On Saturday October 21, 2006 Catherine Murray was awarded the prestigious Sarah Hines Award at the TN Sierra Club quarterly chapter meeting held at Pickett State Park in Jamestown, TN. Catherine Murray is a member of the Watauga Group Sierra Club serving Johnson and Carter Counties in Northeast Tennessee and serves as director of Cherokee Forest Voices.

The Cherokee National Forest includes areas as wild and remote as any and some of the most isolated and non-fragmented Forest Service lands in the eastern US. It is home to more than 2,000 plants and animal species. The Cherokee Forest encompasses 640,000 acres and stretches from Chattanooga to Mountain City. It is the largest tract of public land in Tennessee.

Protecting this huge national forest is Catherine Murray and all the help she can muster through alliances, coalitions, grants and hard work with long hours to address the numerous issues related to the management of this forest thru her directorship of Cherokee Forest Voices.

Catherine’s nomination for the Sarah Hines Award stated in part “...Ms Murray is the reason Cherokee National Forest still has significant, standing, old growth trees. Catherine, with partners at the Southern Environmental Law Center, Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, Cherokee Forest Voices, Southern Appalachian Eco Region Task Force and the Sierra Club, has saved many a Forest Services’ inappropriate plan from being realized over the last ten years”.

Catherine, a Johnson City Tennessee resident, envisions the Cherokee National Forest as a safe haven for wildlife, big trees, clear streams and people seeking nondestructive enjoyment of the forest. Her inspired work has reduced irresponsible logging, “dampened” inappropriate NFS burns, and increased road less areas plus led to improvements in Cherokee National Forest management. “These are great accomplishments for one lady who labors above and beyond the call of duty in performing vital services for conserving the wild forest legacy in our very own neck of the woods” said Dean Whitworth a life member of the Sierra Club.

“Catherine learned many of her skills and a considerable portion of her knowledge base as a protégé of Arthur Smith”, said Gloria Griffith current Chair of Watauga Group Sierra Club. “Arthur Smith taught Catherine more than skills. The activism tools and love for wild places Arthur imparted inspires Catherine’s enthusiasm and single minded dedication. Catherine continues to be selflessly guided by similar goals and aspirations. Arthur Smith would be very proud of Catherine,” Ms Griffith continued.

For more information on the vital work of Cherokee Forest Voices contact Catherine Murray through the CFV website at www.cherokeeforestvoices.org or call the CFV office at 423-929-8163.

STORY CONTRIBUTED BY GLORIA GRIFFITH  
CATHERINE MURRAY PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY DENNIS SHEKINAH
Island Hopping — in
CHANNEL ISLANDS
NATIONAL PARK

WHALES, PINNIPEDS, & WILDFLOWERS

Please join us for an exciting tour of Channel Islands National Park. We are offering 4-day, 4-island cruises, cost $775, on April 13-16; May 4-7; July 20-23 visiting San Miguel, Santa Rosa Island, Anacapa Island, and Santa Cruz Island. These fundraising cruises depart from Santa Barbara, CA, aboard the 68’ twin diesel Truth. Prices include assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages & services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes and help identify plants, flowers, wildlife & remnants of the rich culture left behind by the Chumash people. Proceeds will benefit Sierra Club programs.

Activities include hiking, kayaking, swimming, snorkeling, beach combing, or just relaxing at sea. In spring, the islands are ablaze with wildflowers. The pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary churn with colorful fish & sea lions and will entice snorkelers & kayakers.

Each island is unique & offers special charm: San Miguel for its white, sandy beaches & huge congregation of elephant seals; Santa Rosa for its rare Torrey Pine forest; Santa Cruz for high mountains, deep valleys & the famous Painted Cave, Anacapa for the west coast brown pelican rookery, steep cliffs, a picturesque lighthouse & excellent snorkeling waters. Tiny Santa Barbara Island delights visitors with its friendly colony of frolicking sea lions.

To make a reservation send $100, payable to Sierra Club, to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. (626) 443-0706; jholtzlhln@aol.com.

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 ARTICLES TO:
Email: tn.sierra@gmail.com
or mail: Shanna Petersen, Tennes-Sierran Editor
2703 Adobe Hills Place
Thompson Station, TN 37179

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:
Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
Or mail new address to:
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
Addressee 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.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:
Submission DEADLINE is the 10th of the month preceding the new month’s issue.
1. Email embedded text submissions, or PDFs, which are preferred to tn.sierra@gmail.com.
2. Photographs should be in .jpg or.tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a CD Rom. Please include a stampless, self-addressed envelope if you would like your disk or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted. 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 Benefits of Environmentally Responsible Investing

Environmentally responsible investing (ERI) takes into account a company’s environmental profile in the course of making an investment decision. A company with a positive environmental profile has minimized its environmental liabilities, uses natural resources more efficiently, responds better to environmental legislation and litigation, has greater employee morale and productivity, is led by enlightened management teams, and is generally positioned in the marketplace to capitalize on emerging trends that reward sustainable business practices. For these reasons, advocates of the ERI approach believe that corporations which have proactively addressed their environmental issues are better investments over the long term.

Beyond the financial performance of ERI portfolios, of course, there are other benefits that environmentally aware investors can reap. The ability to “put your money where your mouth is” is so valuable, because creating an investment portfolio that reflects an investor’s values is significant. This may mean avoiding companies whose practices or products are environmentally problematic, such as petroleum, mining, agricultural chemicals or nuclear power. At the same time, an environmentalist may wish to invest in companies that produce environmentally beneficial goods and services, such as renewable energy, organic foods, or more fuel-efficient transportation. The benefit of an investment discipline that considers both environmental risk and opportunity is unique and valuable to an environmentalist.

Finally, investors in a publicly-traded company are, in fact, the owners of the company and can approach management with issues that concern them. By leveraging their ownership in companies, environmentalists can influence corporate practices and policies in many areas of interest, such as energy efficiency, land use policies, and replacing toxic chemicals in consumer products with safer alternatives. The use of shareholder engagement to promote environmentally progressive corporate practices is perhaps the most powerful (though often unrecognized) benefit of an ERI approach.

Environmentally responsible investing provides a way to identify environmental risk/reward in a company, offers access to corporate management to voice environmental concerns, and allows an investor to integrate one’s environmental values into an investment portfolio. Anyone with an environmental ethic, whether it is a non-profit organization, a small company, a foundation, or a concerned individual ought to consider the benefits that an ERI approach can deliver.

The Sierra Club has recognized the advantages of ERI and, together with Forward Management (an investment organization, a small company, a foundation, or a concerned individual ought to consider the benefits that an ERI approach can deliver.

The lesson? One person can make a difference.

It’s a great house party too!

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It’s now possible to get all seven episodes of "Sierra Club Chronicles" on DVD for the low, low price of $10, and you can order online.

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The lesson? One person can make a difference.

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

GET YOUR CHRONICLES DVD!
Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) is a statewide, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of Tennessee’s environment and preservation of the state’s natural resources through effective legislative and administrative advocacy. TCV focuses its resources on making environmental protection a top priority for Tennessee’s elected officials, political candidates and voters.

One way to highlight this purpose is to publish a yearly legislative scorecard. This is a summary of the state legislators’ performance on environmental issues, i.e., how they voted on bills that were particularly important to Tennessee’s environment in the most recent legislative session.

A note on Tennessee’s legislative process: Usually environmental legislative scorecards are based on floor votes (entire House or Senate consideration) on environmental bills. This is easier in state legislatures that have many floor votes. In the Tennessee legislature however, most bills never come up for a floor vote. Many are not put to vote even in the committee or sub-committee levels. They either fail to be “put on notice” or are “deferred” until the next year at the committee level.

Without recorded votes on legislation, it is difficult to construct a scorecard that simply counts floor votes. While still striving for objectivity, this scorecard tries to evaluate legislators’ performance on environmental bills by giving positive or negative credit for 1) Senate and House Floor votes, 2) House and Senate committee votes, 3) Sponsorship. We have used our best judgement to recognize good votes without being overly generous on items which were so noncontroversial that no one opposed. In other words, a good vote on a good bill that no one opposed does not necessarily earn positive votes for every subcommittee, committee and floor vote.

2006 proved to be another positive year for our executive branch, in terms of environmental law and policy. Several good bills passed that either originated with or were backed by the Governor and TDEC. Money was appropriated at the administration’s urging for acquiring some of the Bowater property. Parks were made more accessible by the elimination of access fees. In a key move, the administration agreed with a strongly held position of the environmental community that TDEC should have authority to stop mining work when water quality was threatened. The bill passed as an official administration bill. The administration also acted to stop bad bills that would have weakened environmental protections, particularly in water quality.

One negative note is that in spite of much effort to weaken environmental protections, particularly in water quality.

Member organizations:
Cumberland Harpeth Chapter of the Audubon Society
Harpeth River Watershed Association
Scenic Tennessee
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Tennessee Chapter of Sierra Club
Tennessee Citizen Action
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
Tennessee Clean Water Network
Tennessee Environmental Council
Tennessee Native Plant Society
Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation
Tennessee Preservation Trust
Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association
Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association
Tennessee Trails Association
Tennessee Trial Lawyers

Definitions:
**Sponsorship:** This means that a legislator agreed to put his/her name on a bill or amendment as the sponsor. This usually means that he/she is in favor of the bill. +1 or -1 depending on whether the bill was pro- or anti-environment.

**Scoring System:**
Voting: if a legislator voted for a pro-environment bill or against an anti-environment bill, he/she got a +1. If he/she voted for an anti-environment bill or against a pro-environment bill, he/she got a -1.

The numbers in the columns “Positive Environmental Actions” and “Negative Environmental Actions” refer to the numbers we have used to symbolize the bills in the bill description, which is the third section of the scorecard. Therefore, in order to note which bills your legislators had the chance to vote on, you must simply find the bills that are represented by the numbers in their columns.

Legislators’ net scores are the number of positive actions minus the number of negative actions. For every 2 net positive actions, legislators received a tree; for every 2 net negative reactions, they received a stump.

*Because many of the legislators were not on committees that considered environmental bills, the opportunities for getting positive or negative points varied. Legislators’ scores should not be directly compared unless they had an opportunity to vote on the same bills.*
Outings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP
(Knoxville)

All HBG outings may be accessed at this website:
http://www.tennesseesierrclub.org/broome/

December 9, 2006 (Sat), Dayhike - Charlie's Bunion, GSMNP. About 8 miles roundtrip from the Newfound Gap parking lot. Max elevation gain about 1200 feet. Rated moderate. A bassy section of the AT, but the almost continuous views from the crest of the Smokies make the relatively heavy hiker activity worth putting up with. Will probably hike a little beyond the "Bunion" to a good lunch spot. In the event that highway 441 is closed due to snow, an alternate hike at lower elevation will be substituted. Driving time from Knoxville, about 1.5 to 2 hours. Pre-register with Ron Shrieve at 865-922-3518 or rshrieve@utk.edu (email is preferred).

January 19-21, 2007, Chapter Meeting, Cedars of Lebanon State Park, hosted by the Upper Cumberland Group, Chair: Peggy Evans, maevans@relaxes.net.

January 27-28, 2007 (Sat-Sun), Winter backpack, Grassy Ridge. This is a short hike to a 6,000' elevation bald near Roane Mountain. A high-elevation site where we can test our winter backpacking skills. The camping is a short hike (under 2 miles) to a fantastic view, best when there's snow. We'll drive to Carver's Gap on the AT. Driving time about 3 hours. (If weather conditions make access to Carvers Gap difficult, we'll wimp out and opt for a lower elevation destination.) Pre-register with Ron Shrieve at 865-922-3518 or rshrieve@utk.edu (email is preferred).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP
(Nashville)

Saturday, December 2nd - Centennial Wilderness Dayhike - Moderate five mile hike in the Centennial Wilderness Area in Delaware near Sparta. They have a great website, with maps and descriptions of trails and features. If things are dry we'll check out the Yellow Bluff Overlook, Tom Holloway Rock House, Big Spring, and Rose Cave. If there has been rain we'll go the other direction to Polly's Branch and Copper Cascade. Two stream crossings - where wagons used to cross - are necessary for this hike. Both hikes involve 700 feet change of elevation, you can do it! Contact Heloise at helosew@bellsouth.net or 615-631-0169.

CHICKASAW GROUP
(Memphis)

Saturday, 10 am, December 9, 2006 - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. Second Saturday Hikes. Explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America. 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 wildflower viewing guides is available for free at the Golf House in Overton Park at all other times. For additional information, contact Don Richardson at (901) 276-1387 or donrich@uno.com. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman.  A different program is aired, usually each month. For the schedule, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/18SCHD.htm. 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 or rutschman@rhodes.edu

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2006 - ANNUAL WINTER HIKE - THE OLD FOREST TRAIL, OVERTON PARK, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE:

Thursday, December 21, 2006 - Annual Winter Solstice Hike. TBA. Check the Chickasaw Group website for details: www.tennesseesierrclub.org/chickasaw/

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WVLN - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee. "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. A different program is aired, usually each month. For the schedule, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/18SCHD.htm. If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu

10 Essentials for Hiking

Sierra Club Outings offer a variety of wilderness and near-wilderness experiences. It is important to realize that while all trips are guided by a leader, it is ultimately the responsibility of the individual to operate in a safe manner. To this end, the following is a list of essential items, which should be modified according to the particular type of outing.

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!
Meetings

CHICKASAW GROUP
(Memphis)
MONTHLY FIRST THURSDAY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, December 7, 2006, 5:30-7:00pm - Otherslands, 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 Karen Prosser - Membership Chair at (901) 327-9820 or kprosser@bellsouth.net for more information.

HOLIDAY PARTY! Friday, December 8, 6:00pm: Holiday Party (in place of monthly program meeting). Note New Location: Church of the River, 292 West Virginia Ave, Memphis. Bring a dish to share. There will be a cash bar. Contact James Baker 826-2448 or kimou_suegre@yahoo.com.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, December 11, 2006, 6:30pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Gerowell, Memphis, Tennessee: This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Allan Lummus – vice-Chair by December 8 to place items on the agenda at (901) 722-9545 or allan.lummus@gmail.com.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP
(Nashville)
PROGRAM MEETING: MTG Holiday Party Saturday, December 16, 2006 from 6-10 p.m. at the home of Katherine Pendleton and Keith Romig. Plan to bring something to share such as a vegetable, salad, desert, or appetizer. Bring your own libation. Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email katbug1959@aol.com.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are first on the agenda! Come and get the news on what’s happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting on the 4th floor at 2021 21st Avenue South (the old St. Bernard Academy Building). We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group’s conservation initiatives and community activities. For conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or email Diane@Propson.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to David Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com or call 333-3377.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP
(Cookeville)
PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Peggy Evans at maeveans@twlakes.net or (931)432-6680.

WATAUGA GROUP
PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Goff, (glag797627@aol.com), (423) 727-4797 for more information.
Chickasaw Group News

Tennessee Politics
Former President Bill Clinton stamps for Senatorial candidate Harold Ford Jr. in Memphis on Nov. 1, 2006. A number of Chickasaw GroupSierrans were present at the Temple of Deliverance Church of God in Christ (COGIC) church. There were brief speeches by other elected officials, but the highlights were the speeches of Ford himself and former president Clinton. Ford emphasized his “high road” in the midst of a campaign season that had turned decidedly negative. Ford encouraged his followers, and reminded them that “it is a lot of hard work needs to be done.”

Clinton struck an environmental note when he said that food knows the best way to make America secure over the long run is to make energy independent. Clinton spoke of the benefits of clean energy policy. He pointed out that we can quit depending on foreign oil and still have the same growth and power. “You can ignore the evidence of 98% of the scientists that state that if we keep the warming going at the same rate for 50 more years as we have for the last 10 we will be in deep trouble.” A major program in quest of alternative fuels will also create millions of new jobs, he said.

Dr. Jackson speaks at Rhodes College
On October 24, 2006, Dr. Kenneth Jackson spoke at Rhodes College. His talk was sponsored by the Urban Land Institute and was entitled “Memphis: City of Promise, City of Lost Opportunity.” Dr. Jackson is the Jacques Barzun Professor of History and Social Sciences at Columbia University, however, he has strong ties with Memphis, as he attended school here in elementary, high school and received his B.A. from the University of Memphis in 1961. A big surprise was finding out he knew Chickasaw’s former – and late Chair – Charlie Ronell as a 4th grade “classmate.”

Dr. Jackson’s talk did not pull any punches when he discussed what is right – and wrong with Memphis. Some examples of what is right:

* Saint Jude Hospital.
* Federal Express gets a grade of “A” in Dr. Jackson’s eyes, and would get an “A+” from him if their corporate headquarters was downtown.
* The Mississippi River is a major plus for this city.
* In favor of maintaining historical, cultural aspects of Memphis that are special.
* In favor of closer in and closer-knit communities in the old fashioned “Main Street” or streetscape mode of new urbanism.
* Somewhat jokingly thinks Memphis should convert some lanes of Memphis’ streets to bikeways.

Some examples of what is wrong:

* A legacy of “booms” that continues to this day with certain political families. He used the example of Ed “Boss” Crump, which influenced Memphis’ politics for decades.
* Leadership failure with regards of race.
* Memphis has a much higher rate of “stranger on stranger crime” than New York City. Memphis will continue to deteriorate until crime is brought under control.
* Critical of historical Memphis leadership for letting downtown deteriorate for so long. By Nov. 1, 2006 it is being appraised.
* Critical of developers/officials for encouraging an infrastructure focus on the east side of Shelby County, decentralizing Memphis, and making the private auto the primary means of transport.
* Dr. Jackson stated that Memphis is the most decentralized city in America with the city center having only about 1,000 people per square mile. For this reason, he does not believe that mass transit in Memphis will ever be a resounding success until density is increased.

* He does believe that global warming is a serious threat and will necessitate closer in living, conservation, and simplification of values.

Dr. Jackson’s publications include The Ku Klux Klan in the City, 1915–1930 (1967), Cities in American History (1972), Cradgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States (1980) and, as editor The Encyclopedia of New York City (1995). He is presently working on two books to be entitled Gentlemen’s Agreement: Race, Class, and Differential Development in Newark, White Plains, and Darwin, 1840–1990 and The Road to Hell: Transportation Policy and the Decline of the United States.