Your Help is Needed!

Stop the North Shore Road in the Smokies in the Area North of Fontana Lake

By Ray Payne

The Problem

In what appears to be a never ending battle we must again make it clear to the Department of Interior (National Park Service) that a road must not be constructed in the area north of Fontana Lake in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM). There is a very good solution to the road promised Swain County (by a contract in 1943 by the Dept. of Interior, that would be constructed if Congress appropriated the funds. This contract is normally referred to as the "1943 Agreement". In its relatively inexpensive solution, between $50 and $60 million dollars paid to Swain County, compared to several hundred million dollars for the construction of a road.

The solution, payment in lieu of a road, avoids the extreme environmental damage to the north shore area; the terribly high cost to the taxpayers; And, the desecration of the largest mountain roadless area east of the Rocky Mountains while serving no worthwhile purpose.

In October 2000 Congressman Charles Taylor (R), NC added a rider to the Department of Transportation (DOT) Appropriations Act for 2001. In its entirety it states:

$16,000,000 for construction of and improvements to North Shore (NS Rd) Road in Swain County, North Carolina.

Former Senator John Edwards, and the Swain County Board of Commissioners learned about the dirty deed from Congressman Taylor's press release.

This rider was attached without notice to or consultation with the public and without the usual public hearings normally held on legislation in the process of being considered by the Congress. The Department of Transportation (DOT) and National Park Service (NPS) did not request the appropriation and learned about it after the legislation was passed.

The proposed NS Rd would be entirely within the GRSM and could be 28 to 39 miles long, depending on the exact location of the road. If constructed it would desecrate the largest roadless tract of mountain land in the eastern US, and be an environmental disaster. Natural and cultural and archeological history would be bulldozed in to oblivion, the scenic beauty would be destroyed. This scar on the landscape would be visible from the Appalachian Trail for miles far south of the Park. Conservationists and many local residents are working hard to stop this disaster. The conservation organizations have been fighting this road and an alternative, a road from Bryson City, NC to Townsend, TN, since 1965. At that time construction was underway on the current road (Lakeview Drive, 6.2 miles inside the Park) from Bryson City to near Forney Creek.

A local organization, the Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County (CEFSC) was organized a little over two years ago to support payment by the federal government to Swain County in lieu of building the road. This organization is open to membership of anyone who cares to join and there are several out of state members including myself (Ray Payne) and Ted Snyder. The CEFSC members and many Swain County residents who chose not to join for a variety of reasons, realize that a payment in lieu of the road will be of far greater economic value to Swain County and easier to get, than a road that may require another 40 years to build. Contact Ray Payne rpayne100@bellsouth.net for info on the CEFSC.

Above - Pilot Ridge is just north of Fontana Lake, and would be heavily impacted by an extension of the Northshore Road.

Brief History of the Problem

On December 17th, 1941, the President signed a bill appropriating funds to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for the construction of Fontana Dam on the Little Tennessee River. Power was needed for the war effort especially for the aluminum smelters at Maryville, TN. TVA immediately started acquiring land for the project and building the dam.

An unpaved road, NC 288, on the north side of the river would be inundated by the lake when filled and residents above the high water line would be isolated without a road access. The road had been built in the early 1920s by the Forney Creek Road District using proceeds from bonds. In 1940 it was in financial difficulty and Swain County, in a general refunding, assumed the bonded indebtedness. The unpaid principal and accrued interest was then $694,000.

The State of North Carolina assumed responsibility for road maintenance. In acquiring land for the lake, TVA would have been obligated to pay compensation to Swain County for this road. To rebuild the road above the high water line would have cost more than the aggregate value of the land to be served. Moreover, the War Production Board advised TVA that expenditure of material and money to reconstruct the road would be denied.

NC 288 traversed a tract of more than 44,000 acres that lay within the approved boundaries of the GRSM, but had never been acquired due to lack of funds. In 1943 an agreement was reached by TVA, the State of North Carolina, Swain County, NC and the Department of Interior. This was the often referred to "1943 Agreement".

With this agreement, the TVA agreed to purchase the 44,000 acres and to transfer this tract to the Dept. of the Interior for inclusion in the Park. Following the purchase of the property the residents would be moved out of the area. This would eliminate the necessity to provide road access to land owners and the small population living on the 44,000 acres. Interior, for its part, agreed that after the end of hostilities (WW II), it would build a replacement road from the eastern boundary of the Park near Bryson city to Fontana Dam. Construction was explicitly made dependent on Congressional appropriations, in these words:

Subject to, and contingent in all respects upon the appropriation by Congress of all funds necessary for such construction, and failure on the part of Congress for any reason to make such appropriations shall not constitute a breach or violation of this agreement by the Department or any other party hereto.

North Carolina agreed to build an access road from Bryson City to the eastern boundary of the Park, to connect with the road Interior was to build, and to contribute $100,000 toward the acquisition cost of the 44,000 acres.

To help retain the road indebtedness which Swain County had assumed, TVA agreed to make a partial payment of $400,000 to the State, to be held in trust for the County.

The existing NC 288 was built to low standards (minimum cuts and fills, sharp curves, unpaved). The road Interior agreed to build was to be a part of its "around the Park" road, then incorporated in the Park Master Plan. The "1943 Agreement" provided that the new road will be a Scenic Drive and shall at a minimum have a dustless surface nor less than twenty (20) feet in width.

In 1958 the State of NC built about 2.5 miles from Bryson City to the Park Boundary to connect to the road to be built by the Dept. of Interior in the Park. In the 1960s the Dept. of Interior built about 6.2 miles inside the Park. It was built to Blue Ridge Parkway design standards but with many sharp curves it would have a 18 mph speed limit. This would leave about 30 miles, depending on the
SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:
*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
*Snail Mail:  clip the Moving? coupon below and mail
*Address changes are processed much faster if you include your Sierra Club membership number.  To find your membership number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

SEND ARTICLES TO:
Email: TennesSierran@aol.com
Snail 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 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.

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:
*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
*Snail Mail:  clip the Moving? coupon below and mail
*Address changes are processed much faster if you include your Sierra Club membership number.  To find your membership number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

SEND ARTICLES TO:
Email: TennesSierran@aol.com
Snail 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 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.

Tennes-Sierran
Sierra Club Officers
(List in Transition for 2005)
Tennessee Chapter:
Chair: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
donrich@juno.com
Vice Chair: Lisa Dixon (865) 693-4236
dixon@cs.utk.edu
Secretary: Cary Butcher (615) 347-1480
JLCLBUTCH@comcast.net
Treasurer: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 366-4738
GB1Nature@aol.com
Membership: Dick Mochow (901) 274-1510
diminos@earthlink.net

TN Local Groups:
Cherokee Group - Chattanooga
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
Chair:  Terry Miller (423) 842-5053
trmcha@comcast.net
Vice Chair: Henry Spratt, Ph.D.
Henry-Spratt@utc.edu
Conservation: Rick Gehlke (423) 843-9625
rick.gehlke@comcast.net
Outings: Chris O’Connor (423) 867-4957
chris_condition@yahoo.com

Chickasaw Group - Memphis
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
Chair: Charlie Bond (901) 452-8150
chairson@bellsouth.net
Vice Chair: Karen Prosser (901) 327-9820
keprosser@bellsouth.net
Conservation: James Baker (901) 372-6717
aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net
Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
jhhammond@tango.sdis.org

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
Chair: Axel Ringe (865) 397-1840
onxyfarm@bellsouth.net
Vice-Chair: Beverly Smith (865) 531-8480
Blismith500@comcast.net
Conservation: David Reister (865) 670-8991
dreister@bellsouth.net
Outings: Roger Jenkins (865) 690-3257
mcdonaldjenkins@twolakers.org

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chapters/tn/mtg
Chair: Cary Butcher (615) 347-1480
JLCLBUTCH@comcast.net
Vice Chair: Jeremy Doochin
Doochers87@aol.com
Conservation: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com

State of Franklin Group
- Bristol/Johnson City/Kingsport
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/sofg
Chair: Linda C. Modica (423) 753-9697
lcmdcm@juno.com
Conservation: Catherine Murray (423) 929-8163
Cfvmatarine@worldnet.att.net

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg
Chair: Peggy Evans (931) 432-6680
maevans@twlakes.net
Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142
Jmcquail@tntech.edu
Conservation: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
zeblady@twlakes.net
Outings: John Harwood (931) 528-6395
jharwood@tntech.edu

Tennessee Sierra Staff:
Rita Harris, Community Organizer
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org

Please notify the Editor when changes are needed
Top - Construction along the Northshore Road in 1964. Note that this photo was taken by the late Harvey Broome, the namesake of the Knoxville Sierra Club Group and co-founder of the Wilderness Society.

Bottom - Construction of this road, which would place the facility entirely within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, would be an environmental disaster of epic proportions.

Your Help is Needed!
Stop the North Shore Road in the Smokies in the Area North of Fontana Lake

By Ray Payne

Continued from Page 1

exact location in the Park, to reach Fontana Dam. Today due to security concerns and the frequent closing of the road across the dam for maintenance on the dam, the road would probably be extended a few miles beyond the dam to connect to NC 28 downstream of the dam, at the headwaters of Cheoah Lake, on the north side.

In 1962, concerned with problems encountered in construction of the first 2.5 miles at the eastern Park boundary which connected to a spur road built by the State of NC, the NPS convened a committee to review the situation and make recommendations for future construction. The committee found extreme slippage or erosion of sections of fills. The slopes were determined to be at risk for further slippage, creating high maintenance costs and dangers to travelers. The Anakeeta formation, a serious water pollutant that generates sulfide acid, was also encountered.

The committee’s report stated, the committee is of the opinion that on Project 9A! (the first 2.5 miles) the damage to the landscape and natural park values is so severe that the future maintenance will cost so great that the Service should hold in abeyance plans for Project 9A2 which is known to involve terrain even more severe. -- The committee is of the opinion that continuation of such damage to natural park values is indefensible from either the standpoint of conservation of visitor use.

The 6.2 miles from the eastern Park boundary was completed some including the tunnel, but no more appropriations were requested for additional construction. Prior to discontinuing construction of the NS Rd, NC 28 was constructed south of Fontana Lake providing high speed access between Fontana Dam and Bryson City. This road also provided expansive views of the Park high country with Fontana Lake in the foreground. NC 28 fulfills the needs that the NS Rd would have provided.

The Cemeteries Issue

Many pro-road supporters claim that they were promised this road to provide access to several cemeteries in the north shore area. Not so. There is no mention whatsoever of cemeteries in the “1943 Agreement.” But, in response to their claims the NPS began a program of providing bus access across the lake and, vehicle transport into the Park in vans using newly graded old roads and logging railroad beds to get to the cemeteries. This service is provided free and the NPS pledged to continue it when the GMP was issued in 1982, provisions for this service were included in it.

In 1943 when the land was being acquired, TVA offered to move the remains of the deceased from all of the cemeteries in this area and re-inter them at a local, accessible cemetery of the families choice or a special cemetery established for the purpose of the Fontana project. There were many cemeteries below the high water line and these remains had to be removed. All of these families were upset, the families were warned that access to them on the north shore would be difficult after the lake was filled. The North Shore Cemetery Association, organized to support the road, took the issue to Federal Court. They lost when the Supreme Court refused to hear their case.

Environmental Law Have Changed

In 1982 there were few if any, specific laws designed to protect the environment. Since then there have been major changes in the legislation with the enactment of such laws as:

The Wilderness Act
The Department of Transportation Act
The Federal Aid Highways Act
The Clean Water Act
The Endangered Species Act
- and others.

The “1943 Agreement” is not exempt from these laws.

Settling the Controversy

Beginning in the late 1970s there have been repeated efforts to build a substitute for building the road. In meeting after meeting, involving the parties to the “1943 Agreement”, federal officials, state officials, representatives of the Swain County citizens, conservationists, and members of the Congress, the conclusion was reached that the best solution to the problem was to pay Swaim County a lump sum of money, put in trust for the benefit of its citizens. The amount proposed to be paid has increased with the passage of time. Today the amount being considered to be put at this time is $52 million. That amount can and should be calculated with the passage of time. Today a realistic cost estimate made by a reputable highway engineering firm would show that building the road would cost several hundred million dollars. If the Congress conducted its business in an honest, ethical, and logical manner in dealing with this problem, decades would pass before this amount of money is appropriated to build this road. The price of $52 million plus some escalation is a bargain. Without public action the controversy and the moral obligation to the people of Swain County.

The CEFSF has worked diligently towards the settlement of this controversy. They realize that a payment of money in lieu of building the road as discussed above, is the best for Swain County’s citizens. They are working closely with the environmental organizations toward this end. Through their effort the Board of Commissioners of Swain County voted 4 to 1 to support this position. They also convinced the Governor of NC to support them. The Dept. of Interior has been informed by both the Governor of NC and the Swain County Commission of its support for payment in lieu of the Road. The TVA couldn’t care less. For no logical reason the Dept. of Interior refuses to hear them.

But you can help get the attention of the Department of Interior

In 2003 the Dept. of Interior began the NEPA process, using the appropriated $16 million, to determine a way to resolve the controversy. This is unnecessary and a senseless waste of money but that’s the way the government works. A new round of public information meeting necessitated by the NEPA process is now scheduled. This will be the last of the public meetings until the draft EIS is released to the public later this year. Following these meetings the alternates to be studied for inclusion in the draft EIS will be selected. YOUR involvement in these meetings can make a difference. You should attend at least one of them and preferably more than one. The NPS admits that the attendance of the same persons at more that one public meeting necessitated by the NEPA process is so severe ant the future main-

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, February 22
Swain County High School
Center for the Arts Auditorium
1455 Fontana Road
Bryson City, NC

Thursday, February 24
Robbinsville High School Auditorium
301 Sweetwater Road
Robbinsville, NC

Monday, February 28
Renaissance Asheville
Grand Ballroom
One Thomas Wolfe Plaza
Asheville, NC

Tuesday, March 1
Marriott Knoville
Mississippi Room
500 Hill Avenue SE
Knoxxville, TN

Thursday, March 3
Glencoe Lodge
Aretes Room
104 Historic Nature Trail
Gatlinburg, TN

Send comments US Mail or email North Shore Road Project
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
PO Box 30185
Raleigh, NC 27622

Email: northshoreroad@arcadis-us.com

As announced by the National Park Service

Project Update (from the North Shore Road website: http://www.northshoreroad.info/). The project schedule has been updated to provide time to complete necessary fieldwork and a thorough analysis of the study alternatives for the North Shore Road Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Evaluations of the alternatives’ impacts and estimated costs will be presented at the February/March 2005 public workshops in North Carolina and Tennessee. The public is encouraged to participate in this important workshop series. This is the last public participation opportunity prior to selection of the preferred study alternative. Comments collected from the public will be considered along with prior public input in the selection of the preferred study alternative. The Draft EIS, which will announce the preferred study alternative, will be available for public review later in 2005 and will be immediately followed by a series of formal public hearings.
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 MOPG program meetings. FML: Mary Gavlik, Vice Chair. (423) 434-9555, mgavlik@yahoo.com.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)
PROGRAM MEETING: For additional information, contact Rick Gehlke 423-843-5625 or email rick.gehlke@comcast.net.

STRATEGY MEETING: - The Executive Committee of the Cherokee Chapter meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at Spangler Farms/Greenway Farms off Hambl Road in Hixson. These strategy meetings are open to the public and your participation is encouraged. The next meeting is Thursday March 24th at 5:30 PM.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)
MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING: Thursday, March 3, 2005, 6:00 - 8:00 pm - 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 Johnson <jilljohnston.memphiscub.org> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING: Sunday, March 13, 2005, 1:00 - 3:00 pm - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. For more information, contact Charlie Read <schwanndorf@bellsouth.net> (by March 9 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150.

THIRD TUESDAY GATHERING: Tuesday, March 15, 2005, 6:00 - 8:00pm - Cafe Francisco, 401 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "THIRD TUESDAY" 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 Johnson <jilljohnston@memphiscub.org> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

PROGRAM MEETING: Monday, March 27, 2005, 6:00 pm - Memphis Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. Our March program will be a panel discussion about the Riverwoods Natural Area in Germantown. The Riverwoods Natural Area is being threatened as the City of Germantown wants to complete a two-mile section of the Wolf River Parkway through this Natural Area. On our panel in March, we will have Jeannie Arthur, Conservation Chair of the Memphis Garden Club; Keith Kirkland, Executive Director of the Wolf River Conservancy, and James Baker, Conservation Chair of the Chickasaw Group. They will discuss the impacts of potential road development on the Riverwoods, and on every Natural Area in Tennessee. For more information, contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: Every Monday at 1:30pm, Tuesday at 4:00pm and Wednesday at 11:30am, CST, The Library Channel, Memphis Cable 18, WYPL, "The Nature of Conservation" is sponsored by the Sierra Club. For March, James Baker our Conservation Chair will substitute for Judith Rutschman in this program.

PROGRAM 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 east Tennessee'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) 753-9697, lmodica@aol.com.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (T-City)
POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS: First Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. All SOFG members are encouraged to get active now to help organize for environmental victory in November! FML: Dan Grace, Pol.Com. Chair, (423) 926-7035, dangrace@worldnet.att.net.

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 east Tennessee'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) 753-9697, lmodica@aol.com.
This was an unusual autumn season, with plenty of rain and relatively warm temperatures, especially in October. September and November again had much more rain than average (most of it from 2 to 5 day downpours). October, normally our driest month, was wetter than August, and decidedly wetter than average; considerable rain with thunderstorms fell October 19, with reportedly over 5" in Nashville, only about 2 1/2-3" E of Montery at my place there (2" to 2 1/2" at "G"). The first touch of frost was on October 17, enough to kill or injure some tender perennials and shrubbery plants, if at all present. Although semilunar pumpkins and a few tomatoes were still in bloom early in November, October 29 was rather hot (81°F) in Cookeville, and November 1, 2, and 4 were also rather warm, with November mornings (with some frost) returned November 5-8; there was a heavy frost November 9, another November 15, and a likely freeze probably the 26th (it was away). A midnight thunderstorm occurred November 23-24. November rainfall at Crossville through the 29th was about 4.27" less than average, and only 1/2" from Cookeville to Est Montery. Early December had some frost, and some heavy rains with flooding. My fist snowflakes were seen on December 1 (before cranberry satisfactions), then snow dawned the ponds December 25. Flurry snow fell December 14, followed by a hard freeze in the teens (16°F reported for Montery on 15th).

In view of this weather, it is not very surprising that there was an early fall color peak around October 20 and a later color peak in mid-November near Monterey. I noticed a good many maples, scarlet oaks, wild (black) cherry saplings, even some sweet gums and tulip trees ("poplars") with colorful foliage November 21-22. Japanese maples were magenta- or crimson-colored in late November, in brilliant red, at least 2 in Cookeville were still colorful December 5 or later. On December 1, heading for Nashville, I observed elms, red and sugar maples, oaks, and sweet gums with colorful foliage (not Qons) along I-40 in western Puman Co.; a few birches, yuccas, and willows still had leaves into December. Brotherton Farm had a very colorful foliage in the first two weeks of December, but the hard freezes ended that. On kudzu vines, I noticed considerable green or yellowish unfrozen foliage. E of Nashville as late as November 12 (19°F on December 13), several days later than the last previous record here December 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005. A very mild year at "G" essentially all deciduous tree foliage had gone by the end of November, although I did have a few small strands of late red leaves December 16 (the kudzu foliage had all been killed by that morning).

I will mention here that the later Arnoldia has an article discussing the keep checking tables of flowering dates on the AH website, ideally from the same individual plant, in order to track the effects of global warming; they were using lilacs, dogwoods, silverbells, hardwoods, and not." This is the link to The Moths, which illustrates several hundred species of this kind of hunting spider, rather like a wolf spider (Lycosid), with a dull grayish fly, earlier, back-lit in a shaft of sunlight, fairly low down, I noticed several slow-flying moths, probably aphids. A dull grayish fly, suggesting a too-late honey bee but likely a parasitic wasp, rambled around on green foliage, then flew to the fallen leaf. A very high-quality and organically grown produce, herbs, and flowers. For the past few years we have been selling our goods at the Franklin Farmers Market, where customers love our tender lettuce mixes, baby squash varieties, squash, heirloom and European eggplants, peppers, and tomatoes, aromatic fresh herbs and our stunning flower bouquets. We really enjoy being there! This season, we are extending the opportunity to get fresh, local organic produce to more people in the Nashville area. Together with Drury Family Farm, also a small organic farm in Bon Aqua, we are forming the Fresh Harvest Cooperative. The Fresh Harvest Cooperative is a way for you to access delicious, healthy produce that is absolutely fresh. Begin your subscription by placing a small deposit on account with us, and then once a week you can place an order from the variety of vegetables, herbs, and flowers that are available. We will deliver it to a pick up point in Nashville (Trinity Church in Green Hills). If you have a bunch of people who want to sign up from your workplace, we are also willing to consider workplace deliveries.

This is a subscription service where you will be choosing what you receive and when. You are not obligated to purchase produce every week. For example, on Monday you will receive an email letting you know what we have available and the pricing. In July it may be an offering of corn and slicing tomatoes of many varieties, summer squashes (zucchini, yellow, pattypan, Italian and Middle eastern varieties), cucumbers, baby potatoes, carrots, greens (kale, chard, and Asian greens), oriental eggplant, sweet peppers of all colors, basil, tomatoes, and more. You let us know by Tuesday what you would like. Your order will be picked and delivered by Wednesday. The subscription service starts in May and continues into October.

If you are interested and would like to learn more about the Fresh Harvest Cooperative and our subscription service, or about our farms, please email me at Turnbullcreek@bellsouth.net, or call at 615-412-5690. We look forward to hearing from you soon. The growing season is just around the corner!

Thanks!
Tallahassee May
We’ll hike the Mill Branch Trail intersects with the Fodderstack trail. Sunday, we’ll have time to explore the Big Fodderstack before heading down the mountain. We can find the Smokemont Loop Trail from the parking area, but please bring us back to the campground. Bradleytown was the original name of Smokemont, which acquired its current name when a town grew up around a sawmill used by Champion Fibre Company. We’ll visit the Bradley Cemetery and hopefully see some early spring wildflowers along the way. This is a hike for you folks who’ve requested easier hikes. Hike 6.1 miles, rated easy. Pre-register with Barbara Allen at 865-558-0214 or b-tallen@msn.com.

April 2 (Sat, 9 AM). Thirteenth Annual Greenways 5K Race. The HBG co-sponsors (with the Knox Greenways Coalition and Knoxville Track Club) an annual 5.1 mile race on the Third Creek Greenway to support the development of greenways in Knox County. Registration is at West High School on the day of the race; by mail before race date. Cost is $15 if pre-registered, $20 on race day. West High School is on Tobe Lane (from Kingston Pike in Sequoyah Hills, turn north on Forest Glen, then right on Tobe Lane to the school). A greenways T-shirt with original design, food, and live music are provided. Contact Will Sheldon for information/applications: Home 523-2272, Work 521-0363; email whshome@bellsouth.net.

April 3 (Sun). Day hike - GSMNP Smokemont Loop-Bradley Fork Trail. We’ll hike the Smokemont Loop trail from the Smokemont Campground to the Bradley Fork Trail, which will bring us back to the campground. Early search for wildflowers is recommended, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

March 19 (Sat), Day hike - GSMNP Smokemont Loop-Bradley Fork Trail. We’ll hike the Smokemont Loop trail from the Smokemont Campground to the Bradley Fork Trail, which will bring us back to the campground. Early search for wildflowers is recommended, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

March 12-13 (Sat-Sun). Backpack - Citico Creek Wilderness. We’ll drive to Furt Gap at the north end of the wilderness, then hike the Fodderstack trail around the ridge separating the Citico Creek and Slickrock Creek areas. We’ll camp at Big Stack Gap (4.2 mi), where the wilderness, Cherokee National Forest. The new Benton MacKaye Trail, from Springer Mountain in Georgia to the Smokies, is now nearly completed in the CNF. It passes through the CNF’s proposed Upper Bald River Wilderness and we’re going to backpack the section from the Tellico River to the Bald River Road. The trail climbs over Sugar Mountain and is about 7 miles round trip, easily day hikable. Saturday night, we’ll camp on the trail below Sugar Mountain, and may explore Bald River off-trail to its uppermost headwaters. Rated Easy. Pre-register with Will Shelton: H 523-2272; W 521-6260; whshome@bellsouth.net.

MIDDLE TN GROUP (Nashville)

Thursday - Sunday, March 3-6 - Volunteer at our booth at the Lawn and Garden Show. All shifts needed. Must be outgoing, happy people and willing to approach people as they walk by. Get into the show FREE by volunteering. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com.

Friday - Sunday, March 4-6 - Pitchet State Park Backdrop - Stormy weather prevented us from backpacking the Hidden Passage Trail in November, so let’s try this again! We will stay at the campground Friday night and backpack the Hidden Passage Trail (11 mile moderate loop trail) on Sat./Sun. Let’s plan to eat supper Friday night at Bacara’s German restaurant. This trip is suitable for beginners. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at Karibug1959@aol.com or 615-360-3481 after 8 p.m., or leave a message.

Friday - Sunday, March 11-13 - Savage Gulf Backpack. - This trip will begin at the Savage Ranger Station. On Friday, we’ll hike the South Rim Trail to Stagecoach Campsite and spend the night (6 miles and moderate). Savage Gulf will take us to Hobbi’s Cabin via the Stagecoach Road and Connector Trails (approx. 5 miles and moderate to strenuous) where we will camp. Sunday, we will end up back at the ranger station via the North Rim Trail (approx. 8 miles, moderate). The trails on this hike offer scenic overlooks and historic stone architecture. The Stagecoach Trail was originally a Stagecoach road built in the 1800s. This is an intermediate rated backpacking trip. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at Karibug1959@aol.com or 615-360-3481 after 8 p.m., or leave a message.

Saturday March 12 - Creek Cleanup - We will meet to clean up a local creek bed. Bring your own gloves, boots, etc. Start at 9 a.m. and stay till noon. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com for details.

Sunday, March 13 - Early Wildflower Hike - Early search for wildflowers hike, location to be decided. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, March 15 - Dinner and Friends - Join us for a social night out, dinner at a restaurant, location to be decided. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com.

Saturday, April 2 - Murfreesboro Wetlands of Sink Creek Cleanup - Meet at the Crossing strip mall on Memorial Drive for cleanup of a local creek bed. This is a joint venture between the Stones River Watershed Association and the Sierra Club. Call Heloise at 615-896-6278, or e-mail her at stillwild@bellsouth.net for a time and what to bring.

Sunday, April 3 - Old Stone Fort Wildflower Scouting - Walk for four or five miles in the afternoon, along the riverside and the ridge. The bluebells and hepatica should be in bloom (and maybe 40 others!). Call Heloise at 615-896-6278, or e-mail her at stillwild@bellsouth.net.

NOTE: Places and times are subject to change. Contact the outings leader for further information, and check the newsletter or website (http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtnoutings.htm) for updates. Also, all participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Saturday, March 19 – 8 mile hike - Bald River Gorge (Cherokee NF) This is a joint hike with the Chattanooga Hiking Club along a quiet stream to a beautiful waterfall. You must pre-register for this event. Call Chris at 867-4957 for more info.

Thursday, April 7 - 4 mile walk - Tennessee Riverpark (Downtown Chattanooga) We begin our Summer Hiking Series with the return of our Thursday evening walks, which meet Susan Faulkner at the end of the Walnut Street Bridge @ 5:30PM for a 3-4 mile walk along the Tennessee Riverpark from downtown out past the old Sandbar Restaurant.

April 24 (Sat-Sun). Join Terry Miller on an all-day outing to the Smoky Mountains (3000’ elevation gain) Big Frog Mountain (Cherokee NF) This will be one of our more rigorous outings of the year. Join Terry Miller on an all-day outing to Big Frog Mountain deep inside the Cherokee National Forest. Meet at Hardes in Ooltewah (exit 11 off I-75) 8AM.

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/chokeenindex.htm

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

DISCLAIMER: The following activities are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. They are published...
3rd Annual Wilderness First Aid Training

April 16th & 17th
Fall Creek Falls State Park

A wilderness first aid course where you invest 16 hours for a 2 year certification

By Diane Perschbacher Phifer, Katherine Pendleton and Gary Bowers, Co-organizers

Join us for the third annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training (WFA) the weekend of April 16th and 17th at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Landmark Learning, LLC, a long term partner with SOLO (Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunity) will perform the training again this year. Landmark's WFA training, as described on their website:

WFA - Wilderness First Aid - 16 hours / 2 yr certification. Originally called Backcountry First Aid, this course was the first wilderness medical training to be taught anywhere in the world. WFA covers the basics and the most common traumatic, medical, and environmental issues that occur in the backcountry.

This educational weekend features top notch first aid training in an outdoor setting by instructors that have actual field experience. Last year's training featured hands on learning, fellowship, group dining and just plain fun. Here are some quotes from previous year's participants.

"An excellent course-very informative-very knowledgeable creative instructors-a must for all trip leaders or anyone who hikes outside organized trips." -- Miriam McDendon

"There is no way that anyone should venture into the backcountry without a basic level of competence in first aid. The WFA course should be at the top of everyone's skill acquisition wish list. Simply outstanding." -- Tim Scholl

"A highly recommended course...essential learning for anyone who ventures into the backcountry, and a great group of folks with similar interests. I thoroughly enjoyed it." -- Robin Johnston

When: April 16th and 17th
Where: Fall Creek Falls State Park
What is included: Training by highly qualified instructors, mid-morning snacks, lunch, mid-afternoon snacks
What is not included: Breakfast, dinner, lodging
Lodging: We plan to camp in the state park. Make your own arrangements.
Cost: $135, non-refundable (we commit to Landmark, you commit to Sierra)
Payment due: Hurry! Payment due in full by March 15th
Other: Membership in Sierra is required. You can join on line at https://www2.sierraclub.org/membership/ or Katherine can send you a membership form. Introductory memberships are $25.

Questions:
Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 or email at kathbp1959@att.net.

Wilderness first aid classes of this caliber often cost at least twice this amount. Sierra's goal in providing this training is to help insure the safe enjoyment of the great outdoors, and we price this course accordingly for our members. Space is limited, so enroll now. To enroll, please complete the form below and send it to Katherine Pendleton. Katherine must receive your check by March 15th to insure your reservation in this top notch training program.

Volunteer Opportunity!

To help the Middle Tennessee Group, to help our senior and disabled recyclers, to have fun and to meet other Sierra'ers, please consider volunteering at our recycling site at the Elyan Fields 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 633-3377 (H) or 741-1597, or e-mail him at dbordenkircher@ mindspring.com.

Many thanks to Darius Thieme for many weeks of devoted work at our recycling site 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.

OLD FOREST HIKE: Saturday, March 12, 2004 - 10:00am - 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 loop hike with seasonal bird watching and wildflowers-viewing guides is available for free at the Golf House in Overton Park at all other times. For additional information, contact Don Richardson <donrich@juno.com> at (901) 276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends.

OMAR ROBINSON ROAD CLEAN-UP: Saturday, March 19, 2005, 9:00am-12:00 Noon - Meet at the Douglass Community Center at 1616 Ash Street. We will work on Omar Robinson Road in the Douglass Community to clean up the illegally dumped materials and litter that have a potential for getting into the Wolf River. Contact James Baker <jabaye_kimo@worldnet.att.net> at (901) 826-2484 for more information.

V & E GREENLINE HIKE: Saturday, March 26, 2005 - 9:00am-12:noon - V & E Greenline, Memphis, Tennessee. Bill Rehberg will lead volunteers for regular greenline “spruce-up.” At 11am we will break away to do a hike along the 1.7 mile length of the greenline. Meet in front of St. John’s Orthodox Church at 1663 Tipton and we will then go to the section of the greenline being spruced. If you are unable to do the clean-up you can show up at 11am and just do the walk. Please let coordinator know if you are coming so you can be contacted in case of cancellation or time change. Contact Judith Hammond at (901) 276-2819.

SHELBY FOREST WILDFLOWER HIKE: Saturday, April 2, 2005, 10:00am - Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, Memphis, Tennessee. Chickasaw Group Chair Charlie Rond will lead this wildflower hike at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park on the first Saturday in April. A number of wildflowers such as Chickasaw, Buttercups, and Various Violets should be in bloom. Meet at the visitors center at 10:00am. Bring water and a sack lunch.

The Tennessee-Sierra Newsletter
March, 2005 - Page 7
Defenders of Tennessee 2005 NEEDS YOUR Help to Reach Our Goal!

The Chapter’s annual Defenders of Tennessee campaign brings in only a portion of the funds that we need to carry out our legislative and lobbying activities, and we must make up the balance out of our dwindling reserves. We have not yet reached our goal this year, and we urge all Sierrans who have not yet joined the Defenders to join as your 2005 gift to the environment.

The Defender fund, 8 years old this year, makes possible the effective work of our Legislative Committee and our lobbyist as they, and we, strive to protect Tennessee’s environment. Your contribution is not tax-deductible but is critical in enabling us to continue to run this vital program. All contributions, regardless of size, are very much appreciated. We are proud that this campaign is a volunteer activity, so all donations go to support the Defenders.

The Sierra Club gives heartfelt appreciation to this month’s contributors to the Defenders of Tennessee

(December 1 – February 27)

Anonymously
Brian Kason
Charlie High
Corinne Giagnorio and Van Busch
David Bordenkircher
Deborah Narrigan
Dick and Nicole Mochow
Don and Teri Scharf
Dr. Wallace and Pat Bigbee
Drew and Laurie Dinko
Eileen Segal
Gary Bowers
Gene and Ruth Van Horn
Harry Hodgdon
Keith Kirkland
Margaret Olson
Michael and Lisa Jones
Nanick Van Tol
Paul and Margaret Sloan
Ray Conatser
Russell Yttri
William Stubbseld

PLEASE fill out the form below and send your check made out to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 3611 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. BE A DEFENDER! Thank you!

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

Amount of donation: ( ) $50 ( ) $125 ( )
$250 ( ) $500 ( ) Other ________

Name: _____________________________________
Address: ___________________________________

*Email: _____________________________________

Optional - Your e-mail address, if you want to receive acknowledgment of your donation electronically rather than by letter.
We will not use email addresses for other purposes.

FIELD NOTES
Autumn 2004
By Richard Simmers

Continued from Page 4

a good many years) a total of 457 ant species, 6 of which have not been found elsewhere. (For comparison, the California ant fauna, as of 2003, total 277 species.) This is a more definite figure than what E.O. Wilson provides in The Diversity of Life. It will be a long time before any team can compile a field guide to the ants of tropical America I suspect, and likely a good many ants have been driven to extinction. Keep in mind that ants are dominant insects (in terms of biomass) in many ecosystems.

In the latest American Birds (Vol. 58), summarizing the 104th Christmas Bird Count mostly, there is an article (pp. 26-33) discussing the effects on birds caused by the massive spruce budworm outbreak in eastern Canada during the 1970’s, which at its 1975 peak affected 55 million hectares of boreal forest (the combined areas of the states of NY, PA, VA and NC are a bit-less!) and eventually killed about half the coni.

The author, (Bolgiano) believes that several populations of boreal forest birds, including crossbills, evening grosbeak, purple finch, and boreal chickadee, collapsed following this outbreak. Elsewhere in this issue (pp 17-18) the rusty blackbird is mentioned as a bird in deep trouble, having declined as estimated 85% since 1966, the reasons are obscure.

Chickasaw Group News
By Charlie Rond

A group of 17 citizens from Shelby County and the City of Memphis, including Chickasaw Group Chair Charlie Rond, were recently named by Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton to a select board that will decide the route of a new roadway through Shelby Farms Park.

The group named itself Shelby Farms Parkway Advisory Team and met for a whole day at the Shelby Farms Visitors Center to begin the roadway planning process.

Shelby County Road Public Works Director Ted Fox and Memphis City Engineer Wayne Gaskins were among the city and county leaders while Shelby Farms Park President Laura Adams, Wolf River Conservancy Executive Director Keith Kirkland, Mid-South Trails Association President Brad Corey and Rond represented environmentalists.

Other meetings are scheduled to accomplish the two important goals of what Mayor Wharton called “a comprehensive process and a good project.”

The roadway route has been a controversial one with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the City of Memphis, Shelby County, developers and environmentalists failing to agree and unable or unwilling to reach a compromise.

Mayor Wharton intends this select board to arrive at a satisfactory consensus of the roadway’s path through the 4,700-acre park, the largest such urban park in the nation.

The Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club seeks a new volunteer newsletter editor for the Tennes-Sierran.

If you are PC and Internet savvy, have proven and excellent communication/organizational skills, are able to commit to attending quarterly Tennessee chapter meetings, and have a “media” vision to share with our membership, we’d love to hear from you.

Graphics software (Adobe InDesign CS) is provided, however, we recommend that the new editor have a PC computer with Windows 2000, 1.0GHz Pentium® 4 Processor, 256 RAM, CD-RW Rom, or better, IP service and email in place. A high-speed (DSL or Cable) Internet connection is recommended, however, dialup is sufficient.

Software orientation and some procedural training will be available as ongoing support and consultations from former newsletter editors. There are also other training opportunities offered by Sierra Club in which the new editor can participate alongside other state newsletter editors throughout the USA.

Our new Editor will ideally assume responsibilities beginning with the September 2005 issue of the Tennessee-Sierran. The September 2005 issue of the Tennes-Sierran begins production the end of July 2005. All materials, including software, templates, file archives, etc. will be transferred to new editor at the Summer 2005 ran begins production the end of July 2005. All materials, including software, templates, file archives, etc. will be transferred to new editor at the Summer 2005.

Please consult http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mp/ for current standards of operation and production calendar. Then contact Rachel Floyd at RFloyd@sierra.org, or call 615-406-2924 if interested.

The Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club
2013 21st Avenue South, Suite 436
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

Monthly newsletter for the TN Chapter Sierra Club Vol. 36, No. 3 - March, 2005.