

# Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 36, Number 7 - July, 2005

## Chickasaw Kicks Into a Summer Grove!

Group News - Compiled by various members



worth a visit! And to think that it is along what was once one of Tennessee's most polluted rivers. Woody Pierce, Judith Hammond, Linda Swift, and Mary Ann McCool were impressed. The maintained trail stops near the Riverwoods State Natural Area. This could be an even more impressive urban retreat, if the natural area could be preserved.

### Bluff City Canoe Club & Chickasaw Group - Wolf River Clean-up:



Weather for the annual Wolf River clean-up outing near Moscow was perfect as Bill Rehberg led members of the Bluff City Canoe Club and Sierra Club to fill kayaks and canoes with trash along the wilderness waterway. Regina Rehberg, Jean Kendall, Mary Finley, Charlie Bright, Susan Moffatt, Carolyn and Woody Pierce, Linda Weghorst, Jesse McCabe, Charlie Rond, and Susan Collins spent much of the six hours collecting discarded debris. Though less trash than in previous years they still found an intact computer monitor, two tires-complete with rims, and a child's four-wheeler. Left behind were several discarded refrigerators. The crew sighted a number of diamond-backed water snakes, deer splashing through the swamp and many birds of all sizes (but no Ivory-billed woodpeckers). An outstanding part of the experience was a heron rookery with both adult and baby birds near the route.

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### Sylamore Creek:

Recent outings of the Chickasaw Group had conservation themes, were enjoyable, and explored beautiful West Tennessee and Arkansas locales. The Sylamore Creek easy backpack and car camp combo led by Jill Johnston and Judith Hammond was a constant reminder of why we should protect our national forests. The Ozark National Forest in Arkansas had, in five miles, four unique geo-eco systems - from meadows full of wildflowers to forests hanging with Spanish moss, and of course, the caves, home of the bats. Because of the forest, the campground is one of the most beautiful in the lower U.S. There will be another not-too-hard backpack October 14-16 to Fiery Gizzard on the Cumberland Plateau of Middle Tennessee.

### Germantown Greenbelt:

Carolyn Pierce led a day hike along the lower Wolf River Germantown Greenbelt. The trail and parkland adjacent have been preserved by Germantown. This pretty trail is

**Top Photo: Chickasaw group backpackers and car campers are pictured at Sylamore Creek in the Ozark National Forest Arkansas. From left (back row) are David Henderson, Mary Ann Henderson, Jill Johnston, Ray Coleman, Laura Coleman, and Bill Rehberg. The Henderson's granddaughter, Monica, and school friend, Alexa, are pictured in front. Photo is by Judith Hammond.**

**Bottom Photo: Linda Weghorst paddling her kayak on the Wolf River clean-up. Photo by Susan Collins**

## Citizens for TDOT Reform Meet to Discuss Next Steps

By Caitlin McCollister,  
Middle Tennessee Group Summer Intern

Citizens for TDOT (Tennessee Department of Transportation) Reform, a statewide coalition of citizens representing organizations from all regions of Tennessee, met on Saturday, June 4 to discuss plans and issues. Topping the meeting was the official announcement that lead coordinator Jeff Barrie is stepping down from his role, but plans to stay actively involved as a volunteer and advisor. Steven Sondheim, representing Friends of Shelby Farms, Memphis, will volunteer as the interim coordinator until a later time.

Ed Cole, TDOT's Chief of Environment and Planning, made a special visit to speak informally about the importance of the citizens' coalition as a means to motivate and support changes within TDOT. By staying actively involved and expressing the concerns of a wide range of Tennesseans, he said, the coalition "keeps TDOT honest about the way [they] work" and keeps in focus the importance of a "statewide long-term transportation plan." He also announced a new alliance funded by the Tennessee Roadbuilders Association, called the "Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance." Especially because Citizens for TDOT Reform has received no invitation to join the alliance, members feel that this new development highlights the importance of quick and effective action.

The highlight of the meeting was the formation of three committees, along with the development of a mission statement and set of goals for each. The committees were: the Advisory Committee, meant to oversee decision making processes and maintaining the organization's communication and structure; the Roads or CSS (Context Sensitive Solutions) Committee, which will maintain involvement in TDOT's CSS projects/policies as well as work to actively oppose questionable roads projects; and the Alternatives/Rail Committee, which will focus specifically on promoting non-road projects in Tennessee.

This meeting served as further proof of the successful growth and development that Citizens for TDOT Reform has undergone over the last three years. Since March of 2004, Trust for the Future has served as the non-profit umbrella for the group, leading to a grant awarded in August of 2004 by the Sierra Club Foundation. This grant was meant to increase public participation in TDOT's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), designed to "allow TDOT to continually evaluate and prioritize transportation goals, develop and maintain a needs-based program, and plan for funding transportation programs and projects." The project, meant to raise awareness among diverse stake holders, was deemed a success: 120 groups were contacted, over 96,000 individuals were reached by emails/newsletters, 600, 000 were reached via newspaper, and five OpEds were published. TDOT roads projects continue to undergo CSS evaluation, and public attendance at LRTP meetings remains steady.

Finally, members attending the meeting voted for a name change from Citizens for TDOT Reform to Citizens for Transportation Reform, in an attempt to communicate the group's concern for transportation issues in general instead of a specific distrust of TDOT's policies and projects.



Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet



**Tennes-Sierran**  
The monthly newsletter of the  
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**ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

**Submission DEADLINE** is the 5th of the month preceding the new month's issue.

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to [TennesSierran@aol.com](mailto:TennesSierran@aol.com) either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, 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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(List in Transition for 2005)

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# Chickasaw Kicks Into a Summer Grove!

Group News - Compiled by various mem-

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## Save our Snakes Outing:

A Copperhead coiled up under a bush along a trail juncture was the highlight of this year's "Save Our Snakes" hike in the Old Forest and Arboretum of Overton Park. Sierra Club State Chair Don Richardson led the annual outing which was sponsored by Park Friends and the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club. A herpetologist from the Memphis Zoo, who accompanied Don and the hikers, discovered the poisonous snake as well as several harmless ring-necked snakes in the forest.

## Memphis Sierra Club Environmental Justice Office - Toxic Tour:

Rita Harris, the grassroots Environmental Justice Organizer in Memphis led a toxic tour that covered industrial areas in both north and south Memphis. This toxic tour was the subject of an article in Memphis' alternative weekly, the Memphis Flyer. Bianca Phillips, who wrote the article, was on the tour. This is a half page column of exposure for the Environmental Justice program and the Chickasaw Group! And the article had a great picture, taken from Martin Luther King Riverside Park, of a smokestack at the nearby Premcor Refinery-Tennessee's only oil refinery. Rita told us about what the Sierra Club "EJ" program and community partners have done and are currently doing in three African American communities where some of Tennessee's most polluting industries are located. James Baker, Bianca Phillips, Judith Hammond, David Carter, Becki Barnhardt, Menelik Fombi, Dick Mochow, and Eleanor Lewis filled the Pierce's big van driven by Carolyn and went from chemical plants and a landfill in North Memphis to a hazardous waste recycling plant and a petroleum distillery on the Mississippi River. We learned what an important role the Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program plays in the continued vigilance necessary when industries violate our air and water.

## Friends of Harris Creek - Spring Clean Sweep:

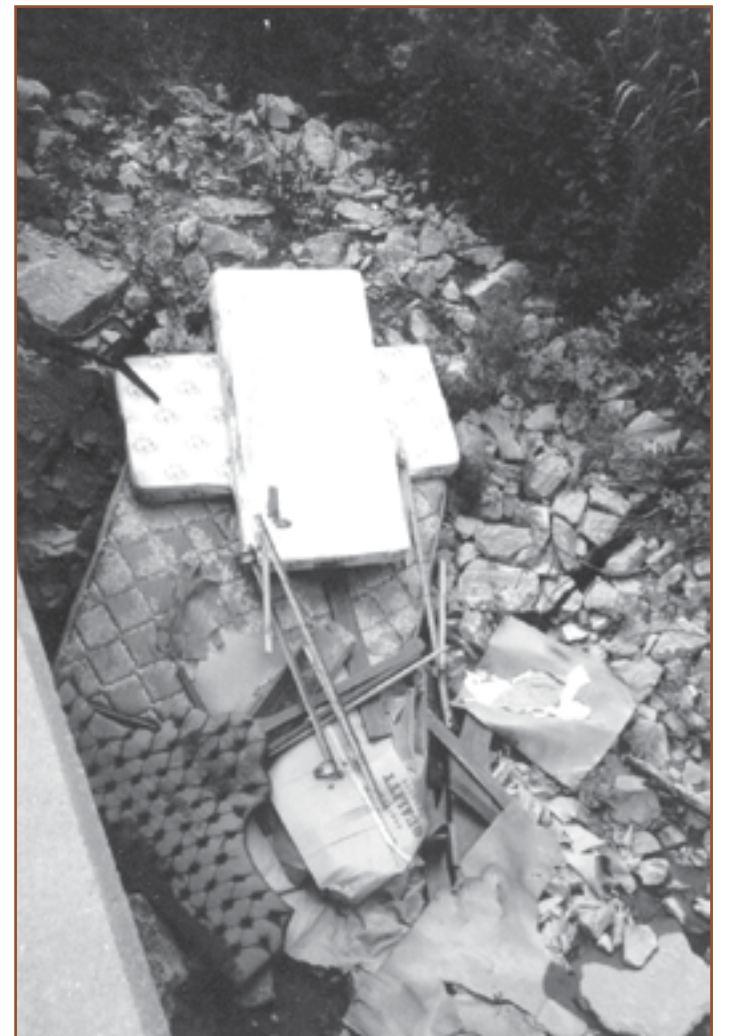
Evelyn Keele, who is the Chair of the Friends of Harris Creek, organized a spring cleanup of Harris Creek. Harris Creek is a high quality, un-channelized waterway and reference stream in the South Fork Forked Deer watershed. A reference stream is a stream used by the Tennessee Department of

Environment and Conservation as a benchmark to gauge the water quality data gathered on other streams in the same eco-region. For more on reference streams, see: <http://tennessee.gov/environment/wpc/publications/Habitat%20Guidelines.pdf> Friends of Harris Creek had 22 volunteers who removed about 1,000 pounds of illegally discarded trash and other material from the roadside ditches, the banks and in Harris Creek itself. Most of the material was bagged household garbage. The most unusual item found was a large grill. Evelyn reported that since the Friends group started doing these cleanups in 2001, the amount of trash found and recovered has dropped significantly. As she stated, "The first time, we had a dumpster absolutely running over (we really needed a roll-off, or TWO of the small ones). The next time, we had a roll-off about 3/4 full. Since we have made a fuss and had publicity in the paper each cleanup, we have \*significantly\* less dumping year round. You would not believe the mounds of furniture, bathroom fixtures, animal carcasses and other junk we had to drag out of there. I think people are beginning to respect the creek or simply refrain. This feels GREAT!" Many thanks to the Tennessee Clean Water Network and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for helping the Friends group out with a grant for this cleanup.



Top Photo: Participants of the toxic tour take a photo break at Douglass Park. Photo credit: Judith Hammond

Bottom Photo: Taken in 2002, this photo gives an idea of the volume of illegally discarded trash and debris that has been pulled from Harris Creek. Photo compliments of the Friends of Harris Creek



# Volunteer Magic

Four stories originally published in the Lookout, the newsletter of Michigan's Huron Valley Group

## Magic Beginning

By Kim Waldo

At the beginning...

Arlen sat behind the participants around the table at the meeting. That's how he thought of himself; 'backup' for the heavy hitters, a sustaining voice when the weight of numbers became important. He wasn't a source of details and discussion ending facts, but he knew what he felt is right. All of his compatriots engaged in this debate about the best way to use the city's outstanding natural places were more experienced, more knowledgeable, able to recognize reality as opposed to grand-standing by those supporting the opposite opinion. They were, none-the-less, volunteers, like him. People who cared about how outstanding natural features in the city would be treated, how they would be allowed to benefit the residents' quality of life.

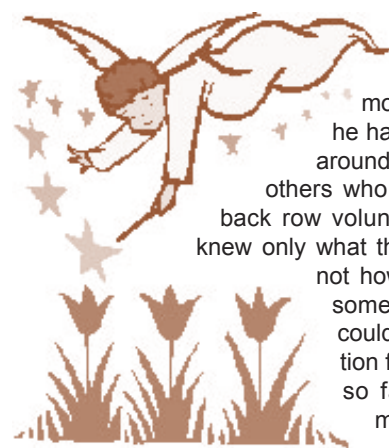
After a while...

Arlen was greeted as a colleague, or at least co-conspirator, by the others as he came in and they made room for him at the table. He was a familiar face to most of the people there, having consulted with them on the status and use of natural features several times over the last months. He had developed into a legitimate, informed

participant. By listening, (from the back row) and then by informing himself through conversation and reading, (he couldn't bring himself to call it research, --- his investigations were casual, personal but not, he thought, 'professional') he was able to speak knowledgeably on some phases of the negotiations. He had benefited from mentoring, of a sort, by friends and acquaintances who were pursuing the same or similar goals, but who had become engaged earlier. It was good to be recognized and appreciated, even though he didn't think he contributed much. He had learned, over time, that a willing volunteer could find support in most any endeavor. The beauty of volunteerism is that you can advance the things you are interested in. It's not like work, where you're expected to advance the interests of your boss or some business, regardless of how you feel about them.

Until finally...

Arlen called the meeting to order. As chair of the committee, he was in an excellent position to influence how the city's natural features were used. His years of participation on the committee and related sub-committees had made him one of the most knowledgeable people in town about how and which natural features impact the public's quality of life. There had been some remarkable progress in how positively natural features were seen and valued, even in the parts of the populace whose main interest was development. Thinking back over the years he had been



participating in the effort to make the most of nature in the city, he had to smile. He looked around the table. There were others who, like he, were former back row volunteers, who back then knew only what they thought was right, not how to prove it or make something happen. There could only be one explanation for how they had come so far...magic, volunteer magic.

Those who have known me awhile will recognize this story as, at least partially, biographical. The interesting part to me is that it is, with slight variations, similarly biographical for many of the leaders in the Huron Valley Group, indeed, in the entire Sierra Club. The magic of participation is available to all. Some take a bit longer to blossom. Some choose not to be up front leading, but contribute equally in meaningful and necessary bits, pieces and volumes. Some lead for a while and then don't, it all adds up. The magic of volunteers is that enormous influence, action, change and enlightenment are accomplished. Not by a profit driven agenda, not by political ambition, but by regular folks who are interested enough to add their voice, or hearts and hands, or special talents to those of like minded people in the interest of the common good.

Throughout this issue are volunteer opportunities. You can begin your own adventure in volunteer magic as easily as filling out a survey on your groups website. Please join us, for as much or as little time as you wish. The magic adds

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# Meetings

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** For additional information, contact Rick Gehrke 423-843-9625 or email rick.gehrke@comcast.net

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Tuesday, July 12, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Joel Haden of TVA will discuss the Tennessee Growth Readiness Program. This program helps communities learn how land use decisions affect water quality, and then make informed choices about managing growth, while helping them comply with new regulatory requirements. Contact Priscilla Watts at 865-966-4142 or wattsp1@ten-nash.ten.k12.tn.us for more information.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Tuesday, July 26, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Interested in getting more involved in club issues or finding out what drives the local Sierra Club, then this is the meeting to attend. Call Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840 for more information.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Thursday, (July 14), 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Worried about sprawl? Or the next big road going through pristine country? Then please join us for Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fred Schwartz, as he discusses the organization, how it plans and funds transportation projects, who participates in the org. and why the Nashville region should be aware of and participate in it. Light refreshments will be served; please feel free to bring your favorite reusable cup and napkin. For more information on this program, contact Shelli Dimarco at (615) 260-0030. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) Everyone is welcome!

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Wednesday, (July 27) at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are first on the agenda! Come and get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting on the 4th floor at 2021 21st Avenue South (the old St. Bernard Academy Building). We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or e-mail Diane@Propson.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Caty Butcher at jlclbutch@comcast.net or call 226-8925.

**CONSERVATION MEETING:** Our next meeting will be on July 15th, 6:00 pm at Fido's, which is a restaurant located at 1812 21st Avenue South. Contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com; if you need more information or directions. You're always welcome, as we focus on wetlands, alternative transportation and air quality this year.

## UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Contact Peggy Evans at 931-432-6680 or maevans@TWLakes.net for more information on program meeting dates and times.

## STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

**STRATEGY MEETINGS:** Second Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. These Executive Committee/Conservation meetings are open to everyone interested in helping to protect upper east TN's air, water, forests & family farms. To place an item on the agenda, or for directions to the Church, please contact Linda Modica, Group Chair, (423) 753-9697, lmodica@aol.com.

**PROGRAM MEETINGS:** Fourth Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Programs on environmental issues, travel, nature photography are among the many topics featured at SOFG program meetings. FMI: Mary Gavlik, Vice Chair, (423) 434-9535, mlgav@yahoo.com.

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING:** Thursday, July 7, 2005 - 6:00 - 8:00pm, Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "FIRST THURSDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

**SOUTH FORK FORKED DEER WATERSHED MEETING:** Tuesday, July 12, 2005 - 7:00pm, Jackson, Tennessee. South Fork Forked Deer watershed meeting, co-sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and Friends of Harris Creek, Jackson Environmental Assistance Center/Jackson TDEC Field office 362 Carriage House Drive, Jackson, TN 38305 (731)-512-1300

**MID-SOUTH FLY FISHERS EXPO:** Friday-Saturday, July 8-9, 2005 - Germantown, Tennessee. The Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club will host a table at the Mid-South Fly Fishers exposition July 8-9 at the Germantown Performing Arts Centre. Internationally known experts Dave and Emily Whitlock, Flip Pallot, and Jason Borger - all of them famed authors, producers of videos and fly fishing instructors - will be featured. It will extend from 12-6:00pm Friday and 9:00am-5:00pm Saturday. This event will not only highlight the art of fly fishing, but will also address the importance and need for conservation in warm water fishing areas around Memphis and cold-water fishing in Arkansas trout streams.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Monday, July 11, 2005 - 6:30pm, Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Group Chair Charlie Rond (by July 8 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150.

**MONTHLY THIRD TUESDAY:** Tuesday, July 19, 2005 - 6:00 - 8:00pm, Cafe Francisco, 400 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "Third Tuesday" monthly gatherings where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713.

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Wednesday, July 27, 2005, 6:00 pm - Memphis Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. If you have wanted to try fly fishing but haven't had the chance or taken advantage of it, this program is for you. Chickasaw Group Chair Charlie Rond and Judy Boston of the Mid-South Fly Fishers will present a program on the basics of fly fishing for the July Program. An explanation of basic equipment and different rods and reels will include an explanation and demonstration of fly casting. Judy excels as a casting instructor for women fly fishers, so it's a program especially for women as well as men. For more information, contact Judith Rutschman at (901)767-5916 or Charlie Rond at (901) 452-8150.

## TELEVISION PROGRAM

**Mondays 1:30 pm; Tuesdays 4:00 pm and Wednesday 11:30am, Wednesday 11:00pm, Thursday 7:00am**

WPYL-Channel 18 - "The Nature of Conservation," is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. Rita Harris, Sierra Club Environmental Justice Coordinator is filming the TV show that will be aired in July, talking about the proposed "low-level radioactive waste incinerator" proposed by a company called R.A.C.E. She will interview Mondell Williams and Reginald Milton who represent the Riverview Collaborative Neighborhood Association and their opposition to the nuclear incinerator proposed by Radiological Assistance, Consulting and Engineering. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the month. 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.

## Sign on to Save Our Smokies!

To subscribe to the Greater Smoky Mountains Coalition (a.k.a. Save Our Smokies - SOS) listserv, just send a blank email to:

**Greater\_Smoky\_Mountains\_Coalition-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

You will receive a subscription confirmation message. Just reply to the confirmation message, and your subscription will be complete.

If you run into any difficulties, just email Liz Dixon at dixon@cs.utk.edu

## Now 2 Shirts to Choose From!

**Sierra Club John Muir Quote T's - NEW!**  
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Large - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
X-large - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
XX-large - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ - John Muir quote t-shirts = \_\_\_\_\_

**Save Our Smokies T's**  
Shirt features a montage of very special shots from our Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



### Sizes:

Small - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
Medium - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
Large - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
X-large - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
XX-large - Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ - Save Our Smokies t-shirts = \_\_\_\_\_

### Total T-shirt order

Grand Total (from above) = \_\_\_\_\_  
+ Shipping & Handling @\$3/shirt = \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed = \_\_\_\_\_

### Ship to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards. Please make check payable to Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club and mail to:  
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club, 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436 - Nashville, TN 37212

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**If you would like to be active in the Save Our Smokies campaign, please contact Beverly Smith at 865/531-8480 or blsmith1300@comcast.com Your help would be greatly appreciated!**



# Volunteer Magic

Four stories originally published in the Lookout, the newsletter of the Huron Valley Group

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up to a better world for us all. The following short essays are examples of how four volunteers have experienced volunteering.

## Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet?

By Suzanne Brucker

Every so often, the realization hits me: I spend a great deal of my time at work, in my apartment, in my car, and other permutations of "indoors" ? and not nearly enough time out in nature. When I saw a notice for a Sierra Club hike in a local park a couple years ago, I grabbed my shoes and ran out the door and I've been part of the Sierra Club ever since.

The outings are my favorite part of the Sierra Club. They get me out in nature, meeting new people, and in almost all cases learning something new. The outings are also a great way for me to see parts of the surrounding area that I was not aware of, or that I had never taken the time to explore.

The Sierra Club also gives me an outlet to for helping with environmental issues. Some of my favorite ways to take action include service days, Shopping For the Earth, and letter-writing. There are so many different activities and opportunities that there is truly something for everyone. I also appreciate the casual, supportive atmosphere that allows me to scale back my efforts when the rest of life gets crazy, and jump back into the mix when I have more free time.

The word "activism" is loaded with connotations, and it's not a word that resonates with me. However, I am someone who likes to help out with issues that I believe in, when I know that even small contributions of my energy can make an impact.

See you out there soon!

## Volunteering – A Local Activist Essay

By Jennifer Mackay

No different from an individual person, the strength of an organization is self-realized and self-motivated. The strength of the Sierra Club's national organization always seemed obvious – it is highly effective at instigating changes in environmental policies, attitudes, and behavior. However, it took some time for me to realize the strength of local Sierra Club groups and the role that I could play in facilitating change at the local level.

Since 1993, I have been a member of Sierra Club groups in New Jersey, Massachusetts, and California, primarily participating in outings. It was not until joining the Huron Valley Group (HVG) in Ann Arbor that I became interested in stepping up my level of involvement. The decision to volunteer my time to the HVG partially has coincided with my own personal development and growing interest in environmental issues as a graduate student of aquatic ecology and the environment at the University of Michigan. As my education has progressed, so has my desire to act—to do something constructive and positive. This has been in response to the persistent frustration and futility that often results from the negativity surrounding many environmental situations. The only way to affect change and create successful outcomes is to get involved—to help shape the future instead of letting others do it for you.

In addition to my personal views, my decision to get involved with the HVG was almost determined for me! The leaders and members of this group were so welcoming and encouraging that it was impossible to resist joining forces with them. I always assumed that it was difficult to become part of a Board or assume a position in a popular, prestigious organization such as the Sierra Club. But in fact, this was an entirely misguided assumption. The HVG constantly invited members to join their leadership, take initiative, take on a position, join the ExComm, and come to Board meetings. Ultimately, I was approached with an offer to fill the Program Chair position—a seemingly simple, pedestrian responsibility.

The importance of programming, however, quickly became obvious. Although not a terribly time-consuming task, I underestimated how interesting and influential this function actually was. It was a valuable experience to work with the HVG Executive Committee, deciding on the variety of content to present through programs, deciding on the information that was crucial for our membership to be exposed to.

Overall, it was an incredibly rewarding experience to be associated with a wonderful group of motivated, passionate, individuals who have a history of making significant changes to the local community. As I move back to California, I can only hope to take this energy and knowledge with me and apply it to Sierra Club groups in the Los Angeles area. There is no shortage of problems to address there!

## What Got Me More Active

By Pauline Mitchell

I grew up in small family-farm country where the night was dark and quiet and you could see the stars. I miss seeing the stars. Even when going to Lake Michigan for the annual Sierra Club Retreat at Camp Miniwanca, you still cannot see them clearly. It's better than here, but man's light obscures them even with a huge lake as a buffer on one side.

We lived by a small spring-fed lake, which was cold and clear. The first year we moved there the lake froze seemingly overnight; there was no snow and you could see through the ice down to the bottom as if looking through glass. I went back a few years ago, rowed around to spots where I had hunted for wonderfully bizarre looking leatherback turtles, usually failing because they swam like lightning. The water was cloudy and filled with sediment. Small lake or not, someone was allowed to put a trailer camp on one end, no sewers of course.

I had played in the barns in the two farms that were across the road from us. I had gone to help drive the cows down the road back for milking. I perfected my "sooey" to bring the pigs running, a few pigs on each farm. When I went back, even driving with windows up, the stench was overwhelming, lots of pigs and seemingly only pigs now on both farms. You could smell it all the way across the lake. People who lived around the lake complained, but were told the farmers were here first, live with it. It's not a place I could live anymore.

Continued on page 7

# Sierra Summit 2005

Energize the Movement  
at our Largest Gathering in History

**Sierra Club's National  
Environmental  
Convention and  
Exposition  
San Francisco  
September 8-11,  
2005**

Registrations are coming in! The Sierra Summit will be the largest gathering held by the Sierra Club in its 113-year history, and will serve as an important milestone in the environmental movement. This four-day event-taking place September 8-11 in San Francisco will be a huge opportunity for attendees to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet through a fun and rich learning experience.

This is also a unique opportunity to energize the environmental movement at a critical time, and a chance for all people who enjoy the planet and are concerned about its protection to support visioning the future.

"This will be a rich experience for all of us," says Executive

Director Carl Pope, "Good things happen when so many come together to shape the future. Through it, we will further build community and articulate hope and our values."

There will be a myriad of workshops on everything from "Backyard Organics" and "Eating Smart", to "Photography & Nature" and "Restoring the Wild."

There will also be an exhibit hall filled with the latest environmentally sensitive technologies and Products, and Sierra Showcase will display the accomplishments of our chapters, groups and committees. Speakers will include one of the country's environmental champions and one of Time magazine's "Heroes for the Planet" for fighting to restore the Hudson River, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Other speakers include former Poet Laureate Robert Hass, chef Alice Waters, and professor George Lakoff.

The Summit will include the Sierra Club Strategic Direction Setting process which will be the most inclusive and extensive direction setting process the Club has ever had with 1,000 delegates from across the country. And as part of the pre-Summit preparation all members are invited to participate in online discussions at <http://www.sierraclub.org/summitforum> Click on the "register" link at the top to get your password emailed to you and join in!

And of course no Sierra Club event would be the same without outdoor activities, and there will be a number of hikes and other fun opportunities to get outdoors and socialize. It will be a great chance to network and learn with other Sierra members and leaders from around the country.

Everyone is welcome to attend, have fun and learn about the exciting ways to enjoy and protect the planet. To register, go to [www.sierrasummit2005.org](http://www.sierrasummit2005.org) and either complete the form online or mail or fax it in. You can also call (301) 694-5243 or e-mail [scs051.attendee@expexchange.com](mailto:scs051.attendee@expexchange.com).

*Explore, enjoy and protect the planet*

Be a part of the largest gathering of Sierra Club members in history!

Come to  
Sierra Summit 2005

The  
Sierra Club's  
first-ever national  
environmental  
convention  
and exposition

September 8-11, 2005  
The Moscone Center  
San Francisco, CA



Join us in the City by the Bay for an experience you'll never forget:



• Choose from 60 workshops full of visionary ideas and practical how-to's

• Explore an exhibition hall full of innovative products, ideas and solutions

• Discover something for everyone from the outdoor enthusiast to the environmentally-conscious consumer

• Exchange ideas with like-minded folks and top-flight keynote speakers

• Enjoy four days of fun, entertainment and personal inspiration

For registration and up-to-date information, visit [www.sierrasummit2005.org](http://www.sierrasummit2005.org)

For information on exhibiting or sponsoring, contact Noeren Burke, Exhibit Manager, at 312-541-0567 or email [info@scrcexpo.com](mailto:info@scrcexpo.com)



# 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.



## 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!

### HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

July 16-17, 2005 (Sat-Sun). Backpack - Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area (Jefferson National Forest, Virginia). The Mt. Rogers NRA and adjacent Grayson Highlands State Park, in southwest Virginia, make for one of the most scenic backpacking areas in the southeast, with huge open grassy meadows fringed by spruce trees and rhododendron bushes, usually flowering in June. We're going to camp in a new place for the HB Group, on Brier Ridge. Ray Payne dayhiked to the ridge last year and reports it will make a great campsite. We will start at Grayson Highlands State Park and hike to Elk Garden Gap, about 7.5 miles total. Rated Easy. Pre-register with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; W 521-6200; whshome@bellsouth.net.

Aug 6-7, 2005 (Sat-Sun). Car Camp - Balsam Mountain Campground, GSMNP. This was such a popular event last year, we are going to repeat it. Escape the August heat in the lowlands and join us for a cool weekend at the highest elevation campground in the Smokies. Located on a spur road off the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Balsam Mountain Campground is high in the spruce-fir zone at 5310' elevation. We will take a short 2.6 mile hike on the beautiful Flat Creek Trail, or some may wish to take a longer 4.8 mile hike out to Hemphill Bald. Then, there's the alternative of just relaxing and enjoying the beautiful views around the campground. Pre-register with Priscilla Watts, 865-966-4142.

Aug 13, 2005 (Sat). Canoe float - Clinch River, Norris Dam to Highway 61. (This trip was originally scheduled for July 23) Put in below Norris Dam, take out at Highway 61, near Clinton. Distance 11 mi. 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 email rshrieve@utk.edu (email is preferred).

### MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday, July 2 - Caney River Float - Join us as we float the Caney River from the dam to Betty's Island. Everything depends on TVA's generating schedule. Canoes and kayaks can be rented at the Big Rock market

nearby and their phone # is 931-858-0967. To register for this trip, contact Heloise at stillwild@bellsouth.net or (615) 896-6278.

Thursday, July 7 - Longhunter State Park After Work Hike - Come on out and walk off the stress of your work day on the easy 2 mile Couchville Lake loop trail. We'll meet at 6:00 p.m. on the Couchville Lake parking lot. Bring \$3 for parking and water. Please contact Katherine Pendleton by July 6 if you are planning to participate at 615-360-3481 or email Katibug1959@aol.com

Monday, July 11 - Outings Leader Training 101 - Outings Leader Training 101 is a required course for outings leaders. For those interested in leading hikes, backpacking trips, canoe trips, or any other type of outing that you wish to lead, please make plans to attend this interactive training session that will be held at The Atlanta Bread Company at 1725 West End Avenue in Nashville, TN at 6:30 p.m. Food is available at this meeting place, and the training will last no longer than two hours. For additional information and to pre-register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

Thursday, July 14 - Pre-Program Meeting Hike at Radnor Lake - Let's take a short walk around Radnor Lake before the program meeting. Meet at the Radnor Lake Visitor Center at 6:00 p.m. for an easy walk. Bring \$3 for parking if you don't have a park pass and water. For additional information, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or email Katibug1959@aol.com

Thursday, July 21 - Full Moon Hike - Take advantage of being in the woods on a late evening full moon hike at Warner Park. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Mossy Ridge trailhead. Moderate 4 mile hike. Bring water and wear hiking shoes. Please register with Katherine Pendleton by July 20 if you plan to participate at 615-360-3481 or email Katibug1959@aol.com

Saturday, July 23 - Stones River Greenway Full Moon Hike - Easy walk at dusk along Stones River Greenway with an almost full moon. Cool off at the end of the day but still bring water with you. Register with Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com for time and location to meet.

Tuesday, August 16 - Social Dinner - Let's get together for supper at a new Chinese restaurant in Brentwood. Come out for some social time with other Sierra Club folks. Non-members are welcome to join us. Register with Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com for time and location to meet.

Saturday, August 27 - Shakespeare in the Park - Shakespeare in the

Park's FREE presentation of the comedy A Winter's Tale at 7:00 p.m. in Centennial Park in Nashville (free parking too). We may meet for dinner prior to the play. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Register with Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com for time and location to meet.

Future planned outings include trips to Dyer Observatory and more easy hikes on Nashville Greenways. Stay tuned!

### 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>

### CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**DISCLAIMER:** The following activities are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. They are published on this website only as a service to our members. The Sierra Club makes no representation or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of these activities. 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.

CHICKASAW GROUP JULY 4 PICNIC - SHELBY FOREST: Monday, July 4, 2005 - 2:00pm - Picnic Shelter # 5 at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, Memphis, Tennessee. The Chickasaw Group will celebrate Independence Day with an outdoor picnic at Picnic Shelter # 5 in Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. This is the picnic pavilion on the North Shore and closest to Poplar Tree Lake, so bring your canoe or kayak. The picnic will start at 2:00pm for canoeing and kayaking with grilling of food beginning about 4:00pm. The Club will provide soft drinks, burgers, hot dogs and condiments. Bring a dish to share and your chair. Along with the food there will be games and activities. Raingear may be needed and boots or sturdy tennis shoes if it is muddy. Contact picnic leader Carolyn Pierce at (901) 755-5635.

MEMPHIS HARBOR KAYAK TOUR: Saturday, July 16, 2005, 2:00pm - Mississippi River Harbor, Memphis, Tennessee. Urban kayakers and canoers will get a first-hand look at the Memphis downtown from the water with a paddling tour of the Mississippi River harbor. Meet at the harbor outfitter on Mud Island, where you can rent all the necessary equipment. Or bring your own kayak or canoe and put in from the cobble stones. For more info, contact Group Vice-Chair Carolyn Pierce at (901) 755-5635.



## Volunteer Magic

Continued from page 5

I had a wonderful environment to grow up in. Perhaps even without these experiences I would be drawn to outdoor things, but I'm sure they intensified my appreciation. Obviously, we can't all be raised in small-farm country, and many wouldn't like it so much anyway. But we all probably need to be able to go to something similar at times or at least feel a little reassured by knowing that it's there if we choose to visit it.

For most of my adult life, gardening has been my main way of interacting with the natural world, with some trips and some camping to get to the "real thing," which I assumed would be there when I could get to it. However, even many of us who "care" aren't very aware. That's one of the great values of groups like the Sierra Club, that call to our attention that the crystal clear water, the bright night skies and fresh county air won't be there without some help.

Several years ago, I took part in some group activities, such as Ann Arbor's Natural Area Preservation organization. Then I read a notice for a Sierra Club Meeting, came, found folks with similar concerns and a willingness to do something about the environment and here I am still. One fall day I decided to give up sleeping in on a Saturday (a very large concession for me) and went to a "fold 'n staple." I did and still do feel that the "regulars" who were already there were a little surprised to see a relative newcomer join them. I have also done some accosting of people to hand out postcards to be sent to Debbie Stabenow, some phone work during the sprawl issue/vote a couple of years ago, along with selling a lot of Sierra Club calendars. Small steps which made it easier to say yes when I was asked if I would be the Publicity Chair a couple of years ago. The reason: I decided that if I were really concerned about the environment, I should do more than say it. In short, to rephrase a phrase, I decided to put my time where my mouth was.



## Tennessee Chapter Summer Meeting July 29-31, 2005 Sterchi Lodge at Max Patch In the COOL Smokie Mountain's

Hosted by the Cherokee & Chickasaw Groups. Join us, and return to an old favorite, the Sterchi Lodge at Max Patch in the Great Smokie Mountains! Bunks are provided, but bring your own bedding, pillow, and towel.

Activities include Saturday hikes on the Max Patch Bald not to exclude birdwatching, wild-flowering, and general great conviviality. Short evening program to entertain, and inform us, on Saturday evening.

Please RSVP to Terry Miller at :  
423-842-8383 (H) - trmcha@comcast.net  
Send Terry the number of Attendees, Names, and indication of preference as carnivore or herbivore

**Payment due upon arrival**

### SCHEDULE OF FEES

**FOR ENTIRE WEEKEND:**  
ADULTS \$30 - \$15 CHILDREN  
Includes registration for the  
Chapter meeting Lodging on both  
Friday night and Saturday nights  
Breakfast on both Saturday and  
Sunday mornings Dinner on Satur-  
day night

**MEETING WITH NO MEALS AND  
NO LODGING IN GROUP FACILITY:**  
ADULTS \$5 - KIDS \$0

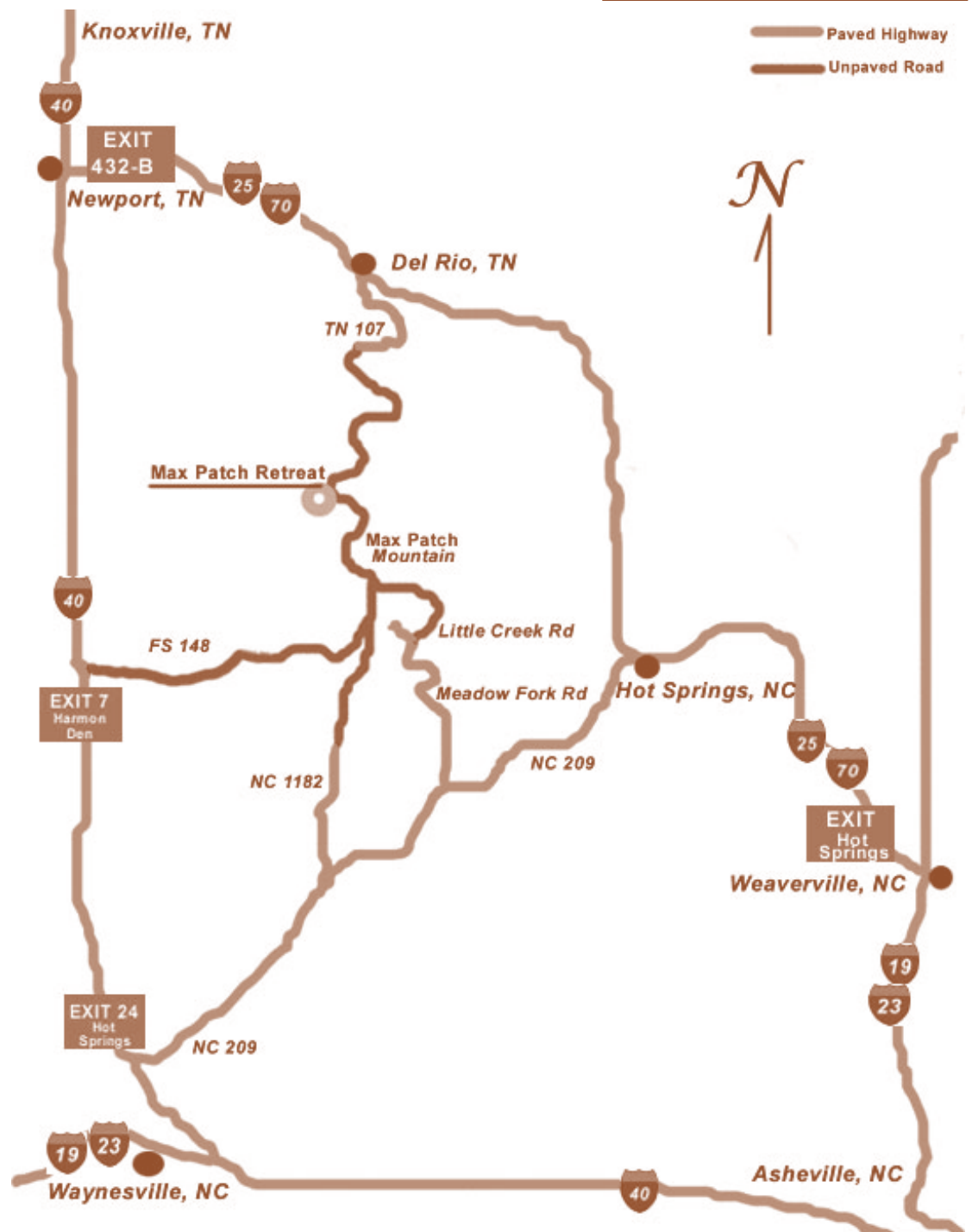
**SATURDAY MEETING WITH EVENING MEAL:**  
ADULTS \$10 - KIDS \$6

**SUNDAY MEETING WITH BREAKFAST MEAL:**  
ADULTS \$8 - KIDS \$4

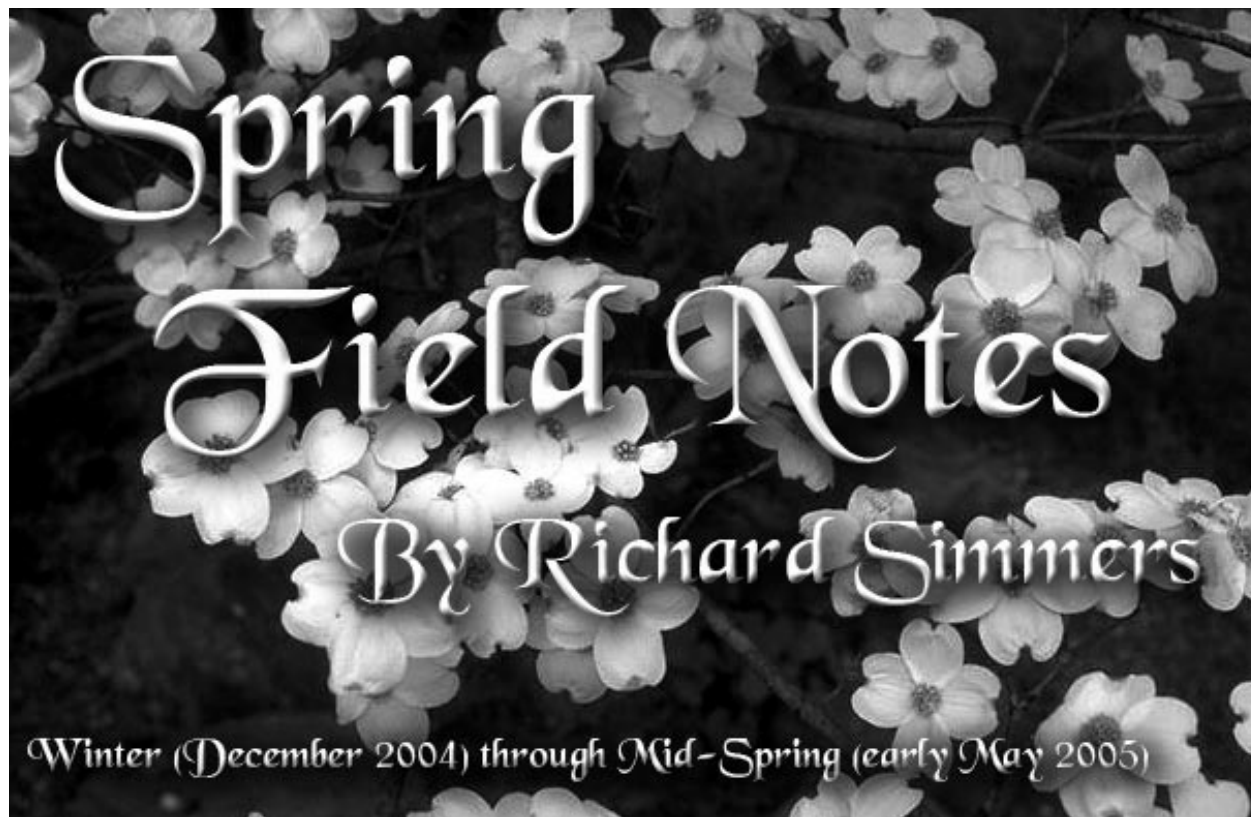
Directions (see map to the right of this ad)  
From Knoxville: Take I40-E through Newport and across the NC state line. Exit the interstate at Exit 7 (Harmon Den). Turn left at the end of the exit ramp, where the blacktop road almost immediately becomes gravel, an all-weather road. Drive approximately 6.8 miles and make a sharp left turn just past a brown forestry sign. (You will also see a sign pointing to Max Patch at this turn. Drive approximately 2 more miles, passing the Max Patch Trailhead on the right and a large pond on the right. Approximately .2 miles beyond on the left is the driveway to Sterchi Lodge.

It is possible to approach the lodge by taking Highway 25 through Newport to Del Rio, turn right on 107 for several miles until reaching Round Mountain Road. Turn left there, and follow that road approximately 10 miles. The driveway to Sterchi Lodge will exit to the right (a sharp turn). If you see the Max Patch Trailhead on your left, you have missed the driveway. Turn around and use directions from Knoxville to locate driveway.

**See ya there!**







The winter just past did not go to extremes locally, but it was decidedly chilly in late December and early through mid-March; in early January it was very warm at times (near 70 F in Monterey on the first, 67 F in Cookeville on 12th), mostly cloudy and wet with little frost. Temperatures stayed above zero this winter; colder days were December 14-15, 19-20, 25-26, January 17-18 (ca. 10 F at Barnes Hollow on 18<sup>th</sup>), 23-24 (after arctic front on 22<sup>nd</sup> with some snow), February 11, 28, March 1-2, 9. February went out like a lion with an arctic blast and some snow; there were several light snows in march. Some days in February were warm (4-8, 15, 21 [thunder, heavy rain], 26). A severe southwestern December 22<sup>nd</sup> blew over plenty of dead pines and some live ones at my place east of Monterey. Late March had several warm to hot days as usual, near 80 F March 30<sup>th</sup>. March was quite dry, but heavy rain fell early in April. April was varied, with a long dry spell in mid-March, having warm to hot days and cool nights. Killing frost April 25<sup>th</sup> hot many low-lying areas (including around Nashville); I saw somewhat more damage to tree foliage at Barnes Hollow than east of Monterey. Several wet, coolish days ended April, and cool conditions lasted until May 5<sup>th</sup>, then hot.

With the warmth in early January, I was not surprised that wood frogs came out to breed; I first heard some calling January 8<sup>th</sup> on the ridge top at Monterey with several egg masses already laid. The same day, lower down, near my main garden area, I noted about 25 egg masses freshly laid; more had been laid by January 10<sup>th</sup>. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, I watched a large breeding group (at least 70) of wood frogs on the surface of their longtime favorite pond; there was a ball of frogs, several males grasping a (larger) female. The males were so obsessed I could study them at close range; one male had light brassy stripes along his dorsolateral ridges. The female had considerable salmon-pink to reddish coloration, especially beneath. Some further wood frog breeding occurred in February (I observed freshly laid eggs). Many of the eggs laid got caught by freezes and/or lowering water levels; as a result (with predation by newts and others) the few tadpoles I noticed later had all disappeared from this favorite pond by late March. On the ridge top, I observed large frog tadpoles near the surface of two pools on May 2<sup>nd</sup> (these lacked newts, but the larger pool did have southern leopard frog tadpoles as well). A deep, rather new pool fairly near my gardens was the only one with wood frog tadpoles in May at this lower elevation.

I first noticed American toad egg-strings March 25<sup>th</sup> at a ridge top pool at Monterey; over 20 were breeding at the

favorite pond of the wood frogs March 31 (some males trilling, others in am plexus), but this effort here also failed. I noticed thousands of American toad tadpoles on the ridge top near the southwest corner of Monterey on May 14<sup>th</sup>, also some at another ridge top pond.

Spring peepers were heard often during warm, damp weather, first heard January 1<sup>st</sup> (2 at Monterey). On March 31<sup>st</sup> I heard the strangest chorus of peepers I had yet noticed at Monterey, some still in the woods or brush near two ponds; they were chorusing around 3 PM and continued until I left.

Chorus frogs came out by February 5<sup>th</sup> along Highway 62 just east of Monterey, with strong calling February 14<sup>th</sup> bear Booger Swamp (east of Cookeville) and elsewhere. I heard a chorus frog at Monterey as late as May 5<sup>th</sup>.

I first heard tree frogs April 9<sup>th</sup> (at Monterey); these were chorusing some in early May.

Cricket frogs were calling a bit April 15<sup>th</sup> at Monterey; they were chorusing in early May, even in chilly weather (very slowly calling). Green frogs and bullfrogs were calling some on warm mornings.

The relatively chilly March weather resulted in many trees and shrubs having either delayed blooming (for example, Bradford pears were not in full bloom around Cookeville until March 27<sup>th</sup>) or having prolonged blooming: I observed my earliest ever flowering of a red maple at Barnes Hollow February 8 (this was north Alabama provenance origin). Similarly, at Tennessee Tech University (TTU), the earliest red maple I saw in bloom was on February 9<sup>th</sup>, but many red maples on the TTU quadrangle were in full bloom March 20<sup>th</sup>, though some had begun February 25<sup>th</sup>. Near Monterey, red maples had begun flowering by March 21<sup>st</sup>. I made a southern trip March 14-17 and noted: red maples at Wheeler NWR (in north Alabama) with well-developed fruits March 14<sup>th</sup>; brilliantly colored, well-grown red maple fruits shed already and leaves appearing in Clay Co., northeast Florida March 16<sup>th</sup>. At TTU red maple fruits were being shed after April 20<sup>th</sup>; some fruits were still on trees in early May. Silver maples were slow to bloom and fruit this season, relatively.

Elms had a very good flowering and fruiting season; again the fruits developed slowly, with American elm fruits turning green and winged elm fruits turning pink-

ish-gray the last week of March (in Upper Cumberland area, Putnam Co., and vicinity). On April 1<sup>st</sup>, I drove to Nashville and finally noticed plenty of developing slippery elm fruits. Elms are still numerous in middle Tennessee; their fruits are much liked by goldfinches and cardinals.

Wild plums, an under appreciated group of native shrubs or small trees, that can add much to our springtime landscape, had a profuse bloom this season in late March and early April. I was delighted to see many green plums developing on one of mine May 15<sup>th</sup>, as they fruit only rarely hereabouts.

The heat at the end of March brought out the redbuds, which also had loads of flowers; with good warm weather, there was a heavy set of pods on most of them, noticeable in early May. Only a few [redbuds] around Cookeville had flowers March 31<sup>st</sup>, but some on warm sites in Nashville were in full bloom April 1<sup>st</sup>. Around Putnam Co. full bloom was around April 8-15.

Serviceberry trees had a good bloom also near Monterey, noticeable by April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Glowing dogwoods had barely begun to be noticeable April 9<sup>th</sup>, with bloom near Monterey noticeable April 13<sup>th</sup> (lasting through May 5<sup>th</sup>); it was a better slow locally than last year.

The early-blooming Asian magnolias were in full bloom March 27<sup>th</sup> at Barnes Hollow and around Cookeville, a bit earlier (March 22<sup>nd</sup>) in Nashville; but they had barely begun to flower in Nashville on February 15 and 22. Some of the earlier pink tulip flowers had badly frozen flowers in early March, but later ones looked great. Japanese flowering cherries had a fine display of blooms; the usual earliest tree at Barnes Hollow had lots of open flowers March 30<sup>th</sup>. The very early rose-pink hybrids were in bloom February 15 in Nashville (full on 22<sup>nd</sup>) and February 20<sup>th</sup> in Cookeville (full February 26-27); there was some re-blooming late in March after the freezes. Both sweet and sour cherry trees bloomed well around Cookeville.

Black locust trees flowered very profusely this spring, beginning on warm sites by April 19<sup>th</sup> and lasting well into May. Yellow-woods also bloomed well, but only briefly in early May. Paulownias had sparse flowering (after last year's abundance). Crossvines (I would prefer a name like evergreen trumpet vine) had an outstanding season, beginning to bloom April 19<sup>th</sup>; I did notice some frost injury near my cabin.

I was too busy this spring gardening to pay much attention to wild flowers, but I did note spring beauties starting to bloom February 24 in Cookeville, harbinger-of-spring in flower February 26, white trilliums decidedly late and lasting into early May, delphiniums profusely blooming east of Brotherton into early May.

Sandhill cranes had a fine migration (according to Steve Stedman); I had good flights on February 12 and 23, March 9 (hundreds), and a few on other dates. With the cool March, and cool weather late in April, a good many birds were delayed in arriving, but I did note (hear singing or calling), a black-throated green warbler March 31<sup>st</sup> (at Monterey, singing); 2 hooded warblers (1 singing at Monterey, 1 calling at Barnes Hollow) April 10, likely my earliest. Ovenbird (singing at Monterey) April 10<sup>th</sup> also. I did not hear an indigo bunting before April 27<sup>th</sup>, whereas I heard a calling eastern wood-pewee April 23<sup>rd</sup> (early for me). I heard a pine siskin at Monterey on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Noteworthy butterflies include a few definite painted ladies as on April 6<sup>th</sup> (Monterey), plus several cloudless sulphurs May 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Volunteer Opportunity!

To help the Middle Tennessee Group, to help our senior and disabled recyclers, to have fun and to meet other Sierran's, please consider volunteering at our recycling site at the Elysian Fields Kroger in Nashville. The site is open Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00. You will have at least one other person working with you, and you can choose to volunteer only when it is convenient for you, whether that is just one time, monthly, quarterly, or every few months.

Please call  
Recycling Coordinator David Bordenkircher at  
333-3377 (H) or 741-1597, or e-mail him at  
dabordenkircher@mindspring.com.

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