

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 38, Number 7 - July 2007

STOPPING A DOCK

Why the Sierra Club Opposes a \$29.4 Million Mississippi River Boat Dock

By Sue A. Williams

On June 5, the full Memphis City Council approved the funds for Beale Street Landing (after taking them out in a committee), but the lack of a 106 permit will keep construction at bay for now.

Chickasaw Group's past Chair James Baker represented Sierra Club at the Council meeting. Joined by Memphis Heritage and others, six speakers opposed the \$29,400,000 boat dock, not needed since the City already has a functioning dock on Mud Island for the big passenger cruise boats like the Mississippi Queen and the historic Cobblestone Landing for the local paddle wheel tour boats. Part of the Beale Street dock would be on top of the Cobblestones.

Last year the Chickasaw Group passed a motion opposing the proposal because of its destruction of the only remaining publicly accessible wetland in the harbor and the underground parking lot to be built in the floodplain. Since then, the parking lot has been moved above ground into Tom Lee Park; therefore, we'll lose about two and a half acres of the park and cobblestones if the project proceeds. At the meeting, James' objections included the loss of trees and its effect on global warming.

Local money, in addition to the state and federal transportation funding amounting to about \$10 million for this project, could be used for projects that are far more beneficial to the environment—such as greenways for walking and biking. Such projects could also protect the water recharge areas for the Memphis Sands aquifer.

Some of the federal funding for the project is questionable because it is funding for a "ferry," and the project doesn't appear to qualify under SAFETEA-LU, the Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. The act requires a ferry to connect a federal highway where there is no bridge or adjacent highway. Since the dock is between the I-40 and I-55 bridges, this funding is suspect. It might be rescinded, just as the Fed Ex Forum garage funding was removed because the project didn't qualify as clean air mitigation.

The project destroys wetlands, and the specified mitigation is not within the same hydrologic system but, after Sierra Club's protest, was moved from the Loosehatchie River to the Wolf River in Fayette County—still miles away. (see also <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/wetlands.asp>)



ABOVE: Project for Public Spaces stated: "[Beale Steet Landing] seems to be a design that nobody will want and—worse-- nobody will use." The project was designed by architects from Argentina and includes pods that will, at times, be under the River. Artwork submitted by Sue Williams.

BELOW: River Explorer, one of the three passenger boats that tour the Mississippi River, docked at Mud Island with the "Duck" in harbor in front of it. The Duck heads for the Cobblestone landing. Passengers get a tour of Mud Island's River Museum. This company does not wish to use the proposed Beale St. Landing dock. Photo by Sue Williams.



Riverfront Development Corporation justifies this project because "we need a place to buy a Coke and a place to touch the River." The justification ignores the fact that this portion of the Mississippi River is unsafe to swim in or eat any fish caught here. Also, a new private development, Number One Beale St, is being constructed with a restaurant—where you can get a Coke—on the Bluff just above the dock.

Beale Street boat dock could become a hot issue for the local elections, especially the mayoral race. Three Council members--Carol Chumney, EC Jones, and Jack Sammons--opposed the funding during the full Council

vote. Madeleine Cooper Taylor abstained.

Several organizations envision a national park along the Mississippi River. Just how well does Beale Street boat dock fit in?

Editor's Note: Sue A. Williams is a retired group ExCom member, a founding member of Friends for Our Riverfront, and leads hikes on the Mississippi River Bluffwalk.



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The Chair's Corner

Dear Tennessee Sierra Club Members,

It is with great sadness that I convey the news of the death of Dick Mochow. Dick was a long time Sierra Club member active in the Chickasaw Group and TN Chapter. He most recently served our chapter as Membership Chair and Co-Compliance Officer. Dick had recently been appointed to the National Environmental Justice Committee. He was a past Chapter Chair, RCC Delegate, Council Delegate, GIS Coordinator, Agriculture Chair, and Training Coordinator. The Sierra Club and TN Chapter has lost a stalwart environmental champion as well as a dear friend. Dick will be missed and not forgotten.

Cherokee Group and State of Franklin Group are having re-organizational meetings this month. I will be facilitating those meetings and presenting the documentary film "The Future of Food." Cherokee Group's meeting will be held Wednesday, July 25th from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Chattanooga-Hamilton Co. Bicentennial Library in Chattanooga, TN. State of Franklin Group's meeting will be held on Monday, July 30th from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Gray, TN.

These are very important meetings and I strongly encourage all members in these groups to make an effort to attend and support re-organizational efforts in these groups. We need everyone's help in fighting environmental issues. For additional information regarding either of these meetings please contact me at 615-943-6877.

The Watauga Group will be hosting me during their monthly program meeting on July 10th for a showing of "The Future of Food." I look forward to meeting Watauga Group members and enjoying their hospitality. For additional information regarding this meeting please contact Watauga Group Chair Gloria Griffith at 423-727-2532.

I want to thank those of you who have made March Window and PAC contributions. We aren't out of the woods yet regarding fundraising efforts and desperately need everyone's support. If you haven't yet made a contribution to either chapter fund, please take a moment right now to make out your check to either TN Chapter Sierra Club or TN Chapter Sierra Club PAC and mail to Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club, P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229. I personally just put my PAC contribution in the mail for \$50.

June 1-3, 2007, a Wilderness First Aid Course was sponsored by the TN Chapter at Fall Creek Falls State Park during which 18 participants were certified. I want to personally thank Gary Bowers, Webb Griffith, Judith Hammond, David Mitchell, and Diane Perschbacher for their assistance in making this a successful training event. The next WFA training event sponsored by the TN Chapter will be held June 6-8, 2008 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Please make plans to attend or help with the training team.

There will be a Red Cross First Aid training held during the Summer Chapter Meeting on Saturday, August 4, 2007 from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM. The cost of the training will be \$15/person. The training will be conducted by Sierra Club member Dave Mitchell from Chickasaw Group. Please pre-register with Judith Hammond, Chapter Outings Chair at judithhammond@bellsouth.net .

During the program on Saturday night during the Summer Chapter Meeting, Judith Hammond will present a slide show of photos taken on outings. Please send your favorite outings photo to Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org or snail mail it to P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229 by August 1, 2007.

Katherine Pendleton
Chair, Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

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Or complete this form and mail us your NEW address:

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Tennes-Sierran

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

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ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

1. Email embedded text submissions, or PDFs, which are preferred to tn.sierra@gmail.com.
2. Photographs should be in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your disk or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted. Pre-approval from the Editor is required.
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS FOR THE 2008 SIERRA CLUB ELECTION

It is once again that time of year when the Nominating Committee begins its annual quest for Club members who would make excellent candidates for the Board of Directors. We are asking for your help in identifying potential candidates. I have attached below the Nominating Committee's Call for Nominations.

With the adoption by the Board of Directors of a Club wide Diversity Statement, the Nominating Committee is strongly committed to the implementation of this policy and seeks to promote the tenets of the Statement through the nominating process. We particularly support the message that there is a great need within the Club to ...build and integrate diversity into the structure, budget, workforce, business practices, program strategies, membership, conservation initiatives, and basic culture of the Club."

The Nominating Committee is also especially cognizant that there are probably many dedicated Club members who are not active within the Club but who have a demonstrated outside leadership experience and the ability to step into a governance role of a 70 million dollar organization. We would especially like to encourage these members to consider nomination.

Please read the announcement and pass it along to other Club leaders in your Chapters, Groups, or committees. Then take a moment and consider who you might know that meets the qualifications for a Board member and pass along the announcement to them.

Thank you.
Katherine Pendleton
Nominating Committee

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED
QUESTIONNAIRE BY JULY 15, 2007,
to Jeri Andrews (Email: jeriandrew@aol.com)

The Nominating Committee is seeking Sierra Club leaders to run for the Board of Directors in the 2008 National Sierra Club Election. In support of the Sierra Club diversity statement, the committee seeks a diverse pool of candidates, that is inclusive of geography, ethnicity, urban and rural interests. We encourage interested Club members to apply.

The Board of Directors, comprised of 15 elected volunteers, has the legal responsibility and authority to oversee all staff and volunteer activities of the Sierra Club, to establish the Club's conservation priorities, and internal policies, and to develop and implement a multi-million dollar budget. The Sierra Club's current budget is over \$70 million and includes a staff of over 300.

The ideal candidate is an experienced, effective leader who has a proven capacity to work with a diverse group of members, organizations and communities to resolve problems and achieve goals. All candidates are required to have been Sierra Club members continuously for one year prior to the close of nominations on January 9, 2008.

The Nominating Committee seeks members interested in serving as a Director who are:

- dedicated to the purposes and goals of the Sierra Club
- able and willing to accept the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of a Director
- able and willing to dedicate sufficient personal time to Board duties
- able to think and plan strategically and politically
- aware of critical environmental issues
- knowledgeable about the structure and operations of the Club
- able and willing to deal with the broad range of issues that come before the Board

The Sierra Club Board is a working board. All members are expected to devote sufficient time and energy to the

tasks at hand. All Directors are expected to:

- prepare for and attend five or more Board meetings each year
- participate in conference calls
- communicate regularly via e-mail
- participate in other meetings on behalf of the Board or the Club
- actively serve on one or more of the Club's Governance Committees, including regular attendance at meetings and conference calls

Each Director is elected for a term of three years. A Director may serve an unlimited number of terms, providing that a minimum one-year absence from the Board occurs after any two consecutive full three-year terms. Board members receive reimbursement for travel and lodging, and can claim a per diem of \$30 during Board meetings and while on Club business.

The Nominating Committee will contact potential candidates, and will send a questionnaire to those who request one. After reviewing returned questionnaires, the Nominating Committee will select applicants for interviews. To be considered for an interview, candidates must return completed questionnaires to the Nominating Committee by July 15, 2007. The Nominating Committee will announce its candidates at the November 2007 Board meeting. In addition to the nomination process, the Sierra Club allows candidates to qualify for the ballot by a petition process, as specified in the bylaws and standing rules.

The candidate questionnaire is also available on the Clubhouse section of the Sierra Club website (http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/go/committees/bod/candidate_questionnaire.doc) or you may contact any member of the Nominating Committee for a copy of the candidate questionnaire. {{Parks will verify with Gene C. that this address is correct then transmit to Gene C.}}

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED
QUESTIONNAIRE BY JULY 15, 2007,
to Jeri Andrews (Email: jeriandrew@aol.com)

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, please contact:

Gift Planning Program
(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Preserve the Future

CHICKASAW GROUP NEWS

Contributed by various members

Chickasaw Group Pitches In on Memphis Neighborhood Park Project

On Saturday, May 19, members of the Chickasaw Group helped the Rozelle-Annesdale Neighborhood Association with a project to repair the infrastructure at their park, as well as to assist in some general clean-up activities. It was part of the Chickasaw Group's "Building Environmental Community" (BEC) initiative, a national Sierra Club program that the Chickasaw Group has participated in since early 2006.

First, a bit of background. The specific BEC goal that the Chickasaw Group is pursuing has been dubbed "Save the Parks—Grow the Greenways," and working with the Rozelle-Annesdale folks clearly falls under this goal. Late last summer, a group of Sierrans met with Stoy Bailey of Rozelle-Annesdale and took a look at the park. It is a relatively small (perhaps one acre) park situated in a predominately African-American neighborhood in midtown Memphis. The gazebo had lost its roof, the park benches were rotting away, and there was substantial overgrowth of trees and bushes around the park. However, we couldn't help notice that despite the disrepair, small kids played in the sandbox area, and some older ones shot some hoops. An exclamation point on something we hopefully already know—is that parks, even small ones, are vital to our neighborhoods. An environmental partnership emerged almost instantly, and assistance to Rozelle-Annesdale was approved unanimously by the 2006 Chickasaw Group Executive Committee.

Fast forward to May 19: Sierrans Tom Lawrence, Steve Sondheim, James Baker, Joe Kyle (and Joe's son Robert) worked for several hours clearing brush, trimming trees, hauling limbs and brush to the curb, and cleaning up the gazebo area. We worked (and played) in harmony with others from the neighborhood on what turned out to be a warm, sunny day in Memphis. Stoy, in his resourceful way, had received a donation of materials and labor from a former neighborhood resident who is a general contractor. So the gazebo got a beautiful new roof. Another area resident tackled the dilapidated park benches. And all of us pitched in with hot dogs, soft drinks, chips, etc. for lunch. While we ate, we enjoyed watching the younger crowd shoot hoops.

Was the project a major milestone in the history of Memphis parks? No, but it was one of those little victories of community connectedness that we can build on. New friends were made, the Rozelle-Annesdale Community is just a little bit stronger, and a bunch of Sierrans had a feeling of accomplishment and contentment as they headed home that day.

Chickasaw Group May Program Meeting

Sustainable design was the topic of the Chickasaw Group's program meeting on May 23. Jim Lutz, Professor of Architecture at the University of Memphis, presented one of his department's exciting new green projects. The University of Memphis architecture department has a Center for Sustainable Design. Two local residents, with the help of the Center, are building a TERRA house in the Uptown neighborhood of Memphis. TERRA stands for Technologically and Environmentally Responsive Residential Architecture. Groundbreaking is set for June 12. The new home will be built to the U. S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standard. LEED homes use less energy and water than conventionally constructed homes.

Dr. Lutz's goal is to produce a healthy, high performance house that embodies the principles of sustainable design and is complimentary to the neighborhood context. This house will educate students, design and construction professionals, homeowners, and the general public about the value of sustainable design. It will also become a resource to those in the community who would like information on sustainable materials and practices.

The new TERRA house will qualify as a Memphis Light, Gas, and Water EcoBUILD home. To do this, it must exceed local building codes. EcoBUILD homes are designed to be at least 30% more energy-efficient than typical residential construction. By following these green guidelines, builders can produce a home that saves money on energy month after month.

The house will use local building materials, and will use fewer of them. It is planned to produce less construction waste. It will be certified by the American Lung Association as a ALA Health House. It will achieve this by the use of low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) in all paints, sealants, and adhesives. It will also use non-toxic pest control around the house.

The use of daylight will be maximized in the house. Artificial lighting will come from energy-efficient LED fixtures and compact fluorescents. All appliances and the air conditioning and heating system will be Energy Star rated. There will be a greywater recovery system in all bathrooms. The house will make use of high-efficiency toilets, showerheads, and lavatory faucets. There will be superinsulated windows. These are only some of the differences between the TERRA house and conventional construction.

The ground around the house has not been ignored, either. All of the landscaping will be drought-tolerant. Without a traditional lawn, there will be only a minimal need for watering. Smart tree planting will shade the house for energy-efficiency. There is even a plan for erosion control of the site during the construction phase.

Dr. Lutz and the owners hope that the TERRA house will become one of many environmentally sensitive homes in Memphis.



The picnic gazebo at Rozelle-Annesdale Park gets a new roof. Photo by Stoy Bailey.

Smart Growth Symposium for Memphis Neighborhood Leaders

In mid-May, the Coalition for Livable Communities, a Smart Growth advocacy group held a free symposium for neighborhood leaders. The symposium began with a welcome and ice-breaker, where one person in the room was given a word relating to Smart Growth, and the participants were to circulate to find who had the matching definition and introduce themselves to that person.



Don Richardson tells the assembled neighborhood leaders, "If you don't know where you are, you won't know where you're going." Photo by Teri Sullivan.

Afterwards, there was a great presentation by Teri Sullivan - a Chickasaw Group Excom member and her colleague, Terri Harris. Their presentation, entitled "Building Better Neighborhoods: Smart Growth in Action" allowed the participants to learn about the impacts of 'urban sprawl' on neighborhoods and how the principles of 'smart growth' can be applied to make our communities become more livable.

There were three morning breakout sessions. There was a session on the afterlife of neighborhood schools; Don Richardson - also a Chickasaw Group Excom member lead a session on mapping neighborhoods; Steven Sondheim - another Chickasaw Group Excom member co-lead the session on transportation planning and how community leaders can get involved in the planning process.

The keynote speaker was John Montgomery of Green Sky Design. He has done research and is of the opinion that the true price of gasoline, if all environmental factors are considered, costs in excess of \$10 per gallon, and that the true cost to operate our cars is \$1.25 a mile. He showed a cover to Sports Illustrated and stated that when sports magazines talk about global warming - the debate as to whether it is real or not is over. He closed with this question, "why should we as a society be focused on climate change?"

- * It is the right thing to do.
- * It is the competitive thing to do.
- * We die if we don't.

The three afternoon breakout sessions consisted of learning strategies that community members can do to make their neighborhoods more livable with community gardens and tree planting; Steven Sondheim co-lead the session on the efforts to revitalize our existing parks and implement greenways and greenlines throughout Memphis and Shelby County; and there was a session on the coming change to a Unified Development Code that totally overhauls how the Office of Planning and Development will regulate zoning and other components of land development and how citizens can have input in the process.

The symposium wrapped up with a brief final discussion about 'smart growth' by Emily Trenholm, the Executive Director of the Community Development Council of Greater Memphis.

MORE CHICKASAW GROUP NEWS

A Tour of the Greater Memphis Greenline

Some Chickasaw Group Sierrans took an auto tour of the proposed Greater Memphis Greenline on Saturday, June 2. Thad Howard organized and led the informative tour. Following the old and unused CSX rail line, the Greater Memphis Greenline promises to link diverse Memphis neighborhoods, while giving Memphians new recreational opportunities.



Thad Howard and Chickasaw Group members at one of the locations on the proposed Greater Memphis Greenline. Photo by David Carter.

Thad stopped at many of the streets where they cross the projected Greenline and visualized parking spaces, benches, rest rooms, and lush greenery. What now looks like an overgrown wasteland may become a beautiful natural resource. Memphians might one day shed their excess pounds in one of America's foremost linear parks.

The proposed 13 mile multi-use urban park/trail would begin at the intersection of Poplar/Walnut Grove/Union and run through Midtown Memphis out into the suburbs near Houston Levee Road.

Property values are expected to rise on both sides of the Greenline. Businesses will flourish near the trail, and the additional trees will absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

TVA Modifies Its Strategic Plan

The Tennessee Valley Authority has made changes to its long-range strategic plan in response to citizen input. Chickasaw Group members attended a public hearing held by TVA at the Bridges building in Memphis on May 1. The meeting was one of nine held in various locations throughout TVA's service area.

The plan was revised in response to suggestions from hundreds of TVA customers. Chickasaw Group members at the Memphis meeting expressed concern that TVA's draft plan made little mention of environmental concerns. The revised plan gives greater emphasis to energy efficiency and conservation. It is well known that energy efficiency alone is the most abundant source of "new" energy.

TVA's revised plan de-emphasizes new plant construction in favor of efficiencies in generating energy. TVA will strive to become a leader in energy-efficiency improvements and peak (power) reduction in five years. The draft plan also made mention of peak power reduction, by which it meant encouraging customers to use energy during off-peak times. The new plan does even more to promote energy efficiency and "three-way partnerships (between) TVA, distributors and end-use consumers."

New plant construction has not been eliminated entirely from TVA's plan, however. While they hope to retire some older coal plants, much importance is still attached to new nuclear capacity. Chickasaw Group members will remain vigilant in monitoring TVA's actions.

Cherokee Group announcement

Cherokee Group Re-organizational Meeting

Wednesday, July 25, 2007
6:30-9:00 PM

Chattanooga
Hamilton County Bicentennial Library

Featuring a showing of the film
"The Future of Food"

For additional information
contact Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org

For directions call 423-757-5029

*All current and potential members
are encouraged to attend!*

State of Franklin Group announcement

State of Franklin Group Re-organizational Meeting

Monday, July 30, 2007
6:30-9:00 PM

Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
136 Jobe Road, Gray, Tennessee

The meeting will feature a showing of the film "The Future of Food"
TN Chapter Chair Katherine Pendleton will be attending this meeting.

For additional information contact Katibug1959@aol.com
For directions call 423-477-7661

REFRESHMENTS SERVED

*All current and potential members
are encouraged to attend!*

Sierra Club Radio

a weekly broadcast featuring interviews, commentary, green lifestyle tips, plus advice from Mr. Green.

Listen online or subscribe to Sierra Club Radio podcast.

www.sierraclub.org/radio



Sierra Club Radio – Coming to an iPod Near You

Did you know the Sierra Club has a weekly radio show? Hosted by Orli Cotel, Sierra Club Radio broadcasts for a half hour every Saturday at 3:30 pm on the Quake (960 am) in San Francisco.

But of course, it's 2007, and you can listen to the show anytime from anywhere, on your computer, your iPod, maybe even your phone.

Highlights of a recent show included an interview with author Bill McKibben on his walk across Vermont to draw attention to global warming, tips on green house-cleaning, commentary of Bush's State of the Union speech from the Club's Executive Director Carl Pope, and the impacts of tourism on Antarctica.

And that's just one show -- there's a new one every week, and they're all available to download and listen at www.sierraclub.org/radio/.

Outings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Wednesday, July 4; 12 noon to 6 p.m. Chickasaw Group 4th of July Picnic with Bluff City Canoe Club. Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park picnic shelter # 5 at Poplar Tree Lake. Free admission to the park. Chickasaw Group will provide drinks and burgers. Bring a dish to share. We plan to eat around 2:00 p.m. For more information: Juliet Jones, (901) 374-0582, or juliet101@comcast.net

Saturday-Sunday, August 4-5. Sierra Club Quarterly Meeting, -- Dubose Conference Center, Monteagle, TN. Cool off a little on the mountain and enjoy sleeping in the new cabin facilities. Camping is also available, and there is a small motel on site. Dubose will be preparing all our meals. But the Chickasaw Group will be responsible for refreshments, as the Group will be the host at this meeting. MARK your calendar. Our Group needs to be well represented; we will need hike co-leaders, refreshments, coffee prep, Saturday night entertainment/program. There will be a Saturday morning hike on the Fieri Gizzard Trail, and we will return in time for the quarterly meeting. Other events in the works! Contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee: "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program on cable channel 18. For the complete "Nature of Conservation" schedule on cable channel 18, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tc18/18SCHD.htm If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

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

July 7-8. Beginner Backpack, destination to be determined. This will be a short-drive easy-to-moderate rated hike catering to new backpackers. Preregister with Ron Shrieves: phone 922-3518; email ronaldshrieves@comcast.net.

July 28-30. Backpack, Dolly Sods (West VA). Dolly Sods is a 32,000-acre wilderness in northeastern West Virginia, with a substantial amount of private land to the north that is open to the public. It is known for sphagnum bogs, spectacularly scenic open meadows, heath barrens and scattered spruce forest that are characteristic of areas much further north. The HBG has visited the area several times over the years (most recently in 2004) and we will do a three-day, two night, backpack through the best of Dolly Sods over a three-day weekend; you'll need to take Monday off. The reason for going on a non-three-day-holiday-weekend is that the wild blueberries should be at their peak. Since the drive is about 7-8 hours, we will leave Knoxville Friday night and spend the night in a motel north of Roanoke. Driving distance approximately 450 miles each way. Rated Moderate. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

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.

August 11. Dayhike, GSMNP, Abrams Falls, THE LONG WAY. Want to see Abrams Falls minus the crowds? Try this route, about 11 miles roundtrip. Strenuous. Starts at Lower Abrams Creek Ranger Station in Happy Valley, follows Cooper Road a short distance and branches off to Little Bottoms, then follows Abrams Creek the rest of the way to the falls. Mostly ungraded trail with some sharp ups and downs. Driving distance approximately 35 miles each way. Preregister with John Finger: phone 573-5908; email jfinger@utk.edu.



MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday, July 14 - Dayhike at Rutherford County Barfield Crescent Park: Haven't had a chance to check out one of Rutherford County's best community parks? Join us for a morning 4.5 mile easy -moderate wooded hike that skirts by the Stones River, a civil war encampment and showcases some of Tennessee's typical geology. Barfield is just south of Murfreesboro, off of Hwy 231. For exact time and to register, contact Diane Perschbacher at Diane@Propson.com or 615-895-1236.

Monday, July 23 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Outings Leader Training 101. Would you like to become an outings leader? Want to see if being an outings leader is a way that you'd like to participate in the Sierra Club? Why not come and join us for a fun interactive training complete with pizza and beer! Outings Leader 101 training is designed to teach outings leaders how to design and lead outings in accordance with Sierra Club regulations. The course is a requirement to become a certified outings leader. This course is also offered on-line; however, many people enjoy learning new material in an interactive setting. For additional information and to register please contact MTG Outings Chair, Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org.

Wednesday, July 18 - Longhunter State Park Dayhike. Midweek is a perfect time to get away from the weekend hiking crowds. We will hike the Volunteer Trail. Bring your lunch and water and pack a swim suit if you wish to take a dip in the lake during our hike. We will determine how far we wish to hike. Total distance 5-10 miles. Rated moderate. For additional information and to register contact Katherine Pendleton at Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org or 615-943-6877.

Tuesday, July 24 - Bryant Grove Dayhike - Explore the Bryant Grove Trail at Longhunter State Park. Rated easy to moderate. Total length 4-8 miles depending on how far the group wishes to hike. For additional information and to register contact Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org or 615-943-6877.

FUTURE OUTINGS

August 31-September 3 - Labor Day Weekend Car Camping Trip. Join us for our 2nd Annual Labor Day Car Camping trip to Meriwether Lewis National Park on the Natchez Trace. There are no campsite fees at Meriwether Lewis Campground. Come at your leisure and stay for part or the whole weekend. Bring your own camping gear, food, and beverages. Hiking, biking, and swimming activities available. Plan on a weekend of fun and relaxation. For additional information contact Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org or 615-943-6877.

September 12-16 - AT Backpacking Trip. Plans are being made for a section hike on the Appalachian Trail. For additional information contact Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org or 615-943-6877.

November 9-11 - Georgia Chapter Retreat. The Georgia Chapter has invited the TN Chapter to attend their annual retreat that this year is being held at Epworth-by-the-Sea on Simond Island, GA. Complete information TBA soon.

March 1-8, 2008 - Clair Tappaan Lodge Ski Trip. Make your reservation now to go with MTG to Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge for a week that you will never forget! Several TN Chapter members traveled to Clair Tappaan in February, 2007 for a ski trip with the Kentucky Chapter and had a memorable experience. Clair Tappaan Lodge is located 7000 feet in California's Sierra Nevada 45 minutes west of Reno, Nevada. Activities planned for our week at Clair Tappaan include cross country skiing and a guided overnight snowshoeing trip to Peter Grub Ski Hut. Skiing classes are available. Accommodations are in bunk beds equipped with mattresses. Bring your own bedding and towel. Restroom and shower facilities are shared with two men's and two women's bathrooms. Meals are served family style. Price for the trip is \$499 per person and includes lodging, all meals from supper on March 1 thru breakfast on March 8, overnight snowshoeing trek, and transportation from airport to lodge and back to airport. Trip price does not include airfare, ski rental, ski lessons, ski fees, incidentals, breakfast and lunch on March 1 and lunch and supper on March 8. Reservations are limited. Non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due by December 1, 2007. Complete information regarding equipment rental rates, cross country skiing activities planned, accommodations, and any other inquiries may be directed to Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org.

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>.

10 Essentials for Hiking

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

1. Adequate map
2. First aid kit
3. Compass
4. Rain gear
5. Extra clothing
(it is a good idea to always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Knife
8. Flashlight
9. Extra food, water
10. The tenth essential.
You decide what is the most important thing to bring!

Meetings

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Cherokee Group is holding a re-organizational meeting Wednesday, July 25, 2007 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Chattanooga-Hamilton Co. Bicentennial Library, 1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Tennessee Chapter Chair Katherine Pendleton will be showing the film "The Future of Food" during the meeting. "The Future of Food" offers an in-depth investigation into the truth behind the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have quietly filled grocery store shelves for the past decade. Cherokee Group encourages members and potential members to attend this re-organizational meeting. For additional information regarding this meeting contact Katherine Pendleton at Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org. For directions to the meeting call 423-757-5029.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: July 5 & Aug. 2, 5:30-7:00pm - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee: Join us for Chickasaw Group's "First Thursday" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Juliet Jones, Vice Chair, at (901) 374-0582 or juli-et101@comcast.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: July 9 & Aug. 13, 6:30pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, Tennessee: This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Tom Lawrence by July 6 (July meeting) & Aug. 10 (Aug. meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, July 25, 7:00pm - Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar, Memphis, TN. Come at 6:30pm for social time! Program meeting starts at 7:00pm. At this monthly Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club Program Meeting, Scott Triplett of Mid-South Geothermal will discuss geothermal technology for heating and cooling living and working spaces with latent energy from within the Earth. Geothermal transfers heat between the earth and water/refrigerant contained within pipes with zero on-site production of greenhouse gases. There have been a number of improvements over the last few years that have made geothermal energy more efficient, reliable, and environmentally conscious. For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

Friday-Sunday, August 3-5. Sierra Club Quarterly Meeting, -- Dubose Conference Center, Monteagle, TN. See the full announcement on page 8 of this newsletter. Contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, July 10, 7:30pm, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. George Minnigh presents "Challenges to Managing Backcountry use in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park." A central question he will address is how to manage backcountry use for the enjoyment of our generation and still leave the park unimpaired for future generations. George currently serves as backcountry manager for the park, where has worked for 23 years. He previously served as supervisory park ranger for the Cataloochee, Big Creek, Cosby and Greenbrier areas. Prior to his GSMNP employment, he worked for the Metropolitan Nashville City Parks and then as a Tennessee State Park Ranger. All welcome. For information call John Finger (865) 573-5908.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, July 24, 7:30 p.m., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. We urge all Harvey Broome Group members to join us as we discuss and plan strategies for issues of concern to the group. These meetings provide you an opportunity for input into issues of concern to you. Please join us! For more information contact Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840.

WATAUGA GROUP

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

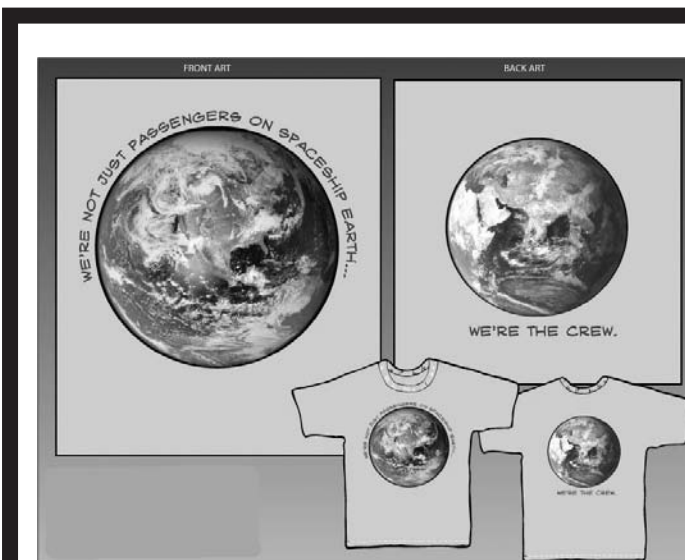
UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING: The fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (four times a year at a minimum) in the lower level meeting room of the Putnam County Public Library. Please contact Peggy Evans for meeting details at maevans@twlakes.net or (931)432-6680.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, July 12, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Parks are our refuge when the business of the world gets to be too much, but how are our parks doing here in Tennessee? Charlie Tate, our program speaker will tell you just that when he speaks about the opportunities and challenges of resource management in Tennessee's state parks. And there are definitely some challenges! He will discuss the 70 year history of these great vistas of nature with beautiful examples in photos. Charlie holds a BS degree in education and MS in education from Tennessee Tech and University of Memphis. He began working with the park system in 1973 with the interpretative program and has held his present position of director since 2003. Light snacks will be served, and the public is invited. For more information, call Martha Wilson at 376-2535

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, July 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the old St. Bernard's Academy Building, 2021 21st Avenue South, 4th floor. Conservation and legislative issues are first on the agenda. All members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or email Diane@Propson.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net or call 792-2590.



Spaceship Earth T-Shirts

Front - "We're not just passengers on spaceship Earth..."
Back - "We're the Crew." Sierra logo on left sleeve

Printed on Gildan Ultra Cotton™ heavy weight T-shirts

Size	Blue	Natural	Total		
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medium	_____	_____	_____	x\$16/shirt	= _____
large	_____	_____	_____	x\$16/shirt	= _____
x large	_____	_____	_____	x\$16/shirt	= _____
2x large	_____	_____	_____	x\$16/shirt	= _____

Total T-Shirt Order _____
T-Shirt total from above _____
Shipping & Handling @\$4/shirt _____
Total enclosed _____

Ship to:
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Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards.
Please make check payable to: TN Chapter Sierra Club
Mail to: TN Chapter Sierra Club
PO Box 290306
Nashville, TN 37229

first aid class announcement

There will be first aid class at the August Sierra Club Quarterly Meeting for those needing certification or recertification as outings leaders and for other interested persons.

Our instructor is a certified American Red Cross Instructor and the class will provide a Red Cross First Aid Certification of 3 years for those who pass the course. In order to lead Sierra Club Outings, outings leaders of long standing must be recertified before January 1, 2008. This requires Outings 101 (may be taken on the SC national internet site) and first aid OR wilderness first aid certification. NEW outings leaders ALSO must co-lead 2 Sierra Club outings with an experienced leader.

DETAILS:

Instructor: David Mitchel
Date: Saturday August 4
Time: 8:30 AM to 12:30
Cost: \$15.00 - includes course
- skill cards
- small first aid kits
- certification card

TO PREREGISTER:

Contact Judith Hammond, Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter Outings Chair
Your check sent to Judith at the address below, made out to:
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club, will confirm your registration.
If there is space, participants may register on site.

Judith M. Hammond
Outings Chair
Chickasaw Group Sierra Club
901-276-2819
judithhammond@bellsouth.net
481 No. McLean Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38112

Sierra Club endorsement

SIERRA CLUB ENDORSES JEANNE RICHARDSON



FOR TN HOUSE DIST. 89 SPECIAL ELECION JULY 17 in MEMPHIS

Back row: Sierra Club member David Upton; Chapter Delegate Don Richardson; and Chickasaw Group Political Chair Sue A. Williams. Front row: Amanda LaMountain (Jeanne's daughter); Chickasaw Group Conservation Chair Naomi Van Tol; and Candidate Jeanne Richardson holding her granddaughter, Francis.

Tennessee Chapter Summer Meeting

August 3 – 5, 2007 • DuBose Conference Center
<http://www.duboseconf.org/>

Join us at DuBose Conference Center.
We will occupy the Camper Cabins, where bunks are provided,
but bring your own bedding, pillow, and towel.

Activities will include Saturday morning hikes.
Our Saturday night program, by Judith Hammond, Chapter Outing Chair,
will feature a slide show of outings.

Please email, or mail your favorite outings photo to Katherine Pendleton: Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org
or P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229 by July 26, 2007.
Mailed photos will be returned.

The cost for the entire weekend is only \$40.00 per person (1/2 price for children under 12 years old).
This includes lodging, Saturday breakfast and dinner, and Sunday breakfast.

DIRECTIONS FROM NASHVILLE AND POINTS NORTH & WEST
Take I-24E. Turn right off exit #134, then approximately one mile through Monteagle. Turn left onto Highway 41 (Tracy City) then immediate right to DuBose.
DIRECTIONS FROM CHATTANOOGA AND POINTS SOUTH & EAST
Take I-24W. Turn right off of Exit #135, then approximately 1/2 mile to Highway 41. Turn right onto Highway 41, then immediate right to DuBose.

MOST IMPORTANT: In order to plan meals properly, please **RSVP** to Tom Lawrence (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com by Sunday, July 22!
Registration Info Needed: Number of attendees & names. Number of omnivores; number of herbivores.

Hosted by the Chickasaw Group (CKG). Payment due upon arrival.

Help Wanted in Upper Cumberland Group

Upper Cumberland Group is seeking applicants for the positions of

OUTINGS CHAIR
and
PROGRAM CHAIR

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

The Sierra Club - Middle TN Group
Tennes-Sierran
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Nashville, Tennessee 37212

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