By Adelle Wood

Bells Bend is a rural and agricultural area of Davidson County. Because of its location across the Cumberland River from urbanized Nashville, it is the proposed site of a 1,400-acre development that would include retail, 5,000 condominiums, several corporate headquarters, and a bridge that would cost millions in public money. It is estimated that more than 40,000 people would be present in this development, the May Town Center, on a daily basis.

Consider that one bridge would serve this project that is projected to have about the same density as downtown Nashville, which is served by 18 roadways in and out. You can begin to comprehend the problems of access and congestion that would result.

Next consider that Bells Bend is the southern end of a corridor that starts at Beaman Park in the north, providing for wildlife movement and habitat. Most area residents strongly oppose this development because there are values that must not be compromised by development:

• Preservation of open spaces and forests
• Education of future generations
• Preservation of historic buildings and archaeological sites
• Protection of working farms and agricultural businesses
• Outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities
• Refuge from urban sprawl
• Wildlife habitat
• Protection from negative impact on Nashville’s past investment in area parks

The Middle Tennessee Group opposes sprawl and supports the Bells Bend conservation efforts and its mission of establishing a statewide model for open space conservation.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Davidson County residents should:

 Attend the July 24 meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Commission at 4:00 p.m., Metro Southeast, 1417 Murfreesboro Pike.

Contribute to Sierra Club’s Bells Bend campaign. Send checks, payable to Sierra Club Foundation, to Diane Perschbacher, 2021 21st Ave. S., Nashville 37212. The “For” line of the check, or a separate paper, should read Middle TN Group, Bells Bend.

Contact each planning commissioner and Executive Director Rick Bernhardt and cite one or more of the reasons listed above. See information at http://www.bellsbend.org

Contact your Metro councilmember and the five councilmembers at-large. Contact information is available at www.nashville.gov/council/

Tell them that you strongly oppose this development and the additional sprawl that would be spawned by the May Town Center. Tell them that Nashville should preserve Bells Bend for outdoor recreation opportunities and working farmlands for all Nashvillians to enjoy.

TELL THEM WE DON’T NEED ANOTHER COOL SPRINGS!

Those who are not Davidson County residents can also help by attending the July 24 Planning Commission meeting, by contacting any commissioner or council member you know and by contributing to the Sierra Club’s Bells Bend fund.
**With your help, we can clean up our water.**

The Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club believes in protecting and preserving the beauty and integrity of our natural resources. Joining as a member helps support these efforts and ensures the future of a healthy planet for all of us.

Read more about the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club and how your membership can make a difference.

---

**Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.**

*Email: address_changes@sierraclub.org
*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail to:

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 10th of the month preceding the new month’s issue.

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to lbaker@usw.org either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Attached files are preferred. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format and then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3½ diskette or CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your photos returned.

3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be submitted via USPS mail cannot be accepted; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.

4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

---

**Sierra Club Officers**

**TENNESSEE CHAPTER:**

- **Chair:** Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877 Katbug1959@aol.com
- **Vice Chair:** Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797 gla4797@earthlink.net
- **Secretary:** Carl Leathers (865) 668-1977 gla4797@earthlink.net
- **Treasurer:** Rachel Floyd (615) 406-9204 rlfloyd557@bellsouth.net
- **Conservation:** Gary Bowers (615) 714-5185 GHI@natures@aol.com

- **Outings:** Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819 judithhammond@bellsouth.net
- **CCL Delegate:** Don Richardson (901) 276-1387 donrich@juno.com
- **CCL Alternate:** Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877 Katbug1959@aol.com

**TN LOCAL GROUPS:**

*Cherokee Group - Chattanooga (in reorganization)*

- **Contact:** Nancy J. Ream (901) 759-9416 njream@aol.com
- **Vice Chair:** Amy Stewart-Baunby (901) 292-5354 baunby2@comcast.net
- **Conservation:** Nancy J. Ream (901) 759-9416 njream@aol.com
- **Secretary:** OPEN
- **Outings:** Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819 judithhammond@bellsouth.net
- **Membership:** Julie Jones (901) 374-0582 julie@comcast.net
- **TV Program:** Judith Rutschman (901) 767-5916 rutschman@rhodes.edu

*Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge*

- **Chair:** David Reister (865) 670-8991 drreister@bellsouth.net
- **Vice-Chair:** John Finger (865) 573-5908 jfinger@utk.edu
- **Conservation:** Axel Ringe (865)1387-1840 onyxxart@bellsouth.net
- **Outings:** Ron Shrieve (865) 922-3518 ronaldshrieve@comcast.net

*Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville*

- **Chair:** Rachel Floyd (615) 406-9204 rlfloyd557@bellsouth.net
- **Vice Chair:** Duane Perschbacher Pfifer, 615-895-1236 dpfifer@propson.com
- **Conservation:** Betty Garber, 615-668-1977 bgarber@hotmail.com
- **Outings:** Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877 Katbug1959@aol.com

*State of Franklin Group*

- **Chair:** Tom Mozen, (423) 232-0827 mozenetc@yahoo.com

*Watauga Group - Johnson & Carter Counties*

- **Chair:** Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797 gla4797@earthlink.net
- **Vice Chair:** Dr. Earl Taylor (423) 727-7211 rlfloyd557@bellsouth.net
- **Conservation:** Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214 deanw@propson.com
- **Outings:** Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797 gla4797@earthlink.net

*Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville*

- **Chair:** Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938 marymastin@chattanooga.net
- **Vice Chair:** Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142 jmccuji@tntech.edu
- **Treasurer:** Ralph Brownen
- **Secretary:** Peggy Evans
- **Outings:** Vacant

**National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:**

- **Rita Harris, Community Organizer**
- **Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757**
- **Judith Rutschman (901) 767-5916**
- **CCL Alternate:** Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877 Katbug1959@aol.com

**Please notify the Editor when changes are needed**
Tennessee Chapter Meeting Set for July 25-27

The Tennessee Chapter Meeting on July 25-27 will feature the Appalachian Trail in Northeastern Tennessee hosted by the Watauga Group at Laurel Fork Lodge.

Laurel Fork Lodge is a 75-acre campsite located at 1511 Dennis Cove Road in Hampton, TN 37658. Check out the Laurel Fork Lodge website for a detailed Yahoo map at www.laurelforklodge.com.

What’s Happening:
• Appalachian Trail hikes.
• Saturday morning dry casting fly fishing lessons (all equipment provided via a SC Water Sentinel grant). Beginners are expected and will be taught by veteran anglers.
• Bring your Tennessee fishing license (one day license minimum) to fish for trout in Laurel Fork Creek.

Note: Laurel Fork Lodge, nestled within Dennis Cove, is accessed by a paved and scenic switchback road without guardrails four miles uphill from Hampton. Tenn. This last portion of your drive will take at least 15 minutes and is best navigated before dark.

Dennis Cove has no cell phone reception. Laurel Fork Lodge has one camp phone. Check-in registration starts at 3 PM Friday at the conference center. All vehicles, except handicap tagged, will be parked in the field above the conference center.

What to Bring:
• Sleeping bag and a pillow
• Camp chair or lawn chair – Otherwise expect to sit on standard “camp” chairs
• Cup or insulated mug for hot drinks, water bottle and beverage glass
• Flashlight and ice
• Personal toiletries, towel and shower shoes
• Lunches. (Small refrigerators & microwaves are available in cabins & bunkhouse kitchen.)

Contact Gloria Griffith at g47@earthlink.net or 423-727-4797 for reservations. Please advise your arrival day and any special needs. Lodging, Saturday & Sunday breakfast and dinner Saturday included in the $40.00 fee.

Sierra Club Outings

Leader Training Workshop
September 26-28
at the Laurel Fork Lodge
in Hampton, TN

If you’re a Sierra Club outings leader or you want to become one, this interactive and educational workshop is for you. Space is limited, so sign up soon!

The purpose of this training is to provide leaders with the skills to address leadership and group management issues that may arise on short outings (day-hikes) and longer duration, more remote outings. Leader training is a never-ending process, so whether you’re an old hand or have never led before, you’re invited to attend a weekend of interactive learning, networking with leaders from all outing programs, and of course, lots of fun. This training event is brought to you by the Outdoors Activity Training Program (OATP), managed in the Outings Department of the National office.

WHAT IS THIS WORKSHOP ALL ABOUT?
• The goals of the workshop are to learn and enhance leadership and group management skills, to bring people and programs together to share and exchange ideas, to welcome new outdoor leaders, to learn what it takes to lead for other outings programs of the Sierra Club; and once again, to have a lot of fun. This workshop is for new and seasoned leaders from Sierra Club’s In坎ey Outings (ICO), Local Outings (Group & Chapter), and National Outings (the trips in Sierra magazine).
• The workshop agenda includes interactive modules on trip planning, group management, interpersonal leadership skills, emergency response and much more. Topics will be facilitated in both large group and small breakout group format. Sessions will also include teamwork and scenario-high role play.
• The workshop is facilitated by OATP trainers (volunteer and staff) who speak from a wealth of personal trip leading experience.
• As an added benefit this workshop will fulfill both the Sierra Club OL101 and OL201 requirements.

REGISTRATION INFO
• To learn more and register: http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/
• 5 other ways to register (Include name(s), address, telephone #, email, membership #, and workshop # 08995A)
• MAIL, check or money order for $45
Sierra Club Outings
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
• CALL - credit card only: 415-977-5222
Monday-Friday, 8:30-5, PST
Include Card Number, Expiration, Date and Signature
• CALL - credit card only: 415-977-5795
• FAX - credit card only: 415-977-5795
Limited to 50 people - first come, first served, Questions? Contact the Sierra Club Outdoor Activities Training Manager at outings.training@sierraclub.org or at (415) 977-5711.

Cost $45 that includes all meals, snacks, lodging (bunk style), materials, raffle entry, and Outings t-shirt.

Friday - Check-in begins at 5pm. Dinner served at 6pm. Opening program 7:30.
Saturday - Programming all day and early evening.
Sunday - Workshop ends with lunch and raffle around 1pm.

Leader Training Workshop
September 26-28
at the Laurel Fork Lodge
in Hampton, TN

If you’re a Sierra Club outings leader or you want to become one, this interactive and educational workshop is for you. Space is limited, so sign up soon!

The purpose of this training is to provide leaders with the skills to address leadership and group management issues that may arise on short outings (day-hikes) and longer duration, more remote outings. Leader training is a never-ending process, so whether you’re an old hand or have never led before, you’re invited to attend a weekend of interactive learning, networking with leaders from all outing programs, and of course, lots of fun. This training event is brought to you by the Outdoors Activity Training Program (OATP), managed in the Outings Department of the National office.

WHAT IS THIS WORKSHOP ALL ABOUT?
• The goals of the workshop are to learn and enhance leadership and group management skills, to bring people and programs together to share and exchange ideas, to welcome new outdoor leaders, to learn what it takes to lead for other outings programs of the Sierra Club; and once again, to have a lot of fun. This workshop is for new and seasoned leaders from Sierra Club’s In坎ey Outings (ICO), Local Outings (Group & Chapter), and National Outings (the trips in Sierra magazine).
• The workshop agenda includes interactive modules on trip planning, group management, interpersonal leadership skills, emergency response and much more. Topics will be facilitated in both large group and small breakout group format. Sessions will also include teamwork and scenario-high role play.
• The workshop is facilitated by OATP trainers (volunteer and staff) who speak from a wealth of personal trip leading experience.
• As an added benefit this workshop will fulfill both the Sierra Club OL101 and OL201 requirements.

REGISTRATION INFO
• To learn more and register: http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/
• 5 other ways to register (Include name(s), address, telephone #, email, membership #, and workshop # 08995A)
• MAIL, check or money order for $45
Sierra Club Outings
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
• CALL - credit card only: 415-977-5222
Monday-Friday, 8:30-5, PST
Include Card Number, Expiration, Date and Signature
• CALL - credit card only: 415-977-5795
• FAX - credit card only: 415-977-5795
Limited to 50 people - first come, first served, Questions? Contact the Sierra Club Outdoor Activities Training Manager at outings.training@sierraclub.org or at (415) 977-5711.

Cost $45 that includes all meals, snacks, lodging (bunk style), materials, raffle entry, and Outings t-shirt.

Friday - Check-in begins at 5pm. Dinner served at 6pm. Opening program 7:30.
Saturday - Programming all day and early evening.
Sunday - Workshop ends with lunch and raffle around 1pm.

Corner

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

During the month of June I visited Watauga and State of Franklin Groups. It was good to see many familiar faces and make new friends. The Watauga Group meeting that I attended at the home of Rita Cowan and Dennis Shekinah was a group fundraiser that was entertaining and fun! I learned new ways to make my home more energy efficient at the SOFG meeting and enjoyed the hospitality of Diana and Tom Mozen.

The weekend of June 6-8, 20 Sierra Club members became certified in wilderness first aid at the Tennessee Chapter sponsored WFA training held at Fall Creek Falls State Park. I want to publicly thank Webb Griffith for cooking lunch on both training days for the participants and providing other meals to the instructors during the training weekend.

If you missed this WFA training opportunity, please plan on attending our next WFA course to be held October 17-19, 2008 at Laurel Fork Lodge near Hampton, Tenn. The early bird course fee of $225 is available until August 1. After August 1 the course fee will be $250. The non-refundable course fees include training, indoor lodging and Friday supper through Sunday lunch. Please contact me for additional information and to register at Katbug1959@aol.com.

Cherokee Group (Chattanooga area) is moving along with its re-organizational efforts. Ross McCabe gave an excellent presentation on global warming and citizen action tips at the June 30 meeting. Please make plans to attend the July 29 meeting at Sticky Fingers Restaurant on Broad Street in Chattanooga. There still are numerous ways for you to become involved with the group.

As of the end of June, our March Window Fundraising appeal was just shy of raising $15,000. Many thanks go to all who contributed this year. If you have not sent in your donation, please take the time right now to make out your check to the Tennessee Chapter and mail it to P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229. Our chapter still has expenses to cover and we are only halfway through 2008! Your contribution of any amount will be appreciated.

Don’t forget to make plans to attend the summer chapter meeting July 25-27 at Laurel Fork Lodge near Hampton, Tenn. The chapter meetings are family friendly, and we have accommodations for couples or families at Laurel Fork Lodge. You won’t want to miss out on learning how to fly fish or eating the fabulous food that Webb Griffith and the Watauga ladies are going to cook up. Rumor has it that a pig is going to be roasted for Saturday night supper! Come on up to the mountains in upper East Tennessee and escape the late July heat around the state. I’ll look forward to meeting you and hearing about your activities and concerns.

Stay safe and cool this summer!
Katherine Pendleton
Tennessee Chapter Chair
July 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the old St. Bernard’s Academy Building, 2011 21st Avenue South, 4th Floor. Conservation issues are first on the agenda. All members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what’s going on in our shaded corridor. We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group’s conservation initiatives and community activities. For more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Rachel Floyd at rflyo557@bellsouth.net or call 792-2590.

State of Franklin Group (Tri-Cities)

Strategy/Program Monthly Meeting ING: Due to the 4th of July being the week of the SOFG monthly meeting, the meeting will be postponed and picked back up Wednesday, August 6 at the “Acoustic Coffee House – Next Door” on West Walnut in Oak Towne Johnson City. Contact Tom Moonen at moonetee@yahoo.com or 423-232-0827 for further information.

SOFG News

The June meeting featured the Tri-Cities Green Building Coalition and the Johnson City Homebuilders Association presentation of shades of “Green,” a synopsis of degrees of potential energy saving construction and rehabilitation for the built environment.

Upper Cumberland Group (Cooksville)

Meeting: Every 4th Thursday at 7 p.m. in the downtown meeting room of the Putnam County Library. Alternating program meeting with planning meetings every other month. For more information, contact Mary Mastin at marymaston@tvalakes.net or (931-268-2936).

Cherokee Group Meetings

Cherokee Group—Under Re-Organization (Chattanooga)

Meeting: The July 29 meeting will be held from 6:30-7:30 PM at Sticky Fingers Restaurant at 420 Broad Street in Chattanooga, TN. All Cherokee Group members are encouraged to attend this strategy meeting. The group is in re-organization status and is in need of group executive committee members and committee chairs. Contact Barbara Kelly for additional information at triple@chattanoogarnet.net or 423-718-5009.

The August 24 meeting will be a potluck dinner and waterfall hike from 4 PM-7 PM hosted by Emma Ford near the Cherokee National Forest entrance. Contact Emma for directions at emazon2000@yahoo.com.

The September 30 meeting will be held from 6:30 PM in Side B at the Hamilton YMCA, 7430 Shallowford Road in Chattanooga. This meeting will feature a program starting at 7 PM on mountaintop removal. Speaker TBA. A business meeting will be held from 6-7 PM. The ballot for the election of 2009-2011 group executive committee members will be finalized at this meeting. Contact Barbara Kelly for additional information.

Tennessee Chapter Chair Katherine Pendleton will be attending these meetings.

Chickasaw Group (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: July 3 & August 7, 5:30-7:00 pm – Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group’s “First Thursday” monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Anyone interested in learning about the Sierra Club is invited. For more information, contact Juliet Jones at (901) 374-0582 or juliet101@comcast.net.

Chickasaw Group Picnic/Meeting—Open to All! Friday, July 4, 1:00-6:00 pm, Johnson Road Park, Germantown, TN. The Sierra Club 4th of July picnic will be held at Johnson Road Park in Germantown. The executive committee will provide drinks and grilled entrée. Members are encouraged to bring side dishes or desserts. We will be at pavilion number 2. There are bike trails, a fishing lake and a croquet area available.

Strategy Meeting: Monday, July 14 & August 11, 6:30 pm - 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 Nancy Ream by July 11 (July meeting) or August 8 (August meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 759-9416 or nream@aol.com.

Chickasaw Group Sierra Club Film Night, “Kilowatt Ours”

Wednesday, July 16, 7:30pm – Power House, 45 E. Patterson Street, (Main and Front) Kilowatt Ours is the story of filmmaker and conservationist Jeff Barrie’s journey across the U.S. to document our energy-related problems and present practical, cost-saving solutions for consumers. Widespread problems revealed in Kilowatt Ours include mountaintop removal, air pollution, global warming, childhood asthma and mercury contamination. The film illustrates practical solutions that help homeowners save more than $600 per year on energy bills while helping the environment and protecting human health. Dan Joranko of the Kilowatt Ours organization will travel to Memphis to discuss the film with the audience.

Sierra Club film night is hosted by Indie Memphis. Admission is free (with donations accepted), and refreshments will be available. Come early to get a good seat. For more information contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@theecave.com.

Program Meeting – “Industrial Chemistry Helps the Environment”

Thursday, July 24, 7-9pm, Ben’s Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue. A one-of-a-kind high school laboratory training program led by Ms. Sandra A. Upchurch at East Career and Technology Center is teaching high school students to do complex chemical analyses of their environment. Students have performed real-world environmental research in Memphis involving Nonconnah, Cane and Cypress Creeks. Ms. Upchurch will discuss what has been accomplished by the research, the capabilities of the program and upcoming projects. For more information contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@theecave.com.

Television Program:

WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee, - Mondays at 1:30pm, Tuesdays at 4:00pm, Wednesdays at 11:30am & 11:00pm, Thursdays at 7:30pm, Fridays at 7:00pm, and Saturdays at 10:00am, and Sundays at 2:00am.

“The Nature of Conservation” is the Sierra Club’s Chickasaw Group TV program on cable channel 18. For complete schedule listings on cable channel 18, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/schedule.html. For more information about “The Nature of Conservation,” or if any groups or individuals in the community have a special concern and would like to see a program on it, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu.

Yahoo News Group

Sierra Club-Chickasaw Group and Friends is a Yahoo group for members and friends of the Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club (Memphis/West TN). It is an announcement-only email list to send notices of upcoming events and other “green” information of local interest. All announcements are accessible to the public, so you can look up the latest posts anytime! To view and/or join the Yahoo group, go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierrachickasaw/.

Watauga Group (North Eastern TN)

Program Meetings: Every second Thursday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith at glal49797@earthlink.net or 423-727-4797 for more information.
Chickasaw Group News
(Contributed by Various Members)

May Program Meeting
Jack Cowan explained "The Housing Contribution to Global Warming" at the May 22 Chickasaw Group meeting at the Central Library, 3030 Poplar. He talked about how home builders can save money and the environment, too! He also gave tips for saving money and energy to those who live in older homes.

Jack, a Sierra Club member who has his own healthy home performance business (http://cowanhouse.com), explained such terms as Health House (http://healthhouse.org), Energy Star (http://energystar.com) and LEED (http://usgbc.org). His presentation showed those who are renovating as well as building how to ensure their personal comfort while making the world a less dangerously polluted place.

Water Sentinels National Director in Memphis
The forecast wet weather held off as Scott Dye, the national Water Sentinels director, made a stop in Memphis and met several Memphis Chickasaw Group members at Bosco's Square, a local mid-town Memphis eatery.

Joining Scott were Nancy Ream, group chair, as well as group Excom members Keith Hoover and Don Richardson. James Baker, the project director for Tennessee Water Sentinels, was also present.

The group discussed various Water Sentinels activities as well as other activities and strategies over dinner and dessert. Scott talked of his and his wife Jan’s gardening activities that include planting Missouri native shrubs and trees in the backyard of their home in Columbia, Missouri. This will eliminate much mowing and restore about one acre of original habitat for their enjoyment and for wildlife habitat.

The Dyes have hired a zero emissions lawn service to cut what little grass remains on their property. The lawn service, called The Green Team, uses reel push mowers and other non-motorized lawn equipment. It also tows that equipment to the customer’s home on a trailer pulled by a bicycle.

For more information, see http://www.greenteamlawn.com/

Tennessee Sierra Club Program Meeting
The forecast wet weather held off as Scott Dye, the national Water Sentinels director, met several Memphis Chickasaw Group members at Bosco’s Square, a local mid-town Memphis eatery.

Joining Scott were Nancy Ream, group chair, as well as group Excom members Keith Hoover and Don Richardson. James Baker, the project director for Tennessee Water Sentinels, was also present.

The group discussed various Water Sentinels activities as well as other activities and strategies over dinner and dessert. Scott talked of his and his wife Jan’s gardening activities that include planting Missouri native shrubs and trees in the backyard of their home in Columbia, Missouri. This will eliminate much mowing and restore about one acre of original habitat for their enjoyment and for wildlife habitat.

The Dyes have hired a zero emissions lawn service to cut what little grass remains on their property. The lawn service, called The Green Team, uses reel push mowers and other non-motorized lawn equipment. It also tows that equipment to the customer’s home on a trailer pulled by a bicycle.

For more information, see http://www.greenteamlawn.com/

Taking advantage of the discount can reduce the harmful amounts of ground-level ozone in Memphis air because one full bus can take as many as 40 cars off the road. A full-size bus with as few as seven riders is more fuel-efficient than the average single-occupant vehicle.

Ozone is formed when emissions combine with other pollutants and bake in hot temperatures, clear skies and high pressure. Ozone can reduce lung function, aggravate asthma and cause permanent lung disease.

Seniors 65 and older and persons with disabilities with a valid MATA photo ID may ride free from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

To plan your trip, call the MATA hotline at (901) 274-MATA (6282) or visit www.matatransit.com.

Citizens’ Group Holds Monthly Hike in Memphis
Citizens to Preserve Overton Park has been reconstituted and will be leading a hike through the Old Forest the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon.

Hike the trail through the only urban forest of its type in the region. Located in Overton Park, this moderate hike includes portions of the Old Forest Arboretum. Identify native trees and plants in the Old Forest, and learn Memphis History from its original landscape. Meeting place is on the bridge at the end of the Old Forest Lane.

For additional information, contact Naomi Van Tol at (901) 278-2396 or naomi@spiny.com.
Put in at the Peach Orchard access area about 4 miles north of Norris Dam, take out at Highway 61, near Clinton. Distance about 7 miles. This is a relaxing float, with good current but no whitewater. With luck we’ll observe some waterfowl.

Bring a sack lunch and even a cooler if you want. Only very basic canoe skills are necessary for this trip.

Driving time from downtown Knoxville, about 40 minutes. Pre-register with Ron Shreeves at 865-922-5518 or ronaldshreeves@comcast.net (is preferred).

August 2-3, Backpack, North Harpers Creek (North Carolina).

Intrigued by the notion of a weekend backpack in the lower portion of the North Harpers Creek Roadless area?

This year we’ll see the upper portion, which is a wonderland of waterfalls in a high mountain valley. It is a 4.5 mile hike to the end of the old road, then a 1 mile float, with good current but no whitewater. With luck we’ll observe some waterfowl.

Bring a sack lunch and even a cooler if you want. Only very basic canoe skills are necessary for this trip.

Driving time from downtown Knoxville, about 40 minutes. Pre-register with Ron Shreeves at 865-922-5518 or ronaldshreeves@comcast.net (is preferred).
Hooked on Doe Creek
Young Anglers Try their Hand at Fishing

By Gloria Griffith

Veteran anglers Charles Meyers, Webb Griffith and Ron Rainie were on hand to give youths and their parents tips on fishing subjects such as knot tying, tackle rigging and casting techniques. Some tested their skill with a bait casting rod and closed reel. Others practiced the graceful rhythm of fly fishing on Saturday, June 14.

After a few lessons, the students, armed with varying experience and skill levels, headed for the bank of Doe Creek, merely a hundred yards downstream from Radford quarries of Boone, not far from Lake Watauga. With surprising patience and attention to detail, the fishermen barely heard the call for lunch.

While organizing and grilling the picnic lunch, Mike and Janeene Ross viewed their grandsons Jeremy Church, enthusiastically fly cast for the first time. Jean DeLong fished with her daughter, Becky, and two grandchildren, Brandy and Chase Allan. Carl Wolfe brought along two grandchildren, Isaiah and April Wolfe. Other participants were Bronson Triplett, Gaylon and Travis Taylor, and Frieda and Philip Dugger.

This free event was open to adults and kids, and all fishing equipment was supplied. This event, sponsored by Watauga Watershed Alliance in partnership with TNT Outdoors, Sierra Water Sentinels and Watauga Group Sierra Club, gave young people in the community a taste of the great outdoors.

“We want that tradition to continue.”

“We wanted kids and their families to see just how much fun fishing can be,” said Wibert Griffith, Watauga Group Sierra Club outings chair. “Our aim is to get more folks fishing and to encourage the future stewards of rivers and streams, especially Doe Creek, a Tier II quality trout stream currently threatened by an inappropriate siting of an asphalt plant.”

Cherokee Group Reforms After Four-Year Absence

By Katherine Pendleton

After a four-year lapse, the Cherokee Group of the Tennessee Chapter (in the Chattanooga region) is on the move again, being reconstituted following the able leadership of chapter chair Katherine Pendleton. A re-organizational meeting was held May 28 at Herschell Pollard’s Mont Lake cabin with six members attending. Several officers have been appointed and a beginning schedule of monthly meetings has been planned, each one offering a program of interest to members and the general public.

The June meeting featured Dr. Ross McCluney, a research physicist with 30 years of experience as a scientist at the Florida Solar Energy Center and a long-time environmental activist, who offered a slide show titled “Global Warming – Tips for Citizen Action.” He gave a brief overview of global warming followed with a comprehensive discussion of actions that individuals and groups can take to reverse the trend.

“The industrial world is systematically taking apart the life-support system for humans,” McCluney said. “The industrial nations therefore have a responsibility to lead the way in reversing this trend, showing how we can live better while converting to sustainability.”

His slide show is posted at www.futureofhumanity.org/SlideShows/

Outings (Continued)
CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Chickasaw Group Picnic/Meeting—Open to All!
Friday, July 4, 1:00-6:00pm, Johnson Road Park, Germantown, TN.

The Sierra Club 4th of July Picnic will be held at Johnson Road Park in Germantown. The executive committee will provide drinks and grilled entree. Members are encouraged to bring side dishes or desserts. We will be at pavilion number 2. There are bike trails, a fishing lake and a croquet area is available.

Hike the Germantown Wolf River Greenway
Saturday, July 19, 9:00am – Germantown Greenway

This is an easy, 3.3 mile walk alongside the Wolf River in Germantown on a paved trail and is suitable for all the family. There are several points of interest: Tartle Bayou, Blue Heron Rest, a couple of small lakes, the Butterfly Garden, etc.

Bring water to drink, but it should not be too hot in the shade and we’re setting out early. The hike starts at a small parking lot on the north side of Humphreys Boulevard, exactly 0.5 miles east of Kirby Road. After Kirby, you’ll pass at Clark Park Enron Center, cross a bridge, see the “Welcome to Germantown” sign, then turn left through an opening in the median. There’s no sign, but there is an orange metal gate.

For more information, contact Juliet Jones, 374-0582.
Genetically Engineered Food Poses Risks

By Teresa Campbell

Genetic engineering is the DNA manipulation from one organism such as a plant, animal or virus to another in order to change its characteristics. Genetic engineering can only be accomplished in the laboratory. For example, flounder genes have been inserted into tomatoes to make them frost resistant; a gene from the bacterium bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) inserted into corn to make the entire plant an insecticide; and a gene that makes plants resistant to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, engineered into soy so fields can be sprayed with Roundup but only the weeds die.

Corn, Soy, Canola and Cotton

- Genetically engineered foods first appeared on grocery store shelves in 1994 with the FlavrSavr tomato. This tomato did not remain on the market long. However, four other genetically modified organisms (GMO) crops rapidly increased in farming acreage, and the derivatives of these crops are in almost all processed food today. They are soy, canola, cotton and corn.
- Most soy grown in this country is genetically engineered, finding its way into processed food as oil or protein enrichment. Anything sweetened with high fructose corn syrup, America’s favorite sweetener, probably comes from genetically engineered corn. Canola and cotton (we consume cottonseed oil in processed foods) are the other two big GMO crops.

We Have a Label

Many people would like to have GMO foods labeled. In 2002 an Oregon citizen group attempted GMO labeling legislation and put Measure 27 on the Oregon state ballot. Food and chemical biggies such as Monsanto, DuPont, General Mills and H.J. Heinz spent $5.5 million to defeat Measure 27 and were successful.

We don't have a label identifying GMOs, “Certified USDA Organic” does not allow GMO ingredients, so buying organic is your best bet for avoiding genetically engineered foods.

The engineered traits of GMO crops benefit large agribusinesses and seed chemical/agricultural corporations are soaring. Organic and sustainable agriculture programs.

More Good News from Clair Tappaan Lodge

By Olivia Diaz, Co-Chair Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee

You ask, what was the first good news? Clair Tappaan Lodge (CTL) has been on a journey to become self-sustaining again for several years. In 2006, the deficit was $106,000. As of December 31, 2007 the deficit was only $60,000.

In April 2008.

We are finding that having funds in our education account at the Sierra Club at Donner Summit for three nights so our May will look better than it would have without them.

Another source of “more good news” is the number of youth who have come through the doors of the Sierra Club at Donner Summit. Our outdoor education programs at CTL are very new, yet in the past school year we had nearly 1,000 kids and their chaperones staying about 2,000 nights. There are 900 children from the ages of 12-20 who came through our doors.

For the past three years, the occupancy at the lodge has fallen practically to nothing. In 2007, 2006 and 2005 we had an average of 50% occupancy. In 2008 we had nearly 100% occupancy. The large surplus tells us we did better after Easter than in other years.

Any way you look at it, we were able to give a quality experience to the guests.

So the April financial report tells me that we are in good condition coming into the stretch to meet the board of director’s challenge to break even by September 30, 2008 or risk being sold. Come to the fundraiser in August and help us get over the top.