Celebrating an Earth-Friendly Thanksgiving

By Diana Artemis,
Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption Committee (SCC)

It’s the holiday season once again. In the over-stressed times we live in can we pause and do better to put thanks and love back into our holiday celebrations? The Sustainable Consumption Committee (SCC)’s True Cost of Food Campaign makes it clear that our choice of food, now more than ever during the holiday season, affects our earth, our health and what we leave as a legacy to our children and our children’s children. Let’s pause and think about where the food we eat came from and at what cost to the environment.

What is Eco-Cuisine?


We must begin to look at food as aroute back to nature and a way to understand our connections with natural cycles. We need to live in harmony with nature and within our biological boundaries that are part of that natural system.”

During This Holiday Season Let’s Think About Our Health, Our Children’s Health And The Health Of Our Planet

A delicious cooked meal, especially if it’s shared with friends and family, provides nourishment for the spirit as well as the body. Food that is locally grown by organic farmers is healthy for our communities and local economy. Respecting the earth and its animals when producing and eating food creates the harmony that we seek in relating to each other and our planet and allows us truly to celebrate in a way that honors our earth and each other. Historically, food was a celebration of life: Growing, preparing and eating the fruits of the field were once one of the strangest ties to community spirit.

As Sierra Club members, we can lead the way. This year invite your friends, neighbors and family members to a low impact, cruelty free Thanksgiving Day meal that is mindful of its origins and the connections that bind us all to a sustainable planet.

For more Thanksgiving Recipes, visit these informative sites
www.gentlethanksgiving.org/about.htm
http://vegweb.com/food/events/index-thanksgiving.shtml
www.pcrm.org/health/Recipes/thanksgiving.html
www.vegweb.com/food/events/index-thanksgiving.shtml
www.tazarat.com/thanksgiving.html

For information on the SCC True Cost of Food Campaign, visit: http://www.sierraclub.org/sustainable_consumption/

Make a difference!

EAT Local
If you care about global warming, don’t buy food that has traveled hundreds or thousands of miles by plane and truck to get to you.
If you care about open spaces, buy food that is grown on small local farms, which help keep open spaces from being paved over.
If you care about stopping sprawl, buy from local producers rather than from big chain stores.

EAT Organic
If you care about biodiversity and endangered species, don’t buy food that is produced with toxic pesticides, which kill all sorts of creatures.
If you care about global warming, don’t buy food that is grown with petroleum-based fertilizers.
If you care about clean air, water and soil, look for food that is grown on farms where farmers don’t use chemical pesticides that are sprayed from the air and leach into the water and soil.

EAT more vegetables, fruits, nuts, grains, and seeds
If you care about forests, wild places, biodiversity, and endangered species, you should know that a leading cause of deforestation in the Americas and elsewhere is the raising of cattle and their feed.
If you care about clean water and soil, don’t buy meat from factory farms where animals are raised in confined operations so that their wastes poison the air, soil and water around them.

It’s time to vote!!

Look for your ballot inside this issue and vote for Tennessee’s Sierra Club leadership today!

Watch in the December issue for the Tennessee Conservation Voters newly released 2006 Legislative Scorecard, which can also be accessed online at www.tnconservationvoters.org
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted. Pre-approval from the Editor is required.

2. Photographs should be in a .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 stamp, self-addressed envelope if you would like your disk or photo prints returned.

1. Email embedded text submissions, or PDFs, which are preferred to tn.sierra@gmail.com. The Submission DEADLINE is the 10th of the month preceding the new month’s issue.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Deadline is the 10th of the month preceding the new month’s issue.
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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.
**Tennessee Chapter Candidate Statements:**  
(Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

**Gary Bowers**  
Gary Bowers has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1984, and has been actively engaged in conservation work since the mid 1980’s. He believes that everyone should have the ability to experience nature and the natural wonders of the world. To that end he has spent the last twenty plus years fighting to protect it. Gary’s major accomplishments are recapped below. Gary would appreciate your vote so that he can continue his work on the TN Chapter Executive Committee.

- Sierra Club – TN Chapter Conservation Chair 1998 – 2006  
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter Site Coordinator – Environmental Public Health Education Campaign (EPEC) to End Commercial Logging (ECL) in the Cherokee National Forest 1999-2002 (wrote campaign materials that garnered the first EPEC ECL site in the county)  
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – Founder and member – TN Environmental Activist Messaging (TEAM) system 1998 – 2002  
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – Sara Hines Award (for conservation) winner 1999  
- Sierra Club – TN Chapter – initiator and organizer – One Thin Dollar Silent Auction – proceeds going to support TN Chapter lobbying  
- Sierra Club – Middle TN Group Executive Committee – late 1980’s to present  
- TN Scenic Rivers (TSRA) – Conservationist of the Year 2003  
- Co-funder Friends of the Forest – the first assembly of environmental groups working to pass legislation to reform management practices of Tennessee’s State Forests  
- TN Forest Council (TFC) – steering committee charter member – a unification of environmental groups working to stop the destruction of Tennessee’s hardwood forests  
- Co-author TN Sustainable Forest Management Act  
- Author – TN Forest Landowner’s Boundary Protection Act  
- TN Scenic Rivers (TSRA) – Board of Directors 2001-2003

**Brian Paddock**  
My wife, Mary Mastin (former Chapter Treasurer), and I live on 40 acres of ridge top and sloped forest lands in Jackson County, TN about 15 minutes north of Cookeville, TN. I am an attorney licensed in Tennessee. Mary and I entered the Chapter Pro Bono as amici (“Friend of the Court”) in the Spencer wastewater discharge case. My pro bono clients include the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and with local water protection groups I am volunteer legislative advocate and former Chair of the Forestry Committee, Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM, pronounced sock-em.). Currently I am a member of the Tennessee Forest Council and the Mold Forests Policy Project. I chair the Transportation Reform Committee of the Chapter. I chair the Board of the Tennesseeans for Fair Taxation Action Fund which works to end the sales tax on food and to progressively reform our state tax system. Our new 4 kilowatt photovoltaic solar electricity system was featured on the front page of the Tennessee-Sierras.

**Katherine Pendleton**  
Katherine Pendleton has been a Sierra Club member since 1993 and became an active member approximately 5 years ago. Katherine is currently the TN Chapter treasurer and outings chair and is active in Middle TN Group as the vice-chair of outings chair and has served in the past as group chair, conservation chair, membership chair, and program chair. In the fall of 2005, Katherine was involved with organizing a national outings leader training 101/201 that was held in Tennessee. On the national level, Katherine is a member of the Medical Advisory Committee and Local Outings Support Committee. Katherine’s passion for backpacking was the catalyst that brought her into the Sierra Club initially as an outings leader. She has led over 100 backpacking trips for the Middle TN Group since 2002. Katherine is passionate about the outings program, forest preservation and educating people about genetically modified foods.

**Don Richardson**  
Please vote for me as an At-Large Delegate to your Chapter Executive Committee. This position is required for Tennessee’s participation in many regional and national conservation priority-setting entities as well as acquiring funding and other resources for our chapter and groups to work on Tennessee’s priority issues. As an at-large delegate the last few years, I have served as a chapter officer, but I also served these objectives as your elected Council of Club Leaders (CCL) delegate in 2005, CCL alternate in 2006, chapter representative at national environmental justice meetings, and one of several regional conservation committee (RCC) representatives. I hope to serve you in these capacities again when the time comes. Attracting new folks to this position is certainly important, but maintaining experienced continuity has proven essential for success in a national organization like Sierra Club. Please allow me the opportunity to continue to serve the Tennessee chapter to accomplish our strategic goals.

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**Watauga Group Election Ballot**

For the 2007 Executive Committee.

**Ann Austin**  
Member of the Sierra Club since 2004; marine biologist by degree, wildlife enthusiast and active in water, fundraising and political issues.

**Edward Dowgin**  
Sierra Club member since 2004. Retired steamfitter by trade; sportsman by inclination. Member of the NRA and Trout Unlimited. Active in fundraising, political and water issues.

**Wilbert ‘Webb’ Griffith**  
Sierra member since 1989. Current WG provisional EXCOM member, Membership & Outings Chair; active on CAFO, fundraising committee and political issues. Retired from textile industry. Container Deposit Bill advocate.

**Gloria Griffith**  
Current Watauga Group Chair and Sierra Club member since 2004. Operates a brick and mortar Antique & Collectibles retail shop. Active in CAFO, fundraising and political issues.

**Dennis Shekinah**  
Current Secretary/Treasurer of Watauga Group. Sierra Club member since 2004; recent past secretary of the Watauga Watershed Alliance and WWWA current president. Employed in the medical field; nature photographer and graphic artist.

**Louise Shoen**  
Real Estate broker for 26 years and proud grandmother of 8. Current provisional EXCOM member active on CAFO issues, fundraising and membership drives.

**Earl Taylor**  
Sierra Club member since 2004. Current WG Vice Chair. CAFO committee co-chair. DVM by profession. Active in political and Safe and Healthy Community issues.

**Dean Whitworth**  
Sierra Club Life Member since 1992. Member of the provisional Watauga Group EXCOM and currently serving as Conservation Chair. Active on CAFO and political issues.

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**Watauga Candidate Statements:**

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**Tennes-Sierran**  
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Barbara Allen - I joined the Sierra Club in 1989 and have been active in the Club since my first meeting that year. Of special interest to me is advocating for and protecting wilderness areas, The Cherokee National Forest and all other national forests and public lands. I am an avid backpacker and hiker and also enjoy canoeing and bicycling. I have served on the HBG ExCom for several years, holding the position of Group Chair for one term and currently serving as a Member of the Group ExCom and as Group Secretary. I have also served as Secretary for the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club and lead hikes for the SMHC. I have worked in the Public Health Field for more than 30 years.

Elizabeth (Liz) Dixon - I have been a Sierra club Member since1994 and was chair of the Tennessee Chapter for 3 years beginning in 2002. I have been active in the activities of the End Commercial Logging (ECL) campaign, The Save Our Smokies campaign, the Redwood River Campaign, the lawsuit against TVA power plant pollution, the campaign against mountain top removal mining. I am also a member for the Tennessee Chapter and for the Harvey Broome Group. I am also a member for the Tennessee Chapter and for the Harvey Broome Group. I have served in the Peace Corps 1997-1999 in the Dominican Republic where I was assigned to the Child Survival Sector. I was also active in the Age-Related sector, working to reform badly needed areas in that country. I am an avid outdoors person and enjoy back packing, birding, canoeing, and many other things related to the Outdoors. I am active in conservation and preservation issues in the HBG area and nationally.

Cheryl Quinn - I am a 1994 Graduate of the University Of Tennessee - Knoxville with a Bachelor's degree in Social Service and have a Masters Degree from UTC earned in 1995 in that same field. My work in that field included work for the State of Tennessee. As a Social Worker , I was with children in the foster care system... I left that field in 2006 and am now taking classes at UTC to gain skills in the computer applications and environmental areas. I have been a hiker for more than 20 years and have recently begun to back pack when I joined the Sierra Club HBG in 2005. I enjoy hiking in the Great Smoky Mountain and the Big South Fork National Parks and in the Cherokee National Forest. I am very interested in local environmental issues and am currently actively engaged in the HBG work to Stop I-4. As a Grandmother, I feel that the Sierra Club can be an important factor in preserving the wilderness areas and the environment that our children and grand children will inherit.

David Reister - I joined the Sierra Club in 1970 at Buffalo N. Y., where I was chair of Energy Task Force and for the Niagara Goup. I moved to Oak Ridge, TN in 1974 to work for the Institute for Energy Analysis. I became a Senior Research Engineer at Oak Ridge National Lab in 1995. I became active in the Harvey Breime Group in 1997 when TKG proposed to build the proposed Orange Ruir for I-475 next to my house. I joined the HBG in 1998, in 2000, Became Conservation Chair. I am currently serving on the HBG ExCom. My primary interests are national energy, TVA and land use. I am the Chairman of the Board for the Cumberland Trail Conference. I am currently serving as the Sierra Club representative to the TDOT Regional Parkway Design Resource Team for the I-475 Orange Route.

Ed Sofer - I have been a member of Sierra Club since 1981. My biggest environmental concerns involve issues with state parks and national forests. I have held several positions with the HBG including Group Chair, Group Vice Chair, TN Executive Committee Delegate, and Group Outings Chair. I am currently serving as a member of the HBG ExCom and as HBG Treasurer. I am an active member leading HBG hikes and enjoying hiking and camping.

For the 2007 Executive Committee (Jan 1, 2007-Dec 31, 2008 term). Please vote for six (6) of the following candidates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Dual</th>
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<td>Barbara Allen</td>
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<td>Robin Ferguson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Quinn</td>
<td>David Reister</td>
<td>Ed Sofer</td>
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</table>

Only current members may vote so please put your membership number on the mailing label of this Tennes-Sierran on the outside of the envelope. Place that envelope inside another envelope and mail by close of business, Thursday, November 30, 2006 to:

Bob Hill - Election Committee Chair
11504 Mountain View Road
Knoxville, TN 37934

Notice: Be sure to vote for the Chapter Delegates found on a separate ballot.

### Middle Tennessee Candidate Statements:

**Rachel Floyd:** "I began working with the Sierra Club in 1992 through learning and learning about issues important to our planet’s environment. Over the past 15 years, she has served a number of terms on the MtG ExCom in positions such as Secretary, Treasurer, and Group Chair. Rachel also has served terms as a Group Delegate and as-Deputy Delegate at the Chapter level, as well as Editor of the state newsletter, the Tennes-Sierran for 5 years. She is continually interested and active in conservation of wildlands, renewable energy, clean water, environmental, economic and human sustainability. A vote for Rachel would assist election of a long time committed conservationist who loves putting her administrative expertise to work for our environment."

**Don Schaf:** "I am a former Middle Tennessee Group Chair, Treasuerer and Conservation Chair; and a former Tennessee Chapter Conservation Chair, he has been part of many conservation issues including recycling public land protection, air quality protection and global warming. In July, he was chosen to join the Executive Committee to complete the term of a member who moved out of the area. He is a working with other ExCom members to find new activities for the group including inviting new Sierra Club members.”

**Gary Bowers:** "Gary has been a Sierra Club member since 1984. He has been active in both the Group and chapter levels since the mid-1980s. Gary is currently, and has been for several years, a member of the Harvey Breime Group. He is currently an At Large member of the TN Chapter Executive, where he has served since 1998. Gary has been the TN Chapter Conservation Chair from 1998 to 2008. He served the period of 1999 through 2002 as the site coordinator of the TN Chapter’s Environmental Public Education Campaign (EPEC) on End Commercial Logging (ECL) in the Cherokee National Forest, the first EPEC ECL site in the country. Gary has received the TN Chapter’s Sarah Hines Award for outstanding service to the TN Chapter. Gary is the co-founder of the Friends of the Forest, co-author of the TN Sustainable Forest Management Act, and author of the TN Forest Landowner Boundary Protection Act. He is a charter member of the steering committee for the TN Forest Council. He has also chaired both the Tennessee Sierra Club’s Arrowhead (TSSA) Board of Directors (2000 - 2002) and the TSSA Conservation Committee (2000 - 2002). Gary was chosen as the TSSA Conservationist of the Year in 2003. Gary looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the Middle TN Group and ask for your continued support in the form of your vote.”

**Dave Bordenkircher:** "Dave joined the Sierra Club in 1982 to be a part of the club’s campaign to amend the Clean Air Act. He was active in the Chattanooga group prior to moving to Nashville. In 1988, he served as a delegate to the Tennessee Chapter ExCom. Since then, he has been involved with the effort in Nashville to increase recycling. Sierra Club helped to bring the recycling that Nashville has today. Presently, he is on the Board of Bike/Nashville, an organization that was formed to promote recycling. Three years ago he was appointed to be the volunteer coordinator for the MTG Sierra Club recycle drop-off site. He was active in the lobby effort of Sierra Club along with the Audubon Society, to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from proposed oil exploration that would harm the wildlife there. He has attended and been a delegate at many TN Chapter meetings, where he has learned about conservation issues that the Club is working on. Dave continues to serve the group as a current member of the Executive Committee, as well as taking over as Group Chair in July, 2005.”

**Phillip Miller:** "A member of the Middle Tennessee Group for 20 years, this is Phillip’s first involvement with the Middle Tennessee Group. Phillip has been a Board member, Executive Committee member, Committee Chair, legal counsel and Board President for various not-for-profit organizations at the local, state and national levels. He has lobbied and testified (but was often not, or long enough in his opinion) in the Olympic National Park, Mount Rainier, Yosemite, Glacier, Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Redwood, Grand Canyon, Big Sur, Bandelier, Rocky Mountain, Great Sand Dunes and our Smoky Mountain National Parks. Phillip feels he can bring a wealth of experience and knowledge about conservation issues and how to address them to the ExCom if he is elected to the board. Making a difference within the Executive Committee, and influencing the environment in the end is his goal. He asks for your support by your vote for him to become a member of the Middle Tennessee Group Executive Committee.”

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### Middle Tennessee Group Election Ballot

For the 2007 Executive Committee

**Please vote for no more than four (4) per member.**

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Phillip Miller</td>
<td>Don Schaf</td>
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</table>
For the 2007 Executive Committee, please vote for two (2) of the following candidates.

Membership  
Single  
Dual  
Mary Mastin  
Eston Evans  
Ralph Bowden

FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT, you must enclose your marked ballot in an envelope marked "ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope inside another envelope for mailing. Write your membership number which can be found on the address label of your newsletter, on the outer envelope with "ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope inside another envelope for mailing. Write your membership number which can be found on the address label of your newsletter, on the outer envelope with your member number which can be found on the address label of your newsletter, on the outer envelope with "ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope inside another envelope for mailing.

FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT, please return your marked ballot to the Chickasaw Group Election Committee.

All ballots must be postmarked by November 30, 2006 or earlier to count. PLEASE VOTE!

Chickasaw Candidate Statements:

Juliet Jones - Her conservation interests include sustainable living. She is especially concerned about recycling and conservation of natural resources. She believes the Sierra Club can play an important role in educating the public about these matters, as well as pressuring political leaders to take more action to recognize that there are problems in these environmental areas, and legislate accordingly. In her day job, she is an Occupational Therapist and medical interpreter at a Memphis hospital. Juliet has lived in England and Spain. She is married and has two children, one in Memphis and one in Spain. She says, "During my 11 years membership, I have participated in many outings and attended several meetings, but have not until now been involved in a leadership role, or held any position. I would like to increase my involvement and commitment to the Sierra Club. I have been a Sierra Club member since 1995, and would be honored to serve on the Chickasaw Chapter of the Tennessee Group if elected."

Don Richardson - I request your vote to continue serving the Chickasaw Group as a guiding voice on your Executive Committee. Sierra Club at all levels is at a crossroads in redefining itself to meet the needs of its members and reverse the trend of denial and degradation of nature's services and benefits at all levels of government. Now here is more noticeable than in the greater Memphis area and throughout Tennessee. I hope my experience and efforts at the local level and beyond have produced the kind of results, sometimes appearing to be baby steps compared to the challenges we face, to earn your vote to continue the hard and mostly unrecognized work of speaking up for the natural environment and its unrepresented denizens, and building resilient safe and healthy communities in environmentally responsible ways. Please vote so we know you care, and please contact your Executive Committee so they can learn your issues and serve Memphis and West Tennessee more effectively.

Walter Diggins - I am requesting your vote to be elected to the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee. Experience: Chairperson - Program Committee for the Memphis Public Issues Forum. I organized a July 2006 Forum on environmental stewardship for the contested Shelby County Commission and Mayoral candidates. Five candidates who spoke included Commissioner Candidates Steve Mulroy, and Mike Rite who were elected, along with Mayoral Incumbent AC Wharton, Jr. The more than 50 person audience included strong representation from the Sierra Club. I will be recommending a yearly forum on our environment.

Mary Mastin - Mary has held various positions within both the group and chapter level of the Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club. As an environmental lawyer Mary continues to defend the waters and land of Tennessee from environmental damage through litigation. Currently Mary is the conservation chair of the Upper Cumberland Group. She has been the kitchen coordinator for meetings hosted by the UC Group.

Eston Evans - Eston has been a Sierra Club member since 1994 and has always been willing to help in any way needed. He has helped plan most of the quarterly meetings hosted by the Upper Cumberland Group. He has been the kitchen coordinator for meetings hosted by the UC Group.

Ralph Bowden - Ralph has been a member of the Group since the mid-90's. He has helped behind the scenes for years. Presently he is the treasurer for the UC Group. He has also written excellent environmental articles published in local papers.
Outings

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

For information on upcoming outings, contact Chris O’Cain at chris.759@yahoo.com or visit our web site at http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee/index.htm.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

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

November 4-5, 2006 (Sat-Sun), Iron Mountain Trail Backpack. Years ago the Appalachian Trail followed Iron Mountain all the way north of Hampton, TN, to Damascus, VA; today the AT follows Iron Mountain about half-way to Damascus, then turns to the west near Shady Valley and follows Holston Mountain on to Damascus. The “old” AT along the rest of Iron Mountain, much of which we will traverse, is still there for hiking, now with lots of solitude. It is basically a ridge top hike, with lots of great views of Shady Valley and other similarly scenic upper East TN valleys. The portion of the AT we will hike is about 1.5 miles north of the Iron Mountain Trailhead. Parking lot at base of mountain. Driving time from Knoxville, about 1.5 to 2 hours. Contact: Will Shilstat: Home 523-2272, Work 521-0363; whshome @bellsouth.net.

Preregister with Will Skelton: Home 523-2272, Work 523-2772, Work 521-0363; whshome @bellsouth.net.

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 busy section of the AT, but the almost continuous views from the crest of the Smokies make the relatively heavy hike activity worth putting up with. It will probably hike a little beyond the “Bunion” to a good lunch spot. In the event that highway 441 is closed due to snow, we may turn this hike into a med. difficulty hike. Driving time from Knoxville, about 1.5 to 2 hours. Pre-register with Ron Sheriffs at 865-922-3518 or rshieve @ utk.edu (email is preferred).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

For the November 2006 newsletter of the Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club, please send your contributions to Karibug1959@aol.com.

Saturday, November 11 - Black Mountain Dayhike. Black Mountain, near Columbia, is part of the Cumberland Trail system. The map is on-line at the Cumberland Trail web-site. More information will be provided in the November newsletter after the leader has scouted the trail. Pre-register with Heloise Shilstat at stillwild @bellsouth.net at 615-631-0169.

Friday-Sunday, November 24-26 - Thanksgiving Weekend Backpack. This will be a joint backpacking trip with the Northern Kentucky Group in Big South Fork on the Yahoo Falls loop. We will meet Friday night at Pickет State Park to camp and then meet up at the trailhead Saturday morning with the group from Kentucky. Average hiking distance Saturday and Sunday will be approximately 2 miles/hour. Experienced backpackers only please. Pre-registration required. Each participant must supply his own gear, food, and transportation. Contact Katherine Pendleton no later than November 20 if interested in participating at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

Looking ahead! Mark your calendar now for 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 natural as a vegetable, salad, dessert, or appetizer. Bring your own libation. Directions will be available in December issue of newsletter.

TRAILS

Chicksaw Trail

Saturday, November 11, 2006 - The Old Forest Hike - 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, entrance to the center of Overton Park. The information 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@juno.com. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

Saturday, November 11, 10:00-11:30am: River woods State Natural Area with Wolf River Conservancy, Germantown. Park in the parking lot at the end of Wolf River Blvd, east of Germantown Parkway. See this floodplain forest now saved from development. Wear sturdy shoes. Contact Keith Kirkland 452-6500 or wrc@wolfriver.org.

Saturday, December 9, 2006 - The Old Forest Hike - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. Second Saturday Hikes. Explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America. For time and meeting place, see entry for November 11. For additional information, contact Don Richardson at (901) 276-1387 or donrich@juno.com. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee: “The Nature of Conservation” is the Sierra Club’s Chicksaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. A different program is aired, usually once a month. The November show features Lakeland Friends and the Sierra Club. Experience winter like never before! Snow lovers of the Tennessee Chapter are invited to join the Cumberland Chapter (Kentucky) members on an outing to the Sierra Club’s own rustic Clair Tappaan Lodge. Located on Donner Summit, the area receives the highest average snowfall of the entire Sierra Nevada range, making the Lodge a favorite with winter sports enthusiasts. We’ll fly into Reno, Nevada, on Saturday morning and shuttle to the lodge. After some lessons, we’ll glide into action in the Tahoe National Forest and Royal George, the world’s largest cross-country ski resort. Several other resorts for downhill skiing or snowboarding are easily accessible from the lodge. We will have the option of a three-mile guided trek along the Pacific Crest Trail past Castle Peak to a backcountry hut for an overnight stay. We’ll also have ample time to learn about the enchanting history of the Sierra Nevadas and current conservation issues. On our last night, we’ll enjoy an evening in South Lake Tahoe. Participants must be age 16 or over. Minimum number of participants is 7 and the maximum is 14. Reservation deadline: February 1, 2007. Cost is $495 per person and includes lodging, meals, ground transportation from the airport to the lodge and day trips. The leader will provide free snowshoe lessons. Not included: airfare, equipment rental and cross-country ski lessons. Discounted ski resort trail passes and lift tickets will be available through Clair Tappaan Lodge. Rating: While this trip is suitable for beginners, Clair Tappaan Lodge is at 7,000 feet elevation making activity feel slightly more difficult. Some activities may involve up to 9,000 feet altitude, but individuals will have options for less strenuous activity like sledding, building a snowman or simply enjoying a cozy day by the fire or reading in the library at the lodge. For additional information, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

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, tide sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.
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Meetings

CHICKASAW GROUP
(Memphis)
MONTHLY FIRST THURSDAY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, November 2, 2006, 5:30-7:00pm - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee: Join us for Chickasaw Group’s “First Thursday” monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Karen Prosser - Membership Chair at (901) 327-9820 or kprosser@bellsouth.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, November 13, 2006, 6:30pm - 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 Allan Lumnus – vice-Chair by November 10 to place items on the agenda at (901) 722-9545 or allan.lumnus@gmail.com.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, November 29, 2006, 7:00pm - NOTE: CHANGED LOCATION, Memphis Public Library and Information Center - Cordova Branch at 8457 Trinity Road, Cordova, TN 38018 - next to Germantown Parkway. The November program will feature a PowerPoint presentation by James Baker - the Tennessee Water Sentinel. He will be showing how mud and silt from poor erosion controls at construction sites is one of the leading causes of stream impairments in Shelby County and how you want to be part of this new program, Mud Busters. Mud Busters will inform the appropriate regulatory agency about sub-standard erosion controls at construction sites in Shelby County. For more information, contact Tom Lawrence - Program Chair at (901) 237-4879 or tom.lawrence@bellsouth.net for more information.

DECEMBER First Thursday Members Gathering: Thursday, December 7, 2006, 5:30-7:00pm - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee: Join us for Chickasaw Group’s “First Thursday” monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Karen Prosser - Membership Chair at (901) 327-9820 or kprosser@bellsouth.net for more information.

HOLIDAY PARTY: Friday, December 8, 6:00pm: Holiday Party. Burch Porter & Johnson law offices on Court Square, Memphis. Bring a dish to share. There will be a cash bar. Contact James Baker 826-2448 or kimbo_sube@yahoo.com.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP
(Knoxville)
PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, November 14, 2006, 7:30pm, at Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2941 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. “TV, the Tellico Dam, and Science: the Snail Darter Controversy.” Dr. David A. Emery, Emeritus Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Tennessee, will discuss his 1973 discovery of the Snail Darter in the lower Little Tennessee River and its impact in delaying construction of the controversial Tellico Dam. In opposing the Tellico project, he noted that “Some environmental damages may be repairable, but once a river is dammed it’s damned forever.” A native of St. Cloud, MN, Emery earned his Bachelor of Science and Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota and taught a variety of courses at UT between 1965 and his retirement in 2001. As a specialist in ichthyology and aquatic insects, he “inspired thousands of future aquatic resource professionals.” In 1993 he and Dr. Wayne Starnes, a former student, published the 681-page The Fishes of Tennessee, which “filled a huge void in fisheries literature . . . providing both a taxonomy source and a natural history reference for one of the most biologically rich regions in the country.” In 2004 the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN) selected Dr. Emery as the first recipient of the “Bill Russell River Hero Award.” For more information contact John Finger at (865) 573-5908 or jfinger@utk.edu.

STRATEGY MEETING: 7:30 p.m., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2941 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. We urge all Harvey Broome Group members to join us as we discuss and plan strategies for issues of concern to the group. These meetings provide you an opportunity for input into issues of concern to you. Please join us! For more information contact Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP
(Nashville)
PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, November 9, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. (Come any time between 6:00 and 8:00.) This month, in place of our regular program meeting, we are joining forces with Friends of Radnor Lake and The Chestnut Group to celebrate our natural sanctuaries through wonderful “plein air” paintings, which will be on display at Radnor Lake November 9-12. This Preview Party on Wednesday will include the art show, a silent auction and refreshments. Several of the artists will be on hand to answer questions about plein air painting (which means painting in “fresh air”) and their works of Radnor and other middle Tennessee treasures. The Chestnut Group is a non-profit organization made up of artists dedicated to preserving endangered ecosystems and historic locales. They embrace the historic tradition of plein air painting. It is an art of capturing the experience, the light, and the feeling of a scene quickly on canvas. Through events such as this sale, The Chestnut Group raises awareness and funds to protect treasures such as Radnor Lake. Radnor Lake is kind enough to host our monthly program meetings, and many of us are members and supporters of Friends of Radnor Lake. Please join us for the Preview Party and help us all celebrate Our Natural Sanctuaries. Please note that this event is 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. For additional questions, please feel free to contact Friends of Radnor Lake at 251-4471. Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike. Non-members are always welcome!

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, November 28 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 Ferschlicher 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 dbordenkircher@mindspring.com or call 333-3377.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP
(Cookeville)
PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Evans at maevans@wales.net or (931)342-6680

WATAUGA GROUP
PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith, (gla7497627@ aol.com), (423) 727-4797 for more information.

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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Two Hours for the Children

On Sunday, October 1, I sat outside and started to read The End of Nature by Bill McKibben. On one level, I was concentrating on the book, and on another level, I listened to the sounds in my neighborhood. There were the sounds of the natural world, the mockinbird singing in a nearby holly bush and my dog Aubrey barking at his arch nemesis, the squirrel that stays just out of reach. In the distance, I heard a barred owl calling. Competing with nature was the sounds of many jets, cars, motorcycles, air conditioner compressors and my neighbor’s swimming pool pump.

However, one sound stood out, the laughter of young children. I put my book down and closed my eyes and analyzed the sounds I was hearing. It made me think, what will these children’s world be like when they reach my age of 51 years? How many billions more people will share their world than the current 6.5 billion? Will they have clean water to drink? Will the air they breathe be clean? Will their world be warmer than it is today? Will their children be laughing?

There are just a few questions that the volunteers of the Chickasaw Group ponder on and work with people to answer and make our lives better. Frankly however, the number of issues is outstripping the number of volunteers. Our work faces local, regional and global environmental threats. There seems to be a new issue springing up to face people who need Sierra’s help each day. At a time when we do not need volunteers to burn out, we need more volunteers to spread out the load, help one another and make our time spent at Sierra Club volunteering rewarding and successful. Success breeds success.

There is a saying, “many hands make light work”, so I am asking you, can you give two hours of a week volunteer time to the Chickasaw Group? With due respect, I feel that many people can do just that. Please volunteer so that today’s children, whether yours or your neighbors, can enjoy the laughter of their young children when they reach 51 years of age.

Sincerely,
James H. Baker
Chair, Chickasaw Group – Sierra Club