This year’s Annual Tennessee Chapter awards brought both momentous and mysterious events. Caty Butcher, Mary Mastin, and Catherine Murray where recognized with our traditional, and very highly honored awards:

Submitted by Adelle Wood: Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) member Caty Butcher was awarded the prestigious Sarah Hines Award for her work over many years on both chapter and group issues. Caty currently serves as Chapter Political Chair, Chapter Fundraising Chair, and Group Conservation Chair. She is a member of the Chapter Legislative Committee and has served as Group Chair and Group Vice Chair. Caty has, for years, been the one to tackle difficult tasks enthusiastically. She has obtained grants for a chapter intern, for the sprawl manual (which she co-authored and edited), and for an environmental justice project. She does an enormous amount of political work behind the scenes, including volunteer lobbying. She has hosted receptions for Defender dinners. She got the MTG recycling site up and running, which helps pay our Chapter/Group office expenses and brings name recognition to the chapter. There is much more that she has done, but only Caty knows all the things she has done. She puts in countless hours, and when something comes up that no one wants to do, her invariable response is “I can do it”. Caty is a dedicated activist who has gone above and beyond for many years. She embodies the ideals of volunteerism, and has truly earned the Sarah Hines Award.

Mary Mastin of the Upper Cumberland Group was presented with a Special Award of Appreciation for her outstanding work on a number of conservation efforts in Tennessee. She serves as Chapter Treasurer, delegate to the Appalachian Regional Conservation Committee, at-large Chapter delegate, member of the Budget and Transportation Committees, and Group Conservation Chair. She has headed up the March Window fundraising effort for the last 2 years. Her recent accomplishments include her pro bono work, with her husband, Brian Paddock, on the Spencer/Rumbling Falls Cave action, in which the Chapter participated as a Friend of the Court; her work in creating the Citizens for TDOT Reform; with Brian, serving as “legal watchdog” in the Pig-iron Roost action in Cookeville; and her hundreds of hours working as co-counsel on the Zeb Mountain case. As was pointed out during the awards ceremony, Mary can be described by the “3 C’s”, which in her case are Caring, Competent, and Capable. These attributes describe the core of Mary’s contributions to the conservation work of the Sierra Club. While these are exemplary qualities, the most important thing is that Mary gets results. The Chapter was proud to be able to present this special award to Mary for her dedication, her persistence, and her success in helping the Club reach its conservation goals.

This year’s Mack Pritchard Award went to State of Franklin Group member Catherine Murray for her dedicated work on forestry issues. Catherine is a member of the Chapter Executive Committee and is the Chapter Representative to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Ecosystem (SAHE). She is the Chair of the National Forests and End Commercial Logging Committees and is a member of the Chapter Forestry and Natural Areas Committee and of the Transportation Committee, as well as serving as Group Conservation and Forestry Chair. Catherine Murray is the Tennessee Chapter’s conscience on the Cherokee National Forest. She has carried on the forestry work of the Chapter as well as the Cherokee Forest Voices (CFV), of which the Chapter is a member. She works for CFV for half-time salary and volunteer for the Chapter, but she has carried on a full-time job of keeping CFV active and giving us all legal standing in the forest appeals process. Her nickname is the “litigation queen”, and she has the ability to get attorneys to work to get her goals for the forests. Then, she does the detailed research to get the attorneys the information they need to go forward with the case. As a grassroots activist, Catherine has taken on a job that no one else was willing to do and in the process, has traveled days, weeks and month to Forest Service public hearings and meetings. She is passionate in her love for the land and the forests, and she just does what needs to be done.

And then, there was a visit from The Prez and the Grim Reaper - Yikes!

The following was pieced together from various conflicting accounts and submitted by Don Richardson . . .

After the last chapter award was presented, our emcee, Don Richardson, was apologizing for the apparent no-show of an extra special guest, when Nashville member Corie Wiser bursts through the side door, saying, “Does anyone know anything about the helicopter that’s just landed out here on the grass?”

When Don walks over to the door and looks out, his jaw drops and he turns to the assembled audience and exclaims, “You are not going to believe this, but . . . ladies and gentlemen, let’s welcome The Prez of the US”.

The Prez strides through the door dressed in a flannel shirt, jeans, hunting boots and a vest, adorned with a small American flag (of course), waving to everyone with a fixed grin on his face, as if he was wearing an over-the-head Halloween mask. Don follows him to the front of the fireplace, appearing to be at for a loss of words at The Prez’ surprise appearance, while The Prez continues to wave to the crowd and genuinely act like he’s happy to be here.

When Don again welcomes The Prez, and asks him if he would like to address the Tennessee Chapter, The Prez makes hand signals as if to say, “No Thanks,” and then when it is Don’s turn, Don listens attentively to The Prez, starts to laugh, and then turns to the audience and says, “He says the Vice Prez told him not to speak to the Sierra Club”.

As The Prez settles back and starts rocking slightly on his heels, Don asks, “If you are so afraid of the Sierra Club, may I ask why you decided to visit us anyway?” At this point, The Prez leans out in a friendly way and whispers in Don’s ear again. Don chuckles at his reply and turns again to the Group member Catherine Murray for her dedicated work on forestry issues. Catherine is a member of the Chapter Executive Committee and is the Chapter Representative to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Ecosystem (SAHE). She is the Chair of the National Forests and End Commercial Logging Committees and is a member of the Chapter Forestry and Natural Areas Committee and of the Transportation Committee, as well as serving as Group Conservation and Forestry Chair. Catherine Murray is the Tennessee Chapter’s conscience on the Cherokee National Forest. She has carried on the forestry work of the Chapter as well as the Cherokee Forest Voices (CFV), of which the Chapter is a member. She works for CFV for half-time salary and volunteer for the Chapter, but she has carried on a full-time job of keeping CFV active and giving us all legal standing in the forest appeals process. Her nickname is the “litigation queen”, and she has the ability to get attorneys to work to get her goals for the forests. Then, she does the detailed research to get the attorneys the information they need to go forward with the case. As a grassroots activist, Catherine has taken on a job that no one else was willing to do and in the process, has traveled days, weeks and month to Forest Service public hearings and meetings. She is passionate in her love for the land and the forests, and she just does what needs to be done.

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Tennes-Sierran
The monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

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“Small Mail” clip the “Moving” coupon below and mail
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SEND ARTICLES TO:
Email: TennesSierran@aol.com
Small Mail: Rachel Floyd, Tennes-Sierran Chief Editor
3223 Caldwell Road - Ashland City, TN 37015
(615) 792-2590

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:
Submission DEADLINE is the 5th of the month preceding the new month's issue.
1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to TennesSierran@aol.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.
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 can not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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

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Chickasaw Group - Memphis
www.tennessee.sierrclub.org/chickasaw
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Rita Harris, Community Organizer
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierrclub.org

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Tennessee-Sierran
December 2003

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Turn inspiration into preservation.
Like Ansel Adams before him, the work of Donald Muir Bradburn is intensely honest, reflecting the passion of his childhood memories of the Mississippi Barrier Islands, which his photography helped save. For millions of people, the Sierra Club turns that same passion for nature into something just as moving—successful protection of our natural treasures. Join them tomorrow is filled with crews that inspire. Join us. You'll be in good company.

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

The Tennes-Sierran

Page 2 - December, 2003
Continued from page 1

Someday, and audience says, “He’s got his Daddy told him never to pass up an opportunity to get a credit for something, especially if there is a chance he might receive an award.”

As the crowd laughs at this remark, a loud gong is heard. Some folks fall silent in their seats, and others grasp loudly as they point to the hallway behind Don, leading out from the kitchen. As everyone looks in utter astonishment, a tall, flickering figure in black floats toward Don and The Prez on a cloud of ash smoke, carrying what looks like an overly large black scroll. A halo of light from the glowing, wispy gray vamps in hands that appear to be those of a skeleton.

After recovering initially from the shock of whether he can trust his eyes or not, Don recovers his composure, and turns to the audience and says, “I’m not sure I believe myself, but... it’s the Grim Reaper!”

As Don backs away from this figure (or is it just an appearance), The Prez hides behind Don as The Prez moves forward and motions for The Prez to take the glowing, smoking flask from his bony hands. At first The Prez shaves his head, “No”, but when the Prez motions again, The Prez reluctantly grabs it quickly.

The Reaper then motions to Don to take the large ancient, leather-bound book as a gift to The Prez. Obviously after touching it briefly to convince himself that it is real, Don esies the object out of The Reaper’s hand, careful not to touch any part of The Reaper himself. When Don unfolds the object, a dusty, leather-like sheet of parchment is inside, made of either skin or it is papery... it’s hard to tell. Once untold, the now apparent scroll is covered with ancient characters covering the entire surface of the inner scroll.

At this point, Don speaks to The Reaper, trying to avoid eye contact and says, “I can’t read this”, to which The Reaper slowly brings his hand up over the scroll, and suddenly the arcane text appears to form into English characters and Don exclaims, “Wow... now I can read it”. Don then turns to the audience and begins to read the scroll in English, which is reproduced below.

During all this, The Prez has positioned himself behind Don and The Reaper the whole time. As Don reads down the scroll, skipping a long list of actions that the Prez administration has committed against the environment, The Prez is shaking his head in approval. As the citations close with the announcement that The Grim Reaper is giving him an award as a “Friend of Extinction”, The Prez begins bobbing around, obviously happy that he is being recognized for something.

When Don asks The Prez if he has anything to say for himself, he points to his watch and shakes his head, as if to say that it is time for him to go, and then as quickly as he entered, The Prez turns on his heels and runs out the door. At about the same time, The Grim Reaper begins receding back down the hallway from which he emerged, and everyone is in such shock that the music has stopped, that no one reports even hearing The Prez’s helicopter take off. Anyway, that’s our story, and we’re sticking to it.

For those of you who didn’t have the opportunity to attend the Awards Presentation, we now share with you the...
From Johnson City and other parts east, take the old Johnson Highway (W. Walnut) past Midway until you see the Jonesborough Town Limit sign. Turn left immediately past the Bank of Tennessee Ridge Rd. (Praise Chapel Church is on the far corner.) Go to the first right, and park on the left side of the cul-de-sac. Frances’s house is on the left behind the wroth mountain iron gate at the end of this very short block.

Frances Lamberts’ phone number is 753-5285 if you get lost. Or you can call Linda Modica’s cell phone at 676-2925 for directions.

HOLIDAY PARTY: Monday, December 15, 7pm. Bring a covered dish to share with your fellow Strivans. We have a lot to be thankful for this year: great, faithful members who have been supportive & responsive throughout the year. We also thank the Unitarian Church for welcoming the Sierra Club back to their beautiful facility! This social gathering will be held at Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 186 Bob Jobe Road, Gray. We can use the church’s kitchen, and their wine glasses, plates, and utensils so just bring food or drinks. Take I-26 to the Eastern State Road Exit. Turn Right (south) onto Bob Jobe Rd. which parallels the highway. Follow round white signs for the church on the left which is on the left you head south on Bob Jobe Rd. Please call Linda Modica at cell number 676-2925 if you get lost.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, December 4, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group’s “FIRST THURSDAY” monthly gathering where Sierra Club activists, community and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnson celjohnson@memphiscityedu at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

ACCURATE MEETING: Thursday, December 17, 7-9:00 p.m. - St. Louis Catholic Church, 203 South White Station, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. This will likely be the last time to meet at the Church, with expectations of moving next year to the Main Branch of the Library. Contact Charlie Rond charond@bellhounds.net (by December 4 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150 for more information.

HOLIDAY PARTY: Friday, December 18, 7:00 p.m., at the office of Burch, Porter and Johnson. The office is located at 130 North Court Avenue, on the north side of Court Square. Parking is available north and west of the building, with entrance to the parking lot off Jefferson Avenue. Bring family and friends and a covered dish to share. We will provide a cash bar. For additional information, contact Don Vanhook at 423-843-3246 or vanhookc@earthlink.net.

**Save Our Smokies T Shirts**

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**Total T-Shirt order**

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**TELEVISION PROGRAM**

Every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. CST, The Library Channel, Memphis Cable 18, WVFL, “The Nature of Conservation” is sponsored by the Sierra Club. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the month. For December the discussion will be the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement, The Real Costs of “Free” Trade, The Tennesse Economic Renewal Network, TERN, formerly TIRN, kicks off our campaign to defeat the FTA (Free Trade Area of the Americas), with a state-wide speaking tour: Our World is Not for Sale - The Real Costs of “Free” Trade. The first stop was Memphis. Spotlighted are two interviewees, Ms. Josefina Hernandez, a professor of economics at the National Autonomous Uni-

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If you would like to be active in the Save Our Smokies campaign, please contact Beverly Smith at 865/331-8480 or bsmith@13009@comcast.net.

Your help would be greatly appreciated!
The Tennes-Sierran

Grand Teton. I believe the Sierra Club is an important voice for the environment. I have been a Sierra Club member for the last two years and a member of the Chickasaw Group for many years. I was a winter wildlife viewing tour of Yellowstone and the Smoky Mountains and the Association for Women Attorneys and Past Chairperson Union Planters Bank. I am a Member and Past President of the Chickasaw Group and a member of the Board of Directors of The Community Legal Center, which is a Non-Profit Group providing legal representation to the working poor in Memphis and Shelby County. I grew up in Memphis and have always enjoyed Overton Park and Shelby Forest as well as trips to the Smoky Mountains and the Ozarks with my family. My favorite vacation as an adult was a winter wildlife viewing tour of Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. I believe the Sierra Club is an important voice in the preservation of the wilderness areas of our country.

Emestine Carpenter - Emestine Carpenter is a life-long citizen of Memphis. She is married and the mother of two sons and the grandmother of four granddaughters. Emestine recently attended the environmental conference planning committee for the area-wide Sierra Club 2003 conference. “Be Aware: Build Your Environmental IQ.” She was also a delegate to the 2003 Environmental Justice Program’s In-Gathering that was held in Albany, New York. Her environmental justice concerns focus mainly on air pollution from an oil refinery, a Hertz power plant and chemical plants near her home.

Judith Hammam - Judith is currently the Outings Chair for the Chickasaw Group. She believes that Outings attract new members, reactivate old members and create new activists. She was the lead planter of the Chickasaw Group’s October 2003 Legislative Reception. “Be Aware: Build Your Environmental IQ.” She was also a delegate to the 2003 Environmental Justice Program’s In-Gathering that was held in Albany, New York. Her environmental justice concerns focus mainly on air pollution from an oil refinery, a Hertz power plant and chemical plants near her home.

Barbara S. Stringer - Since moving to Memphis in 2002 to work as a corporate pilot for FedEx, I have been actively involved in organizations dedicated to protecting our environment and improving our community. I have been a Sierra Club member since 1997 and recently attended the Sierra Club’s Environmental Justice Program, “Be Aware: Build Your Environmental IQ.” In addition to working as a volunteer for the Animal Protection Association, I also work with children to create a climate-friendly home. Additionally, she has been a Member of the Mid-South Peace Transportation issues impact the human as well as the natural environment. I believe the single most important issue facing the environmental movement is pollution and that we must work to stop it. The Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program, “Be Aware: Build Your Environmental IQ.” In addition to working as a volunteer for the Animal Protection Association, I also work with children to create a climate-friendly home. Additionally, she has been a Member of the Mid-South Peace Transportation issues impact the human as well as the natural environment.

Bill Runyan - My name is Bill Runyan. I first became interested in the environment while watching wildlife specials on wolves and coyotes. This stimulated an early interest in preserving our natural heritage. Before I was the age of two, I was sending letters to the National Wildlife Federation, the first environmental organization I was aware of. That practice continues to this day with the Sierra Club and any other environmental organization that has an educational background in biology with a Bachelor’s degree from Rhodes and a Masters degree from the University of Memphis. I believe the single most important issue facing the environmental community is the Free Trade Area of the Americas treaty. If this treaty goes into effect, countless international agreements on environmental laws in this hemisphere will eventually be imposed on us. I have written several letters to the editor of the Commercial Appeal on the issue of free trade and other environmental concerns. Some of them were not published and one even resulted in a legal action by the state.

The TDOT verdicts are:

- Jackson East Bypass will not be considered by TDOT because Jackson’s 2003 Comprehensive Transportation Plan did not adequately establish the need for the project.
- The Wolf River Parkway has been referred back to local government for further consideration. TDOT has not itself involved from participation in the project at this point.
- The Walnut Grove relocation project has also been referred back to local government for the same reason.

During the press conference, Tom Rothm, Vice President of the Wolf River Conservancy asked Commissioner Nicely how retaining the Wolf River Parkway plan affected the fate of the Wolf River Conservancy. The answer was that the fate of the Wolf River Parkway was not affected by the TDOT verdicts. The TDOT verdicts are:

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- The Walnut Grove relocation project has also been referred back to local government for the same reason.

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/SignsWaivers.PDF, or call 415-977-5610, 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)

No Harvey Broome Group outings in December.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday/Sunday, December 6-7 - Nathan Bedford Forest State Park Backpack - This will be an educational trip as we hike the Tennessee Forest Trail which is listed in Historical Hiking Trails of America.

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.

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!

To volunteer call David Bordenkircher at 333-3377 or email dabordenkircher@mindspring.com

Thank You!!

This 10 mile easy to moderate trail passes over Pilot Knob, the highest spot in West Tennessee. We will camp at one of the rustic trail shelters. Bring a salad ingredient for a "trash bag salad." For more information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Adelicia1@aol.com

Friday/Saturday/Sunday December 19-21 - GSMSNP Backpack - Let’s celebrate the winter solstice in the Smokies! We’ll hike Kephart Prong Trail spending Friday night at the Kephart shelter. Saturday we will continue on the Kephart Prong Trail on up to the AT and spend Saturday night at Lizzie Water Spring shelter. Sunday, we’ll take the Sweat Heatie Ct. Trail back to where we started. Total mileage Fri. 2 mi., Sat. 3-5 mi., Sun. 7.2 mi. Rated moderate. No tents will be needed since both nights will be in shelters. Reservations limited. For additional information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Adelicia1@aol.com

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

TRAIL WORK - As you may know, the State of Franklin Group has adopted the section of Appalachian Trail which winds through the beautiful Big Laurel Branch Wilderness (BLBW), just west of Watauga Lake. The use of power tools is prohibited in such designated wilderness areas and for this reason some members of trail maintenance groups actually oppose the protection of wilderness designations provided. We can show our support for wilderness by performing necessary and timely maintenance in the BLBW and perhaps, with enough support, adopt other wilderness trails. In addition to BLBW, we do trail work on other sections of the AT & in Johnson City Parks, as well as various other projects. Volunteers are needed. No prior experience is necessary and you may work at your own pace. As with all SOFG Sierra Club Outings everyone is welcome, so bring your friends. See the monthly schedule below.

1st Saturday - Appalachian Trail Maintenance at BLBW
2nd Saturday - Appalachian Trail Maintenance at BLBW or other AT sections with the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club
3rd Saturday - Trail Maintenance at one of Johnson City’s parks, such as Buffalo Mountain Park, Winged Deer Park or Willow Springs Park.
4th Wednesday - Various Projects.

For details & to sign up contact John Arwood 423-926-9876.

To be informed of upcoming outings via email send a brief note to Trail_Work_Play@hotmail.com

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Saturday, December 6 - Dusk - Old Copper Road, Ocoee River in Polk County - We will be meeting at the Ocoee Whitewater (exit 11 at I-75) at 8:30 A.M. We are going to carpool to the Ocoee Whitewater Center for a 5 mile walk on the Old Copper Road. Then we will have lunch at the Burr Burra Mining Company (BBQ) in Ducktown. We will complete the afternoon with a drive thru the area affected by the restart of the Intertrade Holdings acid plant. We should be arriving back in Ocoee around 4:00 P.M. For additional information and to register, contact Don Vanhook at 423-843-5244 or vanhooked@earthlink.net.

Join the Nashville Recycling Team!

Any good friend of the earth who can donate 2 or 3 hours any Saturday morning can join the fun at our Kroger Elyssian Fields Recycling Site. We need you! AND, your efforts directly contribute to the environmental campaigns of your local Middle Tennessee Group.

To volunteer call David Bordenkircher at 333-3377 or email dabordenkircher@mindspring.com

Thank You!!

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Saturday, December 13, 2003 - 10:00 am - The Old Forest Trail, "Second Saturday Hikes" Explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America. Learn about the forest's history, identify big trees and wildflowers and observe firsthand the impact of natural and human forces on forests in an urban setting. Meet at the bridge next to the parking lot at the end of Old Forest Lane in the center of Overton Park. The informative and entertaining trail map to the self-guided mile-and-a-quarter mile loop hike with seasonal bird watching and wildflower-viewing guides is available for free at the Golf House in Overton Park at all other times. For additional information, contact Don Richardson atdonrich@juno.com at (901) 270-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

First Aid – CPR - First Aid Class/CPR Class for Chickasaw Group

The Chickasaw Group offers First Aid/CPR classes. They are published only as a service to our members. The Sierra Club makes no representation or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of these activities. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

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HISTORIC HIKING TRAILS OF AMERICA.

Join the Chickasaw Group for our 3rd annual trek to the overnight trail shelter - the Kephart shelter. Saturday we will hike the AT and spend Saturday night at Kephart shelter. Sunday we will take the hike over Pilot Knob, the highest spot in West Tennessee. We will camp at one of the rustic trail shelters. Bring a salad ingredient for a "trash bag salad." For more information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Adelicia1@aol.com

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HISTORIC HIKING TRAILS OF AMERICA.
The Tennes-Sierran serve a 2-year term if elected. Candidate statements are printed is continuing that love of the outdoors still backpacking at with the Sales experience is most likely the highest asset he ernment and also as City Clerk of Salem, Il in the early 1970's. vice, he worked as an assistant to a Commissioner in State Gov- has spent the last 25 years in Marketing/Sales/Customer Ser- P 2004 Executive Committee Cherokee Group Ballot 

**Christmas Ballot**

** Tigers vs. Lions**

**Annual Sierra Club Defenders Fundraising Campaign Launches for 2004!**

Eight years ago the Sierra Club developed the Defenders of Tennessee as a means to fund and hire a lobbyist to promote our interests in the State Legislature. Having some-one at the legislature who could educate our elected repre-sentatives, as well as monitor the relevant environmental issues, has proven to be an effective way to have an influ-ence and to promote a conservation agenda. Our lobbyist, Mike Murphy, has also kept the membership informed about critical issues that need our attention.

Three critical "legs" support our advocacy and lobbying pro-gam: phone calls and letters from our members to our law-makers, volunteer lobbying by members; and our pro-fessional lobbying program, the Defenders of Ten-nessee. If one leg is removed, the program collapses. We invite you to join the Defenders and help us to continue this vital and very effective program.

In the last year, Mike:

- Obtained sponsors for a bill to allow municipalities to use part of the gasoline tax for mass transportation.
- Obtained sponsors for a bill to require an environmental im-pact study for all state projects.
- Was instrumental in stopping a bill that would have eliminated liability for recyclers of hazardous waste.
- Helped preserve some money in the land acquisition fund and helped put a sunset of 4 years on the deferral of the revenue stream for the State and Local Parks Acquisition Fund. In other words, Mike was instrumental in making a bad situation more tolerable.
- Has functioned as the main contact person between the envi-ronmental community, the Division of State Parks and the Legis-lature.

Our challenges for next year:

- To get more money into the land acquisition fund via General Obligation Bonds.
- To continue dialogue with the Division of State Parks concerning plans to build more lodges, and to oppose new efforts if necessary.
- To set up a revolving loan fund for green businesses.
- To continue to be vigilant against legislation that would allow or promote pollution, sprawl and the destruction of Tennessee's environment.

The Tennessee Chapter is able to hire a lobbyist such as Mike only if you and other dedicated members donate to this once-a-year deductible campaign. So keep your donation, while not tax-deductible, is critical in enabling us to continue to have an advocate "on the hill". Please fill out the form below and send a check, made out to Sierra Club Defenders Fund, c/o Adele Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Bill Terry, Legislative Co-Chair & Penny Brooks, Legislative Co-Chair

Amount of donation: | $50 | $125 | $250 | $500 | Other

Name: ____________________________
Address: _________________________
May we publish your name in the Sierra Club newsletter as a donor? Yes | No

OPTIONAL - Your email address (If you prefer to receive acknowledgment of your donation electronically)
Harvey Broome Group

Election Ballot for the 2004 Executive Committee

Please vote for six (6) of the following candidates before the year term begins January 1, 2004.

Membership

Single Joint

Rita Harris, Sierra Club's Associate Regional Director, presented Community Peacemaker Awards to several members of the local Sierra Club. I have been a member of Sierra Club since 2003.

John Fisher - John Fisher is a professor emeritus in the history department of the University of Tennessee, and from 1977 until his retirement in 2000 he was head of the department. He also served on the executive committee of UT Faculty Senate and chaired that body's committee overseeing the student athletic budget. A member of the Harvey Broome Group since 1982, he has served as chair of the group as well as on the executive committee. His major outdoor activities include hiking, backpacking, and pursuing the wily trout.

Lawn Henderson - My involvement in environmental issues began when a student at Michigan State University I became active with the student governmental group at the local level. After earning my bachelor's in environmental studies, I worked for MASSPIRG as a political coordinator, and most recently as the Champion for Sierra Club. I have been a member of Sierra Club since 2003.

Carolyn Pearce and Don Richardson assisted thousands of trees in the region, Chickasaw Group joined the Memphis City Beautiful Commission, the Appalachian Regional Conservation Committee, and the Water Quality and Biodiversity Committees. Outside of the Sierra Club, I am current President of the Tennessee Clean Water Network, and a founding member and past Chair of Nature/Water Coalition, a national watershed protection group. I believe that I can contribute to the growth and efficacy of the Sierra Club in the region and look forward to doing so in any capacity I can.

Ron Sheirens - My name is Ron Sheirens. I have lived in Knoxville for 31 years, and am a professor of Finance at the University of Tennessee. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1988 (OK, so you haven't seen me at all that many meetings until recently), and of the Natural Resources Conservation Society since 2000. In addition to teaching responsibilities in the undergraduate MBA, MBA, Executive MBA, and Ph.D. programs, I have participated in numerous committee assignments at UT, and chaired my chapter. I am a co-op/prime work, and to working in a team setting. Most of my involvement in the Club to date has been ongoing, but when asked if I would be willing to serve on the Sierra Club executive committee, I decided it's time for me to at least partially "pay back" for all that the Club has done on my behalf.

Walter Wunderlich - I received my high school and university education in Germany, where I obtained a degree in civil engineering and a doctor of engineering in the field of hydrology. I worked for a consulting firm in Frankfurt on water projects in various countries. In 1964, I came to the United States and joined the TVA. I worked on prediction methods for water quality in rivers and lakes, mostly on thermal regimes. Then, for 13 years, I directed a staff in charge of developing optimizing water management methods for the TVA reservoir system that would consider a balanced operation for the purposes for which the system was authorized. After 22 years with the TVA, I took early retirement in 1987. For many years, I was active in domestic and international professional organizations. Presently I am serving as Secretary-Treasurer of the Technical Society of Knoxville. I consider the creation of the GSMNP and the Fontana land donation to the park as rare strokes of luck for the area and for us all. We all can do our part to protect, preserve and promote it from the continuing onslaught by selfish interests. I have been a member of Sierra Club since 2000.

Current members only are eligible to vote. Vote for no more than six candidates. Each person in a Dual membership (spouse/partner can vote for six candidates) voted once. The ballot is void if not initialed in an envelope marked on the outside with your membership number (found on the label below this Tennes-Sierran) by December 12, 2003. No later than December 12, 2003 to: Robert M. Hill, 11504 Mountain View Road, Knoxville, TN 37922.

The Tennes-Sierran

October 2003

To Trees Or Not To Trees Seminar

Over 120 people attended a morning of workshops, displays and exhibits at the first annual To Trees Or Not to Trees seminar hosted by the Knoxville Nature Center and managed by the department of forestry. On July 22 this year, located locally as Hurricane Elvis, that drowned thousands of trees in the region, Chickasaw Group joined the Maryville City Conservation Commission and another community organizations in sponsoring a free educational event to assist Memphians seek how to replant their trees and damaged in the storm.

Arborists, landowners, botanists and local tree experts offered workshops while other groups, including the Sierra Club, hosted tables of related information for tree and nature lovers. Judith Ruchanski was a co-organizer for the event while Terri Sullivan, James Baker, Carolyn Greene, Karen Richardson, and Terri Sullivan hosted the internet table. Terri Sullivan also arranged for the Management Shelby County Health Department to be on hand to demonstrate their hybrid electric vehicle, a Toyota Prius, as another related environmentally friendly community solution.

CHICKASAW GROUP NEWS

Compiled by various members

Grassroots Environmental Justice Organizer, based in Memphis, was presented the PeaceMaker Award for Environmental Justice. Chickasaw Group Conservation Chair, Allan Lummus, was presented the first 2003 Environmentalist of the Year Award, and longtime Chickasaw Group members, John and Mary Ann Spencer, received the 2003 PeaceMaker Award for Lifetime Achievement for "setting an example in word and deed of combining mainstream politics with peace progress". For more information visit www.middlepeace.org.

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The Tennes-Sierran Middle TN Group

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group

2001 21st Avenue South, Suite 436
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

-- Advertisement --

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www.middlepeace.org

Tennes-sierran

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