A few days after Paul Harber, Congress passed an act authorizing TVA to build Fontana Dam on the Little Tennessee River in western North Carolina. Work commenced immediately. TVA quickly learned that the reservoir would flood about three quarters of the length of a state road, NC 288. That road was the only access for owners and resi-
dents of land along the northern shore of the reservoir. The War Production Board refused to release manpower or mate-
rials for the reconstruction of the road above the water line. NC 288 was originally built by the Forney Creek Road District, using funds from a bond issuance. It defaulted on the bonds, and the obligation was assumed by Swain County, N.C. The State of North Carolina then took responsibility for maintenance of the road, giving it the designation NC 288. The State did not assume the obligation to repay the bonded indebtedness.

Faced with the inability to rebuild the road, TVA decid-
ed to acquire all the private land serviced by it. That would extinguish all rights to the road. The land serviced by NC 288, some 44,400 acres, was in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park acquisition boundary, but had not been acquired due to lack of funds. In any event, Swain County was entitled to compensation for the taking of its road, for which it was still obligated to pay taxes.

To accomplish its task, TVA, The Department of the Interior, the State of North Carolina and Swain County, NC entered into a contract, known as the 1943 Agreement. TVA agreed to acquire the 44,400 acres of land, and to transfer them to Interior, for incorporation in the Park. Interior agreed that after the war it would build a new road, part of its "Around the Park" project, having a width of at least 20 feet and a dustless surface. North Carolina agreed to donate "Around the Park" project, spanning a width of at least 20 feet and a dustless surface. North Carolina agreed to donate $100,000 toward the acquisition costs of the land. Swain County agreed to accept the new road instead of monetary compensation.

In 1948 Interior built a 0.93 mile segment of the pro-
posed road at the end of Fontana Dam. By 1962 it had built, in several segments, an additional 6.2 miles at the other end of the project, near Bryson City, NC. Interior was worried about the damage being caused by the construction, and convened a panel of experts to examine it. In April 1962 the panel report-
ed "[T]he damage to the landscape and natural park values is so severe and the future maintenance will be so great that the Service should hold in abeyance the plans for [the project] . . ." And it further concluded: "The committee is of the opin-
ion that construction of such damage to natural park values is indefensible from either the standpoint of conservation or vis-
itor use."

After that, Interior requested no more funding for the construction.

Congressman Charles Taylor (R. NC) in whose district this land lies, attached a rider to the Department of Transportation Appropriations for 2000, appropriating $16 million for further construction of this road. Faced with that, Interior has commenced work on an Environmental Impact Statement on further road construction.

A comparable road now approved and ready for con-
struction is a 20 mile segment of US 64 through the Ocoee River gorge in nearby Tennessee. It crosses the same acidic rock, and typically steep and fragmented terrain, and is esti-
mated in its EIS to cost two billion dollars. It is not an exag-
geration to say that two lanes of such a road, in the Smokies, is likely to cost one billion dollars.

The County Commissioners of Swain County, NC, in
which all of the proposed road lies, by a vote of 4-1 have asked for a cash settlement in lieu of any further construction. The Sierra Club, the major national conservation organizations, and all the regional and local conservation organizations are and have been supporting the effort of the County Commissioners to obtain a cash settlement. A group of local residents have formed their own organization, Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County, and is waging a campaign for a cash settlement. The Governor of North Carolina, one of the four original signatory parties to the 1943 Agreement, also supports a cash settlement.

Construction of the road is sponsored by Congressman Charles Taylor, and by a small but vocal group of descendants of persons buried in cemeteries in the Park, who want a road for cemetery access. Despite the fact that the 1943 Agreement does not mention cemeteries in any place, despite the fact that in 1943 the then living descendents were given the option of having the graves moved, free of charge to ceme-
teries outside the Park, and despite the fact that they sued in federal court to require the road to be built, and lost in District Court, in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and had a fur-
ther appeal denied by the U.S. Supreme Court.

A cash settlement alternate is now one of the options being considered in the Environmental Impact Statement. Swain County is asking for a settlement of $52 million. The citizens group employed a CPA to calculate the present value of the road, taking its value in the 1940's and adjusting it for interest it would have earned and for inflation. Their consult-
ant arrived at that figure. Swain County proposes that the principal be lodged with an agency of the State of North Carolina, and that it is only be permitted to spend the interest. The principal could only be spent on approval by a vote of two-thirds of the registered voters of the county.

The proposed settlement, invested at five percent, would yield the county $2.6 million a year. In its 2004-2005 budget, the coun-
yy expects to collect $2,684,505 in ad valorem taxes.

If the road were built on its longest alignment, it would terminate on NC 28 below Fontana Dam. A recent traffic count shows 280 vehicles a day passing that point. NC 28 is a modern road, four-lanes for half its length between Bryson City and Fontana Dam. Swain County receives two cents of the state sales tax. Every time a tourist buys a tee shirt or mug for $10, the county collects 20 cents. Merchants in Bryson City would have to sell 15 million tee shirts a year to give the county an equal benefit to a cash settlement. That’s $3,616 tee shirts a day, rain or snow, winter or summer.

Swain and adjoining Graham County in NC, and Blount County in TN are famous among motorcycle enthusiasts for their "Blackmand" roads. US 129 from far western Swain County to Tallulah, TN is called the "Dragon’s Tail." Bikers bring their machines here by trailer from all over the country. Graham County spends more money rescuing injured bikers from the Cherohala Skyway and carrying them to the regional hospital than it gains in tourist revenue from the road. Should a North Shore Road be built, it would become the third black-

Please see pages 4-5 for more information and instructions on how to submit your comments.
Sierra Club Officers (List in Transition for 2006)

Tennessee Chapter:
Chair: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
donrich@juno.com
Vice Chair: Steven Sondheim (901) 761-1793
stevensondheim@yahoo.com
Secretary: Mary Gavlik (423) 434-9535
mgav@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 366-4738
GB1Nature@aol.com
Membership: Dick Mochow (903) 274-1510
dinimo@bellsouth.net

TN Local Groups:
Cherokee Group - Chattanooga (in reorganization)
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
contact: Terry Miller (423) 842-5053
tmmcha@comcast.net
Chickasaw Group - Memphis
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
Chair: James Baker (901) 826-2448
kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com
Vice Chair: Allan Lummus (901) 722-9545
alummus@utmem.edu
Conservation: Steven Sondheim (901) 761-1793
stevensondheim@yahoo.com
Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
No e-mail address

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
Chair: Axel Ringe (865) 397-1840
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Vice-Chair: Beverly Smith (865) 531-8480
Blmhld150@comcast.net
Conservation: David Reister (865) 670-8991
dreister@bellsouth.net
Outings: Ron Stotzves (865) 922-3518
rshrieve@utk.edu

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/mrg
Chair: David Bordenkircher (615) 333-3377
dabordenkircher@mindspring.com
Vice Chair: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
Conservation: Diane Perschlicher (615) 895-1236
Diane@Propson.com
Outings: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com

State of Franklin Group (in reorganization)
- Bristol/Johnson City/Kingsport
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/sofg
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: VACANT

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

HELP WANTED: The Upper Cumberland Group needs some new blood on its ExCom. If you are interested in taking a lead in the Group, please contact Peggy Evans at (931)432-6680 or <maevans@twlakes.net>.
No experience needed, just a desire to make a difference in protecting the environment and all the creatures living in it.
MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: PROGRAM MEETING:
Thursday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m. - Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Join us for a thoroughly enjoyable evening exploring Wildflowers and Ecology of Cedar Glades! Middle Tennessee is home to one of North America’s most beautiful, unique and endangered plant communities, the cedar glades. Cedar glades, which are characterized by very thin soils or exposed limestone, contain high numbers of endemic and very interesting wildflowers. Andy Sudbrook, Restoration Ecologist with Nashville Native LLC (www.nashvillenatives.com), will share photographs and discuss the ecology and geology of cedar glades, and suggest ways to contribute to the preservation of these Tennessee treasures. Light refreshments will be served. For more information on this program, contact Rachel Floyd at 615-406-9204 or email at r Floyd557@bellsouth.net. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) Non-members are always welcome!

STRATEGY MEETING:
Tuesday, March 28, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. The March meeting will feature the base of Clark Tower. The March meeting will feature Andrew Couch - Coordinator of the West Tennessee Cities Coalition. He will be discussing alternative fuels. For more information, contact interim Program Chair James Baker at 826-2448.

PROGRAM MEETING:
Wednesday, March 22, 2006, 6:30 p.m. - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Group Chair James Baker by March 10 to place items on the agenda at (901) 826-2448.

PROGRAM MEETING:
Wednesday, March 22, 2006, 7:00 p.m. - NOTE - 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 March meeting will feature Andrew Couch - Coordinator of the West Tennessee Cities Coalition. He will be discussing alternative fuels. For more information, contact interim Program Chair James Baker at 826-2448.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, March 14, 2006, 7:30 p.m. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. The March program is a slide show introduction to the yearly Harvey Broome Group Outings program. We will have slides of many of the places to which we will be going. And it will be a great opportunity to meet the outings leaders face to face and discuss upcoming trips. Call Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 for more information.

SPECIAL EVENT: Something we’ve been waiting for—Come early at 7 pm and browse the book table. The group will have donated books of interest for sale. Come bag a bargain! If you have books to donate, contact John Finger at fingers@utk.edu or 573-5908. Help us out folks—this is a group fundraiser and we need you!

STRATEGY MEETING:
Tuesday, March 28, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. If you’re interested in getting more involved, this is the meeting to attend. Call 397-1840 for more information.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

PROGRAM MEETING: for additional information, contact Rick Gelharke 423-843-9625 or email rick.gelharke@comcast.net

CHRISTMAS GARDEN SHOP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m. The Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Join us for a thoroughly enjoyable evening exploring Wildflowers and Ecology of Cedar Glades! Middle Tennessee is home to one of North America’s most beautiful, unique and endangered plant communities, the cedar glades. Cedar glades, which are characterized by very thin soils or exposed limestone, contain high numbers of endemic and very interesting wildflowers. Andy Sudbrook, Restoration Ecologist with Nashville Native LLC, will share photographs and discuss the ecology and geology of cedar glades, and suggest ways to contribute to the preservation of these Tennessee treasures.

The Middle Tennessee Group Presents . . .

Wildflowers and Ecology in Cedar Glades

Thursday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Explore, enjoy & protect the planet

www.nashville-sierranc.org

Explore, enjoy & protect the planet

www.nashville-sierranc.org

Wildflowers and Ecology in Cedar Glades

Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road from Granny White Pike.

Light refreshments are served.

For more information on this program, contact Rachel Floyd at 615-464-5204 or email at r floyd557@bellsouth.net.

Non-members are always welcome!
Stop the damaging effects of North Shore Road

Contributed by Ray Payne, Sierra Club member, Harvey Broome Group

For over forty years conservationists have held the line against this destructive road. Today the threat is probably greater than it has ever been. The bureaucrats will decide the issue by note and formula if left alone. Only persons of vision and sensitivity to the glories of nature can prevent an environmental debacle in the Smokies.

The Environmentally Preferred Alternative is the monetary settlement with Swain County, North Carolina. That is consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) standard that the environmentally preferred alternative is ordinarily "the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment" and that "best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources."

The DEIS and its appendices are available at: http://www.northshoreroadinfo/documents.htm

For information about sending comments electronically visit: <http://www.northshoreroadinfo COMMENTS.htm>

The addresses for responses are as follows:

For mailed-in responses: North Shore Road Project Great Smoky Mountains National Park P.O. Box 30185 Raleigh, N.C. 27622

For e-mail responses: northshoreroadinfo@arcadis-us.com The subject line should refer to: North Shore Road EIS Project

Please send a copy of your letter or e-mail to your Congressman and Senators.

POINTS TO STRESS

1. Support the monetary settlement alternative. A monetary settlement with Swain County meets the needs and purposes of the study, avoids all adverse impacts to the Park, and NPS has determined that it is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative and the environmentally preferred alternative. The monetary settlement is the only alternative that will satisfy the request of the Swain County Commissioners, the Bryson City Board of Aldermen and the Governor of North Carolina.

2. Oppose all construction alternatives, both the partial-build and the full build. The park service has determined that all construction alternative will have major, adverse impacts on the park resources.

3. Stress the major, adverse, permanent or long-term impacts that any construction would have on every resource that the park service examined. See the quotes above from the DEIS for specific examples to include in your comments.

4. Expose the giant boondoggle. The Park Service states that the cost of construction will be at least $590 million. That figure is equivalent to the annual budget short-fall of the entire national park system. On the other hand, the obligation of the Government could be settled with a payment of just $52 million, a huge savings to U.S. taxpayers.

5. The monetary settlement protects the park, immediately benefits the people of Swain County and saves U.S. taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. The $52 million settlement for Swain County invested at 5% would immediately provide $2.6 million per year for the county and NPS has determined that it is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative and the environmentally preferred alternative.

6. The Appalachian Trail will suffer degradation from road construction. In addition, major portions of the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) within the Smokies would be obliterated. The newly created BMT is considered an alternate AT route.

7. Road construction will have major adverse impacts on the backcountry experience. The park will lose trails, backcountry campsites and the primitive hiking experience.

8. Road construction will cause the loss of potential wilderness in the park. Most of the lake shore area is currently managed as wilderness due to the high quality and remoteness of that part of the park. Both the road corridor and the strip between the road and the lake will be removed from wilderness consideration.

9. Demand that NPS honor the 1916 Organic Act by leaving the Park resources: “unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” The park service has determined that every resource will suffer major, adverse, long-term or permanent impacts as a result of any road construction.

10. Take the big view of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as a whole, not ripped open by a 34-mile scar gouged across it, with habitat destroyed and fragmented.

Major, Adverse, Long-Term or Permanent Impacts to the Park

Despite page after page of findings of major, adverse, long-term or permanent impacts, NPS chose not to state the agency’s overall preferred alternative. The following is a list of findings in the DEIS — direct quotes from the document are in bold.

1. Land Use: “The Northern Shore Corridor would have a major, adverse, long-term impact on land use in GSMNP.” Neither the full build or partial build alternative are in compliance with the park’s General Management Plan. Cuts and fills, a roadway, retaining walls, bridges, and vehicle traffic would be introduced in a natural environment. Potential wildlfe would be reduced by more than 5,000 acres. Thirty-one miles of trail and a number of backcountry campsites would be obliterated. Trail access would be cut off during many years of road construction. There is no need to duplicate the service that NC 28 on the south shore of Fontana Lake provides. NC 28 is a superior road to the one under consideration and provides all the transportation capacity that is needed.

2. Visitor Use: “The baseline Northern Shore Corridor would have major, adverse, and long-term impacts to hiking. The same impact would occur to horse use. Both casual and active visitors would experience these adverse impacts.”

3. Visitor Experience: “While the loss of some resources could be mitigated, the intangible values and experience that some Park visitors desire during their visit could not. Overall, visitor experience would be adversely impacted as a result.”

4. Acid Drainage: “The Northern Shore Corridor (both road types) would result in the most adverse impacts to archaeological resources. The baseline Northern Shore Corridor (Principal Park Road) would result in adverse, long-term impacts to six known archaeological resources. . . .”

5. Historical Resources: “The Northern Shore Corridor (both road types) would result in impacts to up to six historic structures, which are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.”

6. Air Quality: “Air quality impacts from construction activities are expected to be major and adverse for particulate matter with aerodynamic diameters of up to 10 microns (PM10) and sulfur dioxide (SO2), moderate and adverse for nitrogen oxides (NOx) . . . These activities may cause reductions in visibility and increased pollutant deposition that are considered major.”

7. Wetlands: “Direct impacts to wetlands would occur within the construction footprint of a partial-build or build alternative due to a new roadway’s embankment (fill), or due to significant alteration of hydrology or vegetation.” The Northern Shore Corridor would affect between 10 and 35 wetlands, 13 of which are rare communities. “Impacts would be adverse and permanent.”

8. Streams: A primitive park road would cross 131 streams and a principal park road would cross 141 streams. “Direct impacts for both road types would be major, adverse, site-specific and permanent.” These streams have an interim designation as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) by the State of North Carolina, and the designations will become permanent under regulations now being drafted. Any road construction could easily violate ORW standards. Maintaining the purity of the water in these streams should be a high priority both for NPS and North Carolina.

9. Acid Drainage: “It is assumed that all portions of the build alternatives contain rock and soil capable of producing acid runoff. The impacts would be major (violations likely to occur), adverse, regional, long-term and permanent for the baseline Northern Shore Corridor . . . It is assumed that acidic runoff would be a chronic condition.” Part of the proposed mitigation is to haul the acidic material to a dump

Make your voice heard!

The DEIS and its appendices are available at: http://www.northshoreroadinfo/documents.htm

For information about sending comments electronically visit: <http://www.northshoreroadinfo COMMENTS.htm>

The addresses for responses are as follows:

For mailed-in responses: North Shore Road Project Great Smoky Mountains National Park P.O. Box 30185 Raleigh, N.C. 27622

For e-mail responses: northshoreroadinfo@arcadis-us.com The subject line should refer to: North Shore Road EIS Project

Please send a copy of your letter or e-mail to your Congressman and Senators.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE
**WHAT DAMAGE WOULD CONSTRUCTION OF NORTH SHORE ROAD CAUSE?**

Expose rock containing iron pyrite throughout its course, resulting in production and leaching of sulfatic acid into and sterilizing 141 streams.

Cross multiple finger ridges at right angles requiring massive cuts and fills and high retaining walls.

Slice open the longest roadless tract of mountain land in the East.

Disrupt neotropical migratory bird habitat.

Create an orphan strip between the road and Fontana Lake.

cause severe degradation to plant and animal habitat, now recognized as an outstanding example of significant ongoing biological evolution, and containing gene pools whose values are beyond estimation.

Cause a major loss of intangible values such as beauty and solitude.

Subject the Appalachian Trail to noise, degradation of visual qualities, and raising safety issues.

Open another part of the Park to poaching, vandalism, and looting of archeological sites.

Create an unnecessary transportation route when the populated area is already served by other major roads and superhighways, especially N.C.28.

**11. Fishing.** Both the full build and partial build alternatives “would have major, adverse, and long-term impacts to fisheries for causal and active visually related to boat and trail access changes.” The DEIS fails to assess or even discuss impacts to the fishing resource from sharply increased fishing brought on by ease of access.

**12. Aquatic Wildlife.** “The baseline Northern Shore Corridor would have adverse, major, site-specific, and permanent direct impacts to aquatic wildlife within streams for both the Primitive and Principal Park Roads. . . Indirect impacts are anticipated to be adverse, major, local, long-term, and permanent.”

**13. Vegetation Communities.** “The Northern Shore Corridor [both road types] would result in major impacts to rare vegetation communities and major impacts to secure vegetation communities.” “The Partial-Build Alternative to Bushnell (Principal Park Road) would directly impact approximately 19.90 acres (8.05 ha) of rare vegetation communities and approximately 71.53 acres (28.95 ha) of secure vegetation communities.” There is no discussion of the effects of fragmentation on plant communities, whether rare or not rare.

**14. Terrestrial Wildlife.** “Impacts due to the direct loss of habitat are anticipated to be major, adverse, site-specific, and permanent. Impacts from ecosystem fragmentation are expected to be major, adverse, local, and permanent. Impacts due to noise would most likely be major, adverse, local, and long-term.”

**15. Black Bears.** Black bears avoid human activity, including road construction. Bears shift home ranges to avoid roads. Campgrounds and nearby recreational areas attract bears and create nuisance bears. Construction of the road would cause the loss of hundreds of acres of bear habitat. “As a result, the impacts for both types of roads would be classified as major, adverse, site-specific, and permanent due to loss of habitat within the construction footprints. Impacts due to habitat fragmentation, avoidance behavior, or increased roadside foraging would be major, adverse, local, long-term, and permanent for both types of roads.”

* Continuation from previous page

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**10. Heavy Metals.** “Based on the geology for the Northern Shore Corridor, there would be major (violations likely to occur) impacts for the baseline Northern Shore Corridor. The potential for these impacts to exist in the short-term and long-term during construction, when the minerals could be exposed at unknown locations. There would be subsequent permanent site impacts if these areas were not mitigated.” The heavy metals are released by the same pyritic rock that causes acid drainage. While mitigation of acid drainage is partially addressed in the DEIS, mitigation of heavy metals is not addressed at all.

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Message from the Chair, James Baker

I write this a few hours after doing some personal errands and dropping some materials off at the home of Steven soundheim - the Chickasaw Group’s Conservation Chair. As I replay the facts of my day’s drive, the images come into sharp focus.

* I see a City, that due to its past and current planning and zoning, requires considerable driving just to get from “point A to point-B”. Some of those planning and zoning rules were written when gas was 59 cents a gallon, not $2.99 a gallon. Even though I own a car that gets real good fuel economy, I cringe at the thought of the oil I burn. I might have used public transit this day, but my planned route and stops did not provide good options for transit use. I might have used a bicycle instead to have travel flexibility, but because the bicycle and pedestrian plan has not been implemented and there are not any dedicated bike lanes. This creates major safety issues.

* I see many of my fellow Memphis citizens driving around in gas-guzzling SUVs, despite the fact that the fossil fuel that powers them is so expensive. I see the effects of planetary climate change, i.e. global warming. Today is January 30, and it looked, smelled, sounded and felt like a warm spring day. In fact, I showed Steven the new growth on his roses, and the fact that certain trees are showing the flush of color that occurs on their swelling buds. Also, some of the weather peo- ple on TV are talking how warm January 2006 has been across all of the “lower-48” states. I certainly have not forget- ner the record numbers of hurricanes in 2005.*

* As I drove down the road, I saw many beverage contain- ers have blown up against the curb because Tennessee has yet to pass container deposit legislation like eleven other states.

* I see where our poor neighborhoods still struggle to get the environmental justice that is their right.

* I see various facilities where it is obvious the owners are flaunting various existing environmental laws, despite the efforts of a small cadre of overworked and understaffed envi- ronmental regulators at the local, state, and federal level.

* I see our elected officials and their appointed citizen boards conducting their public meetings at a time when the vast majority of working people have difficulty attending. How depressing! I sound like some “gloom and doom” envi- ronmentalism! However, there are some bright spots on the tape.

* I see more hybrid cans on the road than six months ago.

* I see that the planning and zoning codes are getting a much deserved overhaul.

* On paper, I have seen a bicycle and pedestrian plan.

* I have seen the beginnings of a greenway along the Wolf River.

* I see Rita Harris - the Memphis Environmental Justice Organizer being called upon by peer and people-of-color neighborhoods to assist them in their struggles to obtain environmental justice.

* I see a group of Chickasaw group members gathering to launch a Building Environmental Community initiative in Memphis.

There are other bright spots. As the newly elected Chair of the Chickasaw Group, my job is to lead our volunteer mem- bers to connect those bright spots into an unbroken shining chain. Here is my job description:

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HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)
Check the Harvey Broome Group Website for a complete list of scheduled outings. We are in the process of planning outings for 2006 and will present the 2006 schedule at the March program meeting.

March 18-19. Backpack, Elkmont section, Great Smoky Mountains Nat’l Park. We will head up the Middle Prong trail to the intersection with Lynx Camp Prong trail, stopping to see a hidden waterfall along the way. Across the river and into the Misty Ridge trail and stay at spot #26 for a first day hiking total of 8.3 miles. A beautiful campground that sits back off the trail in the trees. On Sunday we will head down the Misty Ridge trail to Jakes Creek trail and back into Elkmont hiking a total of 5.5 miles. This is one of my favorite hikes in the Smoky Mountains. Expect streams, overlooks, and a great campsite. DIFFICULTY – RATED MODERATE – DUE TO LENGTH AND ELEVATION GAIN. Pre-register with Steve Harvey - email sharey8@bellsouth.net; phone 865-986-4608 (days); 865-986-6798 (evening).

March 25, 2006. River Rescue - Please join us for the annual Third Creek Cleanup. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! Each Spring we pick up trash along a section of Third Creek in Tyson Park. Come out and bring family and friends. Expect mud, water, and a great time helping to clean up and contributing to our community. Meet at the parking lot on Sutherland Ave. west of Liberty Street at 9 am. Contact Barbara Allen at 558-9214 or b-tallen@msn.com for more information.

April 1. Saturday at 9AM, Fifteenth Annual Greenways 5K Race. The HBG co-promoters (with the Knox Greenways Coalition and Knoxvilles Track club) are hosting an annual 3.1 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. Pre-registration fee is $15 if preregistered, $20 on race day. West High School is on Tobler Lane (from Kingston Pike in Sequoyah Hills, turn north on Forest Glen, then right on Tobler Lane to the school). A greenways T-shirt with original design, food, and live music are provided. Contact Mary Lake for information/applications: mklake@yahoo.com. (865) 675-6971.

April 1-2 (Sat-Sun). Mount Rogers Backpack. The Mount Rogers National Recreation area is a unique environment with high country balds populated with wild highland 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 Mt. Rogers spur 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 rocky bald. At Rhododendron gap, we will traverse the Pia Mountain trail and finally descend another segment of the AT. Total distance is 15.3 miles with 7.1 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. Pre-register with Bill Adams (rdevjer@frontiernet.net).

April 8-9 (Sat-Sun). Cumberland Trail Backpack (LaFollette to Cove Lake Section). The Cumberland Trail Association is in the process of developing what promises to be a truly outstanding long distance trail in Tennessee. Extending 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 Knoxville, 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 I-75 and Cove Lake. Above Cove Lake a newly constructed section leads down past the rock outcrops you see from I-75 known as Devil’s R accrack. Distance is about 11 miles and it is rated Moderate. Pre-register with Bill Skelton: H 523-2272, W 521-6200; email whshome@bellsouth.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)
March 2-5, 2006. Lawn & Garden Show Thursday-Sunday, March 2-5, 2006. Volunteers needed to staff our table at the Nashville Lawn & Garden Show at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. Pick any 3-4 hour shift during the hours of 10 AM-9 PM Thursday through Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM to 5 PM. Must enjoy talking to the public and answering questions. You get free admission to the center which you can roam before or after your shift! Contact Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email in advance at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com.

Sunday, March 19 - Enjoy a spring hike at 10am at the Bell State Park in Dickson County. About 6 miles and no poison ivy yet! Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email in advance at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)
OLD FOREST HIKE: Saturday, March 11, 2006 - 10:00am - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. 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 1/4-hour long 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. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

Sunday, March 12, 2006 - 1:00pm - Signs of Spring Walk, Memphis Botanic Gardens at Audubon Park, Memphis, Tennessee. The Gardens are located at 750 Cherry Road. Join Outings Chair Judith Hammond to look for the first signs of spring. Meet in the lobby of the Botanic Gardens building. For more information, contact Judith Hammond at (901) 276-2819.

Saturday, March 18, 2006 - 9am to 12noon - V & E Greenline Walk. Meet at the intersection of Jackson Ave. and University. On this 5-mile round trip hike, you will learn the history of the V & E Greenline. See the location of the planned replica of the train station. Learn the values of "rail-to-trail" greenlines as "linear parks". For more information, contact Bill Ribberg at (901) 775-5521.

TELEVISION PROGRAM:
Monday: 1:30pm, Tuesday: 4:00pm, Wednesday: 11:30am, Wednesday: 11:00pm, Thursday: 7:00pm.
WPVI Channel 6 – “The Nature of Conservation” is the Sierra Club’s Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutishaus. The show is an interview with James Baker – Chair of the Chickasaw Group and Chair of the TNC Chapter’s Container Deposit Legislation committee. He will be educating the viewers on the need for them to contact their state legislators and ask them to do the right thing for Tennessee regarding a Container Deposit bill that has been recently introduced. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the month. If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutishaus at (901) 767-5916.

For information on upcoming outings, contact Chris O’Connor at crh57@ymail.com or visit our web site at http://www.tennesseesierrclub.org/cherokee/index.htm.
Building Environmental Community Kickoff Meeting in Memphis

Memphians love their city of trees and their parks. Many of them have visions of a future with even more greenery. Citizens and organizations are planning and building greenways. There is momentum for converting unused railways to trails. Support for a greenway, closer Memphis already exists. To wield concerned individuals and groups together is truly to Build an Environmental Community. That’s what BEC stands for!

Memphians want to preserve and add to their parkland and greenways. They are banding together to assure that the city’s tree rich heritage will not be destroyed.

The BEC attendees met over two days in January at Café Rok, Nashville, TN 37217. The slogan “Make Memphis Clean and Green” sounds ready for a bumper sticker, but the words are thoughtfully chosen. “KEEP Memphis Clean and Green” would imply that the city is green enough already — only maintenance is needed. By enhancing the city’s livability, parks have real economic impact, making Memphis a more desirable home for employees of new businesses and helps reduce citizen "flight" from the city.

4th Annual First Aid Wilderness Training

When: May 6th and 7th

Where: Fall Creek Falls State Park

What is included:
- Training by highly qualified instructors, mid-morning snacks, lunch, mid-afternoon snacks

Not included:
- Breakfast, dinner, lodging, Sierra membership

Lodging:
- We plan to camp in the state park. Make your own arrangements.

Cost: $140, non-refundable (we commit to Landmark, you commit to Sierra)

Payment due: April 10th

Enrollment: Complete form and send with check to Katherine Pendleton.

The fourth annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training class (WFA) will be held the weekend of May 6th and 7th 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. This educational weekend features top notch training in an outdoor setting by field experienced instructors. Here are some comments from previous participants:
- "Essential skills for anyone going into the backcountry" — E. Plakaus
- "An excellent course—very informative—very knowledgeable, creative instructors: a must for all trip leaders or anyone who hikes outside in organized trips" — M. McClelland

Other:
1. — Membership in Sierra is required. You can join on line at https://web2.sierraclub.org/membership/ or Katherine can send you a membership form. Introductory memberships are $25
2. — Participant must have health insurance coverage
3. — Participant must sign Sierra Liability waiver
4. — Participant must sign SOLO/Landmark Learning Liability waiver

Questions: Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email at katbug1959@aol.com

Note: This course is not for Wilderness First Responder recertification.

Value: Wilderness first aid classes of this caliber often cost at least twice this amount. Sierra’s goal in providing this training is to help ensure the safe enjoyment of the great outdoors, and we price this course accordingly for our members.

Membership: We require membership in return for the value pricing offered. By becoming a member, you will receive both the Chapter (state of Tennessee) newsletter and the national Sierra Club publication, Sierra Magazine. Each of these publications will help to keep you aware of challenges to great outdoors and suggest actions that you can take to preserve the things about nature that we value.

Not included:
- Breakfast, dinner, lodging, Sierra membership

Other:
- 1. — Membership in Sierra is required. You can join on line at https://web2.sierraclub.org/membership/ or Katherine can send you a membership form. Introductory memberships are $25
- 2. — Participant must have health insurance coverage
- 3. — Participant must sign Landmark Liability waiver

Enrollment: Complete form and send with check to Katherine Pendleton.

4th Annual First Aid Wilderness Training

Name: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________
Street: ___________________________ City: ____________________________
State: ____________________________ Zip Code: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

Previous First Aid Training: ____________________________

A non-refundable payment of $140 is due by April 10th

* to participate in this training you must be a Sierra Club member
* introductory Sierra Club memberships are $25
 o go to https://web2.sierraclub.org/membership/ to join on line
 o send me a membership form ______

NOTE - breakfast, dinner, lodging/camping, and Sierra membership are not included in the course fee of $140

I am seeking recertification of a previous SOLO WFA certification. YES ___ NO ___

* Note—this is not a recertification class for Wilderness First Responders

I am interested in information on the following

* camping with the other training participants YES ___ NO ___
* buffet dinner at the park lodge YES ___ NO ___

If you answered yes to either of the above, information will be emailed to you by April 20th.

I am an omnivore _____ a vegetarian _____

Please send check to: Katherine Pendleton

105 Catamaran Court
Nashville, TN 37217

by David Carter

Plenty of parks and greenways provide needed outdoor recreation that gets people up, moving, and getting needed exercise — not only for fun, but for a more healthy lifestyle. A Shaping America’s Youth meeting was held recently in Memphis. The statistics are alarming. More than 61% of Tennesseans are overweight or obese. Annual obesity-related medical expenses in Tennessee are more than $1.8 billion dollars. Imagine how many parks and greenways $1.8B could fund. Closer to home, approximately 110,000 children in the Greater Memphis area are either overweight or obese. On the web, see: http://meetings.shapingamericasyouth.org/memphis_guide.pdf

In addition to the beauty and the recreation, there is an environmental value. Greener IS cleaner! A clean, green community is also boosts economic growth. By enhancing the city’s livability, parks have real economic impact, making Memphis a more desirable home for employees of new businesses and helps reduce citizen “flight” from the city.

The slogan “Make Memphis Clean and Green” sounds ready for a bumper sticker, but the words are thoughtfully chosen. “KEEP Memphis Clean and Green” would imply that the city is green enough already — only maintenance is needed. By saying “MAKE Memphis Clean and Green” the BEC attendees affirmed that Memphis can always move closer to an ideal of greenness.

Memphians love their city of trees and their parks. Many of them have visions of a future with even more greenery. Citizens and organizations are planning and building greenways. There is momentum for converting unused railways to trails. Support for a greenway, closer Memphis already exists. To wield concerned individuals and groups together is truly to Build an Environmental Community. That’s what BEC stands for!
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 to 12. 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.

Please 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

take ACTION

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?
______ 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 __________

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!
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.
Payment due upon arrival.

Please RSVP to James Baker at: 901-826-2448 or kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com
Registration Info Needed:  Number of Attendees & Names; Number of omnivores; Number of herbivores

Directions From Jackson, TN follow Hwy. 45 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.

STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT
March 24-26, 2006
NaCoMe Conference Center in Pleasantville, TN
(please see page 3 for more information)

Final Sierra Defenders Update

We thank all of our Defender donors, who make it possible for the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club to carry out its vital legislative advocacy and lobbying activities. The Sierra Club is a volunteer organization with no paid staff in Tennessee, and without the Defender program, we would not have a strong voice in the state legislature.

We have fallen short of our goal this year. Although we have a large number of faithful contributors, without whom we could not continue, we have lost some of our longtime supporters through normal attrition. We need your help with this campaign. Please become a Defender so that we can continue with this critical work.

All donations, large and small, are greatly appreciated. We are proud that the Defender campaign is a strictly volunteer activity, and there are no administrative expenses. This means that all of the money you give is used for work toward passage of legislation that protects our precious environment.

Please 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