

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 39, Number 3 - March, 2008

Are Our National Parks Relevant?

By Chance Finegan

Are our national parks relevant in the 21st century? It's a question that has kept many people in a twit the past few years. Congress has held special hearings on declining visitation levels, and the National Park Service (NPS) has expressed concern that the parks are "no longer speaking to a wide range of people."

Visitation is down. Even here in Tennessee, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area visitation has declined from 915,000 visitors in 2001 to 622,000 in 2006, and the government and several major universities have undertaken studies to find the cause of this disturbing trend.

Some have said that the parks are not reaching minorities. In a 2003 study, NPS found that African-Americans indicated that they were less likely to visit national parks "because they received poor service from park employees or they felt uncomfortable while visiting parks." Others, though, have offered a more cynical reason—people in general, but specifically young people, are spending too much time planted in front of a box.

Oliver Pergams, research assistant professor in biological sciences at the University of Illinois – Chicago, authored a major study that backs up this idea. While more than two dozen variables were tested, Pergams said video games, home movie rentals, going out to movies, Internet use, and rising fuel prices explained almost 98 percent of the decline.

"It's fairly stunning," he said, but cautions that correlation is not the same as causation. "This is no smoking gun. We're showing statistically that the rise in use of these various types of media, as well as oil prices, is so highly correlated with the decline in national park visits that there is likely to be some association.

"My concern is that young people are simply



not going outdoors or to natural areas, but are instead playing video games, going on the Internet or watching movies. My longer-term concern is that I don't see how this trend, if it is in fact true, could be good for conservation efforts. But if the trends are correct, perhaps public awareness will lead to some solutions," Pergams said.

And yet, all of this hype seems to be a bit on the panicky side. The parks have been around for more than a century now, and if you look at the recent entries in the annual Junior Ranger Essay Contest, you'll see that a love for America's wild places is alive and well among today's youth. Indeed, there are several new initiatives, some being spearheaded by the Sierra Club, to get kids outside – namely, the No Child Left Indoors bill

the club is pushing for in New Mexico. The bill would place a special tax on TVs, video games and the like, with the funds going to support an "outdoor classroom" program designed to get more kids outside.

Clearly, there is no easy solution and no easy way to raise visitation at our parks. However, Americans can be confident that with a resurgence in the green movement, increasing worries over childhood obesity and the National Park Service's centennial in 2016, that the parks are here to stay. What we choose to do with them remains to be seen.

Chance is a member of the Upper Cumberland Group and a Sierra Student Coalition Campus Organizer. You can view his award-winning blog at <http://tntrailhead.blogspot.com>

Dear Tennessee Sierra Club Members,

As many of you know, our Tennessee Chapter has embarked on a campaign to get the state to issue a specialty car license tag honoring the Sierra Club and our Chapter. Here is how you can help.

We have to gather 1,000 signatures from Tennessee vehicle owners who will commit to buying these tags for at least one of their vehicles, once it is issued. Signers do not have to be Sierra Club members. Once we have 1,000 or more signatures we will ask the State Legislature to pass a bill creating our license tag. The specialty tag costs \$35 additional over and above the ordinary cost of registering a vehicle, and part of the money will come to our Chapter as long as the Sierra Club license tag is sold in Tennessee.

You can help by circulating the attached petition among those of your friends and relations who are members of, or friends of, the Sierra Club. I would like to ask each of you to gather at least 10 valid signatures. Once you have collected them, please turn them over to your group chair.


The individual who gathers the most signatures will be awarded a \$25 gift certificate from REI as our way of saying "Thanks".

Each group will receive a \$1 donation from Tom Mozen, the chair of the State of Franklin Group, for each signature it submits to the chapter before or during the April chapter meeting, provided we reach a total of 1,000 or more signatures at that time.

This is a way to ensure both the Tennessee Chapter and the individual groups have strong resources to fight the necessary environmental battles on behalf of everyone in our state.

Please email (krsp@aol.com) or call (615-714-2704) Chapter Fundraising Chair Keith Romig if you need a copy of the petition. Please put "petition" in the subject line of your email.

Thank you very much for everything you do for Tennessee's environment.

 **SIERRA CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Tennessee Sierra Club Petition

WE the undersigned as members and friends of the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club respectfully request that the State Legislature of Tennessee authorize the creation of a motor vehicle license tag honoring the Tennessee Chapter. Upon the authorization and subsequent issuance of a Tennessee license tag honoring the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club, each of us pledges to purchase this tag for use on one or more of our motor vehicles.

Name	Address & Zip	Phone
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Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

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

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

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

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

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

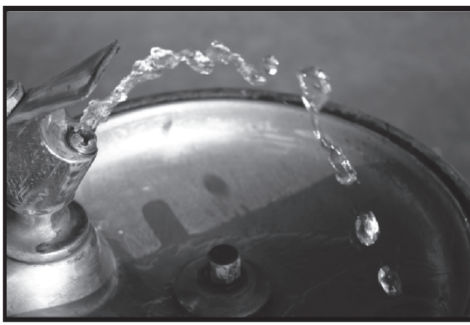
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.

3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



With your help, we can clean up our water.

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

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

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Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____
Exp. Date ____/____
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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

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

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TENNESSEE CHAPTER:

Chair: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
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Secretary: Carl Leathers (615) 662-4178
Treasurer: Rachel Floyd (615) 406-9204
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Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185
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Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
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CCL Delegate: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
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CCL Alternate: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
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TN LOCAL GROUPS:

Cherokee Group - Chattanooga (in reorganization)

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
Interim Chair: Mike Bascom (423) 757-9710
mikeb37415@lycos.com

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
Chair: Nancy J. Ream (901) 759-9416
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Vice Chair: Amy Stewart-Banbury (901) 292-5354
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Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
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Membership: Juliet Jones (901) 374-0582
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Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
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Vice-Chair: Beverly Smith (865) 531-8480
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Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518
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Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg
Chair: Rachel Floyd (615) 406-9204
rfloyd557@bellsouth.net
Vice Chair: Diane Perschbacher Phifer, 615-895-1236
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Conservation: Betsy Garber, 615-668-1977
garberb@hotmail.com
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Katibug1959@aol.com

State of Franklin Group - under reorganization

Chair: Tom Mozen, (423) 232-0827
mozenetc@yahoo.com

Watauga Group - Johnson & Carter Counties

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga
Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797
gl4797@earthlink.net
Vice Chair: Dr. Earl Taylor (423) 727-7211
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gl4797@earthlink.net

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg
Chair: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
zeblady@twlakes.net
Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142
Jmcquail@ntech.edu
Treasurer: Ralph Bowden
Secretary: Peggy Evans
Conservation: Vacant
Outings: Vacant

National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:

Rita Harris, Community Organizer
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org
Bill McCabe, Central Appalachian EJ Organizer
office - 423-944-3220 fax - 423-944-3221 (call first)

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

6th Annual Wilderness First Aid Training

When: June 7 & 8, 2008
Where: Fall Creek Falls State Park
Who: Training conducted by
NOLS Wilderness
Medicine instructors
Cost: \$165/participant includes
course materials and
lunch/snacks both days

****Early Bird Registration
\$150/person by April 1!****

Contact: Katherine Pendleton at
katibug1959@aol.com or
615-943-6877

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X-Large	_____	_____	_____	X \$16/Shirt = \$ _____
2X-Large	_____	_____	_____	X \$16/Shirt = \$ _____

Long Sleeve Style	Qty	Total Qty	
Small	_____	_____	X \$23/Shirt = \$ _____
Medium	_____	_____	X \$23/Shirt = \$ _____
Large	_____	_____	X \$23/Shirt = \$ _____
X-Large	_____	_____	X \$23/Shirt = \$ _____
2X-Large	_____	_____	X \$23/Shirt = \$ _____

T-Shirt Order Sub-Total = \$ _____
Shipping & Handling @ \$5.00/Shirt = \$ _____
Total Enclosed = \$ _____

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Your Action is Needed on 2008 Tennessee Environmental Bills

By Stewart Clifton

Every year during the annual legislative session, your legislative committee meets regularly with our lobbyist, Mike Murphy, the Tennessee Conservation Voters lobbyists, myself and my associate, Anne Ross. We go over dozens of bills to keep track of their progress through the legislature. Some are bad, some are good, and some need work to be good or bad.

Legislators need your input to help them decide how to vote on a bill. If you feel strongly about any of the bills discussed later in this article, call or write your state legislator and tell him/her how you feel. But first, check on the website or email/call a member of the legislative committee to find out the status of the bill.

Here are some suggestions to keep up with these bills and contact your legislators:

1. Email Stewart Clifton at stewart-clifton@comcast.net and ask to be added to the weekly updates. He will send a list electronically almost every weekend of the legislative session. There is no charge.

2. Research the bill by clicking www.legislature.state.tn.us/bills/currentga/billLookup.asp and you will be able to look up the bills by bill number and by word search.

3. How to find out who your state legislators are: Go online to www.legislature.state.tn.us and follow the instructions about how to find out your legislator and how to get in touch with him/her.

4. To communicate with legislators click www.legislature.state.tn.us/

Please only contact legislators after you have figured out what the status of the bills are.

5. Call or email Bill Terry (615-665-1010; hike-bike@comcast.net) or Penny Brooks (615-792-5306; penny.h.brooks@vanderbilt.edu) to find out the status of the bill if you don't have electronic means.

6. The listing below has the Senate Bill number and the Senate sponsor, then the House Bill number followed by the House sponsor before each bill. You can contact any member of the House or Senate, not just the sponsors.

2008 Environmental Legislation

I selected 12 positive and five questionable bills currently pending in the Tennessee General Assembly. Those chosen are not necessarily the most controversial, the most likely to pass or even the most likely to still be active when this newsletter comes out, so your favorite bill may not be on the list. The bills listed are current as of Feb. 18, 2008 when this article was written and may/may not still be active when you read this.

These bills represent many important concerns dealing with Tennessee's energy, air, water and land. At least 300 bills and resolutions have been filed and are pending which deal with our environment broadly defined.

These are, in my opinion, some of the most significant bills filed:

Good Bills

SB 0116 Kurita/HB 0348 Buck

Energy and lighting efficiency building standards. Requires improved minimum energy conservation standards for any new residential construction.

SB 1408 Jackson / HB 1829 Turner M.

TN Deposit Beverage Container Act. Passing this bill would mean increased recycling and less litter.

SB 2671 Jackson / HB 2895 Winningham

Severance tax for coal products. Increases coal severance tax.

SB 2872 Kurita / HB 2815 McDonald

Responsibilities of finance and administration.

SB 2873 Kurita / HB 2816 McDonald

Energy impact statements on fiscal notes.

SB 2874 Kurita / HB 2817 McDonald

Participation in energy management program.

These three bills are the result of a comptroller's performance audit of state agencies responsible for conservation of energy and the study of alternative sources of energy and energy security. That performance audit was itself the result of a successful bill passed last year by Kilowatt Ours and other environmental groups. These bills may sound technical but they could lead to major improvements in how we pass bills and how the state deals with its own considerable energy use challenges.

SB 3235 Woodson / HB 3368 Harwell

Outdoor advertising permits. Eliminates the right of billboard companies to replace nonconforming use billboards following a billboard's removal. Passing this bill would be a small but overdue step toward decreasing sign clutter and improving urban environments in our four largest cities.

SB 3651 Ketron / HB 3521 Buck

Stop work order for violations of Water Quality Control Act. This bill was initiated by the Tennessee Clean Water Network and allows the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to issue stop work orders for violations of the Water Quality Control Act or for activities that threaten public safety. Currently stop work orders can only be issued in limited situations.

SB 3822 Finney R. / HB 3348 McDonald

Issuance of permits for surface mining. This bill would limit mountain top removal mining and would require a new environmental impact study before surface mining permits are issued.

SB 4198 Kyle / HB 4198 Odom

Enacts the **TN Non-Coal Surface Mining Law.** This bill is part of the administration's package to provide regulation and control of surface mining to minimize soil erosion, stream pollution and contaminated water. Commercial rock harvesting would be regulated by this bill.

SB 4210 Kyle / HB 4209 Odom

(continued on page 5)

Corner

The Chair's

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

Early this month many of you will receive a letter asking for a financial contribution to be used for the environmental work of our chapter. March is the month set aside by the Sierra Club in which chapters may fundraise without competition from the national Club.

The Tennessee Chapter needs your help more than ever this year due to our dwindling financial reserves. We need to raise a minimum of \$20,000 this year through March Window contributions in order to continue various conservation initiatives.

Won't you please consider increasing your donation by \$10 this year? If you have never made a contribution to our chapter, I urge you to make a donation of a minimum of \$15.

The money you contribute stays here in Tennessee to fight environmental battles to make our cities and towns more livable, to preserve our wild places for ourselves and our children, and to ensure that Tennessee does its part to protect and preserve our planet.

We can't do the work of the Sierra Club without your support. Please give generously this year. (If you want your contribution to be tax-deductible, make your check out to The TN Chapter Sierra Club Foundation.) Your contribution will make a huge difference!

Have you ever wished you could have a Sierra Club license plate? Sierra Club members in Tennessee may soon be able to get license plates featuring a Sierra Club logo. However, this opportunity will not come to pass without your help.

Please take a look at the article on the front page of this edition for how you can help gather petitions for a Sierra Club license plate in Tennessee. Our chapter has to have a minimum of 1,000 signatures on petitions before we can go before the legislature and have our license plate approved. Please help to spread the word, participate in the contest, and help our chapter with this very easy fundraising campaign.

During the winter chapter meeting national board of directors candidates were endorsed by the Tennessee Chapter as follows: Lane Boldman (KY), Clark Buchner (TN), Jeremy Doochin (TN), Jim Dougherty (DC), and Jerry Sutherland (OR). There are five board of directors positions open this year. When you receive your ballot this month please take a few moments to read the candidate statements and vote.

The Tennessee Chapter will be sponsoring a wilderness first aid course again this year on June 7-8 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. The cost of the course is \$165 per person, which includes course materials and lunch and snacks on both training days. The training will be provided by a certified NOLS Wilderness Medicine instructor through Landmark Learning in North Carolina. Please contact me for additional information and to register for this training at kati-bug1959@aol.com or 615-943-6877. **Early Bird Registration is \$150 if your registration is postmarked by April 1!**

We have several new group chairs this year including Mary Mastin (UCG), Tom Mozen (SOFG), Nancy Ream (CKG), and David Reister (HBG). Continuing group chairs are Rachel Floyd (MTG) and Gloria Griffith (WG). Please get acquainted with your group chair and other members of your executive committee.

Katherine Pendleton,
Tennessee Chapter Chair



Stewart Clifton, lobbyist for Tennessee Conservation Voters, talks to Sierra Club members about how to lobby the legislature at the winter chapter meeting.

Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

MARCH PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

Our Annual Outings Program, presided over by Outings Chair Ron Shrieves. Slide show with photos, descriptions and discussion of upcoming HBG hikes, backpacks, bike and canoe trips. Outings are scheduled on weekends of every month. We are also contemplating a more impromptu midweek hiking schedule and will seek indications of interest at this meeting. Come out! It's a great way to meet new people, find out about exciting places, make your plans for the great outdoors, or just see what others are doing. Everyone is welcome. For information call Ron at (865) 922-3518.

APRIL PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

It's Flower Time! Beth Willis presents "Tips and Techniques for Better Flower Photography." Flowers may be beautiful (and uncomplaining) photography subjects, but lighting, weather conditions, and other factors can make getting great shots tricky. This presentation will share some basic principles of exposure and composition to help you capture by camera the beauty you see. It will offer tips for using natural light and weather to your advantage and also suggest ways to edit, share and store your photos. Though her emphasis is on digital photography, many of her principles and tips apply to film photography as well. Beth, an East Tennessee native, is a recent graduate of UT in public horticulture. She has worked in the UT gardens for four years and is especially interested in garden and wildflower macro photography. As part of her Master's project, she took more than 8,500 photographs of the flower varieties being tried in the UT gardens last year. Everyone is welcome. For information call John Finger at (865) 573-5908.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, March 13, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.

He's been doing this for 13 years and he knows all about our Tennessee natural areas. If you think you have nothing to learn, you will be pleasantly surprised! Brian Bowen of the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas will tell us how we are protecting our state's natural areas and about some of the management problems we face. The Division of Natural Areas works to restore and protect the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the natural biological diversity of Tennessee. Its staff includes biologists, botanists, zoologists, ecologists and others who focus their attention on conservation and management of Tennessee's natural resources.

We are all concerned about protecting our natural resources and this is your chance to investigate it further. Come, listen and ask productive questions! A native of Tennessee, Brian holds a MS degree in biology from MTSU.

Please call Martha Wilson at 376-2535 for directions or more information. As always, the event is free and open to the public.

April preview: We have another WOW program from our own National Public Television. Jonathan Harwell presents a spectacular film about solar energy. All Sierra members should see this one!

ANNUAL PLANNING RETREAT: Sunday, March 16 at 2:00-5:00 p.m. - 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436.

This is a rescheduled meeting for the MTG's Annual Planning Retreat meeting postponed in February. If you have been wanting to get involved with the Sierra Club but are just not sure how to hook into the issue, this is THE meeting for you to begin with. Our group will meet to set goals and objectives for the upcoming year; plan events, issue strategy and seek volunteer participation in 2008. Contact Betsy Garber at 615-668-1977 or email garberb@hotmail.com for more information, or to register.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the old St. Bernard's Academy Building, 2021 21st Avenue South, 4th floor.

Conservation issues are first on the agenda. All members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities.

For conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Betsy Garber at 615-668-1977 or email garberb@hotmail.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.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY/PROGRAM MONTHLY MEETING: We will be meeting at The Acoustic Coffee House in Johnson City located in the 400 block of West Walnut Street in Old Town Johnson City at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 5. The group will be meeting the 1st Wednesday of every month at this location for the next 2 meetings after which an annual calendar will be set and fixed. Contact Tom Mozen at mozenet@yahoo.com or 423-232-0827 for more information.

We will be starting a club at East Tennessee University and plan to affiliate with the ETSU Environmental Studies program. Mozen has been in touch with Roberta Herrin to further offer the club's advice and helping hand toward gaining a completed product of the Schell/Coe's "Nature's Harmony"—this is our title; the official name will be announced by Herrin—DVD project. We will be planning an exciting multifaceted approach to gaining membership and attendance.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

MEETING: Every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. at the downstairs meeting room of the Putnam County Library. Alternating program meeting with planning meetings every other month. For more information, contact Mary Mastin at marymastin@twlakes.net or (931-268-2938).

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY/PROGRAM MONTHLY MEETING: 1st Wednesday of every month. Starting 6:30 p.m. (Strategy Meeting) and at 7:30 p.m. (Program Meeting). Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Gray, TN – 136 Bob Jobe Road, off Exit 10 (Eastern Star) I fl-26. Contact Vincent Whitright at cleanenery@excite.com or 423-747-1967 for more information.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Chickasaw Group Sierra Club Film Night "Water on Film" Wednesday, March 5, 7:30 p.m., Power House, 45 G.E. Patterson (between Main and Front)

These films present current efforts underway to preserve, protect and clean up our water from local and national perspectives. Included in the films to be seen will be "Drops of Water in Oceans of Sand and After the Storm." Discussion after the films will be led by James Baker of the Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program. Sierra Club film night is hosted by Indie Memphis. Admission is free (with donations accepted), and refreshments will be available. For more information contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com.

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: March 6 & April 3, 5:30-7:00 p.m. -- Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee

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

Strategy Meeting: Monday, March 10 & Monday, April 14, 6:30 p.m. - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, Tennessee

This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Nancy Ream by March 7 (March meeting) or April 11 (April meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 759-9416 or njream@aol.com.

Program Meeting "Recycling in Memphis" Thursday, March 27, 7:00 p.m., Benjamin Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue

Which plastic bottles can I recycle? How do I pack my cardboard? Joyce Williams, City of Memphis recycling coordinator, will answer these questions and more as she gives an overview of the recycling options in Memphis, including those options available to apartment residents. She will also show data about how much is recycled by the City of Memphis residents turning solid waste into resources. Remove those cans, bottles, paper and boxes from your trash and join your neighbors in recycling them. Program meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.; for social time, come at 6:30! For more information contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com.

TELEVISION PROGRAM:

WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee, - Mondays at 1:30pm, Tuesdays at 4:00pm, Wednesdays at 11:30am & 11:00pm, Thursdays at 7:00am, Fridays at 2:30pm, Saturdays at 10:00am, and Sundays at 2:00am. "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program on cable channel 18. For complete schedule listings on cable channel 18, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc/schedule. For more information about "The Nature of Conservation," or if any groups or individuals in the community have a special concern and would like to see a program on it, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu

WATAUGA GROUP (North Eastern TN)

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

Chickasaw Group News

Contributed by various members

January Program Meeting

Daniel Larsen of the Ground Water Institute at the University of Memphis presented facts about local water at the Chickasaw Group's program meeting on January 24. The Ground Water Institute serves as a data source for ground water issues in the Mid-South region. Its mission is to insure that the water consumed by the general public in 2050 is as plentiful and high-quality as it is today.

Sierra Club program meeting attendees learned about the varying ages of water in the Memphis aquifer. Larsen, associate professor and graduate coordinator in the Department of Earth Sciences at the university, explained why Memphis needs over 200 million gallons of water a day. He gave a good overview of the Mississippi Embayment, where all of this water comes from. Questions from the audience showed that many knew a lot already about Memphis' water supply. Dr. Larsen's excellent presentation helped them learn more.

Guest column in Memphis Commercial Appeal

Dear members of the Tennessee Chapter,

I wrote the following guest column that was published in the Memphis Commercial Appeal newspaper on January 3, 2008. For those chapter members who do not live in the Memphis area or did not see the link to it on the TENNESSEE-NEWS e-mail Listserve, I am having the column reprinted in the Tennes-Sierran for your edification.

Sincerely,

James H. Baker, a member of the global warming and energy committee of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

As we begin the new year, let us resolve to make and keep one resolution for 2008: to put politics and ideology aside and unite to deal with global climate change as the planetary emergency it really is. That is the message in last November's report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of 2,500 scientists who constitute the world's most authoritative voice on global warming. The panel's leader, Rajendra Pachauri, stated: "What we do in the next two or three years will define our future."

Government leaders at all levels must pave the way. At the regional and local levels, all the mayors of our municipalities and counties should resolve to follow the lead of Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton and pledge to reduce global warming greenhouse gases by signing and immediately implementing the United States Mayors Climate Protection Agreement or its equivalent county version, the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization

Initiative.

However, we the people should not wait on politicians to act. We must immediately develop a strong conservation ethic to reduce our release of carbon dioxide, the global warming gas over which humankind has the most control.

The easiest task that we can do, regardless of our income, is recycling. Our school systems and businesses should also be recycling. Our government leaders should be strongly encouraging it. Less energy is used to create new products from recycled material, which releases less carbon dioxide. In addition, recyclable material is diverted from landfills and there is less litter on our roadsides, lakes and rivers. Remember, if you are not recycling you are throwing it all away.

Half of the energy used by our homes goes into heating and cooling. Homeowners can save money by turning down the heat two degrees and raising the air conditioner by two degrees, reducing each home's impact by about one ton of carbon dioxide a year. Also, by installing extra insulation, homeowners can save even more on their utilities. Homeowners and businesses should replace incandescent light bulbs with longer-lasting compact fluorescent bulbs that use 80 percent less electricity and cut their utility bill even further.

Memphis Light, Gas, and Water Division should begin to engage in climate change awareness education by noting the pounds of carbon dioxide created by the burning of natural gas and the generation of electricity on every utility bill. This should require only an easy change in the computer software that prepares these bills.

Our cars and trucks are a major source of carbon dioxide, and now that filling the gas tank on larger vehicles costs over \$100, please resolve to use less gas each week by carpooling, riding the bus, walking and biking. When it comes time to replace your car, consider purchasing the most fuel-efficient vehicle possible. Also, driving at the posted speed limit, where road conditions permit, conserves fuel.

The land developers, commercial architects and home

builders in this region should resolve to build the most energy-efficient buildings possible and to develop the land with the goal of maintaining the most trees rather than scraping everything down to bare dirt before starting. The Division of Planning & Development, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, other government officials and developers should also be guiding development in a way that reduces the daily commute, rather than increasing it.

Our churches, mosques and synagogues should investigate ways to conserve energy, as well as invest in installing renewable energy systems as their budgets allow.

While the challenge is formidable, we have technologies at hand or just within reach to combat the worst of global climate change. The resources that are most needed are political will and citizen involvement. The Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club calls for all citizens to join together in the organization of their choice to bring strength in numbers to carry out smart energy solutions at all levels of our community to reduce our local impact on the global problem of climate change.

Clean Water Network Caucus in Memphis

A two-day caucus on the cleanliness of Mississippi River water was held in Memphis on February 7 and 8.

The caucus was sponsored by the Clean Water Network, the University of Memphis Groundwater Institute, the Tennessee Clean Water Network, and the Mississippi River Corridor.

James Baker attended representing the Sierra Club's Tennessee Water Sentinels Program. The Western Kentucky Water Sentinels Program was represented by Lee Dew. Also attending were Sierra Club members Richard Worthen (from Illinois), Rita Harris (Sierra Club Memphis

(continued on page 7)



Your Action is Needed on 2008 Tennessee Environmental Bills

(continued from page 3)

Enacts the **Water Conservation and Emergency Preparedness Act of 2008**. This bill, also part of the administration's package, directs each community water system to prepare and submit to TDEC a water system plan. We think this bill, currently in skeletal form, may provide a way to responsibly address issues of water supply and conservation.

SJR 0612 Finney R.

State plan to address climate change.

Expresses support for the creation of a comprehensive state plan to address climate change and limit greenhouse gas emissions in Tennessee.

Questionable Bills

SB 2768 Bunch / HB 3423 Bell

Venue for certain contested case hearings.

Requires contested case hearings to be conducted in the county of residence of the respondent party.

In other words, water quality and other environmental cases would be tried and decided where the alleged polluter has more pull.

SB 3621 Bunch / HB 3708 Brooks, Kevin

Groundwater quality. Requires TDEC to provide clear and convincing evidence to the board that any water that is the subject of a complaint is water that will affect groundwater quality. This would likely chill proper enforcement of water quality laws.

SB 3288 Tracy / HB 2862 Pinion

Public-Private Partnership in Transportation Act of 2008. Gives the Tennessee Department of Transportation the authority to solicit private entities for the purpose of entering into public-private initiatives to facilitate construction or improvement of qualifying transportation facilities. This bill is not necessarily evil, but we are monitoring all toll road bills to make sure that any toll road developments include full environmental protec-

tions. We are also monitoring to forestall unnecessary new roads that could lead to sprawl and a continued lack of emphasis on mass transit, public transit and a chilling of responsible reduction in the use of energy.

SB 3966 Ramsey / HB 2511 Mumpower

Enforcement of environmental law - anonymous tips. Prohibits TDEC from investigating alleged violations and enforcing penalties solely on the basis of information received from an anonymous source.

SB 4119 Southerland / HB 4185 McCord

Defines limited resource waters. An effort to deregulate "limited resource waters," thereby removing TDEC's authority to protect Tennessee's headwaters. A new and not improved effort to remove protections along the lines of last year's so-called "ditch bill."

Stewart Clifton is a lobbyist, for Tennessee Conservation Voters.

Outings

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville) **March 8. Little Frog Wilderness Day Hike (Tennessee).**

This is an opportunity to visit an area that is being threatened by the infamous "Corridor K," a proposed 4-lane (and possible limited access) road from western North Carolina to Cleveland, Tenn., either by widening Highway 64 through the Ocoee River Gorge or more likely by building a new superhighway generally along the route of the gravel FS 68 (also known as the Kimsey Highway). We will drive both roads, and will hike the Dry Pond Lead and Rock Creek Trails between the two roads. This small wilderness is a special place located across Highway 64 from the Ocoee Whitewater Center; it should have good wildflowers in late March. Hiking distance is about 8 miles and it is rated Easy. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; Cell 742-7327; whshome@bellsouth.net.

March 15-16. Backpack, Deep Creek section of GSMNP.

We will start at the Juney Whank trailhead and follow the Indian Creek trail to Martins Gap to campsite #57—for a total of 7.6 miles the first day. On Sunday we will follow Deep Creek trail back to our cars—for a total of 7.3 miles the second day. Rated Difficult due to elevation gain. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: sharvey86@aol.com; phone 865-271-7227.

March 29. Wildflower Day Hike, River Bluff Trail, Norris State Park.

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

April 5. Day Hike, Honey Creek Trail, BSFN-RR.

One of the most varied, scenic trails in Tennessee, including stream crossings, waterfalls, ladders, boulder passages, an "Indian Rockhouse," and other adventures. Only 5.2 miles but some of the terrain necessitates a slow pace. Rated moderate. Driving distance approximately 70 miles each way. Preregister with Bill Adams at radvet@frontiernet.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (NASHVILLE) **March 25, Outings Leader 101 Training**

Are you interested in leading Sierra Club outings? Why not take Outings Leader 101 training and start the process to become a certified Sierra Club outings leader. Meet at 5:00 p.m. at the Sierra Club office in the old St. Bernard Academy Building, 2021 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN on the 4th floor. Light supper provided. Contact Katherine Pendleton for more information and to pre-register at 615-943-6877

or katibug1959@aol.com. (Education)

March 29, Pontoon Boat Nature Cruise

Join us for an afternoon 90-minute nature cruise on the Cumberland River and tributaries near Ashland City. Our host is Blue Heron Cruises(<http://www.blueheroncruises.com/Home.html>), who will take us out on a partially covered pontoon boat. Narration will include information on the river and surrounding wildlife. Besides the great blue heron, you may see a host of other river birds and mammals. Reservations and prepayment (\$10 adults, \$8 children) are necessary to insure a spot. Please reserve by March 19. If there is interest, we may go to lunch ahead of time at the Riverview restaurant, located at the dock. Contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or email Diane@Propson.com for exact meeting time. (Education)

March 30, Nashville City Cemetery Walk

Nashville City Cemetery is the burial place of many early Nashville settlers. Did you know that this cemetery is also an arboretum where many species of hardwood trees reside? Nashville historian and Volunteer State Community College professor Carole Bucy will be our tour guide. Don't miss this rare opportunity to become acquainted with a Nashville landmark. For additional information and meeting time, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email katibug1959@aol.com. (Education)

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Sierra Club/Park Friends Second Saturday Hike-Saturday, March 8, 10:00-12:00 p.m. (also second Saturday in April) –The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tenn.

The Old Forest Hike. Hike the trail through the only urban forest of its type in the region. Located in Overton Park, this moderate hike includes portions of the Old Forest Arboretum. Identify native trees and plants in the Old Forest, and learn Memphis History from its original landscape. The hike is co-sponsored by the Park Friends. Meet on the bridge at the end of the Old Forest Lane. For additional information, contact Don Richardson at (901) 276-1387 or donrich@juno.com.

Chickasaw Group Sierra Club Hike in the Middle Fork of the Little Red River, North-central Arkansas, Saturday, March 8

Ten Essentials for Hiking



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

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

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Shirley (Highway 9 & 16). The Middle Fork of the Little Red River (MFLRR) is located in Stone County, upriver from Shirley, Fairfield Bay and Greers Ferry Lake, a four-hour drive from Memphis.

Camping facilities are available at the nearby Van Buren campground (Hwy 330) on Greers Ferry Lake. Motels are available in Heber Springs, Greers Ferry, Mt. View, and Clinton.

The hike will begin in the abandoned town of Alberg along an abandoned railroad easement upriver to the Diggs' cabin for lunch. The suggested car route is Hwy 64 west to Bald Knob, Hwy 167 north to Pleasant Plains, Hwy 87 west to Concord, Hwy 25 west to Drasco, Hwy 92 west to Greers Ferry and Hwy 16 northwest to Shirley.

Wildlife includes turkey, raptors, deer, otter, beaver, bass and ginseng. There will be a discussion of future plans for the Diggs property. For more information, contact Walter Diggs at (901) 767-4522, or wddiggs@jointcommission.org.

Signs of Spring Walk

Sunday, March 9, 1:00pm – Memphis Botanic Garden in Audubon Park. Meet at the Visitor Center. For more information, contact Judith Hammond, (901) 276-2819.

Outings Leader Meeting

Sunday, March 16, 2:00pm, 481 N. McLean – Will plan our summer and fall outings. All members who have suggestions for outings are welcome. Bring your calendar. Contact outings chair, Judith Hammond, (901) 276-2819.

TENNESSEE CHAPTER SPRING MEETING

April 11-13, 2008
Fall Creek Falls State Park
Group Lodge

Cost is \$40 for the weekend - Includes Saturday and Sunday Breakfasts and Saturday Evening Dinner or \$15 for Meals Only.

Please notify Mary Mastin at Marymastin@twlakes.net or 931-268-2938 if you plan to attend. Please include # of people attending & omnivore or vegetarian.

Directions: take HWY 111 north from Chattanooga or south from I-40. Watch for signs for Fall Creek Falls State Park on the plateau between Dunlap and Spencer. Once in the park, follow signs for Group Lodge or Sierra Club signs.

Book Review

Into the Wild: America's Lost Boys (Part 2)

Review of Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild* - ISBN-13: 9780307387172

Film adaptation available 02/2008 - UPC: 097361316949

By Josie McQuail, Upper Cumberland Group

If you only see Sean Penn's film adaptation of "Into the Wild," you will miss one of the best things about Krakauer's book: His account of other Lost Boys (my phrase), past and present. There is, for example, Everett Ness, who disappeared "into the wild" in Utah in 1934.

There is John Waterman, amateur mountain climber and a product of a "broken" home who died in a reckless solo trek in the Alaska range (his body, though, has never been found); Carl McCunn, who stranded himself accidentally in the Brooks range of Alaska—starving and giving up on rescue, he shot himself in the head; Gene Rosellini, who wished to explore "if it was possible to be independent of modern technology" (75) and spent years in Alaska striving to do so, finally concluding it was impossible. Though he seemed far from disappointed, planning next to walk around the world, Rosellini instead killed himself, leaving no explanation.

Finally, there is Krakauer himself, who confesses to rejecting "normal" life in his youth, and sometimes, like Waterman and McCunn, recklessly pitting himself against the elements in extreme solo climbing.

A Senseless Loss of Life?

In some ways I agree with the critics of Chris McCandless: The senseless and foolish loss of his life seems meaningless and a tragic waste. Many think the same of the other (mis-?) adventurers Krakauer describes in his book, and think even the same of Thoreau, who after all did not achieve the kind of social success one would expect from a Harvard graduate.

For the Lost Boys who love nature and eschew human company one can imagine some kind of Wilderness Rehabilitation Program they could serve—the rehabilitation referring both to repairing nature and themselves—but it is doubtful that people so alienated and rebellious would participate in something like that.

A quote provided by Krakauer from Theodore Tzszak's "In Search of the Miraculous" provides commentary: "It may, after all, be the bad habit of creative talents to invest themselves in pathological extremes that yield remarkable insights but no durable way of life for those who cannot translate their psychic wounds into significant art or thought" (70). The lives of the Lost Boys do seem fruitless and pointless, indeed.

Escaping a Mundane Existence

The Lost Boys are driven to a sort of slow suicide,

like Kafka's Hunger Artist, expiating themselves for society's sins and excesses, perhaps the only Christ figures we have in an age where religion and wildness are both about dead.

Like the Hemingway hero, for this exceptional class of men I call the Lost Boys, the only way to find meaning in life is the cheap rush of the thrill seeker, mountain climber, hobo or hippie living on the edge of society. They are not satisfied with the stultifying American middle class suburban life, and to find answers they pit themselves against all odds, whether attempting to live on the land or amid the crueler life on the streets of America's cities.

Who is finally to say whether their lives are any less meaningless than the typical getter and spender of our consumer society? McCandless attracted attention because he (like Thoreau) broke away from all that is repressive and oppressive about "Civilization." But maybe the scariest thing to me about both Thoreau and McCandless's efforts to break away is that the type of refuge they sought in nature is fast disappearing.

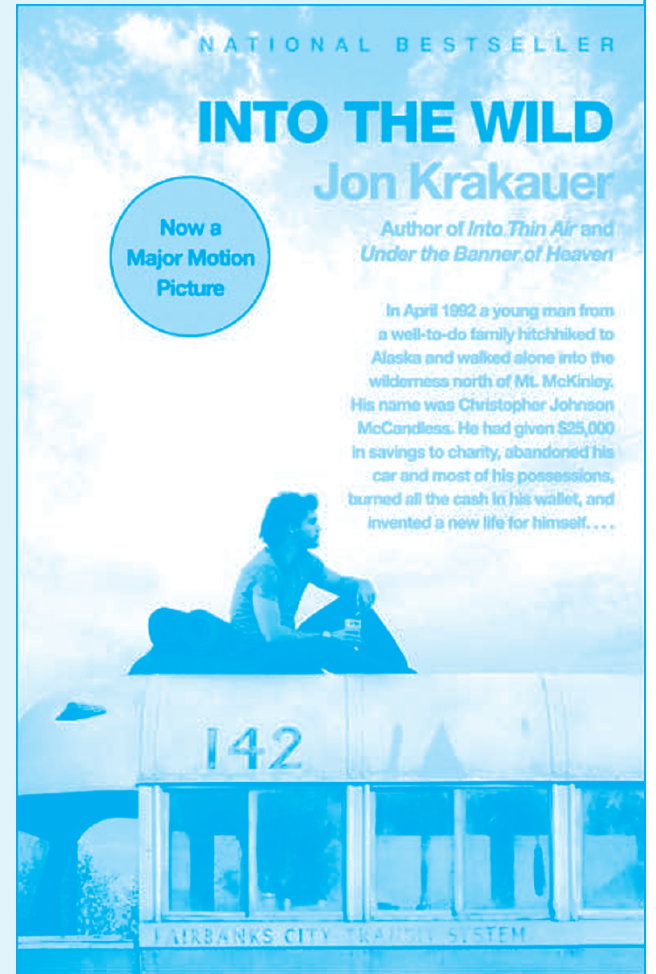
Like Thoreau, McCandless proposed to live off the land. One hundred miles from Fairbanks and 10 miles beyond the drivable portion of the Stampede Trail, he installed himself in an abandoned bus he found, set up almost 50 years ago for workers who were to construct a road along the Stampede Trail, a project aborted in the 1960s.

McCandless, it turns out, was himself not far away from three cabins, two private cabins and one provided by the Park Service that were equipped with emergency supplies. (It turns out they had been vandalized some time around when he arrived in the area, and I think he did this though the Park Service said he is not a suspect.)

Krakauer discovers that there was even a way McCandless could have gotten across the swollen Teklanika river about 10 miles from his bus, via a cable and attached basket built for hydrologists to measure the river. Apparently, McCandless intended to leave his campsite and return to "civilization," but found the fairly shallow river he had forded in April 1992 had turned into a flood by July. He went back to the abandoned bus apparently intending to try again to hike out before winter, but through a series of mishaps which Krakauer convincingly speculates about, he instead met his death in early August 1992 through starvation induced, perhaps, by accidental poisoning.

Seeking a Better Way

I think the reason McCandless has proven so fascinating is that he shows what sometimes happens to



a certain type of sensitive soul in our time. Discontent with mundane life is fatal, yet those who look for a way out should be our heroes.

People want to forget those who are discontent with life in the labyrinth of society—especially those who escape it but die young—because they are failures according to society, which worships "success." We feel they missed the way and died as a consequence, but in reality they are the ones who discover the way out. They are the prophets shouting for change, looking for the new territory just a bit beyond our range of sight or knowledge.

Krakauer and Penn both felt this about McCandless, alias Alexander Supertramp. Yet it is a profoundly ambivalent attitude we are left with, seeing a person like McCandless—or even my friends Pat, Dave and Kirk (the latter still alive, perhaps)—die so young.

Because of Jon Krakauer and Sean Penn, McCandless will be remembered. But whether people will take from the book and the film treating his life the lesson about the increasing deadness of modern life and the way the disappearing wilderness compromises our psychological and spiritual well-being is less certain.

Chickasaw Group News

(continued from page 5)

Environmental Justice Staffer), and Nancy Brannon (former Chickasaw Group ExCom member). Several local conservation partners were also there: Evelyn Keele of the Friends of Harris Creek in Jackson, Tenn., Sharon Fidler of the Tennessee League of Women Voters, John McFadden of the Tennessee Environmental Council, and Graydon Swisher of the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation. Total attendees numbered about 35.

The caucus began on Thursday with welcomes and overviews from Renee Hoyos, executive director of the Tennessee Clean Water Network, and James Baker of the Tennessee Water Sentinels.

After that, caucus speakers covered a wide range of topics: the basics of the Clean Water Act, Army Corps projects, global warming, Non-Point Source Pollution, an update on the Farm Bill, Wetlands Protection and the Hypoxic Zone in the Gulf of Mexico. There was also a presentation on modeling pollutants using a Geographical Information Systems with a tool called SPARROW.

Presentations were given by Albert Ettinger, senior staff attorney with the Environmental Law and Policy Center; Barry Sulkin, director of the Tennessee Chapter of Public Employees for

Environmental Responsibility; and David Conrad, senior water resources specialist with the National Wildlife Federation and a founder of the national Corps Reform Network.

Some of the other speakers and moderators included Diana Threadgill of the Mississippi River Corridor, Hank Graddy, a member of the Sierra Club's agriculture committee, and Cynthia Sarthou, executive director of the Gulf Restoration Network. The government panel consisted of Richard Rebich, a supervisory hydrologist with the United States Geological Survey; Doug Daigle, the coordinator with the Lower Mississippi River sub-basin committee on hypoxia; and Tennessee State Senator Mark Norris (R-District 32).

The Thursday lunch speaker was Jeff Jacobs, senior staff officer with the National Academy of Sciences. He gave a presentation on the Academy's recent report, "Mississippi River Water Quality and the Clean Water Act: Progress, Challenges, and Opportunities."

The caucus closed with a brainstorm session about what is needed to clean up the lower Mississippi River and reduce or eliminate hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

Shelby County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

6305 Haley Road, Memphis, TN 38134
(off Farm Road between Walnut Grove and Mullins Station)

Hours and Days: 8:30am-1:30pm,
Tuesdays and Saturdays

No fee. For residential citizens of Memphis and Shelby County only. No commercial or industrial wastes.

15 gallons or 100 pounds of material per month.

Acceptable items: Aerosol spray cans, automotive fluids, batteries, cleaners, construction and home repair products, lighter fluid and fire starters, electronics, flammable liquids, drain-cleaners and openers, light bulbs, herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, paint and paint thinners, pool chemicals, moth balls, insect repellent, mercury and thermostats.

Unacceptable items: Ammunition, commercial and institutional waste, explosives, medical waste, fire extinguishers, oxygen bottles, welding tanks, radioactive waste (including smoke detectors), refrigerants, cooking oil or grease, televisions, microwave ovens, copiers, tires and unidentifiable materials.

For more information, please contact Lisa Williams with Shelby County Environmental Programs at (901) 379-4430.

Experienced Riverkeeper © HIRED

By Gloria Griffith, Chair
Watauga Group Sierra Club

Donna Lisenby was recently hired in a joint effort by the Waterkeeper Alliance and Appalachian Voices to keep a watchful eye on the headwaters of Upper Northeast Tennessee. Two hundred seventy square miles of Johnson County and Carter County are included in this initial project. With an impressive ten-year track record Donna is hitting the ground running, already working in the Upper Watauga Watershed before taking the time to move to her new home or hire additional staff. What a RIVERKEEPER© ! Allow me to introduce Donna Lisenby and tell you a little bit about her work during the last decade.

Donna spent endless hours and energy in the last 10 years analyzing water issues, educating stakeholders and aligning the activities of hundreds of citizens from the foothills of North Carolina to the sand hills of South Carolina. Her personal passion was contagious, as many river stakeholders were motivated to become activists. Hundreds attended and participated in public forums. Another achievement was generating support for issues at the local and state government level.

Highlights of Donna Lisenby's last ten years as The Catawba RIVERKEEPER©:

- United communities, including county and municipal governments, Marine Commissions and the SC General Assembly to oppose one of the largest interbasin transfer requests in the history of North Carolina

- Provided leadership in the Duke Hydropower Relicensing process and with alliance partners, obtained land preservation, restoration of the Great Falls, and more than \$60 million in recreation and water quality enhancements for the future
- Settled a lawsuit with Crescent Resources, resulting in a 2,900 acre expansion to the Lake James State Park and establishing greater environmental protections for the remaining 4,000 acres of undeveloped land in Burke County on Lake James
- Stopped Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, from illegally storing herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers in parking lots where rainwater was washing pollutants into public drinking water supplies
- Responded to numerous sewage spill reports, pressuring EPA and states to levy more fines
- Achieved the timely designation of the Catawba River below Lake James dam as a trout stream, taking the issue to the NC Superior Court to overcome significant opposition

Donna's area of jurisdiction in the Upper Watauga Watershed encompasses 205 square miles in North Carolina and 270 square miles in Tennessee, with the potential to expand an additional 393 square miles in Tennessee. Mid-term expansion plans include extending the RIVERKEEPER© area of responsibility downstream to bring much of the industrial and commercial areas of tri-cities and the South and Middle Forks of the Holston River under observation.

Donna, the first Tennessee RIVERKEEPER©, will make a difference in the health and future of Tennessee's water resources. I look forward to RIVERKEEPER© programs expanding across Tennessee since they work to enforce existing environmental law and regulations, and may pursue legal action against polluters. For more information on the Waterkeeper Alliance, visit www.waterkeeper.org.

Welcome to Tennessee, Donna.

DEFENDERS OF TENNESSEE 2007-08 – Final Update

This is our last update this year for the Tennessee Chapter's annual Defenders of Tennessee campaign, which funds our advocacy and lobbying activities. WE ARE UNDER OUR GOAL and hope that all of you who have not yet renewed or have not contributed will consider a gift, small or large, to the Defenders.

During the past 12 years, this program has been very effective in representing the Sierra Club's environmental agenda on Capitol Hill, and we are proud of the accomplishments of our Legislative Committee and our lobbyist, Mike Murphy.

Your contribution is not tax-deductible but is critical in enabling us to continue to have an advocate on "the hill." Contributions of any size are valued. This campaign is a volunteer activity, so all donations go to support the Defenders.

Please fill out the form below and send your check made out to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Bill Terry and Penny Brooks
Legislative Co-Chair



Newly appointed Upper Watauga Watershed Riverkeeper Donna Lisenby with her mother, Candace Bouchard, and her sister, Julie Lisenby, at a Catawba RiverKeeper event in 2007.

Please enclose the following with your contribution

Amount of donation: \$75 \$150 \$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.

Please save Defender funds for legislative activities. Send no acknowledgment letter.

Thanks to this month's contributors to the **Defenders of Tennessee** (January 10 through February 9).

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Anonymous | Margaret Olson |
| Bob Brandt | Cynthia and Steven Rohrbach |
| Mary Buckner and Jack Lyle | Candy Wansley |
| Peggy and Eston Evans | Robert A. Weeks |
| Randy Humble | Dennis White |
| Joe McCaleb | Chapter Executive Committee members |

Moving?



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

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