oil.

There are plenty of animals here big enough to kill us and eat us—including wolves, black bears, and grizzly bears, especially grizzlies, which tend to be unpredictable.

We walked in the season when the sun never sets; plants and animals work overtime. We kept up a silly line of chatter, which had the benefit of telling grizzlies we were around. On another level, maybe the talk was our way of keeping company and asserting our small selves against the immensity of a wilderness that makes one feel diminished, a wilderness where humans are not needed at all.

Ethel, Glen, Fran and I were hiking along one day—the other two hikers were ahead, out of earshot. Ethel Chiang is a former emergency room doctor. Her husband, Glen Freimuth, is an anthropologist, a burly man with a white beard who looks like Ernest Hemingway—two world gadabouts from Illinois.

My hands and forearms were covered by lacerations I'd suffered while climbing two spruce trees. Those trees are covered with sharp stubby limbs that can puncture and tear skin. I'd put a glove on one hand for protecting the sores while deflecting brush.

"I'm doing my Michael Jackson thing this morning," I said. Talk turned to forget-me-nots, which Fran said he'd told his Japanese wife were "forgive-me-a-lots." She didn't believe him.

Thus we repelled grizzlies.

Accustomed to always packing a big gun, Fran was thinking about bears, especially so since he'd lost his bear spray. "There's no place we can go where they can't," he said. He told me that when a man and a bear suddenly meet they both have the same thought: "Kill that thing!"

A grizzly had approached our camp just the previous morning. I enjoyed the whole thing—I wasn't there. I watched it from above. We were camped on a gravelly flat next to Mancha Creek. Across the creek an unnamed mountain rose up steeply. Its slope was covered by spires sticking up like crocodile teeth.

Bill Curzie, who patrols second base in age group World Series baseball, christened the hill "Cathedral Mountain." "Curzie" rhymes with "Jersey" and so his baseball handle is Jersey Curzie, but I call him Jersey Bill.

Group leader Don, Glen, Ethel and I decided to climb the mountain and check out a cave we'd spotted, curious to see if it was a bear's den. Part way up we paused to rest. We gazed steeply down on the tents—they looked small and fragile. In the flat to the left, I saw what I at first thought was a caribou, and said so.

"That's a bear!" Don said. Easy to tell once it moved a bit. It was a golden blond grizzly. "That's a big one," Don noted. The bear meandered and then headed toward our tents.

There were two people in camp—Fran, who had lost his bear spray, and Jersey Bill, who'd been worried enough about bears to bring a shotgun, until forbidden to do so. They didn't know the big grizzly was coming. We could have yelled down. But we wanted to see what he was going to do first.

The bear came to the creek bank, ready to splash across—after which it would be 130 yards from the tents, as I later paced it. He stopped and put his nose up like a bird dog sniffing quail. Then he suddenly wheeled around and trotted off. Good bear. Bill and Fran were denied some excitement.

Fran had told me how fast a grizzly can go when it hits full stride. "(When he charges) his back feet are scratching his ears," was the way he put it.

Fran had told me about a bear charging him once. The bear stood up 35 or 40 yards away, looked at him, then dropped down and came fast.

"It was like everything switched into slow motion. I could see the drool or slime coming from the corners of his mouth." Fran made a motion like saliva trailing back.

"How far did he come before he stopped?" I asked.

"Stand here," he said. He took six steps forward and turned facing me.

"It was that far. I know because I dropped my notebook, and where he turned he left hair on a tree."

Fran's partner had been going for the rifle, but couldn't get it in time—they'd put it under the rain fly to keep it dry.

Death by grizzly can be quick, I expect—the animal is so big and powerful, it can tear one's head off. Fran had been within seconds of oblivion when the bear turned, an act Fran didn't expect and doesn't understand. A true scientist, Fran came back with the data: six steps, the distance from the notebook he dropped to the hair the bear left.

Fran risked his life working at the Refuge, a land he loves. He's not inclined to surrender it to oil drilling. His Gale Norton story illustrates the fight, one that continues to this day.

In 2001 after President Bush appointed Gale Norton Secretary of the Interior, Frank Murkowski, then senator, now governor of Alaska, asked Interior for a report of historical caribou calving on the coastal plain in the 1002 study area where drilling was being considered. Murkowski, a proponent of drilling, may have thought he could get a useful answer from Norton, who also favored drilling. Murkowski, who headed the Senate and Natural Resources Committee, needed to show that the plain was not important to caribou. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), a part of the Department of Interior, was given the job of preparing the report. That agency also had the data and expertise.

"I wrote the report," Fran told me. His management reviewed it, making what Fran called "editorial corrections" and approved the report for release to Interior. That was in May 2001. The record showed that for 27 of 30 years, there had been concentrations of calving (excluding lesser-important scattered calving).

In June 2001, Gale Norton visited the Arctic Refuge. Fran was given the job of escorting her about. He spent parts of two days with her, a total of five hours, explaining features of the Refuge.

"We sat on the plane facing each other. The Regional Director sat next to me nervous that I'd say something I shouldn't," Fran said. In a total of five hours with her, "She didn't ask one substantial question."

She appeared uninterested in facts that failed to support her drilling view, and later called the coastal plain "a flat, white nothing."

When Interior released the calving report, it had completely changed. It said that for 11 out of 18 years there was no concentrated calving in the 1002 area—a stunning reversal of the results submitted by USFWS, which said that for 27 of 30 years there was concentrated calving.

Someone blew the whistle, making the original report available to the press. The Washington Post broke the story in October, 2001, on the very day Norton was addressing a meeting of environmental journalists. Attending reporters, armed with the Post story, questioned her about the discrepancies in the Interior report. Her explanation was simple: "typographical errors."

At the very least—given the nature of the changes—that answer lacked credibility. The episode supports troubling doubts about truth in government.

LOOK FOR PART 3
IN THE MAY TENNES-SIERRAN

CHICKASAW GROUP NEWS

Contributed by various members

Chickasaw Group Retreat

Members of the Chickasaw Group met in Memphis on Sunday, February 25 for a group retreat and planning session. Ten members were present at the retreat, held at the Memphis Leadership Foundation building on Poplar Avenue. Retreat facilitator was Emily Trenholm.



Jessica Gibbons ponders a point at the Chickasaw Group retreat. Photo by Teri Sullivan.

The group identified objectives for the coming year—things the members would like to work on. A list of the Group Objectives for 2007-08, approved by the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee, was passed out. Retreat attendees were enthusiastic about all the items on the list, with special attention to three areas. These were: 1) Bikes, Parks, Greenways; 2) Global Warming/Energy Responsibility; 3) Smart Growth/Transportation. Identifying these areas of interest did not preclude dealing with other areas. The idea was to prioritize the areas of interest according to the wishes of the members present at the retreat.

Specific issues of urgent local interest could be dealt with as they came up. One recent example was the attempt by the RACE Corporation to build a nuclear waste incinerator on Presidents Island. Though this attempt was thwarted, the corporation may see to it that the issue comes up again. The Chickasaw Group will remain vigilant.

Other issues were identified as important and developing. The Memphis Zoo plans an expansion that may endanger part of Overton Park's historic old-growth forest. There are elections in Memphis this year. Development plans continue at Beale Street Landing. An ordinance about hazardous materials on trains in the city comes before the City Council soon. There are revisions to the Unified Development Code to consider. Minimizing the environmental impact of Interstate 69 on its West Tennessee leg will remain an important Chickasaw Group concern.

There was much discussion of ways to build the Chickasaw Group's capacity for dealing with the myriad of issues facing it. The Group must improve its membership recruitment, especially attending to the strong environmental concerns of young people. There must be organizational procedures for making the best use of volunteers to do the Chickasaw Group's business. Activist/volunteers are also important. A list of advocates available to speak in public must be developed.

More partnership with other local groups is needed. When the list of organizations already interfaced-with was developed, it was surprising how many there are. More groups were identified, not all of them primarily environmental. There is a need for partnership to create an electronic environmental newsletter for Memphis.

The retreat attendees drew up a list of important annual events. Some, like Earth Day and local elections, are known well in advance. Others, like neighborhood festivals need to be researched. Yet others will be added as they develop. It is important to know the dates of recurring events so that Chickasaw Group will have plenty of time to make its plans.

One member pointed out that many people join the Sierra Club for the hikes, camping, and nature study. More attention must be paid to this type of activity. All attendees agreed: current members will be engaged and future members will be attracted if the Chickasaw Group builds more fun into its events!



To celebrate Tennessee Arbor Day on March 2, trees were planted in Memphis's Spanish-American War Memorial Park to replace those blown down during "Hurricane Elvis" in 2003. Participating in the ceremony were, left to right: Don Richardson, Sierra Club urban forester; Scott McCormick, Memphis City Councilman; Congressman Steve Cohen; Dedrick Brittenum, Jr., City Councilman; Cindy Buchanan, Memphis Park Services Director; Greg Campbell, Chair, Memphis City Beautiful Commission; Dr. Steve Tower, adjacent resident; Shawn Posey, Tennessee Regional Urban Forester. Photo by Jan Castillo.

Parks and Greenways—Where We Go from Here

An enormous number of Memphians support parks and greenways. Two recent events, talks by urban planners Alex Garvin and Charles Jordan, drew crowds totaling over 1100. The logical question for all park supporters is "Where do we go from here?"



Part of the big crowd at the Chickasaw Group's February meeting. Photo by Teri Sullivan.

The February 28 meeting of the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club attempted to answer that question. The meeting, held at the Benjamin Hooks Central Library, featured local elected officials and administrators in a format that made them available to answer questions from the public. Shelby County Commissioner Mike Carpenter and Memphis City Councilman Scott McCormick joined City Park Services Director Cynthia Buchanan and Shelby County Conservation Board member John McCormick in a candid discussion of the future of green spaces in Memphis.

Moderator Don Richardson gave each one an opportunity to describe his or her vision for local parks and greenways to the 130 meeting participants before opening the floor up for questions. Both Commissioner Carpenter and Director Buchanan emphasized the importance of citizen involvement. "It's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease," said Carpenter. He specifically mentioned the standing-room-only crowd at the Greening Greater Memphis event with Alex Garvin. "Ring our phones, buzz our e-mails," he said. Parks Director Buchanan told the audience, "We can't do our jobs without you."

City Councilman Scott McCormick said, "Watch us." He acknowledged that Council members can't do everything; they count on citizens to keep an eye on them. Conservation Board Member John McCormick pointed out that Bolton Park, in a part of Shelby County claimed by no city, didn't fall through the cracks thanks to the involvement of a group of concerned citizens, the Bolton Athletic Association, which now operates the park. User groups should always be part of the planning process, he said.

Some questioners cited a perceived lack of government responsiveness to the public's wishes. Councilman McCormick said that great efforts had been made to hear public discussion at City Council meetings. While strictly true, McCormick's response was not received favorably by everyone. Some attendees believed that the Council should do more to make its meetings friendly to the public.

The status of the old CSX railroad right of way and its conversion into a greenline aroused considerable interest. Commissioner Carpenter pointed out that the negotiations for the land are ongoing. As the high turnout for this Sierra Club meeting demonstrated, there is plenty of citizen involvement to keep the issue alive.

Other questions concerned signage on streets that have already been designated as bike paths. "Users are our eyes and ears," said Director Buchanan. This applies to both bike paths and parks. She emphasized the importance of maintenance. Signage and maintenance will be better if citizens keep their government officials informed about unaddressed needs.

"Citizen involvement" was mentioned by all the panelists. Groups as well as individuals are important; they help public officials set priorities. Councilman Scott McCormick pointed out that public funding can be leveraged with private funding to maximize impact. Citizens must be well-informed about parks and greenways. (Director Buchanan noted that the city's Parks Master Plan is available for inspection at the public library). Concern and information, while important, are not enough, however. All people who care about parks and greenways must be organized into groups to exert the maximum leverage on their administrators and elected officials.



Chickasaw Group members (and others) completed the Community Emergency Response Team training (CERT) in March. Photo by Jan Castillo.

Outings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Wednesday, April 4, 10:00am - Chickasaw Group Sierra Club Wildflower Walk - Meeman Shelby Forest State Park. Leisurely pace walk with time for photography. Meet at the Visitors Center. Bring sack lunch and water. Hiking boots and staff are suggested, as short portions of the trail are steep. For more information call Sue Williams at (901) 274-0524.

Saturday, April 7, 6:00pm - Chickasaw Group Sierra Club Downtown Sunset Hike - Union and Riverside Drive at Trolley Stop. Three mile walk at a leisurely pace with discussing history, parks and the Mississippi River as we go. Plan to go to a restaurant for dinner afterwards, if you can. Rated: Easy except for stairs. For more information call Sue Williams at (901) 274-0524.

Saturday, April 14, 10:00am. - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park Arboretum. Annual Marjorie Raines Memorial Wildflower Walk. Bring your camera and books. Come see this wonderful forest in the middle of the city. Meet at the trail head at the end of the road next to the lake parking lot. For more information, contact Don Richardson: 276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

Saturday, April 14, 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. Gloves and bags provided. Wear clothes and shoes appropriate to the weather conditions and that you don't mind getting muddy. Contact James Baker, 826-2448 or kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com

April 14 Is Step It Up 2007 Day! The Sierra Club is a national partner with Step It Up 2007.

All Chickasaw Group events within two weeks of April 14 are intended to keep us aware that we will reshape the future if we can reduce carbon emissions 80% by 2050. Write your elected officials! For more information about Global Warming events across Tennessee, visit www.stepitup2007.org

Saturday, April 21, 10:00am -2:00pm - Earth Day at Lichterman Nature Center. Volunteer some hours at the Sierra Club booth and share our conservation goals. There is an urban forest, lake, trails, and nature center. Contact Tom Lawrence 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

Sunday, April 22, 9:00am - 4:00pm. Earth Day at Shelby Farms. Sierra Club booth and hike. Volunteer a few hours at our booth. We'll tell folks about Sierra Club conservation goals. There will be a hike for all ages starting from our booth in remembrance of the birthday (today) of our founder, John Muir. Contact Tom Lawrence to volunteer a couple of hours, 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

Saturday, May 5, 8:30am - 2:00pm. Memphis in May Canoe and Kayak Race. A great chance to see the race and network with other conservationists. A really good time! Call to volunteer some hours. Tom Lawrence: 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

Sunday, May 6, 1:00pm. - Signs of Spring Walk. Memphis Botanic Garden, Audubon Park. This will be our third walk in the garden this spring. The Garden is also an arboretum and we'll explore "off the beaten track" to visit areas with unusual trees. See this lovely setting and get in some exercise at a leisurely pace. Judith Hammond: 276-2819.

Sunday, May 6, 9:30am - 4:00. Bluff City Canoe Club Wolf River Annual Clean Up. Sierra Club members are invited to come along on the float from Bateman Bridge to Moscow. Meet at the Bateman Bridge put-in on Highway 57. Bring canoe, lunch, water, and gloves. Bags provided. Clean water is a Sierra Club conservation goal; you will end up a fan of the Wolf! River canoe experience and skills a must. Moderately fast water. To make your reservation call Bill Rehberg at 508-1289.

Saturday, May 12, 10:00am. - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park Arboretum, Annual "Save Our Snakes" Walk with Park Friends. Zoo herpetologists will be our guides. This is a great hike and kids love it! See the reptilian wildlife that live in this urban forest. Meet at the trailhead near the parking lot at Rainbow Lake. For more information, contact Don Richardson: 276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee: "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. A different program is aired, usually each month. For the schedule, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/18SCHD.htm If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

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

April 1. Wildflower Dayhike, River Bluff Trail, Norris State Park. A popular wildflower viewing area the last days of March and through April. The main attraction is the trout lilies. Folklore claims that the trout don't bite until the trout lily blooms. Other wildflowers include Dutchman's breeches, bloodroot, toothwort, toadshade, twinleaf and celandine poppy. Hike: 3.2 mile loop. Rated easy with some steep grades. Driving distance about 32 miles round trip from Knoxville. Preregister with Robin Ferguson: H 405-8576 or W 215-5060; robin.ferguson@yahoo.com.

April 7. Dayhike, GSMNP - Chestnut Top Trail. My understanding is that the lower section of this trail is one of the best wildflower walks in the Smokies. While I don't know anything about wildflowers, I do know that I enjoy looking at them and taking pictures of them. So I'm taking about three wildflower books along with my camera and planning on taking my time to enjoy the blooms. The more ambitious hikers might take this trail all the way to its intersection with the Schoolhouse Gap Trail, a one-way distance of 4.3 miles. Since this is an "up and back" hike, those who don't want to do the 8.6 miles round trip can opt out and return to the trailhead as they desire. Rated easy. Driving distance/time about 40 miles/one hour. Preregister with Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; email ronaldshrieves@comcast.net.

April 21. EarthFest 2007 will take place Saturday, April 21, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at World's Fair Park in Knoxville, Tennessee. Admission to EarthFest is FREE!!!

April 21. Dayhike, Grandfather Mountain (Linville, NC). Enjoy a challenging day filled with rock ledges, large boulders, ladders, cables and a rock wall called "The Chute" as we hike the trails of Grandfather Mountain. We will car shuttle and begin the hike from the Boone Fork Parking Area. The hike will include the Nu-wa-ti Trail, the Cragway Trail, Daniel Boone Scout Trail and finally, the Grandfather Trail. Along the way, we will experience a very diverse ecosystem from rhododendron thickets, hardwood forests, a stand of quaking Aspens, beds of lush green ferns, open grassy areas to wind-dwarfed spruce and firs. If the weather cooperates, we will have incredible views of the mountains in all directions and summit Callaway Peak, the highest point on the Blue Ridge Parkway (5964'). Be prepared for cold and windy weather, especially at Callaway Peak. Bring \$7.00/per person for a hiking permit. We have several options after the hike...returning directly to Knoxville, stopping in Boone for relaxed dinner and/or overnight in a motel in Boone (or surrounding town) with a Sunday return to Knoxville. A combination of all can be done depending on the participants. Hike: 6.6-miles, Rated: Strenuous, Drive: 342-miles roundtrip from Knoxville. Pre-register with Beverly Smith, email (preferred) blsmith1300@comcast.net, Cell: 865.659.8480

May 5. Day Hike, Bob's Bald (by way of Beech Gap). Enjoy great views from this high elevation destination. This would also be a good opportunity to look for higher elevation wildflowers. 6 miles round trip, but by starting at Beech Gap there is only an 800 foot elevation gain on the hike. Rated easy to moderate. Driving distance/time 90 miles/2 hours. Preregister with Priscilla Watts: H 966-4142; email sigmtngirl@earthlink.net.

May 12. Dayhike, Frozen Head State Park. Waterfalls and wildflowers are the twin objectives for this easy hike, so bring your cameras. We'll start up the North Old Mac trail to the intersection with the Panther Branch Trail, then down Panther Branch past several small waterfalls, with a side trip up and back the short Emory Gap trail to Emory Gap Falls, and finishing out the Panther Branch trail past DeBord Falls. Total distance, about 5 miles, rated easy with time for lots of pictures. Driving distance/time about 45 miles/1 hour, 15 minutes. Preregister with Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; email ronaldshrieves@comcast.net.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

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

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

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday, April 7, 2007 - Honey Creek Day Hike. This trail is a part of the old pocket wilderness areas once owned by Bowater. It offers great overlooks of the gorge of the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River as well as hiking down in the gorge and up the Honey Creek gorge. Wildflowers should still be in bloom, and the creek will be running. Part of the trail actually goes through the creek and involves rock scrambling and goes by a large rock house in the bluff. It is a beautiful 5 mile hike but not an easy one. Many find it strenuous. Honey Creek is located east of the town of Allardt about 3 hours from Nashville. Call for more details. Pre-registration is required. Trip leaders Bill Terry and Adelle Wood 615-665-1010.

Sunday, April 15, 2007 - Stones River Greenway Dayhike. Nashville has several greenway trails. The hike will begin at 2 p.m. and we will explore the Stones River Greenway at Percy Priest Dam that terminates 3 miles at Kohl's Department Store in Hermitage. The distance we walk will be determined by the group on the day of the hike. Rated easy to moderate. For additional information and directions to the trailhead contact Katherine Pendleton by April 12 at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

Saturday April 21, 2007 - Earth Day Celebration. Nashville Celebrates Earth Day at Centennial Park (The Parthenon)-We will have a Sierra Club booth with a table at earth day and we need 4-5 volunteers for each 2 hour shift from set-up at 10 a.m. until break-down at 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. For more information and to sign up to help contact Betsy at (615) 370-9454 or email garberb@hotmail.com (please put "Sierra Club" in the subject line). A great place for new folks to get involved!

Sat./Sun. June 2-3, 2007 - Wilderness First Aid Training. Wilderness First Aid Training, Fall Creek Falls State Park. This educational weekend features top notch training in an outdoor setting, covering a wide range of wilderness medicine and how to prepare for the unexpected. Course is 16 hours over two days. For additional information and to obtain a registration form contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org.

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!

Meetings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: April 5 & May 3, 2007, 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: April 9 and May 14, 2007, 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 April 6 (April meeting) & May 11 (May meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

PROGRAM MEETING: Monday, April 2, 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. Bill Stegall will present Al Gore's slide show from An Inconvenient Truth. Steven Sondheim and James Baker will present the Sierra Club's slide show on energy. Afterwards, a discussion will be held on the realistic actions that people, business, and governments can take. For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at 901-237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

Saturday, April 21, 6:00 pm - Evening fundraiser for Shelby Farms Park. Green Shoe Gala. This spectacular tented party will raise funds to enhance and improve Shelby Farms Park, initiate landscape renewal and preservation projects, support community outreach, cultural, recreational and educational park programs. Features a reception, dinner, auction, music and dancing. \$250 per person donation required; tables available for \$2500. For more information call (901) 767-PARK or visit www.sfparkalliance.com

Saturday-Sunday April 27-28, 1:00pm. - Sierra Club Quarterly State Meeting and outing in the mountains of East Tennessee. The Watauga Group, Tennessee's newest and energetic group, has a weekend chock full of fun and interesting activities, hikes, and an all down hill bicycle tour for all who aren't in a meeting. All members and families welcome. Tom Lawrence: 237-4819 or bus@thecave.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, (gla4797627@aol.com), (423) 727-4797 for more information

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, April 12, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. 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? If you have these concerns, come to this Sierra Club program, see the film "The Future of Food", and judge for yourself. 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 for several years. Our own long-time member Katherine Pendleton will present this must-see program, and it promises to be one of the outstanding topics of the year. Come to this program and join others who share the same concerns you do. We look forward to seeing you! Light refreshments will be served. Non-members are always invited.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, April 24 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.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, April 10, 2007, 7:30 pm, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. In honor of Earth Day Dr. David Reister will present a power-point on "Global Warming—Cool Cities," a followup to Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth." David is the Sierra Club's Tennessee Chapter Chair of the TVA and Cool City Committees and is a member of the National Sustainable Consumption Committee. A native Californian, he earned three degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, including a Ph.D. in engineering science. From 1968 to 1974 he was on the faculty of the State University of New York at Buffalo, and from 1974 to 1985 at the Institute for Energy Analysis in Oak Ridge. Since 1985 he has been at ORNL, where his research interests have included energy supply models, advanced energy technologies, sensor-based robotic systems, applications of global optimization to large-scale problems, and information fusion for resource assessments. He is the author of many journal articles, has received two patents, and received an R&D 100 award for his work on global optimization. Everyone is welcome. For information call John Finger at 573-5908.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, April , 2007, 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.



photo/Kevin Walsh

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Step It Up

for Climate Action on April 14

Hundreds of rallies across the country will be held April 14th, asking Congress to pass ambitious legislation for an 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Events are part of a nationwide campaign called "Step it Up 2007", which has been organized by Bill McKibben, author of "The End of Nature". Sierra Club is a partner in this citizen action to hold events and rallies (almost 1000 planned to date) on global warming. Actions range from potluck lunches to walks to green energy demonstrations, most registered on the Step It Up website, www.stepitup2007.org.

Interested in attending or volunteering? Tennessee has a number of events planned, across the state, with a sample below:

GREENER GALLATIN: This is a potluck picnic, to be held at the Avondale Day Use area in Hendersonville. This casual affair is a gathering of like-minded people, with the picnic starting at 10 am and lunch starting at noon. Anyone is welcome to attend. A group picture will be taken promptly at 1 pm. RSVP via the website and use the link listed there to contact the organizer to sign up for a food item.

NASHVILLE NATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION RALLY: Located at Centennial Park Band Shell, 2600 West End Avenue, this family-oriented rally will be from 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm with a lineup of speakers and local musicians, including Albert Bates, author of "Climate in Crisis", Suzahn Fiering, international jazz artist, and the Love Drums with Ed Haggard. Information booths on topics such as biofuel will also be available. Check the website for more details.

KINGSPORT: TRI-CITIES GREEN COALITION EVENT: From 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm signatures will be collected, asking city mayors to sign on to the US Mayoral Climate Protection Agreement. Information on energy conservation will be available, along with a potential compact fluorescent lightbulb handout. Stay tuned to the website, or email grimboobles@yahoo.com for more detailed information as it becomes available.

Also, don't forget about Earth Day, or other events on global warming which are planned throughout April, though not on the 14th. Other global warming events include:

MEMPHIS: GLOBAL WARMING – WHAT IS IT REALLY AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT: Al Gore's slide show from "An Inconvenient Truth" will be shown, followed by Sierra Club's Energy slideshow. The shows will be followed by a discussion on realistic actions that people, business and governments can take. Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Ave, Monday April 2nd at 6:30 pm. For more information, contact Walter Diggs at 901-767-4522 or wdigg@jchaho.org.

MEMPHIS EARTHFEST: Kilowatt Ours, the Climate Protection slideshow, and the Sierra Club Energy slideshow will be shown, emphasizing what to do about Global warming. This April 21st event, located at Lichterman Nature Center, 5992 Quince Road, is a family-oriented festival that includes live musical entertainment, environmental information, interpretive nature walks, children's earth art activities and animal presentations. For more information call (901) 767-7322, ext. 121 or visit www.memphismuseums.org

For the latest information, or to find other events which are planned in your area, check out the Step It Up website, <http://events.stepitup2007.org/>. There are numerous other events going on that day in Tennessee, including activities in Sewanee, Knoxville, Cookeville, Kingsport, Morristown, Murfreesboro, Pleasant Hill, Townsend, Memphis and Nashville.

Spring Chapter Meeting

• April 27-29, 2007 •

TN Chapter Meeting on April 27-28-29 is creating a special Southern Appalachian weekend for old friends and new. Camp Ahistadi is located in the Cherokee National Forest on State Hwy 91 near Laurel Bloomery, Tennessee. Ahistadi, the name chosen for this Methodist Church Camp and Retreat, comes from the Cherokee language and means "the very best of all".

As we say in the mountains ...

Come, stay with us awhile



CAMP AHISTADI

Camp Ahistadi has bunk room style cabins that each accommodate 14 people. The cabins all have attached bathrooms. Ahistadi (A-his-ta-di) Methodist Church Camp facilities include fireplaces, multi purpose dining/group meeting room, smaller conference room and a game room on the lower level. The Wright Pavilion boasts 1800 sq ft with fireplace, backs up to the Cherokee National Forest and borders a large recreation field. Ahistadi Camp phone # is 276-475-3842.

Cabin lodging or tent camping is offered plus Sat and Sun breakfasts and Sat night dinner included in the \$40 per person weekend charge.

Directions: I40 EAST to I81 NORTH to VA exit 19 continue on Hwy 58 EAST through Damascus (13 miles) to Hwy 91 SOUTH towards Mt City (4 miles) to Camp Ahistadi on your right.

FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION:

Gloria or Wilbert 'Webb' Griffith
5907 HWY 421 South
Mountain City, TN 37683
PHONE 423-727-4797
EMAIL gl4797@earthlink.net

Please call or email number attending on or before Tuesday April 24. Please include the number of vegetarians with your reservation.

events & outings

WELCOME DINNER

Friday evening welcome dinner menu, hosted by Watauga Watershed Alliance, will feature bourbon glazed spiral cut ham, beans and homemade rolls.

THE BARTER THEATRE PRESENTS MARRIED ALIVE!

Saturday afternoon matinee tickets, at the box office \$28+ tax and \$7 transportation fee. Pre registration is necessary. Noon departure.

THE MOONSHINERS

Live musical entertainment featuring THE MOONSHINERS on Saturday night. This group proudly specializes in authentic East Tennessee Appalachian Mountain music which, historically, pre dates traditional bluegrass.



SILENT AUCTION

Defenders Silent Auction
(don't forget to bring your items to donate)

HIKING

Hiking trails along Laurel Creek (borders Camp Ahistadi) in the Cherokee National Forest leading to Iron Mountain and AT trail heads.

FISHING

Cast your line into Laurel Creek for some of the best trout fishing in Tennessee (bring fishing tackle and TN fishing license w/ trout stamp, live bait prohibited)

BIKING

The Saturday morning Virginia Creeper Trail bicycle outing is a breath taking way to experience the Southern Appalachian Mountains, up close and personal. Rated an easy ride and guaranteed to inspire your camera to greatness. Don't miss Taylor Valley Café or the museum at Green Cove Station! Shuttle Service with your own bike \$11.00 (\$6.00 12 & under). Shuttle Service plus bike rental \$23.00 (\$18.00 12 & under). Pre registration is necessary. Rented bikes adjusted to fit before 7:00 AM departure.



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