Could Tennessee Be Number Twelve?

by James H. Baker - Chair,
Tennessee Chapter - Container Deposit Legislation Committee

As I write this, Representative Russell Johnson (R – Loudon County) and Senator Randy McNally (R – Oak Ridge) have introduced the "Tennessee Beverage Container Deposit Act of 2006" in the Tennessee state legislature. This is House Bill 3350 and Senate Bill 3616. As in 2005, this legislation faces an uphill battle. However, every member of the Tennessee Chapter ought to take the time to do what it takes to make Tennessee Clean and Green by assisting and encouraging our legislators to enact Container Deposit Legislation. Here are some points that Chapter members can use when talking with their legislators.

Who supports Container Deposit Legislation?

 Passage of Container Deposit Legislation is supported by the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, Tennessee Conservation Voters, Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Scenic Tennessee, and many other organizations and individuals.

What are the benefits of Container Deposit Legislation?

1. Supplies recyclable materials for a high-demand market:
   o Recycling markets require a steady supply of material that is uncontaminated with other materials. For example, cleaned and recycled plastic soft drink bottles are in great demand for spinning fiber for carpet yarns, producing fiberglass and textiles.
   o Recycling centers can provide the needed “pre-sort” of various colors of glass, types of plastics, and aluminum that make up the majority of recyclable beverage containers. This reduces cross-contamination and increases the net worth of each stream.

2. Conserves energy and natural resources: Let me use the aluminum beverage container as an example. In 2001 in the United States (51 BILLION = 760,000 TONS) of aluminum cans were wasted (landfilled, incinerated, and recycled). To put that amount into perspective, this same 760,000 tons of aluminum could build about 25,000 Boeing 737 airliners. Because these cans were not recycled into new cans, the following environmental damages occurred:
   o Added soil erosion and habitat loss from strip mining of aluminum ore (bauxite) and coal.
   o More than 4 million tons of coal was burned to create the needed electrical energy to replace these wasted cans. To put that into perspective, all the Tennessee Valley Authority’s coal-fired electric power stations could operate for about ONE MONTH on that same tonnage of coal.
   o Over 3 million tons of greenhouse gases (mainly carbon dioxide) were created to replace these wasted cans.
   o Over 2.5 billion gallons of water was used to replace these wasted cans. A large city like Memphis, Nashville or Knoxville could operate about 10 days on a reserve of 2.5 billion gallons.
   o Recycling of aluminum uses considerable electrical energy. Because the aluminum is already in the metallic state, all of the energy spent in purifying the ore and reducing it to the metal is saved when aluminum is recycled. The aluminum needs only to be melted to be reused. There are also the attendant side effects of less soil erosion and habitat loss, less coal burned, less greenhouse gas emitted, and less water used.

3. Create new businesses and jobs:
   o Depending on population and site, counties can expect to see 6 to 12 independent redemption centers, each employing 2 to 6 workers and grossing an average of $100,000 annually in handling fees plus additional revenue (perhaps 15% of the gross) from selling the scrap aluminum, glass and plastic. In addition, counties can expect to see job growth in related areas such as recycling, transportation, redemption-center supplies and revenue vending machine leasing.
   o In addition to giving the poor and homeless a way to earn extra money while picking up the streets, this allows qualifying homeless shelters and other social-service organizations to operate certified redemption centers. Such operations will provide a steady source of income for the shelters while providing jobs and job training to clients.

4. Reduce waste disposal costs:
   o Cash strapped counties and municipalities may choose to operate their own redemption centers, perhaps in conjunction with an existing transfer station, and thus earn both the handling fee and the scrap revenue.
   o Recycling rates for containers will almost certainly triple, from a current statewide average of 24 percent, to an expected 80 percent or more. Recycling rates for other materials are expected to increase as well, as people who have never recycled anything before are introduced to the concept. These increases will help counties reach their mandated municipal-solid waste diversion goal of 25 percent, since beverage containers account for an estimated 5% to 6% of land-fill volume.

5. Reduce litter:
   o The proposed bill earmarks $10 million of the unclaimed deposits for the annual country litter grants program (anti-litter education and litter pickup). This replaces the existing funding (approx. $4.1 million a year) from “litter taxes” on beer and soda. The litter taxes will be eliminated under this container deposit legislation. Therefore, more money is available to conduct anti-litter education and to conduct litter clean ups.

Without container deposit legislation, clearing up litter is like:

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- Though aluminum revenues will be reduced, these losses should be more than offset by savings in handling and transportation costs for heavy glass and bulky plastic; by reduced costs for waste pickup and hauling; by reduced costs for landfill fees and litter removal; and by increased revenues from other recyclable materials as citizens begin to recycle more.
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Spring has officially arrived, and as I am working on this issue a snowstorm is burying the plains states in snow. Here in Middle Tennessee, snow is not something we’ve seen much, so far in 2006. What I have seen a lot of lately is dandelions. It seems they cover every field.

Including the one where this photograph was taken.

A friend called one morning, “Shanna! Grab your camera and go down Pantall Road. That albino deer is there.”

A few years back, before the 500 home subdivision was built behind my back yard, an albino deer showed up one morning. It was right behind my fence, walking in the meadow that was there then. Now the meadow is gone. And no one around here has seen the deer for awhile. Perhaps it’s “THAT” albino deer, perhaps it’s not.

What my friend didn’t realize when she called was that I was at home, in my pajamas, hanging out with my 4 year old daughters, who were dressed in pajama bottoms and tutus — that’s pretty standard attire for them. I put the phone down and thought about it for approximately 3 minutes before I grabbed my camera, put some blankets around my children, loaded up in the car and went to find the deer.

And find it, we did. At the edge of a thicket, in the middle of a field. I took several photographs through the misty air with a telephoto lens and no tripod—while my daughters waited patiently in the car and other motorists zipped past the crazy lady with the camera. in pajamas, in the ditch.

Was it worth it? Certainly the photo is not great. But the next day on our trip to preschool we passed the big white trucks with the guys in suits. They were parked in the field with papers spread across the hood of the truck. In the crazy lady with the camera. in pajamas, in the ditch.

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**CHICKASAW GROUP**

(Memphis)

MONTHLY FIRST THURSDAY MEMBERS GATHERING: (NOTE: New Hours) - Thursday, April 6, 2006, 5:30-7:00 p.m. - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee: Join us for Chickasaw Group’s “First Thursday” monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Karen Prosser at (901) 327-9820 for more information.

**STRATEGY MEETING**

Monday, April 10, 2006, 6:30pm - Present 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 James Baker by April 7 to place items on the agenda at (901) 826-2448.

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Wednesday, April 26, 2006, 7:00pm - NEXE: New Location, Memphis Public Library and Information Center - Poplar/White Station Branch at 5094 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee (at the base of Clark Tower): The April program will be a backpacking clinic by Mary Anne and David Henderson. Come learn the latest backpacking tips, including how to backpack with children. For more information, contact interim Program Chair - James Baker at (901) 826-2448.

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP**

(Nashville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Thursday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m. - Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. As springtime arrives we all begin serious planning of those winter long awaited renovation and construction projects for our living spaces. And, if you are like most of us eco-conscious nature lovers, you often search for alternative methods of architecture to enhance your surroundings and assist in the protection of our earth’s environment. So, on this night, join the MTG as we welcome a very special guest, award winning Scott H. Wilson, local Brentwood, Tennessee Architect as he presents, Alternative Architecture for Eco-Friendly Living. Scott will deliver an informative, and delightful, evening of alternative methods of construction and new market products that will assist your home-time projects! Light refreshments will be served. For more information on this program, contact Rachel Floyd at 615-406-9204 or email at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) Non-members are always welcome!

**CONSERVATION MEETING:** Tuesday, April 4th in the Sierra Club office, located at 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436 (the old St. Bernard Academy building). We will be working on a Green Office program plus other initiatives. For more information, contact Diane Perschbacher at (615) 895-1236 or Diane@Propson.com.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Wednesday, April 26th at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are first on the agenda. Come to 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 Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or e-mail Diane@Propson.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to David Rodenkinder at drodenkinder@cumberland-spring.com or call 333-3377.

**UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP**

(Cookeville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Contact Peggy Evans at 931-432-6800 or maeveas@TWLakes.net for more information on program meeting dates and times.

**CHEROKEE GROUP**

(Chattanooga)

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

**HARVEY BROOME GROUP**

(Knoxville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** April 11, 7:30 p.m. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. What is the Cumberland Trail? Where is the Cumberland Trail? What is the Cumberland Trail Conference? What will you see when you hike the Cumberland Trail? Curious about volunteer opportunities and funding for the Cumberland Trail? Paul Freeman, Executive Director of the Cumberland Trail Conference, will answer these questions and many more about this 300-mile trail extending from Signal Mountain National Military Park to Cumberland Gap at the Tennessee and Kentucky border. Please join us for an informative evening.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** April 25, 7:30 p.m. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Calling all members and non-members! Please join us in planning strategies for issues of concern to the group. If you have issues you are interested in, let us hear from you. This meeting provides an opportunity for input into those areas of concern to you. For more information contact Axel ringe at 865-397-1840.

It’s time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

Add your voice to protect the planet. Join the Sierra Club today.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

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Address ___________

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[ ] Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my [ ] MasterCard [ ] Visa [ ] AMEX

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Cardholder Name ______________________

Card Number ______________________

Membership Categories INDIVIDUAL JOINT

INTRODUCTORY $25

REGULAR $39 $47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include $7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and $1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to:

Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.
A n interstate highway wider than three football fields is on the drawing board in southeastern mountains. The initial route is outlined in federal legislation authorizing a “study of feasible routes and cost, and would pass through the mountains sometimes under bridges, sometimes tunnels, and here in Tennessee. Chapters of an interstate opposition movement have formed, not only in North Georgia but in both South and North Carolina. Strong opposition from northern Georgia counties, which lie along the route, is already causing proponents of the project to re-examine the feasibility and cost of the project. The Georgia State Legislature made their feelings clear in the 2006 budget that includes $100,000 to establish the Interstate study. The money to accommodate.

The efforts of the Georgia delegation to pass legislation authorizing the feasibility study beguiled in “committee” as had the earlier efforts of Burns and Chambliss. On March 14th, 10th, legislation for the study of I-3 and I-14 passed the U.S. House of Representatives as a part of HR 3175, the Transportation Equity Act, by the margin of 419 to 7. Cost of the study was earmarked at $100,000.

On April 26th, Congressman Norwood sent out a legislative update with an outline of the I-3 proposal and a map of the general route as proposed. Norwood was quoted as saying, “It is critical that we return the focus to I-3 as a vital part of the national defense. Many sections of existing highways can be incorporated into the routes of both new interstate corridors. Every day of delay runs the risk of diluting the support of key members on capitol hill that will require a great deal more money to accommodate.”

On May 17th, the U.S. Senate passed the Transportation Bill containing provisions to fund the feasibility study for the two interstates. Senator Sam Nunn, Senator Chambliss’s northeastern Georgia regional representative, was quoted as saying that the project has “overwhelming statewide support.” Senator Nunn pointed to “studies” that show that 80% of jobs are located within five miles of an interstate.

Indeed, many do support the idea of bringing an interstate through the Deep South. Among those who support the project are Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-TN. Big business also supports both interstate projects including Home Depot, Georgia Pacific, the Georgia Mining Association, the Asheville based Goodboy’s Family Clothing Inc., and Sea Ray Boats Inc.

The Georgia State Legislature made their feelings clear in the 2006 budget that includes $100,000 to establish the Interstate Highway Study. The bill required the U.S. DOT to report back to congress on the feasibility and cost of construction no later than December 31, 2005.

The argument that the interstate is necessary for homeland secu- rity seems aimed at tapping into patriotic sympathies, without much fact. The highway system that currently exists seems to be more than adequate to move troops and supplies. Both Fort Stewart in Georgia and Fort Bragg in North Carolina are more than adequate to move troops and supplies. Both Fort Stewart and Fort Bragg in North Carolina are more than adequate to move troops and supplies.

We hope you will take the time to write to the officials listed below and express your concern that we not be cut out of the process and that a full participation study be conducted. Our strong preference is that the concept of an interstate cutting through the mountains be forfeited and not be considered for economic development. Suffice it to say that the region needs I-3 to link Savannah to the Atlantic Ocean and Fort Gordon to Savannah, Georgia, and the Veterans Administration Hospital in Augusta is only about 140 miles. The distance from Savannah to Fort Gordon and the Veterans Administration Hospital in Augusta is only about 140 miles.

The mountain region economy is fueled by nature based tourism, family farms, and second home development. In fact, the mountain region is home to some of the nation’s finest ski resorts, national forests and national parks.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Representatives

US Representative John J. Duncan, Jr. 800 Fort Street, Suite 112 Knoxville, TN 37902
US Representative Zach Wamp 900 Georgia Avenue Suite 120 Chattanooga, TN 37401
US Representative Bill Jenkins 820 Center Street P.O. Box 769 Kingsport, TN 37662
US Representative Marsha Blackburn 379 Cannon House Office Building Nashville, TN 37243

Governor

Governor Phil Bredesen 1 effectively kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

Thank you for taking a bit of time to write to your elected and government officials and expressing your opposition.

The economic argument for I-3 is equally flawed. Suffice it to say that the real question is: what kind of economic development?-Interstate bring sprawl in the form of convenience stores, fast food joints, warehouses, toxic waste and pollution. The mountain region economy is fueled by nature based tourism, family farms, and second home development. In fact, the mountain region is home to some of the nation’s finest ski resorts, national forests and national parks.

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ATTENTION
HARVEY BROOME GROUP
MEMBERS

Jonathan Young, Manager of the Blue Ridge Mountain Sports Stores in Knoxville has agreed to allow a 10% discount on all purchases except for boats and kayaks. The Blue Ridge Mountain Sports stores where this discount applies are located in The Kingston Pike Shopping Center, 4610 Kingston Pike-Bearden and in The Village Green Shopping Center, 11537 Kingston Pike-Farragut.

Mr. Young says the discount will be applied to purchases made by any Sierra Club member. Members must present a valid membership card.

Tennessee Chapter Spring Meeting
April 28 – 30, 2006 • Pinson Mounds State Park
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/parks/PinsonMounds/

Join us at Pinson Mounds State Park!

From Jackson, TN follow Hwy. 4S South to the small town of Pinson, TN. Turn left at the park sign, St. Rt. 197 and then follow the signs 2.5 miles to the park entrance. Park address: 460 Otzer Road - Pinson, TN 38366 - Office: 731-988-5614. Hosted by the Chickasaw Group (CKG).

We will occupy the Group Lodge, where bunks are provided, but bring your own bedding, pillow, and towel. Activities will include early Saturday morning hikes and other activities. On Saturday evening, we will have a short program and a Silent Auction. The cost for the entire weekend is only $30.00 per person (1/2 price for children under 12 years old). This includes lodging, Saturday breakfast and dinner, and Sunday breakfast. Please RSVP to James Baker at: (901) 826-2448 or kim_o_abrey@yahoo.com.

NOTE: Special Information.
As per Park Policy, there is no tent camping allowed. Pinson Mounds is an archeological site. This includes both staked and “free-standing” tents.

$ilent Auction for Defender.s of Tennessee

The Defenders of Tennessee is a Sierra Club program that was formed for the purpose of funding our own lobbyist in the Tennessee Legislature. For the past 6 years, our lobbying efforts have paid off in getting good legislation passed and bad legislation stopped. One of the ways we fund this program is through a silent auction at our Spring Meeting.

Please visit your local outdoor, health food, music, wine (heh, heh) or other stores and restaurants and ask them to make a donation of goods or gift certificates. We also need your donations of new or good old things such as crafts, outdoor equipment, books, CD/DVDs, homemade items, etc. Plants and flowers always sell well.

If you are not able to attend the meeting but want to help, please contact someone you know who is going, or call your local chair listed on page 2 of this newsletter to arrange for someone else to take your donations to the meeting. And, if you are coming to the meeting, don’t forget to bring $$ to buy all the good stuff!

2006 Whites Creek Cleanup

The 4th Annual Whites Creek Cleanup will take place on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, 2006. We will meet at Hartman Park’s Picnic Shelters at 9 a.m. Bring water, work gloves, and hand tools. Be a water pro. Bring your boat and help ferry stuff back and forth across the stream, if you can. Do wear comfortable clothes - long sleeves and pants that can protect you from a briar. Choose shoes that can get wet, in case you cross the creek. And maybe a change of clothes to relax in afterwards. We will provide beverages, tasty snacks, and a light lunch. There will be shifts of folks working until about 4 p.m., so stop by when you can. Bring a friend! We may be also joined by some teen volunteers in the morning. To RSVP or for more information call Michelle at (615) 876-8865.

Directions: From west Nashville, take Briley Parkway East and exit at Clarksville Pike. Turn South. Go about a mile and a half. You will pass the Krogers’ shopping center on your left. Turn LEFT at the gas station onto West Hamilton Rd. Continue about a mile and turn RIGHT onto Tucker Rd. And RIGHT into the driveway of Hartman Park. Follow the driveway around to the picnic shelters at the back, and look for our signs.

Thanks to our sponsors:
Whites Creek Preservation Society, TWRA, and Metro Beautification.

Thanks to our Defenders

Many thanks to our February donors (through March 9) to the Sierra Defenders fund, who include:
Anonymous Donors • Richard and Frieda Coleman
Tom Cullen and Wray Estes • Steve and Patty Ghertner • John Harwood
Jay and Marilyn Hiatt • Martha McKnight • Steven Patrick
Bonnie Seay • Dr. Andy Walker • Julia Walker

Although the Defender campaign is officially over for this year, contributions can be accepted at any time. If you wish to contribute to our advocacy and lobbying program, you may return the form below, with your check made out to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. Note that donations are NOT tax deductible. THANK YOU!

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

Yes! I’d like to help!

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

Name: _______________________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________

May we publish your name in the Sierra Club newsletter as a donor? Yes _______ No _______

(Optional) Your e-mail address: _______________________________________

Sending our letter of appreciation to you electronically will allow us to conserve paper and save money. We will not divulge the address nor use it for other purposes.

No letter of acknowledgement is requested
HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Saturday, April 1, 2006 at 9AM, Fifteenth Annual Greenways 5K Race. The HBG cosponsors (with the Knox Greenways Coalition and Knoxville Track Club) an annual 3 mile race on the Third Creek Greenway to support the development of greenways in Knox County. The race begins at 9 AM at West High School on the day of the race; by mail race day. Cost is $15 if prereregistered, $20 on race day. West High School is on Tobe Lane (from Knox-Toolen Pike in Strawberry Hills; turn north on Forest Glen, then right on Tobe Lane to the school). A greenway T-shirt with original design, food, and live music are provided. Contact Mary Lake for information/applications: mailto:mlake34@knoxshotes.com (865) 675-6971.

Saturday-Sunday, April 1-2, Mount Rogers Backpack. The Mount Rogers National Recreation area is a unique environment with high country balds populated with wild mountain ponies. This backpack will climb the Mount Rogers trail to join the Appalachian Trail at Deep Gap. Near Thomas Knob shelter, we will take the AT trail to the highest point in Virginia. After descending, we will travel cross country to the campground at Cabin Ridge. The next morning we will pick up the Wilburn ridge trail across the spectacular rock bald. At Rhododendron gap, we will traverse the Pine Mountain trail and finally descend another segment of the AT. Total distance is 15.5 miles with 7.3 miles on day 1 and 8.2 miles on day 2. Due to the altitude, open terrain, and other environmental factors, the area is subject to extremes of weather. Hike is rated moderate due to distance, climbing, and technical aspects of crossing Wilburn ridge. Preregister with Bill Adams: mailto:cadjer@frontiernet.net.

Saturday-Sunday, April 8-9, Cumberland Trail Backpack (LaFollette to Cove Lake Section). The Cumberland Trail Association is the process of developing what promises to be a truly longstanding long distance trail in Tennessee. Entering from Kentucky to Georgia along the edge of the Cumberland Plateau, it is called the Cumberland Trail and several significant segments are complete. One of the best sections is a short drive from Knobville, along the Cumberland Plateau escarpment (where there are numerous unusual rock formations and great views of the Powell River valley and the Cumberland Mountains) from LaFollette to S&Y and Cave Lake. Above Cave Lake a newly constructed section leads down past the rock outcrops you see from L75 known as Devil’s Raccrack. Distance is 15 miles; pack out trail within 3 miles. Pregister with Will Skelton: H 525-2272; W 521-6200; mailto:wahome@bellsouth.net. Saturday, April 22 – A celebration of Earth Day at World’s Fair Park, with hours of 10 am - 6:00 pm. Volunteers from HBG will be on hand to help with the HBG booth. Contact Ed Siler, 600-4780H.

Saturday, April 29 – Dayhike, a wildflower hike to Max Patch. Pre-register with Priscilla Watts, 865-966-4142.

Saturday-Sunday, May 6-7, Wilderness First Aid course (Nashville) Saturday & Sunday, May 6th and 7th:  The 4th annual Wilderness First Aid course (WFA) will be held May 6th and 7th at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Instruction includes 16 hours in 2 days certification by Landmark Learning, LLC, in an outdoor setting. Training, snacks and lunch are provided, all for $140. For questions and registration (deadline April 10), contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email katnpug@att.com. More detailed information is also available in the February and March Tennes-Sierran newsletters.

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to:
http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/ chapter/forms/SignInWaiver.PDF, or call 415-977-5630, for a printed version.

Transportation to the outing including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

CHIKAASAK GROUP (Memphis)

Signs of Spring Walk - Sunday, April 2, 2006 - 1:00pm - Memphis Botanic Gardens at Audubon Park, Memphis, Tennessee: The Gardens are located at 750 Cherry Road. Join Outings Chair Judie Hammond to look for the following signs of spring. Meet in the lobby of the Botanic Gardens building. For more information, contact Judith Hammond at (901) 276-2839.

Old Forest Hike - Saturday, April 8, 2006 - 10:00am - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee: Second Saturday Hikes. This is the Marjorie Raines and Charlie Roland Memorial Wildflower Walk. 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 will be available at the golf house in Overton Park at all other times. For additional information, contact Ron Dickerson at (901) 276-1887. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

Wolf River Harbor Cleanup - Saturday, April 8, 2006 - 1pm to 3pm, Memphis, Tennessee: Auction Street Bridge Boat Ramp, Memphis, Tennessee: Meet at the Auction Street Bridge, just north of the Pyramid. The closest major intersection is North Front Street. Join members of the Chickasaw Group and the Sierra Club Water Sentinels as we pick up trash and litter and make Wolf River Harbor look better. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Participants are advised to wear sturdy shoes that they do not mind getting muddy and clothing appropriate to the weather conditions. For more information, contact James Baker at (901) 836-2448.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: Monday - 1:30pm, Tuesday - 4:00pm, Wednesday - 11:00am, Wednesday - 11:00pm, Thursday - 7:00am. WYCLF - Channel 18 – “The Nature of Conservation” in the Sierra Club’s Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. The show offers an interview with Steven Sondholm – Chickasaw Group Conservation Chair and Keith Kirkland – Executive Director of the Wolf River Conservancy. They will discuss the values of greenways and what they mean for Memphis. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the month. If any group 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.

Earthfest 2006 at Lichterman Nature Center - Saturday, April 22, 2006 - 10am to 2pm, Memphis, Tennessee: Join members of the Sierra Club at our booth as we celebrate Earth Day. Contact Joe King at (901) 761-9181 or Julian Prewitt at (901) 752-5691 to volunteer.

Pinson Mounds Tour. Pinson Mounds State Archeological site, near Jackson Tennessee - Saturday, April 29, 2006 - 9:00am - 12:00pm: Tour of the Pinson Mounds and trails on a walk through the South Fork of the Forked Deer River with State Archeologist. Easy, one strenuous climb which may be avoided. In addition, there will be an option of exploring Harris Creek with the Jackson, TN band group – Friends of Harris Creek, and examining the threats to that watershed. For more information, contact Judie Hammond at (901) 276-2839.

CHEEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

For information on upcoming outings, contact Chris O’Connor at chris_o77@yahoo.com or visit our web site at http://www.tennes-sierrach.com/cheeroake/index.htm.

Ten Essentials for Hiking

Siesta Club Outings offer a variety of wilderness and near-wilderness experiences. You may 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 essentials which may be modified according to the particular type of outing.

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!

Cherokees

Page 6 - April 2006

Tennes-Sierran
Last Hike with Charlie Rond

Contributed by Clark A. Buchner

On a gloomy, rain-filled weekend this past January, a small window opened up on Saturday morning where one could take a short hike without becoming drenched and miserable. In all the winter weekends I have spent by the Great Lakes I have never before caught a glimpse of the Cedars of Lebanon State Park, there have not been many where I felt the urge to go-hiking. It is usually wet and unpleasant or so cold that it bites your nose off. This time, it was different for some reason, and I got up feeling that a hike in the woods would be an invigorating thing to do.

The Middle Tennessee Group had provided us with Tammy Day from Murfreesboro, an excellent outing leader, who showed up at the lodge ready to go promptly at nine o’clock. I was a bit surprised to see that Charlie Rond and I were the only ones that were dressed in layers and geared up to go the hike. Tammy took her car and drove us across the park to the two-mile loop trail, which was a pleasant surprise, as I had no idea that there were such well-developed and interesting trails in the park. In past Tennessee Chapter meetings at this park, I had gone cross country with Arthur Smith through some scrubby cedar glades, winding up on asphalt back roads, and I generally found that the hiking areas were so poorly defined that it was better to go to Long Hunter or even drive into Nashville and hike at Radnor Lake. Tammy knew exactly what the Cedars had to offer and took us to the right place.

The temperature was in the low 50’s and the sky was overcast. The suggestion that we were just on the edge of a downpour stayed with us the entire hike, and a light misting every now and then reminded us that any minute we could easily be soaked. To be in the woods away from shelter on the edge of a storm is always interesting. One ear is constantly tuned for the sound of distant thunder. In many ways, this was a pretty ordinary morning; the sky remained overcast, without hint of the sun breaking through, yet the day had a beauty that one can detect, that it was better to go to Long Hunter or even drive into Nashville and hike at Radnor Lake. Tammy knew exactly what the Cedars had to offer and took us to the right place.

The trail was damp and wet leaves covered the ground. Most of the leaves were gone from the trees except for a few rusty brown oaks that were a nice understory contrast to the starkly domed gray trunks and the native junipers. To my delight, linear outcroppings of moss-covered rock began to appear and the path wove in and out through the middle of them. There was enough elevation change to give a nice flowing quality to the trail. Sinkholes and in and out through the middle of them. There was enough elevation change to give a nice flowing quality to the trail. Sinkholes were everywhere in this geology of karst formations and native limestone. Charlie climbed down in one sinkhole that looked like a cave entrance and posed with his hiking stick in hand to give a human scale to the digital image I was framing.

Charlie Rond and I had done many hikes together, and had planned even more. Often the hikes were canceled, as he could not always predict whether his body would be up for the occasion. The conversations we had while hiking were one of the things that I treasured about my relationship with Charlie. Topics covered everything from hunting, skiing, rock climbing, backpacking and kayaking to fly fishing, hiking and canoeing. He concentrated on fly-fishing, mostly for trout in the tail waters of the dams in neighboring Arkansas but also for warm water game fish species in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas. He was a member of the Mid-South Fly Fishers and the Federation of Fly Fishers and enjoyed hiking with his friends and colleagues.

He was as generous in death as he was in life. He provided the gift of life through organ donation. He will be missed by all of us.
Volunteer Opportunity!
To help the Middle Tennessee Group, to help our senior and disabled recyclers, to have fun and to meet other Sierrans, please consider volunteering at our recycling site at the Elysian 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 333-3377 (H) or 741-1597, or e-mail him at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com.