

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 37, Number 3 - March 2006

Last Chance to protect the Smokies and

STOP North Shore Road

Article courtesy of
Ted Snyder, NC Chapter.

A few days after Pearl Harbor, Congress passed an act authorizing TVA to build Fontana Dam on the Little Tennessee River in western North Carolina. Work commenced immediately. TVA quickly learned that the reservoir would flood about three quarters of the length of a state road, NC 288. That road was the only access for owners and residents of land along the northern shore of the reservoir. The War Production Board refused to release manpower or materials for the reconstruction of the road above the water line.

NC 288 was originally built by the Forney Creek Road District, using funds from a bond issuance. It defaulted on the bonds, and the obligation was assumed by Swain County, N.C. The State of North Carolina then took responsibility for maintenance of the road, giving it the designation of NC 288. The State did not assume the obligation to repay the bonded indebtedness.

Faced with the inability to rebuild the road, TVA decided to acquire all the private land serviced by it. That would extinguish all rights to the road. The land serviced by NC 288, some 44,400 acres, was in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park acquisition boundary, but had not been acquired due to lack of funds. In any event, Swain County was entitled to compensation for the taking of its road, the bonds for which it was still obligated to pay.

To accomplish its task, TVA, The Department of the Interior, the State of North Carolina and Swain County, NC entered into a contract, known as the 1943 Agreement. TVA agreed to acquire the 44,400 acres of land, and to transfer them to Interior, for incorporation in the Park. Interior agreed that after the war it would build a new road, part of its "Around the Park" project, having a width of at least 20 feet and a dustless surface. North Carolina agreed to donate \$100,000 toward the acquisition costs of the land. Swain County agreed to accept the new road instead of monetary compensation.

In 1948 Interior built a 0.93 mile segment of the proposed road at the end of Fontana Dam. By 1962 it had built, in several segments, an additional 6.2 miles at the other end of the project, near Bryson City, NC. Interior was worried about the damage being caused by the construction, and convened a panel of experts to examine it. In April 1962 the panel reported "[T]he damage to the landscape and natural park values is so severe and the future maintenance will be so great that the Service should hold in abeyance the plans for [the] project. . . ." And it further concluded: "The committee is of the opinion that continuation of such damage to natural park values is indefensible from either the standpoint of conservation or visitor use."

After that, Interior requested no more funding for the construction.

Congressman Charles Taylor (R. NC) in whose district this land lies, attached a rider to the Department of Transportation Appropriations for 2000, appropriating \$16 million for further construction of this road. Faced with that, Interior has commenced work on an Environmental Impact Statement on further road construction.

Since 1943 many environmental laws have been enacted, which will severely constrain if not prohibit any further construction. This threatened southwest quadrant of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the largest unroaded mountain tract in the East. Its forests are a haven for neotropical migratory birds. It provides unbroken habitat for both plants and animals. The terrain consists of numerous finger ridges, all precipitous, and any road construction will require mammoth cuts and fills in unstable rock and soil. Along any route, the rock to be exposed contains iron pyrite, which, when exposed to groundwater or rainwater, leaches sulfuric acid, which sterilizes any stream into which it drains.

At this time, the EIS study has identified three alternates which involve construction in this roadless zone of the Park. (1) Partial construction of a 4.7 mile segment. (2) Full construction near the lake shore, 27.4 miles long, ending at Fontana Dam, and then crossing the top of the dam on an existing roadway. (3) Full construction on a route deeper in the Park, and continuing to NC 28 below Fontana Dam, a length of 34.1 miles. The second alternate, along the lake shore, would require construction of three bridges across embayments where the water is too deep to use ordinary pier supports. Those crossings would utilize "non-conventional structures" (defined as steel-arch bridges and cable-stayed bridges) with spans ranging from 1,500 to 3,000 feet, and height above footings of 300 to 600 feet. [The Brooklyn Bridge has a span of 1595 feet.]

A comparable road now approved and ready for construction is a 20 mile segment of US 64 through the Ocoee River gorge in nearby Tennessee. It crosses the same acidic rock, and typically steep and fragmented terrain, and is estimated in its EIS to cost two billion dollars. It is not an exaggeration to say that two lanes of such a road, in the Smokies, is likely to cost one billion dollars.

The County Commissioners of Swain County, NC, in which all of the proposed road lies, by a vote of 4-1 have asked for a cash settlement in lieu of any further construction. The Sierra Club, the major national conservation organizations, and all the regional and local conservation organizations are and have been supporting the effort of the County Commissioners to obtain a cash settlement. A group of local residents have formed their own organization, Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County, and is waging a campaign for a cash settlement. The Governor of North Carolina, one of the four original signatory parties to the 1943 Agreement, also supports a cash settlement.

Construction of the road is sponsored by Congressman Charles Taylor, and by a small but vocal group of descendants of persons buried in cemeteries in the Park, who want a road for cemetery access. This despite the fact that the 1943 Agreement does not mention cemeteries in any place, despite the fact that in 1943 the then living descendants were given the option of having the graves moved, free of charge to cemeteries outside the Park, and despite the fact that they sued in federal court to require the road to be built, and lost in District Court, in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and had a fur-

ther appeal denied by the U.S. Supreme Court.

A cash settlement alternate is now one of the options being considered in the Environmental Impact Statement. Swain County is asking for a settlement of \$52 million. The citizens group employed a CPA to calculate the present value of the road, taking its value in the 1940's and adjusting it for interest it would have earned and for inflation. Their consultant arrived at that figure. Swain County proposes that the principal be lodged with an agency of the State of North Carolina, and that it only be permitted to spend the interest. The principal could only be spent on approval by a vote of two-thirds of the registered voters of the county. The proposed settlement, invested at five percent, would yield the county \$2.6 million a year. In its 2004-2005 budget, the county expects to collect \$2,684,365 in ad valorem taxes.

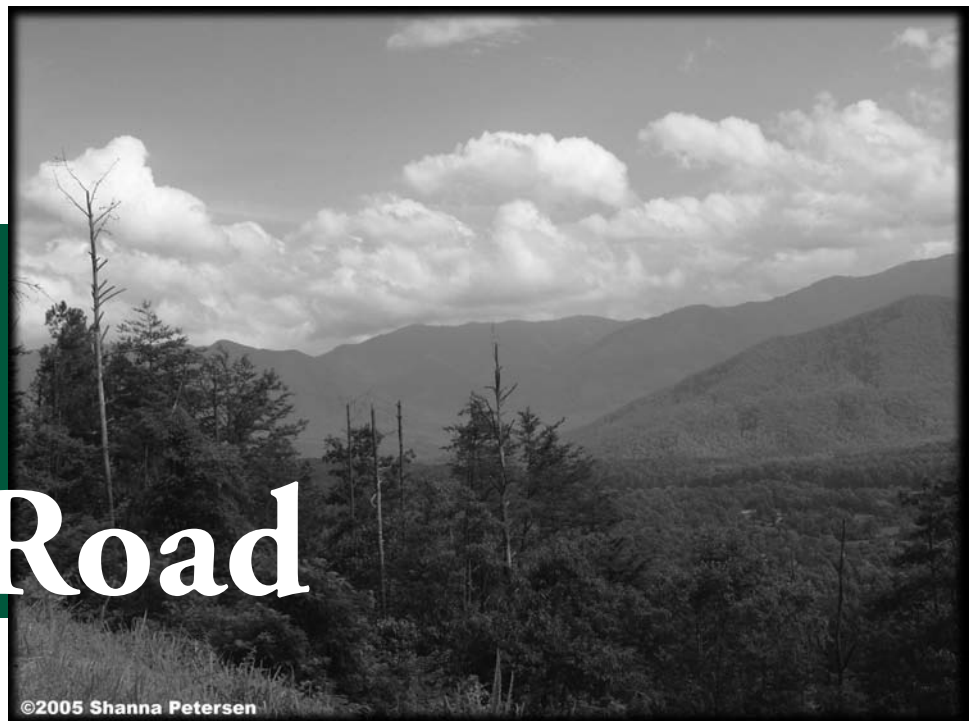
If the road were built on its longest alignment, it would terminate on NC 28 below Fontana Dam. A recent traffic count shows 280 vehicles a day passing that point. NC 28 is a modern road, four-lanes for half its length between Bryson City and Fontana Dam. Swain County receives two cents of the state sales tax. Every time a tourist buys a tee shirt or mug for \$10, the county collects 20 cents. Merchants in Bryson City would have to sell 13 million tee shirts a year to give the county an equal benefit to a cash settlement. That's 35,616 tee shirts a day, rain or snow, winter or summer.

Swain and adjoining Graham County in NC and Blount County in TN are famous among motorcycle enthusiasts for their "blacksnake" roads. US 129 from far western Swain County to Tallassee, TN is called the "Dragon's Tail." Bikers bring their machines here by trailer from all over the country. Graham County spends more money rescuing injured bikers from the Cherochala Skyway and carrying them to the regional hospital than it gains in tourist revenue from the road. Should a North Shore Road be built, it would become the third black-snake road radiating from one central point in Swain County.

Archaeological sites in the Great Smoky Mountains National park are kept secret to save them from vandalism and looting. The cemetery locations along the north shore of Fontana are not secret. Easy road access to them would expose them to vandalism and looting.

A cash settlement with Swain County is the only reasonable, logical and non-damaging alternate under consideration.

This is your last opportunity to have any meaningful impact on the final decision to build or not build the road. For more information on the project and to view the DEIS, log on to www.northshoreroad.info or contact GSMNP at (865) 436-1207. You may find a sample comments letter at http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome/sos/NSR_monetarysampleletter.txt.



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Please see pages 4-5 for more information and instructions on how to submit your comments.



Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

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*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: tn.sierra@gmail.com
or mail: Shanna Petersen, Tennes-Sierran Editor
2703 Adobe Hills Place
Thompson Station, TN 37179

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

1. Email embedded text submissions, or PDFs, which are preferred, to: tn.sierra@gmail.com.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your disk or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted; 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.

Moving?

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Mail to:

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

or Email to:

address.changes@sierraclub.org
(be sure to include your member ID#)

Attach mailing address label in this box, or fill in current name, address & Membership ID#
Current Address:

Member ID# _____



photo/Kevin Walsh

It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

Add your voice to protect the planet. Join the Sierra Club today.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W4300 1**
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



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dinimo@bellsouth.net

TN Local Groups:

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onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
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Blsmith1300@comcast.net
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rshrieve@utk.edu

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Katibug1959@aol.com
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Diane@Propson.com
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Katibug1959@aol.com

State of Franklin Group (in reorganization)

- Bristol/Johnson City/Kingsport
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/sofg

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg
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maevans@twlakes.net
Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142
Jmcquail@tntech.edu
Conservation: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
zeblady@twlakes.net
Outings: VACANT

Tennessee Sierra Staff:

Rita Harris, Community Organizer
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org

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

HELP WANTED: The Upper Cumberland Group needs some new blood on its ExCom. If you are interested in taking a lead in the Group, please contact Peggy Evans at (931)432-6680 or [<maevans@twlakes.net>](mailto:maevans@twlakes.net). No experience needed, just a desire to make a difference in protecting the environment and all the creatures living in it.

Meetings

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m. - Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Join us for a thoroughly enjoyable evening exploring Wildflowers and Ecology of Cedar Glades! Middle Tennessee is home to one of North America's most beautiful, unique and endangered plant communities, the cedar glades. Cedar glades, which are characterized by very thin soils or exposed limestone, contain high numbers of endemic and very interesting wildflowers. Andy Sudbrock, Restoration Ecologist with Nashville Natives LLC (www.nashvillennatives.com), will share photographs and discuss the ecology and geology of cedar glades, and suggest ways to contribute to the preservation of these Tennessee treasures. Light refreshments will be served. For more information on this program, contact Rachel Floyd at 615-406-9204 or email at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) Non-members are always welcome!

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, March 22nd 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 David Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com or call 333-3377.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING: 4th Thursday of each month, at 7:00 p.m., in the Putnam County Library. The location may vary; contact Peggy Evans at 931-432-6680 or maevans@TWLakes.net for more information on program meeting dates and times.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, March 14, 2006, 7:30 p.m. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. The March program is a slide show introduction to the yearly Harvey Broome Group Outings program. We will have slides of many of the places to which we will be going. And it will be a great opportunity to meet the outings leaders face to face and discuss upcoming trips. Call Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 for more information. **SPECIAL EVENT:** Something we've been waiting for—Come early at 7 pm and browse the book table. The group will have donated books of interest for sale. Come bag a bargain! If you have books to donate, contact John Finger at jfinger@utk.edu. or 573-5908. Help us out folks—this is a group fundraiser and we need you!!

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, March 28, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. If you're interested in getting more involved, this is the meeting to attend. Call 397-1840 for more information.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY FIRST THURSDAY MEMBERS GATHERING: NOTE - NEW HOURS: Thursday, March 2, 2006, 5:30-7:00pm - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "FIRST THURSDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Karen Prosser at (901) 327-9820 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, March 13, 2006, 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 James Baker by March 10 to place items on the agenda at (901) 826-2448.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, March 22, 2006, 7:00 pm - NOTE - NEW LOCATION, Memphis Public Library and Information Center - Poplar/White Station Branch at 5094 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee (at the base of Clark Tower). The March meeting will feature Andrew Couch - Coordinator of the West Tennessee Clean Cities Coalition. He will be discussing alternative fuels. For more information, contact interim Program Chair - James Baker at 826-2448.

To the TN Chapter Excom please note that a

STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

will be held with a representative from our national club the weekend of March 24-26, 2006 at NaCoMe Conference Center in Pleasantville, TN which is in West Tennessee on Hwy 100. Please make plans to attend. Encourage group conservation chairs, group chairs and other interested members to attend. NaCoMe is child friendly so please bring your children. The facility has available accommodations for families. The cabins are modern — not dormitory style. There are hiking trails, a recreation center and the home-made food is outstanding.

For additional information regarding NaCoMe, please contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com. For additional information regarding the content of the retreat business, please contact Don Richardson at 901-276-1387.

The Camp Rate Schedule is as follows:

Single night lodging (13 and over).....	\$28.00
Two nights lodging per night(13 & over)...	\$22.00
Single night lodging (12 and under).....	\$20.00
Two nights (12 and under).....	\$17.00
Per meal costs: Breakfast.....	\$6.00
(13 and over) Lunch.....	\$7.00
Supper.....	\$9.00
Per meal costs 3-12.....	\$5.00

Located at: NaCoMe Conference Center
3232 Sulphur Creek Road
Pleasantville, TN 37033
931-729-9723

Please forward payment in the form of a check made out to TN Chapter Sierra Club no later than March 16, 2006 for your lodging and meals that you wish to eat to the following:

Katherine Pendleton
TN Chapter Treasurer
P.O. Box 290306
Nashville, TN 37229-0306



SIERRA
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The Middle
Tennessee Group
Presents . . .

Explore, enjoy & protect the planet

Wildflowers and Ecology in Cedar Glades

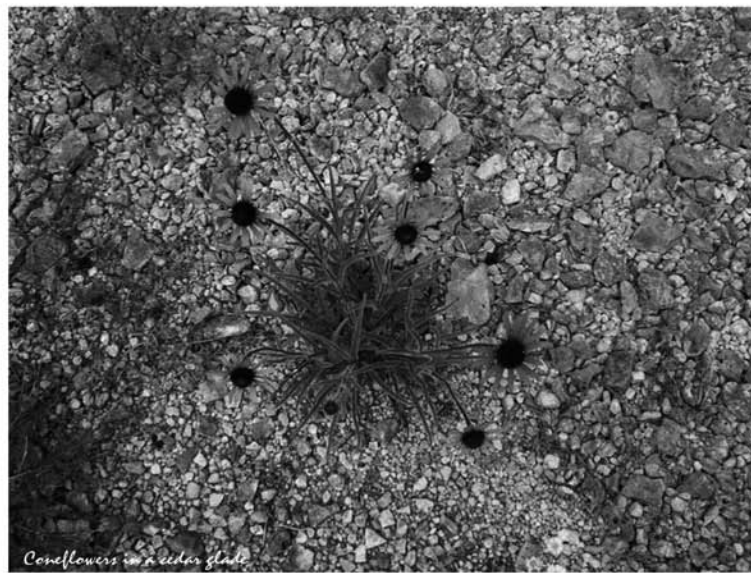


www.nashvillennatives.com

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At Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Join us for a thoroughly enjoyable evening exploring Wildflowers and Ecology of Cedar Glades! Middle Tennessee is home to one of North America's most beautiful, unique and endangered plant communities, the cedar glades. Cedar glades, which are characterized by very thin soils or exposed limestone, contain high numbers of endemic and very interesting wildflowers.

Andy Sudbrock, Restoration Ecologist with Nashville Natives LLC, will share photographs and discuss the ecology and geology of cedar glades, and suggest ways to contribute to the preservation of these Tennessee treasures.



Coneflowers in a cedar glade

Non-members are always welcome!

WILDFLOWERS AND ECOLOGY IN CEDAR GLADES

Enter the Radnor Lake area
on Otter Creek Road from
Granny White Pike.

Light refreshments are
served. For more
information on this
program, contact
Rachel Floyd at
615-406-9204 or email at
rfloyd557@bellsouth.net

Stop the damaging effects of North Shore Road

Contributed by Ray Payne,
Sierra Club member, Harvey Broome Group

For over forty years conservationists have held the line against this destructive road. Today the threat is probably greater than it has ever been. The bureaucrats will decide the issue by rote and formula if left alone. Only persons of vision and sensitiveness to the glories of nature can prevent an environmental debacle in the Smokies.

The Environmentally Preferred Alternative is the monetary settlement with Swain County, North Carolina. That is consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) standard that the environmentally preferred alternative is ordinarily "the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment" and that "best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources."

Major, Adverse, Long-Term or Permanent Impacts to the Park

Despite page after page of findings of major, adverse, long-term or permanent impacts, NPS chose not to state the agency's overall preferred alternative. The following is a list of findings contained in the DEIS - direct quotes from the document are in **bold**.

1. Land Use **"The Northern Shore Corridor would have a major, adverse, long-term impact on land use in GSMNP."** Neither the full build or partial build alternative are in compliance with the park's General Management Plan. Cuts and fills, a roadway, retaining walls, bridges, and vehicle traffic would be introduced in a natural environment. Potential wilderness would be reduced by more than 5,000 acres. Thirty-one miles of trail and a number of backcountry campsites would be obliterated. Trail access would be cut off during many years of road construction. There is no need to duplicate the service that NC 28 on the south shore of Fontana Lake provides. NC 28 is a superior road to the one under consideration and provides all the transportation capacity that is needed.

2. Visitor Use **"The baseline Northern Shore Corridor would have major, adverse, and long-term impacts to hiking."** The same impact would occur to horse use. Both casual and active visitors would experience these adverse impacts. **"Over time, the loss of this backcountry area and the displacement of visitors to other areas would deteriorate resources, causing some active users to no longer recreate in GSMNP."**

3. Visitor Experience Impacts to solitude would be moderate to major, adverse, and long-term. The DEIS predicts that up to 15% of the vehicles using the road would be motorcycles, the noise from which would penetrate more deeply. **"While the loss of some resources could be mitigated, the intangible values and experiences that some Park visitors desire during their visit could not. Overall, visitor experience would be adversely impacted as a result."**

4. Archeological Resources **"The Northern Shore Corridor (both road types) would result in the most adverse impacts to archeological resources. The baseline Northern Shore Corridor (Principal Park Road) would result in adverse, long-term impacts to six known archeological resources. . ."**

5. Historical Resources **"The Northern Shore Corridor (both road types) would result in impacts to up to six historic structures, which are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places."**

6. Air Quality **"Air quality impacts from construction activities are expected to be major and adverse for particulate matter with aerodynamic diameters of up to 10 microns (PM10) and sulfur dioxide (SO2), moderate and adverse for nitrogen oxides (NOx) . . . These activities may cause reductions in visibility and increased pollutant deposition that are considered major."**

7. Wetlands **"Direct impacts to wetlands would occur within the construction footprint of a partial-build or build alternative due to a new roadway's embankment (fill), or due to significant alteration of hydrology or vegetation."** The Northern Shore Corridor would affect between 10 and 15 wetlands, 13 of which are rare communities. **"Impacts would be adverse and permanent."**

8. Streams A primitive park road would cross 131 streams and a principal park road would cross 141 streams. **"Direct impacts for both road types would be major, adverse, site-specific and permanent."** These streams have an interim designation as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) by the State of North Carolina, and the designations will become permanent under regulations now being drafted. Any road construction could easily violate ORW standards. Maintaining the purity of the water in these streams should be a high priority both for NPS and North Carolina.

9. Acid Drainage It is assumed that all portions of the build alternatives contain rock and soil capable of producing acid runoff. **"The impacts would be major (violations likely to occur), adverse, regional, long-term and permanent for the baseline Northern Shore Corridor. . . It is assumed that acidic runoff would be a chronic condition."** Part of the proposed mitigation is to haul the acidic material to a dump

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takeACTION

Make your voice heard!

The DEIS and its appendices are available at:
<http://www.northshoreroad.info/documents.htm>

For information about sending comments electronically visit:
<<http://www.northshoreroad.info/comments.htm>>

The addresses for responses are as follows:

For mailed-in responses: North Shore Road Project
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
P.O. Box 30185
Raleigh, N.C. 27622

For e-mail responses: northshoreroad@arcadis-us.com
The subject line should refer to: North Shore Road EIS Project

Please send a copy of your letter or e-mail to your Congressman and Senators.

POINTS TO STRESS

1. **Support the monetary settlement alternative.** A monetary settlement with Swain County meets the needs and purposes of the study, avoids all adverse impacts to the Park, and NPS has determined that it is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative and the environmentally preferred alternative. The monetary settlement is the only alternative that will satisfy the request of the Swain County Commissioners, the Bryson City Board of Aldermen and the Governor of North Carolina.

2. **Oppose all construction alternatives, both the partial-build and the full build.** The park service has determined that all construction alternative will have major, adverse impacts on the park resources.

3. **Stress the major, adverse, permanent or long-term impacts** that any construction would have on every resource that the park service examined. See the quotes above from the DEIS for specific examples to include in your comments.

4. **Expose the giant boondoggle.** The Park Service states that the cost of construction will be at least \$590 million. That figure is equivalent to the annual budget short-fall of the entire national park system. On the other hand, the obligation of the Government could be settled with a payment of just \$52 million, a huge savings to U.S. taxpayers.

5. **The monetary settlement protects the park, immediately benefits the people of Swain County and saves U.S. taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.** The \$52 million settlement for Swain County invested at 5% would immediately provide \$2.6 million per year for the county and have no adverse environmental impacts. On the other hand, after 15 years of road construction and squandering at least \$590 million tax dollars, the park service says there will be only 223 new jobs.

6. **The Appalachian Trail will suffer degradation from road construction.** In addition, major portions of the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) within the Smokies would be obliterated. The newly created BMT is considered an alternate AT route.

7. **Road construction will have major adverse impacts on the backcountry experience.** The park will lose trails, backcountry campsites and the primitive hiking experience.

8. **Road construction will cause the loss of potential wilderness in the park.** Most of the lake shore area is currently managed as wilderness due to the high quality and remoteness of that part of the park. Both the road corridor and the strip between the road and the lake will be removed from wilderness consideration.

9. **Demand that NPS honor the 1916 Organic Act** by leaving the Park resources: "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The park service has determined that every resource will suffer major, adverse, long-term or permanent impacts as a result of any road construction.

10. **Take the big view of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as a whole,** not ripped open by a 34-mile scar gouged across it, with habitat destroyed and fragmented.

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elsewhere and encapsulate it in limestone. The DEIS fails to adequately address the fact that dump trucks hauling this material would subject downtown Bryson City to major traffic jams and regular toxic dust storm during the many years of construction.

10. Heavy Metals "Based on the geology for the Northern Shore Corridor, there would be major (violations likely to occur) impacts for the baseline Northern Shore Corridor. The potential for the impacts would exist in the short-term and long-term during construction, when the minerals could be exposed at unknown locations. There would be subsequent permanent impacts if these areas were not mitigated." The heavy metals are released by the same pyritic rock that causes acid drainage. While mitigation of acid drainage is partially addressed in the DEIS, mitigation of heavy metals is not addressed at all.

WHAT DAMAGE WOULD CONSTRUCTION OF NORTH SHORE ROAD CAUSE?

Expose rock containing iron pyrite throughout its course, resulting in production and leaching of sulfuric acid into and sterilizing 141 streams.

Cross multiple finger ridges at right angles requiring massive cuts and fills and high retaining walls.

Slice open the largest roadless tract of mountain land in the East.

Disrupt neotropical migratory bird habitat.

Create an orphan strip between the road and Fontana Lake.

Cause severe degradation to plant and animal habit, now recognized as an outstanding example of significant ongoing biological evolution, and containing gene pools whose values are beyond estimation.

Cause a major loss of intangible values such as beauty and solitude.

Subject the Appalachian Trail to noise, degradation of visual qualities, and raising safety issues

Open another part of the Park to poaching, and vandalism and looting of archeological sites.

Create an unnecessary transportation route when the populated area is already served by other major roads and superhighways, especially N.C.28.

11. Fishing Both the full build and partial build alternatives "would have major, adverse, and long-term impacts to fishing (for casual and active visitors) related to boat and trail access changes." The DEIS fails to assess or even discuss impacts to the fishing resource from sharply increased fishing brought on by ease of access.

12. Aquatic Wildlife "The baseline Northern Shore Corridor would have adverse, major, site-specific, and permanent direct impacts to aquatic wildlife within streams for both the Primitive and Principal Park Roads. . . Indirect impacts are anticipated to be adverse, major, local, long-term and permanent."

13. Vegetation Communities "The Northern Shore Corridor (both road types) would result in major impacts to rare vegetation communities and major impacts to secure vegetation communities." "The Partial-Build Alternative to Bushnell (Principal Park Road) would directly impact approximately 19.90 acres (8.05 ha) of rare vegetation communities and approximately 71.53 acres (28.95 ha) of secure vegetation communities." There is no discussion of the effects of fragmentation on plant communities, whether rare or not rare.

14. Terrestrial Wildlife "Impacts due to the direct loss of habitat are anticipated to be major, adverse, site-specific, and permanent. Impacts from ecosystem fragmentation are expected to be major, adverse, local, and permanent. Impacts due to noise would most likely be major, adverse, local, and long-term."

15. Black Bears Black bears avoid human activity, including road construction. Bears shift home ranges to avoid roads. Campgrounds and recreation centers attract bears and create nuisance bears. Construction of the road would cause the loss of hundreds of acres of bear habitat. "As a result, the impacts

for both types of roads would be classified as major, adverse, site-specific, and permanent due to loss of habitat within the construction footprints. Impacts due to habitat fragmentation, avoidance behavior, or increased roadside foraging would be major, adverse, local, long-term, and permanent for both types of roads."



Photo courtesy of National Park Service.

16. Migratory Birds The GSMNP harbors "source" populations of many migratory species. Detriments to populations in the park affect migratory bird abundance in adjoining regions of the eastern United States. Habitat loss is a leading cause of migratory bird declines. Any road creates more edge, which interior dwelling species avoid. Increased edge results in more nest predation and corridors attract predators such as brown-headed cowbirds. Noise disrupts vocal communication required for mating, foraging, predator detection and parent/nestling communications. "Potential impacts due to habitat loss would be adverse, major, site-specific, and permanent. Indirect impacts from noise generated by construction activities and facility operations, habitat fragmentation, and edge effects would be adverse, major, local, and permanent."

17. Invasive Exotics Construction and roads open the way for invasion by exotic species, both plant and animal. "These impacts are anticipated to be adverse, major, regional, and permanent."

18. Aesthetics and Visual Resources "The baseline Northern Shore Corridor . . . would involve major impacts to the views from High Rocks, Shuckstack (located on the AT), AT (south of Shuckstack), Fontana Dam, and Proctor due to the visibility of portions of the exposed roadway. Any alternatives that would be visible from viewpoints along the AT would be considered a major impact. . ."

19. Appalachian Trail "Adverse impacts to the AT, a potential historic property, would result where a partial-build or build alternative crosses the trail or where it is visible from the trail."

20. Summary of Impacts The analysis in the DEIS ends with this summation of the adverse effects. "Construction of any of the partial-build or build alternatives would result in adverse impacts to the geology, soils, backcountry campsites, trails, visual resources, cultural resources, and natural resources that cannot be avoided or fully mitigated. Aquatic areas that would be impacted by these alternatives may never be fully restored to their native community. Disturbance to a cultural resource site is permanent and cannot be fully mitigated. Existing topography and geology, once cut and/or filled, would be permanently changed with these alternatives. Changes to the aesthetic experience and visual resources would persist and cannot be fully mitigated unless the roads were abandoned and a substantial amount of time had elapsed. The loss of backcountry campsites and portions of Lakeshore Trail would not be avoided if the Northern Shore Corridor or the Partial-Build alternative to Bushnell were selected and cannot be fully mitigated. In the event of rare species that do not occur elsewhere in the Park, species mortality caused by the road would be irreversible and could not be mitigated."

CHICKASAW GROUP NEWS

Message from the Chair, James Baker

I write this a few hours after doing some personal errands and dropping some materials off at the home of Steven Sondheim - the Chickasaw Group's Conservation Chair. As I replay the mental videotape of my day's drive, the images come into sharp focus.

* I see a City, that due to its past and current planning and zoning, requires considerable driving just to get from "point-A to point-B". Some of those planning and zoning rules were written when gas was 39 cents a gallon, not \$2.39 a gallon. Even though I own a car that gets real good fuel economy, I cringe at the thought of the oil I burn. I might have used public transit this day, but my planned route and stops did not provide good options for transit use. I might have used a bicycle instead to have travel flexibility, but because the bicycle and pedestrian plan has not been implemented and there are not any dedicated bike lanes. This creates major safety issues.

* I see many of my fellow Memphis citizens driving around in gas-guzzling SUVs, despite the fact that the fossil fuel that powers them is so expensive. I see the effects of planetary climate change, i.e. global warming. Today, is January 30, and it looked, sounded, smelled and felt like a warm spring day. In fact, I showed Steven the new growth on his roses, and the fact that certain trees are showing the flush of color that occurs on their swelling buds. Also, some of the weather people on TV are talking how warm January 2006 has been across all of the "lower-48" states. I certainly have not forgotten the record numbers of hurricanes in 2005.

* As I drove down the road, I saw many beverage containers have blown up against the curb because Tennessee has yet to pass container deposit legislation like eleven other states.

* I see where our poor neighborhoods still struggle to get the environmental justice that is their right.

* I see various facilities where it is obvious the owners are flaunting various existing environmental laws, despite the efforts of a small cadre of overworked and understaffed environmental regulators at the local, state, and federal level.

* I see our elected officials and their appointed citizen boards conducting their public meetings at a time when the vast majority of working people have difficulty attending.

How depressing! I sound like some "gloom and doom" environmentalist! However, there are some bright spots on the tape.

* I see more hybrid cars on the road than even six months ago.

* I see that the planning and zoning codes are getting a much deserved overhaul.

* On paper, I have seen a bicycle and pedestrian plan.

* I have seen the beginnings of a greenway along the Wolf River.

* I see Rita Harris - the Memphis Environmental Justice Organizer being called upon by poor and people-of-color neighborhoods to assist them in their struggles to obtain environmental justice.

* I see a group of Chickasaw group members gathering to launch a Building Environmental Community initiative in Memphis.

There are other bright spots. As the newly elected Chair of the Chickasaw Group, my job is to lead our volunteer members to connect those bright spots into an unbroken shining clean and green ribbon. To paraphrase President Kennedy in his 1961 inaugural address, "ask not what the Chickasaw Group can do for you, but what you can do for the Chickasaw Group". Please volunteer now. Please look for my contact information on page 2 of this newsletter or on our web-site at: <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw/>. I will take your contact information and place you in contact with our Group to grow our cadre of activists. Thank you.

Outings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Check the Harvey Broome Group Website for a complete list of scheduled outings. We are in the process of planning outings for 2006 and will present the 2006 schedule at the March program meeting.

March 18-19. Backpack, Elkmont section, Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l. Park. We will head up the Middle Prong trail to the intersection with Lynn Camp Prong trail, stopping to see a hidden waterfall along the way, cross the ridge and intersect with the Miry Ridge trail and stay at site #26 for a first day hiking total of 8.3 miles. A beautiful campsite that sits back off the trail in the trees. On Sunday we will head down the Miry Ridge trail to Jakes Creek trail and back into Elkmont hiking a total of 5.5 miles. This is one of my favorite hikes in the Smokies – with waterfalls, streams, overlooks and a great campsite. **DIFFICULTY – RATED MODERATE – DUE TO LENGTH AND ELEVATION GAIN.** Pre-register with Steve Harvey: email sharvey86@aol.com; phone 865-986-4608 (days), 865-986-6798 (evening).

March 25, River Rescue– Please join us for the annual Third Creek Cleanup. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!** Each Spring we pick up trash along a section of Third Creek in Tyson Park. Come out and bring family and friends for a great time working together and contributing to our community. Meet at the parking lot on Sutherland Ave. west of Liberty Street at 9 am. Contact Barbara Allen at 558-9214 or b-tallen@msn.com for more information.

April 1. Saturday at 9AM, Fifteenth Annual Greenways 5K Race. The HBG cosponsors (with the Knox Greenways Coalition and Knoxville Track Club) an annual 3.1 mile race on the Third Creek Greenway to support the development of greenways in Knox County. Registration is at West High School on the day of the race; by mail before race day. Cost is \$15 if preregistered, \$20 on race day. West High School is on Tobler Lane (from Kingston Pike in Sequoyah Hills, turn north on Forest Glen, then right on Tobler Lane to the school). A greenways T-shirt with original design, food, and live music are provided. Contact Mary Lake for information/applications: ma43ry@yahoo.com; (865) 675-6971.

April 1-2 (Sat-Sun). Mount Rogers Backpack. The Mount Rogers National Recreation area is a unique environment with high country balds populated with wild highland ponies. This backpack will climb the Mount Rogers trail to join the Appalachian Trail at Deep Gap. Near Thomas Knob shelter, we will take the Mt. Rogers spur trail to the highest point in Virginia. After descending, we will travel cross country to the campsite at Cabin Ridge. The next morning we will pick up the Wilburn ridge trail across the spectacular rocky bald. At Rhododendron gap, we will traverse the Pine Mountain trail and finally descend another segment of the AT. Total distance is 15.3 miles with 7.1 miles on day 1 and 8.2 miles on day 2. Due to the altitude, open terrain, and other environmental factors, the area is subject to extremes of weather. Hike is rated moderate due to distance, climbing, and technical aspects of crossing Wilburn ridge. Pre-register with Bill Adams (radvet@frontiernet.net)

April 8-9 (Sat-Sun). Cumberland Trail Backpack (LaFollette to Cove Lake Section). The Cumberland Trail Association is in the process of developing what promises to be a truly outstanding long distance trail in Tennessee. Extending from Kentucky to Georgia along the edge of the Cumberland Plateau, it is called the Cumberland Trail and several significant segments are complete. One of the best sections is a short drive from Knoxville, along the Cumberland Plateau escarpment (where there are numerous unusual rock formations and great views of the Powell River valley and the

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.

Cumberland Mountains) from LaFollette to I-75 and Cove Lake. Above Cove Lake a newly constructed section leads down past the rock outcrops you see from I-75 known as Devil's Racetrack. Distance is about 11 miles and it is rated Moderate. Pre-register with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; W 521-6200; email whshome@bellsouth.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

March 2-5, 2006 Lawn & Garden Show

Thursday-Sunday, March 2-5, 2006: Volunteers needed to staff our table at the Nashville Lawn & Garden Show at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. Pick any 3-4 hour shift during the hours of 10 AM-9PM Thursday through Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM to 5 PM. Must enjoy talking to the public and answering questions. You get free admission to the center which you can roam before or after your shift! Contact Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email in advance at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com

Sunday, March 19 - Enjoy a spring hike at Montgomery Bell State Park in Dickson County. About 6 miles and no poison ivy yet! Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email in advance at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

OLD FOREST HIKE:

Saturday, March 11, 2006 - 10:00am - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. **SECOND SATURDAY HIKES.** Explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America. Learn about the forest's history, identify big trees and wildflowers and observe firsthand the impact of natural and human forces on forests in an urban setting. Meet at the bridge next to the parking lot at the end of Old Forest Lane in the center of Overton Park. The informative and entertaining trail map to the self-guided mile-and-a-quarter loop hike with seasonal bird watching and wildflower-viewing guides is available for free at the Golf House in Overton Park at all other times. For additional information, contact Don Richardson at (901) 276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

Sunday, March 12, 2006 - 1:00pm - Signs of Spring Walk, Memphis Botanic Gardens at Audubon Park,

Memphis, Tennessee. The Gardens are located at 750 Cherry Road. Join Outings Chair Judith Hammond to look for the first signs of spring. Meet in the lobby of the Botanic Gardens building. For more information, contact Judith Hammond at (901) 276-2819.

Saturday, March 18, 2006 - 9am to 12noon - V & E Greenline Walk. Meet at the intersection of Jackson Ave. and University. On this 5-mile round trip hike, you will learn the history of the V & E Greenline. See the location of the planned replica of the train station. Learn the values of "rail-to-trail" greenlines as "linear parks". For more information, contact Bill Rehberg at (901) 775-5521.

TELEVISION PROGRAM:

Monday - 1:30pm, Tuesday - 4:00pm, 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. The March show is an interview with James Baker - Chair of the Chickasaw Group and Chair of the TN Chapter's Container Deposit Legislation committee. He will be educating the viewers on the need for them to contact our state legislators and ask them to do the right thing for Tennessee regarding a Container Deposit bill that has been recently introduced. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 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.

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>.

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.

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!

4th Annual Wilderness FIRST AID Training

When: May 6th and 7th

Where: Fall Creek Falls State Park

What is included:

Training by highly qualified instructors, mid-morning snacks, lunch, mid-afternoon snacks

Not included: Breakfast, dinner, lodging, Sierra membership

Lodging:

We plan to camp in the state park. Make your own arrangements.

Cost: \$140, non-refundable
(we commit to Landmark, you commit to Sierra)

Payment due: April 10th

Enrollment: Complete form and send with check to Katherine Pendleton.

4th Annual First Aid Wilderness Training

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Previous First Aid Training: _____

A non-refundable payment of \$140 is due by April 10th

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

* introductory Sierra Club memberships are \$25

o go to <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/> to join on line

o please send me a membership form _____

NOTE - breakfast, dinner, lodging/camping, and Sierra membership are not included in the course fee of \$140

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

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

I am interested in information on the following

* camping with the other training participants YES ___ NO ___

* buffet dinner at the park lodge YES ___ NO ___

If you answered yes to either of the above, information will be emailed to you by April 20th.

I am an omnivore _____ a vegetarian _____

Please send check to: Katherine Pendleton
105 Catamaran Court
Nashville, TN 37217

The fourth annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training class (WFA) will be held the weekend of May 6th and 7th at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Landmark Learning, LLC, a long term partner with SOLO (Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunity) will perform the training again this year. This educational weekend features top notch training in an outdoor setting by field experienced instructors. Here are some comments from previous participants:

“Essential skills for anyone going into the backcountry” -- E. Plakaus

“An excellent course-very informative-very knowledgeable, creative instructors: a must for all trip leaders or anyone who hikes outside in organized trips” -- M. McClendon

Other:

1 – Membership in Sierra is required. You can join on line at <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/> or Katherine can send you a membership form. Introductory memberships are \$25

2 – Participant must have health insurance coverage

3 – Participant must sign Sierra liability waiver

4 – Participant must sign SOLO/Landmark Learning liability waiver

Questions: Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email at katibug1959@aol.com

Note: This course is not for Wilderness First Responder recertification

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

Membership: We require membership in return for the value pricing offered. By becoming a member, you will receive both the Chapter (state of Tennessee) newsletter and the national Sierra Club publication, Sierra Magazine. Each of these publications will help to keep you aware of challenges to great outdoors and suggest actions that you can take to preserve the things about nature that we value.

Building Environmental Community Kickoff Meeting in Memphis

by David Carter

Memphians who want to preserve and add to their parkland and greenways are banding together to assure that the city’s tree - rich heritage will not be destroyed. A recent planning session for a new Chickasaw Group initiative called Building Environmental Community (BEC) explored ways to give a loud voice to all Memphians who care about parks, greenways, bike-ways and trails.

The BEC attendees met over two days in January at Café Francisco in Memphis’s historic North Main district. The short-term goal is to build community awareness of the need for green space in Memphis and to ensure that all existing parks will be protected and properly maintained. Many Memphians remember in 2005 when the leaders in Memphis, in an attempt to correct a budget shortfall, laid off workers and reduced maintenance at the parks. We remember the uncut grass, and do not want to see our neighborhood parks closed down, or the needed maintenance stopped. People from all over the city - people of all income levels - immediately grasp the importance of parks. They use parks. Every neighborhood has parks. The BEC concept offers a way to leverage citizens’ power, giving individuals and existing organizations even more say-so in any future city decisions.

Longer-term goals include an assessment of the existing bike and pedestrian plan in regards to its comprehensiveness and decision-makers’ commitment to its full implementation. Parks and interconnecting greenways are important to a city’s livability. Opportunities for recreation come to mind first: runners and bikers zipping down a greenway, children playing in a park.

Plenty of parks and greenways provide needed outdoor recreation that gets people up, moving, and getting needed exercise - not only for fun, but for a more healthy lifestyle. A Shaping America’s Youth meeting was held recently in Memphis. The statistics are alarming. More than 61% of Tennesseans are overweight or obese. Annual obesity-related medical expenses in Tennessee are more than \$1.8 billion dollars. Imagine how many parks and greenways \$1.8B could fund. Closer to home, approximately 110,000 children in the Greater Memphis area are either overweight or obese. On the web, see: http://meetings.shapingamericasyouth.org/memphis_guide.pdf

Parks and greenways would help keep Memphians healthier. They also keep our environment cleaner. Trees and greenery act as the “lungs” of a city, filtering air and keeping it breathable. Unpaved areas help absorb storm water, reduce the risk of neighborhood flooding and help filter contaminants that may reach our famous Memphis drinking water. So in addition to the beauty and the recreation, there is an environmental value. Greener IS cleaner! A clean, green community is also boosts economic growth. By enhancing the city’s livability, parks have very real economic impact, making Memphis a more desirable home for employees of new businesses and helps reduce citizen “flight” from the city.

The slogan “Make Memphis Clean and Green” sounds



Dave Muhly (standing), a Sierra Club Regional staff person leads members of the Chickasaw Group in discussions about a BEC project in Memphis. Photograph by James H. Baker.

ready for a bumper sticker, but the words are thoughtfully chosen. “KEEP Memphis Clean and Green” would imply that the city is green enough already - only maintenance is needed. By saying “MAKE Memphis Clean and Green” the BEC attendees affirmed that Memphis can always move closer to an ideal of greenness.

Memphians love their city of trees and their parks. Many of them have visions of a future with even more greenery. Citizens and organizations are planning and building greenways. There is momentum for converting unused railways to trails. Support for a greener, cleaner Memphis already exists. To weld concerned individuals and groups together is truly to Build an Environmental Community. That’s what BEC stands for!

Final Sierra Defenders Update

We thank all of our Defender donors, who make it possible for the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club to carry out its vital legislative advocacy and lobbying activities. The Sierra Club is a volunteer organization with no paid staff in Tennessee, and without the Defender program, we would not have a strong voice in the state legislature.

We have fallen short of our goal this year. Although we have a large number of faithful contributors, without whom we could not continue, we have lost some of our longtime supporters through normal attrition. We need your help with this campaign. Please become a Defender so that we can continue with this critical work.

All donations, large and small, are greatly appreciated. We are proud that the Defender campaign is a strictly volunteer activity, and there are no administrative expenses. This means that all of the money you give is used for work toward passage of legislation that protects our precious environment.

Please return the form below with your check made out to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. Note that donations are NOT tax deductible. THANK YOU!

Bill Terry, Legislative Co-Chair

Penny Brooks, Legislative Co-Chair

takeACTION

Yes! I'd like to help!

Amount of donation: \$50 \$125 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

May we publish your name in the Sierra Club newsletter as a donor?

Yes _____ No _____

(OPTIONAL) Your e-mail address: _____

Sending our letter of appreciation to you electronically will allow us to conserve paper and save money. We will not divulge the address nor use it for other purposes.

No letter of acknowledgement is requested _____

sincere thanks to the January donors to the Sierra Defenders fund, who include:

(through February 9)
Anonymous Donors

Executive Committee members of Sierra Club,
Tennessee Chapter

Kathryn and William Bendall

Charles and Marion Burger

Stewart and Louise Clifton

Liz Dixon

Robert Doeden and Joyce Davenport

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Jack Lyle and Mary Buckner

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Elizabeth and Robert Peelle



Tennessee Chapter Spring Meeting April 28 – 30, 2006 • Pinson Mounds State Park

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/parks/PinsonMounds/>

Join us at Pinson Mounds State Park!

Hosted by the Chickasaw Group (CKG).

We will occupy the Group Lodge, where bunks are provided, but bring your own bedding, pillow, and towel.

Activities will include early Saturday morning hikes and other activities.

On Saturday evening, we will have a short program and a Silent Auction.

The cost for the entire weekend is only \$30.00 per person (1/2 price for children under 12 years old).

This includes lodging, Saturday breakfast and dinner, and Sunday breakfast.

Payment due upon arrival.

Please RSVP to James Baker at: 901-826-2448 or kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com

Registration Info Needed: Number of Attendees & Names; Number of omnivores; Number of herbivores

Directions From Jackson, TN follow Hwy. 45 South to the small town of Pinson, TN.

Turn left at the park sign, St. Rt. 197 and then follow the signs 2.5 miles to the park entrance.



STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

March 24-26, 2006

NaCoMe Conference Center in Pleasantville, TN
(please see page 3 for more information)

Volunteer Opportunity!

To help the Middle Tennessee Group, to help our senior and disabled recyclers, to have fun and to meet other Sierrans, please consider volunteering at our recycling site at the Elysian Fields Kroger in Nashville. The site is open Saturday mornings from 9 to 12.

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.

The Sierra Club - Middle TN Group

Tennes-Sierran

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Nashville, Tennessee 37212

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