

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 39, Number 6 - July, 2008

Planned Bells Bend Development Needs to be Stopped

By Adelle Wood

Bells Bend is a rural and agricultural area of Davidson County. Because of its location across the Cumberland River from urbanized Nashville, it is the proposed site of a 1,400 acre development that would include retail, 5,000 condominiums, several corporate headquarters, and a bridge that would cost millions in public money. It is estimated that more than 40,000 people would be present in this development, the May Town Center, on a daily basis.

Consider that one bridge would serve this project that is projected to have about the same density as downtown Nashville, which is served by 18 roadways in and out. You can begin to comprehend the problems of access and congestion that would result.

Next consider that Bells Bend is the southern end of a corridor that starts at Beaman Park in the north, providing for wildlife movement and habitat. Most area residents strongly oppose this development because there are values that must not be compromised by development:

- Preservation of open spaces and forests
- Education of future generations
- Preservation of historic buildings and archaeological sites
- Protection of working farms and agricultural businesses
- Outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities
- Refuge from urban sprawl
- Wildlife habitat
- Protection from negative impact on Nashville's past investment in area parks

The Middle Tennessee Group opposes sprawl and supports the Bells Bend conservation efforts and its mission of establishing a statewide model for open space conservation.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Davidson County residents should:

Attend the July 24 meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Commission at 4:00

p.m., Metro Southeast, 1417 Murfreesboro Pike.

Contribute to Sierra Club's Bells Bend campaign. Send checks, payable to Sierra Club Foundation, to Diane Perschbacher, 2021 21st Ave. S., Nashville 37212. The "For" line of the check, or a separate paper, should read Middle TN Group, Bells Bend.

Contact each planning commissioner and Executive Director Rick Bernhardt and cite one or more of the reasons listed above. See information at <http://www.bellsbend.org>

Contact your Metro councilmember and the five councilmembers at-large. Contact information is available at www.nashville.gov/council/

Tell them that you strongly oppose this development and the additional sprawl that would be spawned by the May Town Center. Tell them that Nashville should preserve Bells Bend for outdoor recreation opportunities and working farmlands for all Nashvillians to enjoy.

TELL THEM WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER COOL SPRINGS!

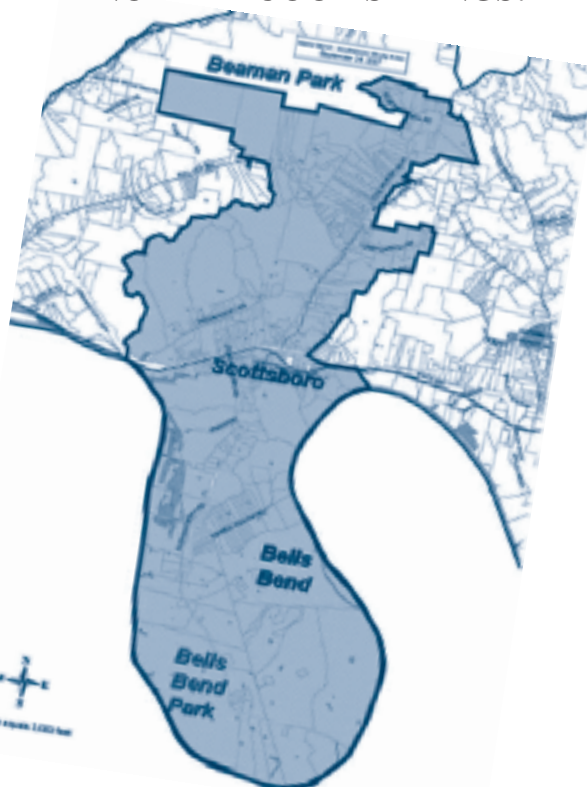


Photo Credit: Jim Price courtesy of <http://www.bellsbend.org>

The Cumberland River flows peacefully around the pastoral farmland of Bells Bend in northwestern Nashville in Davidson County.

Those who are not Davidson County residents can also help by attending the July 24 Planning Commission meeting, by contacting any commissioner or council member you know and by contributing to the Sierra Club's Bells Bend fund.

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Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail

*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.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: lbaker@usw.org
Snail Mail: Lynne Baker, Tennes-Sierran Editor
108 Pepper Ridge Circle, Antioch, TN 37013
(615) 831-6782

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to lbaker@usw.org either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Attached files are preferred. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.

3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.

4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

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Treasurer: Ralph Bowden
Secretary: Peggy Evans
Conservation: Easton Evans
Outings: Vacant

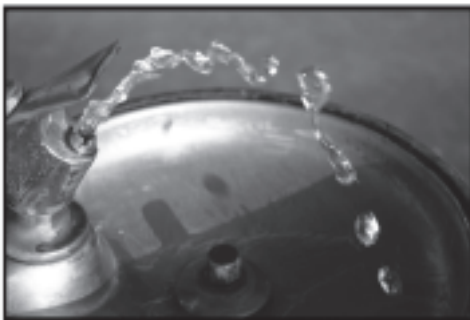
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rita.harris@sierraclub.org
Bill McCabe, Central Appalachian EJ Organizer
office - 423-944-3220 fax - 423-944-3221 (call first)

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.



With your help, we can clean up our water.

Over the last 30 years, we've made great progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands.

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Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to 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 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org F94Q W 4300 1

Wilderness First Aid Course

October 17-19, 2008

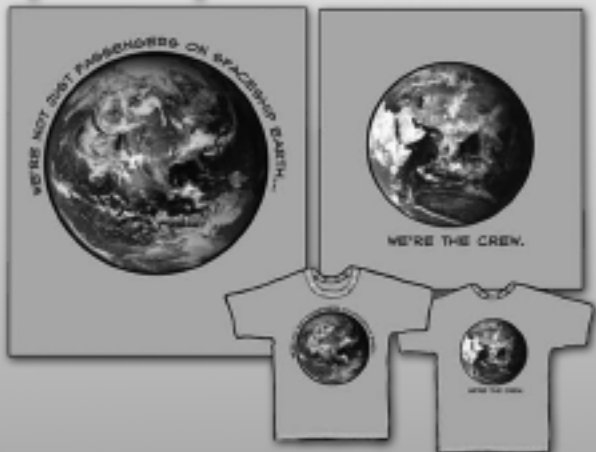
Laurel Fork Lodge near Hampton, TN

Early Bird Registration \$225 thru August
1 (\$250 thereafter)

Fees include course, indoor lodging, all
meals (Fri. supper-Sun. lunch)

Registration Fees are non-refundable
Contact Katherine Pendleton to register
615-943-6877 or Katibug1959@aol.com

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Tennessee Chapter Meeting Set for July 25-27

The Tennessee Chapter Meeting on July 25-27 will feature the Appalachian Trail in Northeastern Tennessee hosted by the Watauga Group at Laurel Fork Lodge.

Laurel Fork Lodge is situated on a blue blaze section of the Appalachian Trail and serves as a retreat center, holiday destination for families and an overnight stop for Appalachian Trail thru-hikers.

We will have bunk-style accommodations in a variety of buildings and rustic cabins at the center. Tent and car camping sites are also available. Meetings and meals will take place in the conference center. Bathrooms and shower facilities are all available.

The Laurel Fork Lodge is located at 1511 Dennis Cove Road in Hampton, TN 37658. Check out the Laurel Fork Lodge website for a detailed Yahoo map at www.laurelforklodge.com.

What's Happening:

- Appalachian Trail hikes.
- Saturday morning dry casting fly fishing lessons (all equipment provided via a SC Water Sentinel grant). Beginners are expected and will be taught by veteran anglers.
- Bring your Tennessee fishing license (one day license minimum) to fish for trout in Laurel Fork Creek.

Note:

Laurel Fork Lodge, nestled within Dennis Cove, is accessed by a paved and scenic switch-back road without guardrails four miles uphill from Hampton, Tenn. This last portion of your trip will take at least 15 minutes and is best navigated before dark.

Dennis Cove has no cell phone reception. Laurel Fork Lodge has one camp phone. Check-in registration starts at 3 PM Friday at the conference center. All vehicles, except handicap tagged, will be parked in the field above the conference center.

What to Bring:

- Sleeping bag and a pillow
- Camp chair or lawn chair -- Otherwise expect to sit on standard "camp" chairs
- Cup or insulated mug for hot drinks, water bottle and beverage glass
- Flashlight and ice
- Personal toiletries, towel and shower shoes
- Lunches. (Small refrigerators & microwaves are available in cabins & bunkhouse kitchen.)

Contact Gloria Griffith at gla4797@earthlink.net or 423-727-4797 for reservations. Please advise your arrival day and any special needs. Lodging, Saturday & Sunday breakfast and dinner Saturday included in the \$ 40.00 fee.

Corner

The Chair's

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

During the month of June I visited Watauga and State of Franklin Groups. It was good to see many familiar faces and make new friends. The Watauga Group meeting that I attended at the home of Rita Cowan and Dennis Shekinah was a group fundraiser that was entertaining and fun! I learned new ways to make my home more energy efficient at the SOFG meeting and enjoyed the hospitality of Diana and Tom Mozen.

The weekend of June 6-8, 20 Sierra Club members became certified in wilderness first aid at the Tennessee Chapter sponsored WFA training held at Fall Creek Falls State Park. I want to publicly thank Webb Griffith for cooking lunch on both training days for the participants and providing other meals to the instructors during the training weekend.

If you missed this WFA training opportunity, please plan on attending our next WFA course to be held October 17-19, 2008 at Laurel Fork Lodge near Hampton, Tenn. The early bird course fee of \$225 is available until August 1. After August 1 the course fee will be \$250. The non-refundable course fees include training, indoor lodging and Friday supper through Sunday lunch. Please contact me for additional information and to register at Katibug1959@aol.com.

Cherokee Group (Chattanooga area) is moving along with its re-organizational efforts. Ross McCluney gave an excellent presentation on global warming and citizen action tips at the June 30 meeting. Please make plans to attend the July 29 meeting at Sticky Fingers Restaurant on Broad Street in Chattanooga. There still are numerous ways for you to become involved with the group.

As of the end of June, our March Window Fundraising appeal was just shy of raising \$15,000. Many thanks go to all who have contributed this year. If you have not sent in your donation, please take the time right now to make out your check to the Tennessee Chapter and mail it to P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229. Our chapter still has expenses to cover and we are only halfway through 2008! Your contribution of any amount will be appreciated.

Don't forget to make plans to attend the summer chapter meeting July 25-27 at Laurel Fork Lodge near Hampton, Tenn. The chapter meetings are family friendly, and we have accommodations for couples or families at Laurel Fork Lodge. You won't want to miss out on learning how to fly fish or eating the fabulous food that Webb Griffith and the Watauga ladies are going to cook up. Rumor has it that a pig is going to be roasted for Saturday night supper! Come on up to the mountains in upper East Tennessee and escape the late July heat around the state. I'll look forward to meeting you and hearing about your activities and concerns.

Stay safe and cool this summer!

Katherine Pendleton

Tennessee Chapter Chair



Leader Training Workshop September 26-28 at the Laurel Fork Lodge in Hampton, TN

If you're a Sierra Club outings leader or you want to become one, this interactive and educational workshop is for you. Space is limited, so sign up soon!

The purpose of this training is to provide leaders with the skills to address leadership and group management issues that may arise on short outings (day-hikes) and longer duration, more remote outings. Leader training is a never-ending process, so whether you're an old hand or have never led before, you're invited to attend a weekend of interactive learning, networking with leaders from all outing programs, and of course, lots of fun. This training event is brought to you by the Outdoor Activities Training Program (OATP), managed in the Outings Department of the National office.

WHAT IS THIS WORKSHOP ALL ABOUT?

- The goals of the workshop are to learn and enhance leadership and group management skills; to bring people and programs together to share and exchange ideas; to welcome new outdoor leaders; to learn what it takes to lead for other outings programs of the Sierra Club; and once again, to have a lot of fun. This workshop is for new and seasoned leaders from Sierra Club's Inner City Outings (ICO), Local Outings (Group & Chapter), and National Outings (the trips in Sierra magazine).
- The workshop agenda includes interactive modules on trip planning, group management, interpersonal leadership skills, emergency response and much more. Topics will be facilitated in both large group and small breakout group formats. Sessions will also include teamwork and scenario-based role plays.
- The workshop is facilitated by OATP trainers (volunteer and staff) who speak from a wealth of personal trip leading experience.
- As an added benefit, this workshop will fulfill both the Sierra Club OLT 101 and OLT 201 requirements.

REGISTRATION INFO

- To learn more and register: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/>
- 3 other ways to register (Include name(s), address, telephone #, email, membership #, and workshop # 08995A)

MAIL check or money order for \$45
Sierra Club Outings
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

CALL - credit card only:
415-977-5522
Monday-Friday, 8:30-5, PST

FAX - credit card only:
415-977-5795
Include Card Number, Expiration Date and Signature

Limited to 50 people - first come, first served. Questions? Contact the Sierra Club Outdoor Activities Training Manager at outings.training@sierraclub.org or at (415) 977-5711

Cost \$45 that includes all meals, snacks, lodging (bunk style), materials, raffle entry, and Outings t-shirt.

Friday - Check-in begins at 5pm. Dinner served at 6pm. Opening program 7:30.

Saturday - Programming all day and early evening.

Sunday - Workshop ends with lunch and raffle around 1pm.



Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

JULY PROGRAM MEETING: July 15, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary of Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

The HBG will host a forum for candidates for state representative and state senator from districts in and around Knox County. Questions will relate to environmental issues, particularly those likely to confront the legislature next spring. The forum will be moderated by the League of Women Voters and will be strictly non-partisan.

PLEASE NOTE: The date of the forum will be July 15, not the normal second Tuesday of the month. Everyone is welcome. For information call John Finger at (865) 573-5908.

ANNUAL HBG PICNIC: August 12, 5:30 p.m. to dark, Shelter at Holston Hills Park, 3300 Holston Hills Road.

The HBG provides plastic and paper utensils, grilled-on-the-spot hot dogs and/or hamburgers, chips and soft drinks. You provide your presence, a happy face and a dish to share. Everyone is welcome. For information call John Finger at (865) 573-5908.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, July 10, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.

MTG is proud to host Bettina Bowers-Schwan, animal care manager of Walden's Puddle. Walden's Puddle, the only professionally staffed wildlife rehabilitation and education facility in Middle Tennessee, provides care to sick, injured and orphaned native Tennessee wildlife. Ms. Bowers-Schwan will present a slide show on the work of Walden's Puddle, which has the goal of returning as many rescued wild animals to nature as possible and reuniting baby animals with their parents.

The most common patients at Walden's Puddle include rabbits, opossums, squirrels, raccoons, turtles, ducks, songbirds, and a variety of raptors including American kestrels, red-tailed hawks, and eastern screech, great horned and barred owls. We hope that Ms. Bowers-Schwan will be bringing one or more of these little guys with her to show us. She will tell you how to handle an animal until you can get it to them and how to determine when a baby animal is or is not an orphan. Please feel free to bring children and join us for this special program, which is free and open to the public.

AUGUST PREVIEW: Land Trust for Tennessee, August 14

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, July 22 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 more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net or call 792-2590.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY/PROGRAM MONTHLY MEETING: Due to the 4th of July being the week of the SOFG monthly meeting, the meeting will be postponed and picked back up Wednesday, August 6 at the "Acoustic Coffee House - Next Door" on West Walnut in Ole Towne Johnson City. Contact Tom Mozen at mozenetc@yahoo.com or 423-232-0827

for further information.

SOFG NEWS

The June meeting featured the Tri-Cities Green Building Coalition and the Johnson City Homebuilders Association presentation of shades of "Green," a synopsis of degrees of potential energy saving construction and rehabilitation for the built environment.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

MEETING: Every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Putnam County Library.

Alternating program meeting with planning meetings every other month. For more information, contact Mary Mastin at marymastin@twlakes.net or (931-268-2938).

Cherokee Group Meetings

CHEROKEE GROUP—UNDER RE-ORGANIZATION (Chattanooga)

MEETING: The July 29 meeting will be held from 6-8:30 PM at Sticky Fingers Restaurant at 420 Broad Street in Chattanooga, TN.

All Cherokee Group members are encouraged to attend this strategy meeting. The group is in re-organization status and is in need of group executive committee members and committee chairs. Contact Barbara Kelly for additional information at rpyle@chattanooga.net or 423-718-5009.

The **August 24 meeting** will be a potluck dinner and waterfall hike from 4 PM-? hosted by Emma Ford near the Cherokee National Forest entrance. Contact Emma for directions at emazon2000@yahoo.com.

The September 30 meeting will be held from 6-8:30 PM in Side B at the Hamilton YMCA, 7430 Shallowford Road in Chattanooga.

This meeting will feature a program starting at 7 PM on mountaintop removal. Speaker TBA. A business meeting will be held from 6-7 PM. The ballot for the election of 2009-2011 group executive committee members will be finalized at this meeting. Contact Barbara Kelly for additional information.

Tennessee Chapter Chair Katherine Pendleton will be attending these meetings.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: July 3 & August 7, 5:30-7:00pm -- Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee

Join us for Chickasaw Group's "First Thursday" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Anyone interested in learning about the Sierra Club is invited. For more information, contact Juliet Jones at (901) 374-0582 or juliet101@comcast.net.

Chickasaw Group Picnic/Meeting—Open to All! Friday, July 4, 1:00-6:00pm, Johnson Road Park, Germantown, TN.

The Sierra Club 4th of July picnic will be held at Johnson Road Park in Germantown. The executive committee will provide drinks and grilled entrée. Members are encouraged to bring side dishes or desserts. We will be at pavilion number 2. There are bike trails, a fishing lake and a croquet area available.

Strategy Meeting:

Monday, July 14 & August 11, 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

Nancy Ream by July 11 (July meeting) or August 8 (August meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 759-9416 or njream@aol.com.

Chickasaw Group Sierra Club Film Night, "Kilowatt Ours"

Wednesday, July 16, 7:30pm - Power House, 45 G. E. Patterson (between Main and Front)

Kilowatt Ours is the story of filmmaker and conservationist Jeff Barrie's journey across the U. S. to document our energy-related problems and present practical, cost-saving solutions for consumers. Widespread problems revealed in Kilowatt Ours include mountaintop removal, air pollution, global warming, childhood asthma and mercury contamination. The film illustrates practical solutions that help homeowners save more than \$600 per year on energy bills while helping the environment and protecting human health. Dan Joranko of the Kilowatt Ours organization will travel to Memphis to discuss the film with the audience.

Sierra Club film night is hosted by Indie Memphis. Admission is free (with donations accepted), and refreshments will be available. Come early to get a good seat. For more information contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com.

Program Meeting - "Industrial Chemistry Helps the Environment"

Thursday, July 24, 7:00pm, Benjamin Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue.

A one-of-a-kind high school laboratory training program led by Ms. Sandra A. Upchurch at East Career and Technology Center is teaching high school students to do complex chemical analyses of their environment. Students have performed real-world environmental research in Memphis involving Nonconnah, Cane and Cypress Creeks.

Ms. Upchurch will discuss what has been accomplished by the research, the capabilities of the program and upcoming projects. For more information contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com.

TELEVISION PROGRAM:

WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee, - Mondays at 1:30pm, Tuesdays at 4:00pm, Wednesdays at 11:30am & 11:00pm, Thursdays at 7:00am, Fridays at 2:30pm, Saturdays at 10:00am, and Sundays at 2:00am.

"The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV program on cable channel 18. For complete schedule listings on cable channel 18, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/schedule. For more information about "The Nature of Conservation," 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

Yahoo News Group

Sierra Club-Chickasaw Group and Friends is a Yahoo group for members and friends of the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club (Memphis/West TN). It is an announcement-only email list to send notices of upcoming events and other "green" information of local interest. All announcements are accessible to the public, so you can look up the latest posts anytime! To view and/or join the Yahoo group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierraclub-chickasaw/>

WATAUGA GROUP (North Eastern TN)

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

Chickasaw Group News

(Contributed by Various Members)

May Program Meeting

Jack Cowan explained "The Housing Contribution to Global Warming" at the May 22 Chickasaw Group meeting at the Central Library, 3030 Poplar. He talked about how home builders can save money and the environment, too! He also gave tips for saving money and energy to those who live in older homes.

Jack, a Sierra Club member who has his own healthy home performance business (<http://cowanhouse.com>), explained such terms as Health House (<http://health-house.org>), Energy Star (<http://energystar.com>) and LEED (<http://usgbc.org>). His presentation showed those who are renovating as well as building how to ensure their personal comfort while making the world a less dangerously polluted place.

Water Sentinels National Director in Memphis

The forecast wet weather held off as Scott Dye, the national Water Sentinels director, made a stop in Memphis and met several Memphis Chickasaw Group members at Bosco's Squared, a local mid-town Memphis eatery.

Joining Scott were Nancy Ream, group chair, as well as group Excom members Keith Hoover and Don Richardson. James Baker, the project director for Tennessee Water Sentinels, was also present.

The group discussed various Water Sentinels



Photo: James Baker

Don Richardson, Scott Dye, Keith Hoover, Nancy Ream, and James Baker at Bosco's Squared in Memphis.

activities as well as other activities and strategies over dinner and dessert. Scott talked of his and his wife Jan's gardening activities that include planting Missouri native shrubs and trees in the backyard of their home in Columbia, Missouri. This will eliminate much mowing and restore about one acre of original habitat for their enjoyment and for wildlife habitat.

The Dyes have hired a zero emissions lawn service to cut what little grass remains on their property. The lawn service, called The Green Team, uses reel push mowers and other non-motorized lawn equipment. It also tows that equipment to the customer's home on a trailer pulled by a bicycle.

For more information, see <http://www.greenteamlawn.com/>

Chickasaw Group Tabling at Oak Forest Elementary School

James Baker represented the Chickasaw Group at a tabling event at Oak Forest Elementary, a Memphis City School on Germantown Road, just north of Winchester.

Thanks to Norma Allen, a physical education teacher, and Principal Nancy Joyner for inviting the Sierra Club's participation in the event, a "Passport to Knowledge—a School and Community Diversity Fair."

Oak Forest Elementary is kindergarten through fifth grade. Its student body of 861 pupils is 78% African-American, 15% Hispanic, and 7% white and others.

James' display was a PowerPoint slide show that showed "9 Free Green Tips That Save Money." These tips were: recycling to reduce the costs to the City of Memphis in landfilling garbage, not littering to reduce costs of keeping the storm drains clear, as well as providing seven easy, no-cost ways for the students and their parents to reduce their utility bills. A handout listing these same tips was provided to each student to take home to their parents.

Other groups present included Memphis Light, Gas, and Water, which was represented by Stacey Greenberg who also provided energy savings tips, and Cathy Justis, who is the education coordinator of Wolf River Conservancy. FedEx also had a booth.

Other activities included showing the students a fire truck, exposing the students to various dances from around the world, art done by the various students, as well as sports that are played in foreign countries.

MATA Offers Discounts on High-Pollution Days

The Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) recently announced that on Code Red Ozone Action Days all bus or trolley rides are 25 cents.

Taking advantage of the discount can reduce the harmful amounts of ground-level ozone in Memphis air because one full bus can take as many as 40 cars off the road. A full-size bus with as few as seven riders is more fuel-efficient than the average single-occupant vehicle.

Ozone is formed when emissions combine with other pollutants and bake in hot temperatures, clear skies and high pressure. Ozone can reduce lung function, aggravate asthma and cause permanent lung disease.

Seniors 65 and older and persons with disabilities with a valid MATA photo ID may ride free from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

To plan your trip, call the MATA hotline at (901) 274-MATA (6282) or visit www.matatransit.com.

Citizens' Group Holds Monthly Hike in Memphis

Citizens to Preserve Overton Park has been reconstituted and will be leading a hike through the Old Forest the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon.

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 native trees and plants in the Old Forest, and learn Memphis History from its original landscape. Meeting place is on the bridge at the end of the Old Forest Lane.

For additional information, contact Naomi Van Tol at (901) 278-2396 or naomi@spiny.com.



Photo: James Baker

James Baker talks to the kids at Oak Forest elementary school.

Outings

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiver> PDF, or call 415-977-5630 for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride-sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

July 26, Canoe float, Clinch River, Norris Dam to Highway 61.

Put in at the Peach Orchard access area about 4 miles below Norris Dam, take out at Highway 61, near Clinton. Distance about 7 miles. This is a relaxing float, with good current but no whitewater. With luck we'll observe some waterfowl.

Bring a sack lunch and even a cooler if you want. Only very basic canoe skills are necessary for this trip. Driving time from downtown Knoxville, about 40 minutes. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (is preferred).

August 2-3, Backpack, North Harpers Creek (North Carolina).

In 2003 we did a weekend backpack in the lower portion of the North Harpers Creek Roadless area. This year we'll see the upper portion, which is a wonderland of waterfalls in a high mountain valley. It is located among the numerous watersheds south of Blowing Rock and east of Grandfather Mountain that are a scenic wonderland.

Harper Creek WSA is described in a guidebook, "Hiking North Carolina," as having "among the best waterfall hikes in Western North Carolina." We'll probably follow the Persimmon Ridge Trail from FS 58 down to North Harper Creek Trail and then follow that trail along the creek upstream to the FS 58 trailhead, passing South Harper Creek Falls, Bard Falls, Chestnut Cove Branch Falls and North Harper Creek Falls on the way. Distance is about 7.5 miles and it is rated Moderate.

Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

For the July outings, contact Tom Mozen, SOF Group chair, at (423) 232-0827 or mozenetc@yahoo.com.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

July 12, Dunbar Cave Tour

Dunbar Cave tour and 1.9 mile hike on one of their nature trails afterwards. Dunbar Cave is located 60 minutes northwest of Nashville in Montgomery County. Dunbar Cave is the most prominent of several caves located in this designated natural area.

Meeting place to be determined. Contact Joy Mayfield at 615-851-1192 or joy.mayfield@comcast.net.

July 25-27, Chapter Meeting-Laurel Fork Lodge

Make plans now to attend the Tennessee Chapter summer meeting at Laurel Fork Lodge near Hampton, TN. Laurel Fork Lodge is situated in Dennis Cove on the Appalachian Trail. Outings during the chapter meeting will take place on the Appalachian Trail.

The cost of the weekend-long chapter meeting is \$40/person, which includes lodging and meals. Children attend at a reduced rate. First time attendees are at half price. Families are encouraged to attend.

For additional information and to register, contact Gloria Griffith at gla4797@earthlink.net or 423-727-2532.

August 17, Membership Ice Cream Social

Save the date for MTG's Membership Ice Cream Social from 3-6 p.m. at Fannie Mae Dees Park in Nashville near Vanderbilt at the corner of 24th and Blakemore Avenues. This park features a colorful tile dragon. Varieties of homemade ice cream will be available. Feel free to bring your favorite homemade

or store bought ice cream to share. We will have a contest for the best homemade ice cream! **This is a family event.**

For additional information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or Katibug1959@aol.com. **August 30-September 1, Labor Day Weekend Car Camping/Hiking**

Plans are underway to host a car camping weekend over Labor Day at Parksville Lake Campground in the Ocoee River Recreation Zone in the Southern Cherokee National Forest. Pre-registration requested in order to secure enough campsites for the group.

For registration and additional information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or Katibug1959@aol.com.

September 26-28, Outings Leader 101/201 Training

The Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club will be sponsoring Outings Leader 101/201 training brought to us by the National Sierra Club Local Outings training staff during the weekend of Friday, September 26 through Sunday, September 28 at Laurel Fork Lodge near Hampton, Tennessee.

OLT 101 is required for certification to become a level 1 outings leader (front country trips). OLT 201 is required for certification to become a level 2 (backcountry trips) or higher outings leader.

Cost of the course is \$45/person and includes lodging and meals for the weekend.

To sign up for the course go to: http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2008_Tennessee.

For additional information contact Webb Griffith, Tennessee Chapter co-outing chair at 423-727-4797 or email gla4797@earthlink.net.

October 4-5, Jack & Back Bike Ride

The Tennessee Chapter has a bike team to ride the Multiple Sclerosis "Jack & Back" from Franklin to Motlow College.

There are two routes available. One is 75 miles each way and the other is 60 miles each way. This is a fully supported ride. If you can't ride the entire route, transportation is available to take you to the finish line!

It is a fun event with refreshment stations and meals provided. Each participant is required to collect \$300 donations. Last year, the TN Chapter bike team raised \$3,300 for this worthy cause.

For additional information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or Katibug1959@aol.com.

October 17-19, Wilderness First Aid

The Tennessee Chapter will host a WFA course taught by NOLS Wilderness Medicine at Laurel Fork Lodge near Hampton, TN. The course will be taught on Saturday and Sunday from 8 AM-5 PM each day.

Indoor lodging and meals (supper Friday thru lunch on Sunday) are included in the cost of \$225/person.

For additional information and to register contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email katibug1959@aol.com.

February 28-March 7, 2009: 3rd Annual Clair Tappaan Lodge Ski Trip

Make your reservation now to go with the Tennessee Chapter to Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge for a week that you will never forget! This is the third year for the Tennessee Chapter to host a ski trip for its members.

Clair Tappaan Lodge is located 7,000 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 exploring the Lake Tahoe area. Skiing classes are available at the lodge.

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 \$600 per person and includes lodging, all meals from supper on February 28 thru breakfast on March 7 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 February 28 and supper on March 7.

Ten Essentials for Hiking



Sierra Club outings offer a variety of wilderness and near-wilderness experiences. It is important to realize that while all trips are guided by a leader, it is ultimately the responsibility of the individual to operate in a safe manner. To this end, the following is a list of essential items which should be modified according to the particular type of outing. These are:

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!

Reservations are limited to six participants. Non-refundable \$100 deposit due by January 1, 2009 made to TN Chapter Sierra Club Outings, P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229. Remainder of fees due January 26, 2009.

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. Payment by credit card is available. (Educational, Conservation)

CHEROKEE GROUP (CHATTANOOGA)

July 25-27, Tennessee Chapter Summer Meeting

The summer meeting of the Tennessee Chapter hosted by Watauga Group will be held July 25-27 at Laurel Fort Lodge on the Appalachian Trail near Hampton, Tennessee. This is a family oriented weekend. Hikes will be led on the Appalachian Trail. Plan to escape from the summer heat and come to Laurel Fork Lodge for a weekend that you won't forget of fellowship, fun and good food. Web Griffith will be cooking up some delicious meals.

Cost of weekend is \$40/person. Children at a reduced rate. First time attendees at half-price! Contact Gloria Griffith for reservations at 423-727-4797 or gla4797@earthlink.net.

August 24, Waterfall Hike and Potluck—Cherokee National Forest

Emma Ford will be hosting the Cherokee Group at her home near the entrance to Cherokee National Forest for a potluck dinner and waterfall hike. Meet at 4 PM. Bring a covered dish to share. Bring comfortable walking shoes. Contact Emma for directions at emazon2000@yahoo.com.

August 30-September 1, Labor Day Weekend Car Camping/Hiking

Plans are underway to host a car camping weekend over Labor Day at Parksville Lake Campground in the Ocoee River Recreation Zone in the Southern Cherokee National Forest. Pre-registration requested in order to secure enough campsites for the group. For registration and additional information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or Katibug1959@aol.com.

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Cost of the course is \$45/person and includes lodging and meals for the weekend.

To sign up for the course and for additional information contact Webb Griffith, Tennessee Chapter co-outing chair, at 423-727-4797 or email gla4797@earthlink.net.

Hooked on Doe Creek

Young Anglers Try their Hand at Fishing

By Gloria Griffith

Veteran anglers Charles Meyers, Webb Griffith and Ron Rairigh were on hand to give youths and their parents tips on fishing subjects such as knot tying, tackle rigging and casting techniques. Some tested their skill with a bait casting rod and closed reel. Others practiced the graceful rhythm of fly fishing on Saturday, June 14.

After a few lessons, the students, armed with varying experience and skill levels, headed for the bank of Doe Creek, merely a hundred yards downstream from Radford quarries of Boone, not far from Lake Watauga. With surprising patience and attention to detail, the fishermen barely heard the call for lunch.

While organizing and grilling the picnic lunch, Mike and Janeene Ross viewed their grandson, Jeremy Church, enthusiastically fly cast for the first time. Jean DeLong fished with her daughter, Becky, and two grandchildren, Brandy and Chase Allan. Carl Wolfe brought along two grandchildren, Isaiah and April Wolfe. Other participants were Bronson Triplet, Gaylon and Travis Taylor, and Frieda and Philip Dugger.

This free event was open to adults and kids, and all fishing equipment was supplied. This event, sponsored by Watauga Watershed Alliance in partnership with TNT Outdoors, Sierra Water Sentinels and Watauga Group

Sierra Club, gave young people in the community a taste of the great outdoors.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank TNT Outdoors for their technical advice and donating fishing supplies," said Dean Whitworth, conservation chair of the Watauga Group Sierra Club. "Without the fishing equipment grant opportunity afforded to Watauga Watershed Alliance by Sierra Water Sentinels, this family event would not have been possible."

A sunny summer morning on Doe Creek gave way to a thunderstorm by afternoon or all would have stayed longer. The day closed with participants receiving backpacks and tee-shirts delivered by Sierra Water Sentinels Director Scott Dye.

"We wanted to give kids and families a hands-on fishing experience that can lay the foundation for a lifetime," said Dennis Shekinah, president of Watauga Watershed Alliance. "For generations, anglers/sportsmen have been some of the best stewards of our natural resources and we want that tradition to continue."

"We wanted kids and their families to see just how much fun fishing can be," said Wilbert Griffith, Watauga Group Sierra Club outings chair. "Our aim is to get more folks fishing and to encourage the future stewards of rivers and streams, especially Doe Creek, a Tier II quality trout stream currently threatened by an inappropriate siting of an asphalt plant."



Cherokee Group Reforms After Four-Year Absence

By Katherine Pendleton

After a four-year lapse, the Cherokee Group of the Tennessee Chapter (in the Chattanooga region) is on the move again, being reconstituted following the able leadership of chapter chair Katherine Pendleton. A re-organizational meeting was held May 28 at Herschell Pollard's Mont Lake cabin with six members attending. Several officers have been appointed and a

beginning schedule of monthly meetings has been planned, each one offering a program of interest to members and the general public.

The June meeting featured Dr. Ross McCluney, a research physicist with 30 years of experience as a scientist at the Florida Solar Energy Center and a long-time environmental activist, who offered a slide show titled "Global Warming -- Tips for Citizen Action." He gave a brief overview of global warming followed with a comprehensive discussion of actions that individuals and groups can take to reverse the trend.

"The industrial world is systematically taking apart the life-support system for humans," McCluney said. "The industrial nations therefore have a responsibility to lead the way in reversing this trend, showing how we can live better while converting to sustainability."

His slide show is posted at www.futureofhumanity.org/SlideShows/

Absent strong federal government leadership, the people are taking charge all over the U.S., and the City of Chattanooga is no exception. Mayor Littlefield recently launched his "Clean Cities" initiative. Plans and goals have been developed for concerted action to reduce carbon emissions within the city to 7% below 1990 levels.

The July 29 meeting (also from 6 PM to 8:30 PM) will be held at Sticky Fingers Restaurant, 420 Broad St., Chattanooga. The August meeting (Sunday the 24th) begins at 3:30 PM and will include a potluck dinner and waterfall hike at Emma Ford's home in Benton, Tenn., near the entrance to Cherokee National Forest, east of Cleveland, Tenn.

The September 30 meeting will be held at the Hamilton YMCA, 7430 Shallowford Rd. in Chattanooga from 6 PM to 8:30 PM. All mem-

bers are welcome to attend and meetings are open to non-members as well. Additional information regarding meeting locations can be found at www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee or by contacting Barbara Kelly at 423-718-5009.

Outings (Continued)

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Chickasaw Group Picnic/Meeting—Open to All! Friday, July 4, 1:00-6:00pm, Johnson Road Park, Germantown, TN.

The Sierra Club 4th of July Picnic will be held at Johnson Road Park in Germantown. The executive committee will provide drinks and grilled entrée. Members are encouraged to bring side dishes or desserts. We will be at pavilion number 2. There are bike trails, a fishing lake and a croquet area is available.

Hike the Germantown Wolf River Greenway Saturday, July 19, 9:00am – Germantown Greenway.

This is an easy, 3.3 mile walk alongside the Wolf River in Germantown on a paved trail and is suitable for all the family. There are several points of interest: Turtle Bayou, Blue Heron Rest, a couple of small lakes, the Butterfly Garden, etc.

Bring water to drink, but it should not be too hot as there is shade and we're setting out early. The hike starts at a small parking lot on the north side of Humphreys Boulevard, exactly 0.5 miles east of Kirby Road. After Kirby, you'll pass Clark Opera Memphis Center, cross a bridge, see the "Welcome to Germantown" sign, then turn left through an opening in the median. There's no sign, but there is an orange metal gate.

For more information, contact Juliet Jones, 374-0582.

HELP NEEDED!

Cherokee Group in the Chattanooga area is re-organizing and is in need of your help. Positions open in the group include the following:

**Interim Chair
Secretary
Outings Chair
Interim Vice-Chair
Publicity Chair
Program Chair
Fundraising Chair
Political Chair
Legislative Chair
Outings Leaders**

Members willing to run for nine group executive committee positions also needed.

Please contact Tennessee Chapter Chair, Katherine Pendleton, at Katibug1959@aol.com for job descriptions if you are willing to serve. Thank you for your consideration and help to your group.

Genetically Engineered Food Poses Risks

By Teresa Campbell

Genetic engineering is the DNA manipulation from one organism such as a plant, animal or virus to another in order to change its characteristics. Genetic engineering can only be accomplished in the laboratory. For example, flounder genes have been inserted into tomatoes to make them frost resistant; a gene from the bacterium bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) inserted into corn to make the entire plant an insecticide; and a gene that makes plants resistant to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, engineered into soy so fields can be sprayed with Roundup but only the weeds die.

Corn, Soy, Canola and Cotton

Genetically engineered foods first appeared on grocery store shelves in 1994 with the FlavrSavr tomato. This tomato did not remain on the market long. However, four other genetically modified organism (GMO) crops rapidly increased in farming acreage, and the derivatives of these crops are in almost all processed food today. They are soy, canola, cotton and corn.

Most soy grown in this country is genetically engineered, finding its way into processed food as oil or protein enrichment. Anything sweetened with high fructose corn syrup, America's favorite sweetener, probably comes from genetically engineered corn. Canola and cotton (we consume cottonseed oil in processed foods) are the other two big GMO crops.

We Have a Label

Many people would like to have GMO foods labeled. In 2002 an Oregon citizen group attempted GMO labeling legislation and put Measure 27 on the Oregon state ballot. Food and chemical biggies such as Monsanto, DuPont, General Mills and H.J. Heinz spent \$5.5 million to defeat Measure 27 and were successful.

While we don't have a label identifying GMOs, "Certified USDA Organic" does not allow GMO ingredients, so buying organic is your best bet for avoiding genetically engineered foods.

The engineered traits of GMO crops benefit large agribusinesses and seed and chemical companies. For the consumer, those benefits don't outweigh

the risks, especially since these foods have not been adequately tested for human safety.

Here are some of the risks listed by the Union of Concerned Scientists: http://www.ucsusa.org/food_and_environment/genetic_engineering/

Health

- New Allergens in the Food Supply
- Antibiotic Resistance
- Production of New Toxins
- Concentration of Toxic Metals
- Enhancement of the Environment for Toxic Fungi
- Unknown Harms to Health

Environment

- Increased Weediness
- Gene Transfer to Wild or Weedy Relatives
- Change in Herbicide Use Patterns
- Squandering of Valuable Pest Susceptibility Genes
- Poisoned Wildlife
- Creation of New or Worse Viruses
- Unknown Harms to the Environment

Genetic engineering has also been used to produce industrial chemicals and pharmaceuticals, primarily in corn. They are being tested in fields nationwide, and these crops could cross pollinate with food crops. The USDA has approved open air test plots in Tennessee for pharmaceutical and/or industrial corn.

Biotechnology is being touted as a cure for world hunger. However, recent news indicates that while hunger is rapidly increasing, the profits of the large chemical/agricultural corporations are soaring. Organic and sustainable agriculture based on living, vibrant soil is the way to feed people.

Supporting local organic and sustainable growers and buying organic at the grocery store is a way consumers can everyday vote for a healthier food system with their dollars.

More Good News from Clair Tappaan Lodge

By Olivia Diaz, Co-Chair Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee

You ask, what was the first good news? Clair Tappaan Lodge (CTL) has been on a journey to become self-sustaining again for several years. In 2006, the deficit was \$106,000. As of December 31, 2007 the deficit was only \$60,000.

We ended the first quarter of 2008 with a \$101,980 surplus. This was documented in our first quarter report.

The "more good news" refers to our income-expense figures at the end of April 2008.

Another source of "more good news" is the number of youth who have come through the doors of the Sierra Club at Donner Summit. Our outdoor education programs at CTL are very new, yet in the past school year we had nearly 1,000 kids and their chaperones staying about 2,000 nights. There were 900 children from the ages of 12-20 who came through our doors.

We are finding that having funds in our education account at the Sierra Club Foundation lets us help schools with a small grant. This enables them to raise enough money to come to the Sierra Club at Donner Summit for our programs.

But the reason for this article is that at the end of April, the Sierra Club at Donner Summit—Clair Tappaan Lodge, Hutchinson Lodge, the forests and trails around them and the four back country huts—showed a surplus of \$90,000. We are on a calendar year and we are only in the beginning of the second quarter, so what's the fuss you ask again?

In past years, the occupancy at the lodge has fallen practically to nothing after Easter. When Easter came in March this year, we were worried about a sudden drop in income. The large surplus tells us we did better after Easter than in other years.

On average, lodge costs are \$60,000 a month. So even if there is no income during May, the surplus should carry us through and even into a couple of weeks of June. This year we had a large school, Lick Wilmerding, fill the lodge for three nights so our May will look better than it would have without them.

In June, if you look at our website <http://ctl.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/ctl/activities.asp> you will see that in the last week of June, activities pick up. July and August are very full, including one weekend when the lodge is completely booked. In August we hold the summer fundraiser, so the place will be so busy that Peter Lehmkuhl, the general manager, is considering adding staff to be able to give a quality experience to the guests.

So the April financial report tells me that we are in good condition coming into the stretch to meet the board of director's challenge to break even by September 30, 2008 or risk being sold. Come to the fundraiser in August and help us get over the top.



Photo: Teresa Campbell

Anything sweetened with high fructose corn syrup, like these drinks, probably comes from genetically engineered corn.

Moving?



Attach mailing address label, or fill in current name, address & Membership ID#

Current Address: _____

Member ID# _____

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Mail to:

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 52968 Boulder, CO 80322-2968

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group
Tennes-Sierran

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