Our Nation Faces a Critical Choice

By Doug La Follette,
Sierra Club BOD

America’s economic engine is built on and driven by technology. From North Carolina’s Research Triangle to California’s Silicon Valley, the “can do” approach of technology development has solved problems while creating millions of jobs and enormous wealth in the United States.

Unfortunately this is not the argument we hear from industry leaders and many members of Congress and the Bush administration when it comes to public policies to protect our environment and improve our health. Instead of endorsing the ability of American ingenuity to get things done, these defenders of the status quo claim our economic prosperity will suffer if we take even modest steps toward cleaning up our air and easing global warming by shifting away from fossil fuels.

Over the past year, the Union of Concerned Scientists examined the links between environmental solutions and economic prosperity, and found that the claims of fossil fuel supporters could not be further from the truth. In fact, an aggressive national-wide effort to increase our use of renewable energy resources such as wind or solar and build more fuel efficient vehicles would not only reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, but also reduce our dependence on imported oil and create high quality jobs that strengthen America’s economy.

Increasing renewable energy generation creates jobs because the available technologies are relatively capital intensive; dollars invested in clean energy go toward high-wage manufacturing and construction jobs rather than fuel imports from other regions or countries.

In addition, bioenergy fuels for electricity (switchgrass, agricultural wastes) can be locally grown. In addition, bioenergy fuels for electricity (switchgrass, agricultural wastes) can be locally grown. This would also save consumers money, leading to new jobs in other economic sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, construction, finance, retail and service.

More for consumers to spend

In addition to creating thousands of new jobs, renewable energy and efficient vehicles can strengthen the economy through consumer savings. Increasing use of renewable energy to 20 percent by 2020 would save consumers a total of $49 billion on their gas and electric bills, and provide a tremendous boost to rural communities where most renewable energy facilities would be located.

Increasing the fuel economy of the new car and truck fleet to 40 mpg would also benefit consumers by saving tens of billions of dollars in gasoline expenditures.

The Future Awaits

Homegrown energy sources and auto industry ingenuity could not only create high-quality U.S. jobs, but also open up vast new markets for American innovation could not only create high-quality U.S. jobs, but also open up vast new markets for American businesses.

And, by reducing our dependence on fossil fuel imports, a serious national commitment to renewable energy and efficient vehicles would make our energy supply more affordable, reliable and secure.

Two hours a week… equals 17 minutes a day…

Our lives are a balancing act. We balance the needs of our families, the demands of our jobs, the time involved in caring for our residences and possessions with how we spend our leisure and other “off hours” time. If we are involved with the Sierra Club, we add our activities with that group to the mix, and then we juggle it all and strive for balance. In that time that one does “Sierra Club” activities, how much of that involves activism? That is where my concept of “Two Hours per Week Activism” comes into play. By taking small “bite size” pieces of a larger task, less effort will be expended by each individual, yet more ambitious goals may be achieved.

How does one begin to be a two-hour Activist? My suggestion is to look at the National Sierra Club’s website for the Priority Campaigns to see where your interests and talents mesh best. Then look at the Tennessee Chapter and your local Group websites. Again, see what are the focus campaigns and see where you could best put that hour to its best use. Here are some suggestions for two-hour activists. Contact your Group Conservation Chair to coordinate efforts and to eliminate duplication.

- Checking the legal notice section of the newspaper. Often, this is the only “public notice” there is for target issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Group Conservation Chair or Issue Leader. Legal notices should be checked daily. Note, some agencies use the “newspaper of record” to post their notices, which may – or may not be – the daily newspaper. Check with the agencies to see what they use.

- Checking the website of the United States Army Corps of Engineers to look for public notices for wetlands alterations and public comment periods. Wetlands alterations mean that a site may be slated for development in the near future. The two-hour activist that likes to do this may need to be placed on their mailing list. Check weekly.

- Checking the website of various permit application/renewal notices. Check weekly.

- Checking the websites and bulletin boards for the meeting agenda of the City Council/Court Commission/Land Use Control Board/Air...
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 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.

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

Member ID# __________________
Current Address: __________________
Name ______________________
City/St/Zip __________________
My new address is: __________________
Name ______________________
Address ______________________
City/St/Zip __________________
Mail to: ______________________
Sierra Club P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, Colorado 80322-2968
or Email to: address.changes@sierraclub.org (be sure to include your member ID#)

Please notify the Editor when changes are needed.
Sierra Summit 2005
Energize the Movement at our Largest Gathering in History

Sierra Club’s National Environmental Convention and Exposition
San Francisco
September 8-11, 2005

Registrations are coming in! The Sierra Summit will be the largest gathering held by the Sierra Club in its 113-year history, and will serve as an important milestone in the environmental movement. This four-day event-taking place September 8-11 in San Francisco will be a huge opportunity for attendees to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet through a fun and rich learning experience.

This is also a unique opportunity to energize the environmental movement at a critical time, and a chance for all people who enjoy the planet and are concerned about its protection to support visioning the future. “This will be a rich experience for all of us,” says Executive Director Carl Pope, “Good things happen when so many come together to shape the future. Through it, we will further build community and articulate hope and our values.”

There will be a myriad of workshops on everything from “Backyard Organics” and “Eating Smart”, to “Photography & Nature” and “Restoring the Wild.” There will also be an exhibit hall filled with the latest environmentally sensitive technologies and Products, and Sierra Showcase will display the accomplishments of our chapters, groups and committees. Speakers will include one of the country’s environmental champions and one of Time magazine’s “Heroes for the Planet” for fighting to restore the Hudson River, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Other speakers include former Poet Laureate Robert Hass, chef Alice Waters, and professor George Lakoff.

The Summit will include the Sierra Club Strategic Direction Setting process which will be the most inclusive and extensive direction setting process the Club has ever had with over 1,000 delegates from across the country. And as part of the pre-Summit preparation all members are invited to participate in online discussions at http://www.sierraclub.org/summitforum Click on the “register” link at the top to get your password emailed to you and join in!

And of course no Sierra Club event would be the same without outdoor activities, and there will be a number of hikes and other fun opportunities to get outdoors and socialize. It will be a great chance to network and learn with other Sierra Club members and leaders from across the country.

Everyone is welcome to attend, have fun and learn about the exciting ways to enjoy and protect the planet. To register, go to www.sierrasummit2005.org and either complete the form online or mail or fax it in. You can also call (301) 694-5243 or e-mail scs05@attendee@expoexchange.com.

The Two Hour Activist

Continued from page 1

Quality Board and other bodies. The two-hour activist that likes to do this may need to be placed on their mailing lists. Check monthly.

• The website of the Local Emergency Planning Committee should be checked monthly.

• Checking the Right to Know website to research on toxic chemical releases to the land, water and air. Check monthly. One could collaborate with others to report those releases in an article in the Tennes-Sierran.

In this Internet culture, public notices of meetings and public comment periods are on the Internet as a matter of course. Sometimes, paper copies are placed on bulletin boards and there are mailing lists for some of this, but the Internet is far more convenient.

It has been my experience, if one sees an issue early enough, one has a far better chance of resolving that issue with success than letting it get so close it will be inside of one’s reaction time. That is why these notices and websites should be regularly checked and reported to the Issue Leader(s) and Conservation Chair, by both e-mail and phone (computers do crash).

Speaking of meetings. To my knowledge, all of the above meetings are Public Meetings, as required by law. Big problem, these meetings are often held in the early afternoon, when most people are at work, doing the “8-5.” Here is where retired and self-employed two-hour activists come into play. They may have the more flexible schedule, without having to take vacation time or other personal leave. These meetings last often more than two hours, but that is the price to pay. It will be a great and glorious day when the decision makers see a large number of Sierra Club members participating at each meeting, rather than the tiny handful that they may interpret as the ‘usual suspects’, or ‘those who have too much time on their hands’.

What are the benefits of two-hour activism? There is a quote; “many hands make light work.” The Tennesee Chapter has slightly over 7,000 members. If each member of the Tennessee Chapter did two-hour’s work a week as an activist, meaning only once a week, over 728,000 hours of environmental activism would be generated. In a single year, these same 7,000 activists would generate over 728,000 hours of activism for the environment or effectively 83 years of work – in only a year. It fairly boggles the mind, but the Tennessee Chapter would become an unstoppable juggernaut, much to the chagrin of the polluters and despoilers of Tennesee.

Tick…tock…17 minutes a day…won’t you join us for two-hour a week activism!
STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP
(Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY MEETINGS:
Second Monday of each 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 Modica, Group Chair, (423) 753-9607, lcmdica@aol.com.

PROGRAM MEETINGS:
Fourth Monday of each month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Programs on environmental issues, travel, nature photography are among the many topics featured at SOFG program meetings. FMI: Mary Gavlik, Vice Chair, (423) 84-9535, mgav@yahoo.com.

CHEEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING:
Thursday, June 2, 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.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING:
Sunday, June 12, 2005 - 1:00-3:00pm - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join James Baker, the Conservation Chair in a casual setting to discuss conservation issues and interests that affect the Chickasaw Group. Contact James Baker at (901) 826-2448 for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING:
Monday, June 13, 2005 - 6:30pm, Prescom Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Gerwell, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Chair Charlie Rondine at (901) 434-9535, mlgav@yahoo.com.

MONTHLY THIRD TUESDAY:
Tuesday, June 21, 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.

PROGRAM MEETING:
Wednesday, June 22, 2005, 6:00 pm - Memphis Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. Plans for completion of Tennessee’s first linear state park will be outlined by Cumberland Trail Conference executive director Paul Freeman at the Chickasaw Group's June program. The Cumberland Trail had its beginnings in the minds of several dedicated hikers and conservationists in the 1960’s and led to the formation of the Tennessee Trails Association in 1967. The TTA lobbied for a bill creating the Tennessee Trails System in 1971 and the Cumberland Trail resulted. Scores of volunteers built 100 miles of the trail through 1995 as one of seven planned walking trails. The Cumberland Trail Group has made a significant contribution to TTA toward the trail’s construction. A recreational planner, Freeman hopes to see his 14-year-old twin sons complete their Eagle Scout projects on the Cumberland Trail not far from their Harriman, Tennessee home. For more information, contact Carolyn Pierce at (901) 755-5659, or Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

CONSERVATION MEETING:
Contact Diane Perchbacker at 615-895-1236 or e-mail Diane@DiProson.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Cary Butler at jblurch@comcast.net or call 226-8925.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP ( Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING:
Contact Peggy Evans at 931-432-6080 or maevans@TWLakes.net for more information on program meeting dates and times.
**Chickasaw Group News**

**As compiled by various members**

**Program – Backpacking Clinic:**

Veteran solo backpacker Jill Johnston, along with David Henderson, demonstrated the latest and lightest in backpacking gear at their recent Backpacking Clinic. Jill, who is Membership Chair of the Chickasaw Group, followed up the clinic two weekends later by leading a backpack into the Sylamore Creek area of the Arkansas Ozarks.

Jill and David almost outdid each other demonstrating ever-lighter tents, sleeping bags, stoves and cookware during the clinic. Jill still carries a Sierra Club – partly because of nostalgia – but admitted she also carries an insulated cup to keep hot drinks hot and cool drinks cool. David does the same.

Their tents seemed gossamer in their lightness and their sleeping bags were tiny when compressed into their stuff bags. Titanium was the choice for cookware, and stoves were tiny though efficient.

The audience included a number of children who were already participating in camping and backpacking trips with parents.

**Earth Day tabling events – Lichterman Nature Center:**

Invited inside, out of the blustery, rainy weather, the Chickasaw Group set up its table inside the Lichterman Nature Center Building to offer a warm and dry welcome to the many passers-by at the annual Lichterman Earth Day celebration.

Those who braved the wind and steady, light rain brought some of the hundreds of potted plants for sale, snacked, and admired animals like opossums, raccoons, snakes, turtles and even an owl that submitted to gentle petting.

The Chickasaw Group table was strategically located between the Tennessee Trails Association (TTA) and the Friends for Our Riverfront tables, and the three groups worked well together and even shared some mutual members like Don Richardson and Carolyn and Woody Pierce. Jill Johnston, Tandy and Phyllis Brannon, Sandy Richardson and Carolyn and Woody Pierce. Jill and David almost outdid each other demonstrating ever-lighter tents, sleeping bags, stoves and cookware at their recent Backpacking Clinic.

Several of the experts carried small snakes which people could pet if they were willing. Petting one of Lichterman’s resident opossums revealed soft, silky fur, a thick prehensile tail, a sweet disposition if tame but sharp imposing teeth if they were not tame. The opossum was carried around like a big cat in the arms of a Lichterman volunteer - a woman dressed as Mother Nature with a garland of spring flowers in her hair.

**Maria Montessori School:**

James Baker hosted a table at the Maria Montessori School’s Regatta and Duck Race for Earth Day. He engaged in discussions with 15 or so adults about Tennesee School’s Regatta and Duck Race for Earth Day. He engaged in discussions with 15 or so adults about Tennesee School’s Regatta and Duck Race for Earth Day. He engaged in discussions with 15 or so adults about Tennesee School’s Regatta and Duck Race for Earth Day.

Karen and James engaged about 20 or so adults and we discussed the same issues. Once again, a majority of the adults did not know of the issues of water quality in the Mississippi, mercury and the incinerator. Karen and James worked to educate them to the issues. Once again, the duet of Friends for Our Riverfront and Sierra Club worked alongside each other.

**Backpacking gear at their recent Backpacking Clinic.**

**Kayak Race tabling event:**

Karen Prosser and James Baker hosted a Sierra Club table at the canoe and kayak race. This year’s race had over 400 paddlers that represented seven countries and 25 states. On the web, see:

http://www.outdoorsinc.com

It was a pleasure to see Woody Pierce, husband to the Chickasaw Group’s vice-Chair Carolyn Pierce come in 2nd place in the category, “Masters 60+, Men, Solo Sea Kayak, lengths 10 to 13 feet.” His kayak, like many of the watercraft in the race, sported a Friends for Our Riverfront bumper sticker.

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**Backpacking gear at their recent Backpacking Clinic.**

**Top Row:** A large number of Paddlers battle fatigue and a blustery head wind as they near the finish line. Photo by Carolyn Pierce

**2nd Row Left**: Woody Pierce rests after the race. Photo by Carolyn Pierce

**2nd Row Right**: From left to right, Lawrence Migliara, Woody Pierce, and Joe Royer. Lawrence and Joe are the co-owners of Outdoors, Inc. and they appreciated the Chickasaw Group’s attendance and support. Photo by Carolyn Pierce

**Bottom Right:** “Mother Nature” holds one of Lichterman Nature Center’s resident opossums at the Earth Day celebration. Photo by Charlie Rond

**Bottom Right**: Membership Chair Jill Johnston demonstrates to fellow backpacker David Henderson one of the ultra-light items she carries on her backpacking trips. From left to right: Jill Johnston, David Henderson. Photo by Charlie Rond
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/Sign-Up-Waiver.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)**

Saturday, Sunday - June 11-12, 2005 - Car Camp/Dayhikes/Cataloochee, GSMNP - On the first day we will dayhike the Boogerman Trail 7.4 miles to get a first hand look at the old growth forest in the area. At sunset we will go to the open field in the area to hopefully see the elk. In the afternoon we will be back at the field to see the elk and visit several of the old homesteads in the area, the museum and the elk holding pens. Not many people get to see this remote part of the Smokies. Rated moderate to moderately difficult! distance 7.4 miles. Suitable for the all ages.

Tuesday, June 14, 2005 - BACKPACKING 101 - “WHAT DO YOU MEAN - SLEEP ON THE GROUND!” - This and many other questions to be answered about back-packing in East TN. The first annual backpacking forum, sponsored by the Harvey Broome Group of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, is to be held on June 16th, from 6:30 to 9:30 at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. There will be local experts to answer your questions on tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, etc., as well as giving “how to” demonstrations with gear. The class will be followed up by an (optional) actual backpacking trip to Frozen Head State Park of June 25 and 26. And all this knowledge will be imparted for FREE! If you don’t have gear don’t worry - the local outfitters will rent you gear just to see if you like - sleep on the ground! For details check the Harvey Broome Group “Outings” web page: http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome/outings/main.htm. Please preregister by June 1 with Steve Harvey: email SHarvey86@aol.com, cell phone - 865-271-7227; work phone - 865-986-4608.

Saturday, June 18, 2005 - Canoe/Wildlife Float, Rankin Wildlife Management Area, Douglas Lake - This is similar to the trip on May 22, but we will go out in the evening - birds come in to roost, night herons are more active, the lake gets very still, and the sunsets are gorgeous. So if you are keen on more bird-watching, or if you couldn’t make the first outing you want to take this opportunity to learn more about Rankin Bottoms Project. We will set out at 5 p.m. and continue until 8 p.m. After dark canoes and gear are available. Driving time from Knoxville: approx. 1 hour. Pre-register by June 1 with Michael Slodecki of the Rankin Bottoms Project: 423-487-3161; email mslodecki@msn.com.

Saturday, Sunday - June 25-26, 2005 - Back- Packing/Wicklow Wilderness - Start at Big Fat Gap parking area, we will follow the Big Fat Branch trail to the Slickrock Creek Trail. We will camp just down-stream from Wicklow Falls. Numerous creek crossings are necessary, but this is late June, so they will be welcome! We’ll complete the hike by following Slickrock Creek to the Big Fat Gap parking area near Cheoah Dam on US 129. Rated easy, about 5 miles on day one, including the side trip and 7 miles on day two. Driving time from Knoxville about 2.5 hours. Pre-register with Ron Shrieve at 865-922-3518 or email chieve@park.edu (email is preferred).

Saturday, Sunday - July 17-18, 2005 - Backpack Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area and Jefferson National Forest, VA - 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 HGB Group, on Brier Ridge. Ray Payne dayhiked to the ridge last year and reports it will make a great camp. We will start at the Jefferson Highlands State Park and hike to Elk Gardens Gap, about 7.5 miles total. Rated easy. Pre-register with Bill Shelton: H 865-523-2272, W 865-521-6200; wholome@bellsouth.net.

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)**

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, & June 3-5 - Fall Creek Falls Rock Climbing School - This is not an official Sierra Club Trip. An official outfitter is conducting the course. There has been interest shown for rock climbing/rappelling activities to be offered in MTG Sierra Club. We have reservations for 5 people to attend the Fall Creek Falls Rock Climbing/Rappelling course which offers elementary instruction in these sports. The cost is $50/person which includes equipment and course materials. For additional information or to register, contact Katherine Pendleton no later than May 25 or 615-360-3481 or email Katebug959@aol.com.

Saturday, June 4 - Stones River Canoe - Paddle a beautiful pastoral seven mile stretch of the Stones River East Fork with the Stones River Watershed Association. This stretch is between Murfreesboro and Murfreesboro. Bring your own (or rented) boat or canoe. Contact Heloise at stillwild@bellsouth.net or (615) 896-6278.

Saturday, June 4 - National Trails Day Clean-Up - We will volunteer at a local natural area by picking up trash or working on a trail. Site to be determined. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email lmithymahbg@yahoo.com for information.

Tuesday, June 7 - Radnor Lake After Work Hike - Last month, we visited Longhunter State Park for a series of conditioning hikes. We will continue another series of hikes this month at Radnor Lake. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the visitor center. We will walk the loop around the lake. For information and pre-register, contact Katherine Pendleton at Katebug959@aol.com or call 615-360-3481. Please contact Katherine by June 6 if you plan to participate.

Wednesday, June 8 - Stones River Greenway Bike Ride - Our newest outing leader, Edie McFarlin, will lead her first cycling trip on the Stones River Greenway! Meet at 11 a.m. at the Stones River National Battlefield Visitor Center at 11 a.m. This ride will last about an hour. Must provide own bike, helmet, water, etc. For additional information and to pre-register, contact Edie McFarlin at 615-896-1344.

Sunday, June 12 - Jackson Lake After Work Hike - This week we will continue our conditioning program hiking the South Cove Trail at Radnor Lake. This hike is rated moderate to strenuous. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the visitor center. Please pre-register by contacting Kath- erine Pendleton by June 12 if you plan to participate. Contact Katherine by June 12 at 615-360-3481 or email Katebug959@aol.com.

Tuesday, June 14 - Social Night Out For Dinner - Let’s get together for an evening of socializing and chatting about current conservation topics and whatever is on everyone’s mind! This social dinner is held on the second or third Tuesday of each month. Meet at Rosepepper Cantina at 7:00 (615) 896-6278.

Saturday, June 18, 19-19 - Walls of Jericho Backpack - Walls of Jericho is a new wilderness area on the Cumberland Plateau that features a rock-walled gorge. We will hike the 2.3 mile one way trail to the primitive campsite that sits near three converging streams. The hike is easy to moderate going in and moder- ate to strenuous going out! Suitable for backpackers, hiking groups and non-mem- bers. Meet at Rosepepper Cantina at 1907 Eastland Avenue in the East Nashville area at 6:00 p.m. Maybe take a walk around the park after- ward. Please contact Linda Smithyman to confirm at least the night before at lmithymahbg@yahoo.com or (615) 896-2217.

Saturday, Sunday, June 18-19 - Walls of Jericho Backpack - Walls of Jericho is a new wilderness area on the Cumberland Plateau that features a rock-walled gorge. We will hike the 2.3 mile one way trail to the primitive campsite that sits near three converging streams. The hike is easy to moderate going in and moderate to strenuous going out! Suitable for backyarders, hiking groups and non-mem- bers. Meet at Rosepepper Cantina at 1907 Eastland Avenue in the East Nashville area at 6:00 p.m. Maybe take a walk around the park after- ward. Please contact Linda Smithyman to confirm at least the night before at lmithymahbg@yahoo.com or (615) 896-2217.

Monday, June 20 - Radnor Lake After Work Hike - Continuing our condition- ing hikes we will meet at the visitor cen- ter at 6:00 p.m. and hike the lake trail on that and then the Gariier Ridge trail. This hike is moderate to strenuous. To pre- register for additional information or to contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or email Katebug959@aol.com. Please contact Katherine by June 19 if you plan to participate.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, June 24-26 - Smoky Mountain Backpacking Trip - We will meet Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. EST at the Twentymile Ranger Station, located on the southwest border of the park. On Friday, we will hike 4.1 miles on the Pinnacle Trail to Pinnacle Campground, and then hike 0.8 miles on the Gariier Ridge Trail. On Saturday, we will hike 4.6 miles on the Long Hungry Ridge Trail, to camp #92. Saturday, we will continue hiking 4.6 miles on the Long Hungry Ridge Trail to the Lower Hungry Ridge Trail, and then hike 7 miles on the Wolf’s Ridge Trail back to our starting point. The month of June brings the Gregory Balds alive with blooming Azaleas, so cameras are a must! This trip is rated strenuous for experienced backpackers and registration is required since the trip is limited to 10 hikers. For additional information and to register, contact Nancy Fleming at Flemanti@bellsouth.net or call after 6:00 p.m. CST at 615-872-9221.

Saturday, June 25 - Smyrna Volunteer Park Hike - Join us on the 2.5 mile Round trip hike driving miles -22 miles from Food Lion on Asheville Hwy. Pre-register, contact Edie McFarlin at 615-896-1344. Monday, June 26 - Smyrna Volunteer Park Hike - Join us on the 2.5 mile Round trip hike driving miles -22 miles from Food Lion on Asheville Hwy. Pre-register, contact Edie McFarlin at 615-896-1344.
Thursday, June 30 - Longhunter State Park Cookout - Join us at the picnic area by the Bryant Grove Trail at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your grilling selections such as hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. The charcoal will be provided and the grill started up at 5:30 p.m. After we eat, well take a short hike around Couchville Lake. Please contact Katherine Pendleton by June 29 if you plan to participate at 615-360-3481 or email Katibug1959@aol.com

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 nearly and their phone # is 911-858-0967. To register for this trip, contact Heloise at stillwild@bellsouth.net or (615) 896-6278.

Monday, July 11 - Outings Leader Training 101 - Outings Leader Training 101 is a required course for outings leaders. For those interested in leading hikes, backpacking 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 and to pre-register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-360-3481 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

Wednesday, June 29 - Cherokee Group (Chattanooga) - For information on upcoming outings, contact Chris O'Connor at chris_o77@yahoo.com or visit our web site at http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee/index.html

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis) - HATCHIE RIVER ALL-DAY FLOAT: Saturday, June 4, 2005 - 9:00am - Hatchie Wildlife Refuge, Brownsville, Tennessee. Join us for a leisurely float trip on the scenic Hatchie River through the Hatchie Wildlife Preserve. It is a slow river float but requires canoeing skill. This is a great opportunity to see West Tennessee wetlands up close from a true wilderness river. Plan accordingly, because the emphasis will be on "leisurely". The Boat and short car shuttle will take about 8 hours, with the shuttle beginning at 8:00am. There will be a 200-yard portage. Our meeting and starting point will be the boat ramp below the TN Highway 76 bridge at the Hatchie River. It will be necessary to provide your own watercraft. Bring lunch, water, and other canoeing essentials. Reservations and river canoe experience required. To make reservations call Jesse McCabe at (901) 829-3283

OVERTON PARK HIKE: Saturday, June 11, 2005 - 10:00am - THE OLD FOREST TRAIL, OVERTON PARK. 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. 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 Abe Goodman Golf House in Overton Park. Meet at the bridge next to the parking lot at the end of Old Forest Lane, east of Memphis College of Art. For more info, contact Don Richardson (901) 276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends, Inc.

BIG HILL POND CAR CAMP & HIKES: Friday-Sunday, June 17-19, 2005 - Bill Hill Pond State Park, McNairy County, Tennessee. You will be wowed! This is how much of West Tennessee used to look. There is a modest camping fee. For more information, contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

SUMMER SOLSTICE SUNSET RIVER BLUFF WALK: Saturday, June 18, 2005 - Meet at Butler Park next to Tennessee Brewery, Memphis, Tennessee. Sunset on the Mississippi River from the bluff is a sight to see! For more information, contact Sue Williams at (901) 274-0524.

RIVER BOARDWALKS: Saturday, June 25, 2005 - 9:00am-4:00pm - River Boardwalks, Dyersburg, Memphis, Tennessee. The Chickasaw 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 Poplar Tree Lake, so bring your 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 and hot dogs. 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 muddy. Contact picnic leader Candyn Pierce at (901) 755-5635.

Walls of Jericho Dedication
April 23, 2005

Submitted by Katherine Pendleton

One of the newest natural areas encompassing the Tennessee/Alabama state lines is the Walls of Jericho area recently purchased by The Nature Conservancy and protected and made available for public recreation through the efforts of the Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust, the Alabama State Lands Division of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The official dedication of this nature preserve, recreation area, and wildlife management area was held on Earth Day, April 23, 2005.

The governor of Alabama, Bob Riley, was brought in by helicopter for the event. TN Chapter Sierra Club Outings Chair, Katherine Pendleton and MTG outings leader Maryedith McFarlin backpacked to the primitive campsite the day before the dedication in order to be strategically located in order to have the opportunity to meet Governor Riley and let him know that The Sierra Club supports the efforts of the people of Alabama in managing wilderness areas such as The Walls of Jericho.

Volunteer Opportunity!

To help the Middle Tennessee Group, to help our senior and disabled recyclers, to have fun and to meet other Sierran’s, please consider volunteering at our recycling site at the Elizabethton Kroger in Nashville. The site is open Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00. You will have at least one other person working with you, and you can choose to volunteer only when it is convenient for you, whether that is just one time, monthly, quarterly, or every few months. Please call Recycling Coordinator David Bordenkircher at 225-3133 or (901) 741-1597, or e-mail at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com.
Sierra Club Film and New World Watch Book
Bring Home the Importance of Local Food

Submitted by:
Bonnie Webber, Member of the National Sustainable Consumption Committee

The most significant—and encouraging—change in the American diet today is an ever-growing interest in eating local food. More and more Americans are preparing meals of vegetables, fruit, meat, and other ingredients grown and raised on nearby farms, rather than from distant agribusinesses. School districts, hospital chains, foodservice providers, and even the nation’s top grocers are also seeking out food that has been raised nearby.

The Sierra Club has sponsored a short film called “The True Cost of Food”. The Sierra Club National Sustainable Consumption Committee is using the film as the centerpiece of a campaign to educate the public about food issues. The 15 minute animated film is a light-hearted thought provoking video intended to be used as an introduction to a discussion on the environmental costs of the way agribusiness is raising our food. It encourages people to buy local and organic food and eat less meat. Check it out at http://www.truecostoffood.org.

The benefits and re-emergence of local food are documented and examined in Eat Here: Reclaiming Homegrown Pleasures in a Global Supermarket, a new book from the Worldwatch Institute. Eat Here describes how people are preparing to promote local foods in their own life or community:

- Learn what foods are in season in your area and try to build your diet around them.
- Shop at a local farmers market.
- Produce a local food directory that lists all the local food sources in your area, including CSA arrangements, farmers markets, food co-ops, restaurants emphasizing seasonal cuisine and local produce, and farmers willing to sell direct to consumers year-round.
- Buy extra quantities of your favorite fruit or vegetable when it is in season and experiment with drying, canning, jamming, or otherwise preserving it for a later date.
- Plant a garden and grow as much of your own food as possible.
- Speak to your local politician about forming a local food policy council to help guide decisions that affect the local foodshed.

For information about The True Cost of Food, visit http://www.truecostoffood.org or to order a copy contact us at mailto: truecostoffood%40aol.com. For more information about Eat Here, including discussion questions and activity ideas, visit www.worldwatch.org/features/food.