Chickasaw Kicks Into a Summer Grove!

Group News - Compiled by various members

Sylamore Creek:
Recent outings of the Chickasaw Group had conservation themes, were enjoyable, and explored beautiful West Tennessee and Arkansas locales. The Sylamore Creek easy backpack and car camp combo led by Jill Johnston and Judith Hammond was a constant reminder of why we should protect our national forests. The Ouark National Forest in Arkansas had, in five miles, four unique geo-ecosystems - from meadows full of wildflowers to forests hanging with Spanish moss, and of course, the caves, home of the bats. Because of the forest, the campground was one of the most beautiful in the lower U.S. There will be another outing with Spanish moss, and of course, the caves, home of the bats. Because of the forest, the campground was one of the most beautiful in the lower U.S.

Germantown Greenbelt:
Carolyn Pierce led a day hike along the lower Wolf River Germantown Greenbelt. The trail and parkland adjacent have been preserved by Germantown. This pretty trail was worth a visit! And to think that it is along what was once one of Tennessee's most polluted rivers. Woody Pierce, Judith Hammond, Linda Swift, and Mary Ann McCool were impressed. The maintained trail stops near the Riverwood State Natural Area. This could be an even more impressive urban retreat, if the natural area could be preserved.

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

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

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

Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

Citizens for TDOT Reform Meet to Discuss Next Steps

By Caitlin McCollister, Middle Tennessee Group Summer Intern

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

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

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

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

Finally, members attending the meeting voted for a name change from Citizens for TDOT Reform to Citizens for Transportation Reform, in an attempt to communicate the group’s concern for transportation issues in general instead of a specific distrust of TDOT's policies and projects.
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 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 .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 ½ 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.
Save our Snakes Outing:

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

Memphis Sierra Club Environmental Justice Office - Toxic Tour

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

Friends of Harris Creek – Spring Clean Sweep

Evelyn Keele, who is the Chair of the Friends of Harris Creek, organized a spring cleanup of Harris Creek. Harris Creek is a high quality, un-channelized waterway and reference stream in the South Fork Forked Deer watershed. A reference stream is a stream used by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation as a benchmark to gauge the water quality data gathered on other streams in the same eco-region. For more on reference streams, see: http://tennessee.gov/environmen/wpc/publications/Habitat%20Guidelines.pdf

Friends of Harris Creek had 22 volunteers who removed about 1,000 pounds of illegally discarded trash and other material from the roadside ditches, the banks and in Harris Creek itself. Most of the material was bagged household garbage. The most unusual item found was a large grill. Evelyn reported that since the Friends group started doing these cleanups in 2001, the amount of trash found and recovered has dropped significantly. As she stated, “The first time, we had a dumpster absolutely running over (we really needed a roll-off, or TWO of the small ones). The next time, we had a roll-off about 3/4 full. Since we have made a fuss and had publicity in print each cleanup, we have “significantly” less dumping year round. You would not believe the mounds of furniture, bathroom features, animal carcasses and other junk we had to drag out of there. I think people are beginning to respect the creek or simply refrain. This feels GREAT!” Many thanks to the Tennessee Clean Water Network and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for helping the Friends group out with a grant for this cleanup.

Volunteer Magic

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

Magic Beginning

By Kim Walds

At the beginning…

Arlen called the participants around the table at the meeting. That’s how he thought of himself, ‘back up’ for the heavy hitters, a sustaining voice when the weight of numbers became important. He wasn’t a source of data gathering and discussion ending facts, but he knew what he felt is right. All of his compatriots engaged in this debate regardless of how you feel about them. Volunteerism is that enormous influence, action, change and enlightenment are accomplished. Not by a profit driven少数, but by regular folks who are interested enough to add their voice, or hearts and hands, or special talents to those of like minded people in the interest of the common good.

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

**PROGRAM MEETING:** For additional information, contact Rick Gehrke 425-843-8625 or email rick.gehrke@comcast.

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**HARVEY BROOME GROUP**  
(Knoxville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Tuesday, July 12, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Joel Haden of TVA will discuss the Tennessee Growth Readiness Program. This program helps communities learn how land use decisions affect water quality, and then make informed choices about managing growth, while helping them comply with new regulatory requirements.

Contact Priscilla Watts at 865-966-4124 or wattp10@ten.

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**MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP**  
(Nashville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Thursday, (July 14), 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Worried about sprawl? Or the next big road going through pristine country? Then please join us for Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fred Schwartz, as he discusses the organization, how it plans and funds transportation projects, who participates in the org, and why the Nashville region should care about it and participate in it. Light refreshments will be served; please feel free to bring your favorite reusable cup and napkin.

For more information on this program, contact Shelli Dimarco at (615) 260-0030. (Near the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pk.) Everyone is welcome!

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**SAVE OUR SMOKIES!**

**Shirt features a montage of very special shots from our Great Smoky Mountains National Park.**

**Sierra Club John Muir Quote T’s - NEW!**

Mountain stream picture with John Muir quote "There is nothing more eloquent in nature than a mountain stream"

**Now 2 Shirts to Choose From!**

- Large - Qty _____ x $15/shirt = _____
- Medium - Qty _____ x $12/shirt = _____
- Small - Qty _____ x $15/shirt = _____
- X-Large - Qty _____ x $15/shirt = _____
- XX-Large - Qty _____ x $12/shirt = _____

Grand Total (from above) = _____

**Total 5 - Save Our Smokies T-shirts**

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For more information on this program, contact Shelli Dimarco at (615) 260-0030. (Near the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pk.) Everyone is welcome!

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

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

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**UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP**  
(Cookeville)

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

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**STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP**  
(Tri-Cities)

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

**PROGRAM MEETINGS:** Fourth Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Programs on environmental issues, travel, nature photography are among the many topics featured at SOFG programs. For more information: FMU: Mary Gavrick, Vice Chair, (423) 434-9355, mgavrick@yahoo.com.

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**CHICKASAW GROUP**  
( Memphis)

**MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING:** Thursday, July 7, 2005 - 6:00 - 8:00pm. Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group’s “FIRST THURSDAY” monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests.

Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

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**SOUTH FORK FORKED DEER WATERSHED MEETING:** Tuesday, July 12, 2005 - 7:00pm, Jackson, Tennessee. South Fork Forked Deer watershed meeting, co-sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and Friends of Harris Creek, Jackson Environmental Assistance Center/Jackson TDEC. Field office 362 Carriage House Drive, Jackson, TN 38305 (731) 512-1100.

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

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

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

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

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**TELEVISION PROGRAM**

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

**WPFW-Channel 18 - “The Nature of Conservation,”** is the Sierra Club’s Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. Rita Harris, Sierra Club Environmental Justice Coordinator is filming the TV show that will be aired in July, talking about the proposed “low-level radioactive waste” (“Nuclear Waste”) disposal proposed by a company called R.A.C.E. She will interview Mondell Williams and Reginald Milton who represent the Riverview Collaborative Neighborhood Association and their opposition to the nuclear incinerator proposed by Radiological Assistance, Consulting and Engineering. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the month. If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

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**PROGRAM MEETING:** Additional information, contact Rick Gehrke 425-843-8625 or email rick.gehrke@comcast.com.

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If you run into any difficulties, just email Liz Dixon at dixonacs.utm.edu
up to a better world for all us. The following short essays are examples of how four volunteers have experienced volunteering.

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet? By Suzanne Brucker

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

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

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

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

Volunteering – A Local Activist Essay By Jennifer Mackay

No different from an individual person, the strength of an organization is self-realized and self-motivated. The strength of the Sierra Club’s national organization always seems to be in its ability to create tangible changes in environmental policies, attitudes, and behavior. However, it took some time for me to realize the strength of local Sierra Club groups and the role that I could play in facilitating change at the local level.

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

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

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

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

What Got Me More Active By Pauline Mitchell

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

We lived by a small spring-fed lake, which was cold and clear. The first year we moved there the lake was ice-covered overnight; there was no snow and you could see through the ice down to the bottom as if looking through glass. I went back a few years ago, rowed around to spots where I had hunted for wonderful, bizarre looking loons with eyes that were as blue as lightening. The water was cloudy and filled with sediment. Small lake or not, someone was allowed to put a trailer camp on one end, no sewers of course.

I had played in the barns in the two farms that were across the road from us. I had gone to help drive the cows down the road back for milking. I perfected my “sooey” to bring the pigs running, a few pigs on each farm. When I went back, even driving with windows up, the farmyard odors of pigs and seemingly only pigs now on both farms. You could smell it all the way across the lake. People who lived around the lake complained, but were told the farmers were here first, live with it.

There is no shortage of problems to address here!
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. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

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

Harvey Broome Group (Knoxville)

July 16-17, 2005 (Sat-Sun). Back-packer. Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area (Jefferson National Forest, Virginia). The Mt. Rogers NRA and adjacent Grayson Highlands State Park, in southwest Virginia, make for one of the most scenic backpacking areas in the southeast, with huge open grassy meadows fringed by spruce trees and rhododendron bushes, usually flowering in June. We're going to camp in a new place for the HB Group, on Bier Ridge. Ray Payne dayhiked to the ridge last year and reports it will make a great campsite. We will start at Grayson Highlands State Park and hike to Elk Garden Gap, about 7.5 miles total. Rated Easy. Pre-register with Will Shelnutt. H 523-2277, W 521-6200; wshome@bellsouth.net.

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

Aug 13, 2005 (Sat). Canoe float - Clinch River, Norris Dam to Highway 61. (This trip was originally scheduled for July 23) Put in below Norris Dam, take out at Highway 61, near Clinton. Distance 11 mi. This is a relaxing float, with good current but no whitewater. With luck we'll observe some waterfowl. Bring a sack lunch and even a cooler if you want. Only very basic canoe skills are necessary for this trip. Drivetime from downtown Knoxville, about 40 minutes. Pre-register with Ron Shively at 865-922-5318 or email rshireve@utk.edu (email is preferred).

Middle Tennessee Group (Nashville)

Saturday, July 2 - Caney River Float - Join us as we float the Caney River from the dam to Betty's Island. Everything depends on TVA's generating schedule. Canoes and kayaks can be rented at the Big Rock market nearby and their phone # is 931-858-0967. To register for this trip, contact Heloise at stillwell@bellouth.net or (615) 896-6278.

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

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

Thursday, July 14 - Pre-Program Meeting Hike at Radnor Lake - Let's take a short walk around Radnor Lake before the program meeting. Meet at the Radnor Lake Visitor Center at 6:00 p.m. for an easy walk. Bring $3 for parking if you don't have a park pass and water. For additional information, contact Katherine Pendleton by July 20 if you plan to participate at 615-360-3481 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

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

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

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

Saturday, August 27 - Shakespeare in the Park - Shakespeare in the Park's FREE presentation of the comedy A Winter's Tale at 7:00 p.m. in Centennial Park in Nashville (free parking too). We may meet for dinner prior to the play. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Register with Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithyman@hpb.com for time and location to meet.

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

Cherokee Group (Chattanooga)

For information on upcoming outings, contact Chris O'Connor at chris.077@yahoo.com or visit our web site http://www.tennessee.sierragroup.org/cherokee/index.htm.

Chicksaw Group (Memphis)

Disclaimer: The following activities are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. They are published on this website only as a service to our members. The Sierra Club makes no representation or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of these activities. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

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

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

Tennessee Chapter Summer Meeting
July 29-31, 2005
Sterchi Lodge at Max Patch
In the COOL Smokie Mountain’s
Hosted by the Cherokee & Chickasaw Groups. Join us, and return to an old favorite, the Sterchi Lodge at Max Patch in the Great Smokie Mountains! Bunks are provided, but bring your own bedding, pillow, and towel.

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

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

Payment due upon arrival

SCHEDULE OF FEES

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

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

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

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

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

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

See ya there!

Volunteer Magic
Continued from page 5

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

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

Several years ago, I took part in some group activities, such as Ann Arbor’s Natural Area Preservation organization. Then I read a notice for a Sierra Club Meeting, came, found folks with similar concerns and a willingness to do something about the environment and here I am still. One fall day I decided to give up sleeping in on a Saturday (a very large concession for me) and went to a “fold n’ staple.” I did and still do feel that the “regulars” who were already there were a little surprised to see a relative newcomer join them. I have also done some accosting of people to hand out postcards to be sent to Debbie Stabenow; some phone work involving the sprawl issue; a couple of years ago, along with selling a lot of Sierra Club calendars. Small steps which made it easier to say yes when I was asked if I would be the Publicity Chair a couple of years ago. The reason: I decided that if I were really concerned about the environment, I should do more than say it. In short, to rephrase a phrase, I decided to put my time where my mouth was.
The winter just past did not go to extremes locally, but it was decidedly chilly in late December and early through mid-March. It was only February that was very warm at times (near 70°F in Monterey on the first, 67°F in Cookeville on 12th), mostly cloudy and wet with little frost. Temperatures stayed above zero this winter; colder days were December 14-15, 19-20, 25-26, January 17-18 (ca. 10°F at Barnes Hollow on 18th), 23-24 (after arctic front on 22nd with some snow), February 11, 28, March 1-2. 9°F February went out like a lion with an arctic blast and some snow; there were several light snows in March. Some days in February were warm (48-51, 21 [thunder, heavy rain], 20). A severe southwestern December 22nd blew over plenty of dead pines and some live ones at my place of east Monterey. Late March had several warm to hot days as usual, near 80°F March 30th. March was quite dry, but heavy rain fell from April 9th and was followed by a long dry spell in mid-March, having warm to hot days and cool nights. Killing frost April 25th hot many low-lying areas (including around Nashville); I saw some damage to the foliage at Barnes Hollow than east of Monterey. Some weathered, cool days ended April, and cool conditions lasted until May 5th, then hot. With the warmth in early January, I was not surprised that wood frogs came out to breed; I first heard some calling January 8th on the ridge top at Monterey with several egg masses already laid. The same day, lower down, near my main garden area, I noted about 25 egg masses freshly laid; more had been laid by January 10th. On the 12th, I watched a large breeding group (at least 70) of wood frogs on the surface of their longtime favorite pond; there was a ball of frogs, several males grasping a (large) female. The males were so obsessed I could study them at close range; one male had light brassy stripes along his dorsolateral ridges. The female had considerable salmon-pink to reddish coloration, especially beneath. Some further wood frog breeding occurred in February; I observed large frog tadpoles on the ridge top near the southwest corner of Monterey on March 14th, some at another ridge top pond. Spring peepers were heard often during warm, damp weather, first heard January 1st (2 at Monterey). On March 31st I heard the strangest chorus of peepers I had yet noticed at Monterey, some still in the woods or brush near two ponds; they were chorusing around 3 PM and continued until 1 left. Cricket frogs were calling a bit April 15th at Monterey; they were chorusing in early May, even in chilly weather (very slowly calling). Green frogs and bullfrogs were calling some on warm mornings. The relatively chilly March weather resulted in many trees and shrubs having either delayed blooming (for example, Bradford pears were not in full bloom around Cookeville until March 27th) or having prolonged blooming; I observed my earliest ever flowering of a red maple at Barnes Hollow February 8th (this was north Alabama provenance origin). Similarly, at Tennessee Tech University (TTU), the earliest red maple I saw in bloom was on February 9th, but many red maples on the TTU quadrangle were in full bloom March 20th, though some had begun February 25th. Near Monterey, red maples had begun flowering by March 21st. I made a southern trip March 14-17 and noted: red maples at Wheeler NWR (in north Alabama) with well-developed fruits March 14th; brilliantly colored, well-grown red maple fruits shed already and leaves appearing in Clay Co., northeast Florida March 16th. At TTU red maple fruits were being shed after April 20th; some fruits were still on trees in early May. Silver maples were slow to bloom and fruit this season, relatively. Elms had a very good flowering and fruiting season; again the fruits developed slowly, with American elm fruits turning green and winged elm fruits turning pink-