

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 36, Number 3 - March, 2005

Your Help is Needed!

Stop the North Shore Road in the Smokies in the Area North of Fontana Lake

By Ray Payne

The Problem

In what appears to be a never ending battle we must again make it clear to the Department of Interior (National Park Service) that a road must not be constructed in the area north of Fontana Lake in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM). There is a very good solution to the road promised Swain County (by a contract) in 1943 by the Dept. of Interior, that would be constructed if Congress appropriated the funds. This contract is normally referred to as the "1943 Agreement" It=B9s a relatively inexpensive solution, between \$50 and \$60 million dollars paid to Swain County, compared to several hundred million dollars for the construction of a road.

The solution, payment in lieu of a road, avoids: The extreme environmental damage to the north shore area; The terribly high cost to the taxpayers; And, the desecration of the largest mountain roadless area east of the Rocky Mountains while serving no worth while purpose.

In October 2000 Congressman Charles Taylor (R), NC added a rider to the Department of Transportation (DOT) Appropriations Act for 2001. In its entirety it states:

\$16, 000,000 for construction of and improvements to North Shore (NS Rd) Road in Swain County, North Carolina.

Former Senator John Edwards, and the Swain County Board of Commissioners learned about the dirty deed from Congressman Taylor's press release

This rider was attached without notice to or consultation with the public and without the usual public hearings normally held on legislation in the process of being considered by the Congress. The Department of Transportation (DOT) and National Park Service (NPS) did not request the appropriation and learned about it after the legislation was passed.

The proposed NS Rd would be entirely within the GRSM and could be 28 to 39 miles long, depending on the exact location of the road. If constructed it would desecrate the largest roadless tract of mountain land in the eastern US, and would be an environmental disaster. Natural and cultural and archeological history would be bulldozed in to oblivion, the scenic beauty would be destroyed. This scar on the landscape would be visible from the Appalachian Trail for miles far south of the Park. Conservationists and many local residents are working hard to stop this disaster. The conservation organizations have been fighting this road and an alternative, a road from Bryson City, NC to Townsend, TN, since 1965. At that time construction was underway on the current road (Lakeview Drive, 6.2 miles inside the Park) from Bryson City to near Forney Creek.

A local organizations, the Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County, (CEFSC) was organized a little over two years ago to support payment by the federal government to Swain County in lieu of building the road. This organization is open to membership of anyone who cares to join and there are several out of state members including myself (Ray Payne) and Ted Snyder. The CEFSC members and many Swain County residents who chose not to join for a variety of reasons, realize that a payment in lieu of the road will be of far greater economic value to Swain County and easier to get, than a road that may require another 40 years to build. Contact Ray Payne rpayne100@bellfouth.net for info on the CEFSC.



Above - Pilot Ridge is just north of Fontana Lake, and would be heavily impacted by an extension of the Northshore Road.

Brief History of the Problem

On December 17th, 1941, the President signed a bill appropriating funds to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for the construction of Fontana Dam on the Little Tennessee River. Power was needed for the war effort especially for the aluminum smelters at Maryville, TN. TVA immediately started acquiring land for the project and building the dam.

An unpaved road, NC 288, on the north side of the river would be inundated by the lake when filled and residents above the high water line would be isolated without a road access. The road had been built in the early 1920s by the Forney Creek Road District using proceeds from bonds. In 1940 it was in financial difficulty and Swain County, in a general refunding, assumed the bonded indebtedness. The unpaid principal and accrued interest was then \$694,000. The State of North Carolina assumed responsibility for road maintenance. In acquiring land for the lake, TVA would have been obligated to pay compensation to Swain County for this road. To rebuild the road above the high water line would have cost more than the aggregate value of the land to be served. Moreover, the War Production Board advised TVA that expenditure of material and money to reconstruct the road would be denied.

NC 288 traversed a tract of more than 44,000 acres that lay within the approved boundaries of the GRSM, but had never been acquired due to lack of funds. In 1943 an agreement was reached by TVA, the State of North Carolina, Swain County, NC and the Department of Interior. This was the often referred to "1943 Agreement".

With this agreement, the TVA agreed to purchase the

44,000 acres and to transfer this tract to the Dept. of the Interior for inclusion in the Park. Following the purchase of the property the residents would be moved out of the area. This would eliminate the necessity to provide road access to land owners and the small population living on the 44,000 acres. Interior, for its part, agreed that after the end of hostilities (WW II), it would build a replacement road from the eastern boundary of the Park near Bryson city to Fontana Dam. Construction was explicitly made dependent on Congressional appropriations, in these words:

Subject to, and contingent in all respects upon the appropriation by Congress of all funds necessary for such construction, and failure on the part of Congress for any reason to make such appropriations shall not constitute a breach or violation of this agreement by the Department or any other party hereto.

North Carolina agreed to build an access road from Bryson City to the eastern boundary of the Park, to connect with the road Interior was to build, and to contribute \$100,000 toward the acquisition cost of the 44,000 acres.

To help retire the road bond indebtedness which Swain County had assumed, TVA agreed to make a partial payment of \$400,000 to the State, to be held in trust for the County

The existing NC 288 was built to low standards (minimum cuts and fills, sharp curves, unpaved). The road Interior agreed to build was to be a part of its "around the Park" road, then incorporated in the Park Master Plan. The "1943 Agreement" provided that the new road will be a Scenic Drive and shall at a minimum have a dustless surface not less than twenty (20) feet in width.

In 1958 the State of NC built about 2.5 miles from Bryson City to the Park Boundary to connect to the road to be built by the Dept. of Interior in the Park. In the 1960s the Dept. of Interior built about 6.2 miles inside the Park. It was built to Blue Ridge Parkway design standards but with many sharp curves it would have a 18 mph speed limit. This would leave about 30 miles, depending on the

Continued on Page 3



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Tennes-Sierran
The monthly newsletter of the
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Email: TennesSierran@aol.com

Snail Mail: Rachel Floyd, Tennes-Sierran Chief Editor
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ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 5th of the month preceding the new month's issue.

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to TennesSierran@aol.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may 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.

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- Bristol/Johnson City/Kingsport

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Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed

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The Wilderness Act
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By Ray Payne

Continued from Page 1

exact location in the Park, to reach Fontana Dam. Today due to security concerns and the frequent closing of the road across the dam for maintenance on the dam, the road would probably be extended a few miles beyond the dam to connect to NC 28 downstream of the dam, at the headwaters of Cheoah Lake, on the north side.

In 1962, concerned with problems encountered in construction of the first 2.5 miles at the eastern Park boundary which connected to the part built by the State of NC, the NPS convened a committee to review the situation and make recommendations for future construction. The committee found extreme slippage of soil and rocks from tops of cuts to toe of fills. The slopes were determined to be at risk for further slippage, creating high maintenance costs and dangers to travelers. The Anakeesta formation, a serious water pollutant that generates sulphuric acid, was also encountered.

The committee's report stated: The committee is of the opinion that on Project 9A1 [the first 2.5 miles] the 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 plans for Project 9A2 which is known to involve terrain even more severe, ---- The committee is of the opinion that continuation of such damage to natural park values is indefensible from either the standpoint of conservation of visitor use.

The 6.2 miles from the eastern Park boundary was completed to and including the tunnel, but no more appropriations were requested for additional construction. Prior to discontinuing construction of the NS Rd, NC 28 was constructed south of Fontana Lake providing high speed access between Fontana Dam and Bryson City. This road also provided expansive views of the Parks high country with Fontana Lake in the foreground. NC 28 fulfills the needs that the NS Rd would have provided.

The Cemeteries Issue

Many pro-road supporters claim that they were promised this road to provide access to several cemeteries in the north shore area. NOT SO. There is no mention whatsoever of cemeteries in the "1943 Agreement". But, in response to their claims the NPS began a program of providing boat access across the lake and, vehicle transport inside the Park in vans using newly graded old roads and logging railroad beds to get to the cemeteries. This service is provide free and the NPS pledged to continue it. When the GMP was issued in 1982, provisions for this service were included in it.

In 1943 when the land was being acquired, TVA offered to move the remains of the deceased from all of the cemeteries in this area and re-inter them at a local, accessible cemetery of the families choice or a special cemetery established for the purpose of the Fontana project. There were many cemeteries below the high water line and these remains had to be removed. All of the family spokespersons declined this offer even though the families were warned that access to them on the north shore would be difficult after the lake was filled. The North Shore Cemetery Association, organized to support the road, took the issue to Federal Court. They lost when the Supreme Court refused to hear their case.

Environmental Law Have Changed

In 1943 there were few if any, specific laws designed to protect the environment. Since then there have been major changes with the enactment of such laws as:

- The Wilderness Act
- The Department of Transportation Act
- The Federal Aid Highways Act
- The Clean Water Act
- The Clean Air Act
- The Endangered Species Act
- and others.

The "1943 Agreement" is not exempt from these laws.

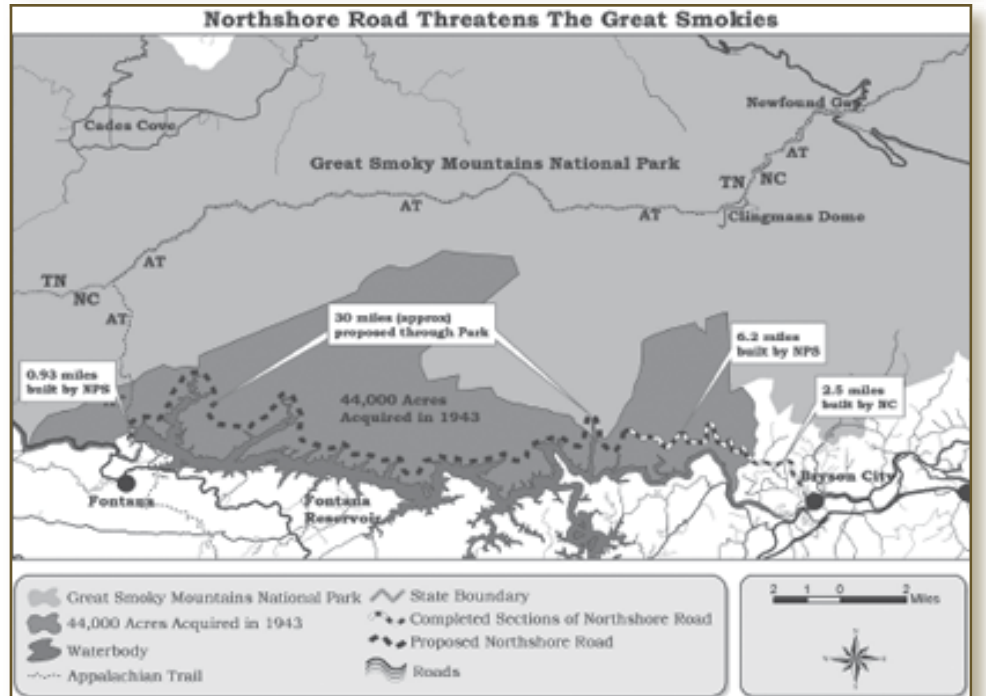
Settling the Controversy

Beginning in the late 1970s there have been repeated efforts to find a substitute for building the road. In meeting after meeting, involving the parties to the "1943 Agreement", federal officials, state officials, representatives of the Swain County citizens, conservationists, and members of the Congress, the conclusion was reached that the best solution to the problem was to pay

Top - Construction along the Northshore Road in 1964. Note that this photo was taken by the late Harvey Broome, the namesake of the Knoxville Sierra Club Group and co-founder of the Wilderness Society.



Bottom - "Construction of this road, which would take place entirely within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, would be an environmental disaster of epic proportions."



Swain County a lump sum of money, put in trust for the benefit of its citizens. The amount proposed to be paid has increased with the passage of time. Today the amount being considered at this time is \$52 million. That amount can and should escalate with the passage of time. Today a realistic cost estimate made by a reputable highway engineering firm would show that building the road would cost several hundred million dollars. If the Congress conducted its business in an honest, ethical, and logical manner in dealing with this problem, decades would pass before this amount of money is appropriated to build this road. The price of \$52 million plus some escalation is a bargain basement price to resolve this controversy and fulfill the moral obligation to the people of Swain County.

The CEFSC has worked diligently toward the settlement of this controversy. They realize that a payment of money in lieu of building the road as discussed above, is the best for Swain County's citizens. They are working closely with the environmental organizations toward this end. Through their effort the Board of Commissioners of Swain County voted 4 to 1 to support this position. They also convinced the Governor of NC to support them. The Dept. of Interior has been informed by both the Governor of NC and the Swain County Commission of their support for payment in lieu of the Road. The TVA couldn't care less. For no logical reason the Dept. of Interior refuses to hear them.

But you can help get the attention of the Department of Interior

In 2003 the Dept. of Interior began the NEPA process, using the appropriated \$16 million, to determine a way to resolve the controversy. This is unnecessary and a senseless waste of money but that's the way the government works. A new round of public information meeting necessitated by the NEPA process is now scheduled. This will be the last of the public meetings until the draft EIS is released to the public later this year. Following these meetings the alternates to be studied for inclusion in the draft EIS will be selected. YOUR involvement in these meetings can make a difference. You should attend at least one of them and preferably more than one. The NPS admits that the attendance of the same persons at more that one public meeting on an issue undergoing the NEPA process influences the final decision.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, February 22
- Swain County High School
- Center for the Arts Auditorium
- 1415 Fontana Road
- Bryson City, NC

- Thursday, February 24
- Robbinsville High School Auditorium
- 301 Sweetwater Road
- Robbinsville, NC

- Monday, February 28
- Renaissance Asheville
- Grand Ballroom
- One Thomas Wolfe Plaza
- Asheville, NC

- Tuesday, March 1
- Marriott Knoxville
- Mississippi Room
- 500 Hill Avenue SE
- Knoxville, TN

- Thursday, March 3
- Glenstone Lodge
- Azalea Room
- 504 Historic Nature Trail
- Gatlinburg, TN

Send comments US Mail or email
North Shore Road Project
Great SmokyMountains National Park
PO Box 30185
Raleigh, NC 27622

Email: northshoreroad@arcadis-us.com

As announced by the National Park Service

Project Update (from the North Shore Road website: <http://www.northshoreroad.info/>). The project schedule has been updated to provide time to complete necessary fieldwork and a thorough analysis of the study alternatives for the North Shore Road Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Evaluations of the alternatives' impacts and estimated costs will be presented at the February/March 2005 public workshops in North Carolina and Tennessee. The public is encouraged to participate in this important workshop series. This is the last public participation opportunity prior to selection of the preferred study alternative. Comments collected from the public will be considered along with prior public input in the selection of the preferred study alternative. The Draft EIS, which will announce the preferred study alternative, will be available for public review later in 2005 and will be immediately followed by a series of formal public hearings.

Meetings

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Fourth Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Programs on environmental issues, travel, nature photography are among the many topics featured at SOFG program meetings. FMI: Mary Gavlik, Vice Chair, (423) 434-9535, mlgav@yahoo.com.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, March 8, 2004, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Our March program is our 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.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, March 22, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. If you're interested in getting more involved or in finding out about what drives the Sierra Club in this area, this is the meeting to attend. Call Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840 for more information.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, (March 10), 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. Please join us for an enjoyable evening of food, conversation and education in which Dodd Galbreath of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture will present a slide show, "Natural Drainage: A Vision for Ellington Agricultural Center and Seven Mile Creek Watershed," a discussion of new concepts in storm water and water quality management.

After the presentation, we will have a brief discussion of recent government actions or decisions that affect the environment and what we, as a group, can do to help protect our natural resources. Volunteer opportunities available with our group will be highlighted.

Light refreshments will be served; please feel free to bring your favorite reusable cup and napkin. For more information on this program, contact Shelli Dimarco at (615) 260-0030. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) Non-members are always welcome!

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, (March 23) at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are first on the agenda! Bring your re-usable cup and sack dinner, or snack on refreshments provided by our group and get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting at 2021 21st Avenue South (the old St. Bernard Academy Building). We meet on the 4th floor. 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 Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Caty Butcher at jlclbutch@comcast.net or call 226-8925.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Contact Peggy Evans at 931-432-6680 or maevans@TWLakes.net for more information on program meeting dates and times.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS: First Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. All SOFG members are encouraged to get active now to help us organize for environmental victory in November! FMI: Dan Grace, Pol.Com. Chair, (423) 926-7035, dangrace@worldnet.att.net.

STRATEGY MEETINGS: Second Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. These Executive Committee/Conservation meetings are open to everyone interested in helping to protect upper east TN's air, water, forests & family farms. To place an item on the agenda, or for directions to the Church, please contact Linda Modica, Group Chair, (423) 753-9697, lcmodica@aol.com.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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

STRATEGY MEETING: - The Executive Committee of the Cherokee Chapter meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at Spangler Farms/Greenway Farms off Hamil Road in Hixson. These strategy meetings are open to the public and your participation is encouraged. The next meeting is Thursday March 24th at 5:30 PM

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, March 3, 2005, 6:00 - 8:00pm - 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 Membership Chair Jill Johnston <jdjhstn@memphis.edu> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING: Sunday, March 13, 2005, 1:00 - 3:00pm - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join James Baker, the Conservation Chair in a casual setting to discuss conservation issues and interests that affect the Chickasaw Group. Contact James Baker at (901) 372-6717 or aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, March 14, 2005, 6:30pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell Street, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. For more information, contact Charlie Rond <chasrond@bellsouth.net> (by March 9 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150.

THIRD TUESDAY GATHERING: Tuesday, March 15, 2005, 6:00 - 8:00pm - Cafe Francisco, 400 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "THIRD TUESDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston <jdjhstn@memphis.edu> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, March 23, 2005, 6:00 pm - Memphis Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee Our March program will be a panel discussion about the Riverwoods Natural Area in Germantown. The Riverwoods Natural Area is being threatened as the City of Germantown wants to complete a two-mile section of the Wolf River Parkway through this Natural Area. On our panel in March, we will have Jeanne Arthur, Conservation Chair of the Memphis Garden Club; Keith Kirkland, Executive Director of the Wolf River Conservancy, and James Baker, Conservation Chair of the Chickasaw Group. They will discuss the impacts of potential road development on the Riverwoods, and on every Natural Area in Tennessee. For more information, contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: Every Monday at 1:30pm, Tuesday at 4:00pm and Wednesday at 11:30am, CST, The Library Channel, Memphis Cable 18, WYPL, "The Nature of Conservation" is sponsored by the Sierra Club. For March, James Baker our Conservation Chair will substitute for Judith as he interviews Jeanne Arthur, Conservation Chair of the Memphis Garden Club. They will discuss a brief history of the Garden Club, its relationship with the Riverwoods Natural Area and the history and challenges facing that area. Earlier Judith interviewed Park Director Steve Smith of Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park to discuss what the park has to offer, its challenges and its history. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 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 Rutschman <RUTSCHMAN@rhodes.edu> at (901) 767-5916.

Sign on to Save Our Smokies!

To subscribe to the Greater Smoky Mountains Coalition (a.k.a. Save Our Smokies - SOS) listserve, just send a blank email to:

Greater_Smoky_Mountains_Coalition-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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If you would like to be active in the Save Our Smokies campaign, please contact Beverly Smith at 865/531-8480 or blsmith1300@comcast.com
 Your help would be greatly appreciated!

FIELD NOTES

Autumn 2004

By Richard Simmers

This was an unusual autumn season, with plenty of rain and relatively warm temperatures, especially in October and November. September again had much more rain than average (most of it from 2 dissipating hurricanes). October, normally our driest month, was wetter than August, and decidedly wetter than average; considerable rain with thunderstorms fell October 19, with reportedly over 5" in Nashville, only about 2 1/2-3" E of Monterey at my place there (hereafter "G"). The first touch of frost was on October 17, enough to kill or injure some of my tender vegetables at "G", although Seminal pumpkins and a few tomatoes were still in bloom early in November. October 29 was rather hot (80's) in Cookeville, and it continued warm until November 4. Chilly mornings (with some frost) returned November 5-8; there was a heavy frost November 9, another November 15, and a freeze likely about the 26th (I was away). A midnight thunderstorm occurred November 23-24. November rainfall at Crossville through the 29th was about 4 1/2"; pouring rain on the 30th was around 3 1/2" from Cookeville to E of Monterey. Early December had some frosts, and some heavy rains with flooding. My first snowflakes seen were on December 11 (non accumulation); I saw ice on my ponds December 25. Fluffy snow fell December 14, followed by a hard freeze in the teens (16 F reported for Monterey on 15th).

In view of this weather, it is not very surprising that there was an early fall color peak around October 20 and a later color peak in mid-November near Monterey. I noticed a good many maples, scarlet oaks, wild (black) cherry saplings, even some sweet gums and tuliptrees ("poplars") with colorful foliage November 21-22. Japanese maples were magnificently colored in late November in brilliant reds; at least 2 in Cookeville were still colorful December 5 or later. On December 1, heading for Nashville, I observed elms, red and sugar maples, oaks, and sweet gums with colored foliage (not browns) along I-40 in western Putnam Co.; a few birches, sycamores, and willows still had leaves into December. Bradford pears had a very colorful foliage in the first two weeks of December, but the hard freezes ended that. On kudzu vines, I noticed considerable green or yellowish unfrozen foliage. E of Brotherton as late as December 13, several days later than the last previous record here of December 7, 2001, a very mild year. At "G" essentially all deciduous tree foliage had gone by the end of November, though I did note a seedling scarlet oak with red leaves December 16 (the kudzu foliage had all been killed by that morning).

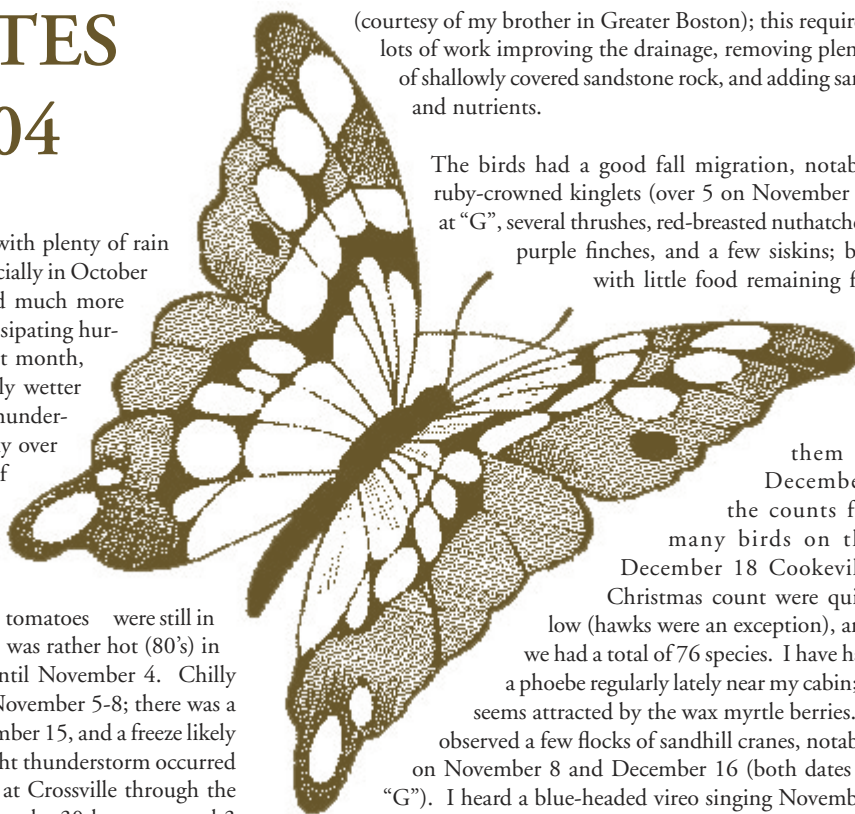
I will mention here that the latest Arnoldia has an article discussing keeping track of flowering dates over a long period of years, ideally from the same individual plant, in order to track the effects of global warming; they were using lilacs, dogwoods, silverbells, magnolias (probably the early-blooming exotics), apples, flowering cherries, azaleas and others for this purpose, at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston. I will note that there was a fine flowering display this November on several Japanese flowering cherries, presumably the often late fall-blooming cultivar "Jugatsu", at the Food Lion parking lot on the E side of Cookeville; one of these had its upper branches bare of leaves and with plenty of blooms while its lower branches had red-orange leaves and no flowers. There were quite a few other plants that normally bloom in Mar-Apr that had at least a few flowers open, including 2 paulownias, this November, nearly all of these were exotics.

And on the subject of (invasive) exotics, I am sad to report the continued increase in numbers of many woody exotics. Amur honeysuckle, the bush that ate Nashville, (it is very abundant there and in Knoxville), is a numerous weed in Cookeville, often in yards, and is showing up in the Monterey area. I located ten "burning bushes" (*Euonymus alata*) along a short stretch of roadside on Seven Springs Rd (near Cookeville), and I noticed 3 along Brotherton Mt. Road. Oriental bittersweet's yellow foliage, often decorated with its orange and red fruits, is now widespread around Cookeville; up North this is as bad a pest as is Japanese honeysuckle locally. Privet continues to thrive. Collyer pears, often seedlings from Bradford pears and often thorny, are increasingly a pest around Nashville and undoubtedly elsewhere.

My veggie garden continued to yield late into the fall. I had a second (volunteer) crop of peas! Tomatoes and pole beans self-seeded also, but froze out; some lettuce volunteered here and there. My seminole pumpkins produced a few smallish deep green fruits that continued to ripen after I brought them home. Amazingly, one of my much-chewed cowpeas yielded some pods for a couple of meals at least. The collards were attacked by caterpillars (which I removed) early, then produced greens for several lunches well into December. The parsnips have not been harvested. In December I finally finished filling in (except for some sand and organic amendments for the top) a large new bed for next season (it had been dug over 2' deep in places, and had to be drained by a ditch). Near the garden, on a mound to which had been added aglime, greensand, and rotting garbage plus compost, the best, greenest grass on the place had come up. I spent some time renovating an old bearded iris bed, and planted several yarrows (grown in pots from seeds) alongside. I began laying out a shrub garden, and planted a few lilacs obtained from the Arnold Arboretum September plant sale

(courtesy of my brother in Greater Boston); this required lots of work improving the drainage, removing plenty of shallowly covered sandstone rock, and adding sand and nutrients.

The birds had a good fall migration, notably ruby-crowned kinglets (over 5 on November 5) at "G", several thrushes, red-breasted nuthatches, purple finches, and a few siskins; but with little food remaining for



them in December, the counts for many birds on the December 18 Cookeville Christmas count were quite low (hawks were an exception), and we had a total of 76 species. I have had a phoebe regularly lately near my cabin; it seems attracted by the wax myrtle berries. I observed a few flocks of sandhill cranes, notably on November 8 and December 16 (both dates at "G"). I heard a blue-headed vireo singing November 1, 3 and 5 at "G", and winter wrens singing, one November 15 at "G", another December 8 at Barnes Hollow (B.H. henceforth).

I had a few noteworthy butterflies this fall, including a red-spotted purple October 29 in Cookeville, several monarchs and cloudless sulphurs, a common checkered-skipper (finally) October 31 ("G"),

a gulf fritillary November 6 (B.H.), 2 buckeyes Nov 7 (Spring Creek), and a very late clouded skipper November 14 (BH). I observed also late tuliptree beauty moths (*Epimectis*) outside my cabin November 11 and December 6. I added a "leadback"-phase zigzag salamander to my amphibian found list at "G" November 12, digging it out of a ditch line; [LEADBACK] its tail looked quite bluish when I first found it.

You might suppose, perhaps, that I can identify nearly all of the organisms that I observe; such is not the case. On October 30 I took a now-infrequent walk in my woods at BH. I noticed damage to several mature beeches and tuliptrees, probably from the July storms. Looking for acorns and other tree seeds, I found none (in sharp contrast to 2003). I did spot 6 interesting noctuid moths perched head-up on tree trunks, quite variable in pattern and size, but not clearly identifiable using Covell's A Field Guide to The Moths, which illustrates several hundred species of this huge family; these were similar to *Paectes abrostoloides*, but not very. Nearby on a sycamore trunk, I saw what suggested a moving piece of bark encrusted with lichens and mosses; this was some kind of hunting spider, rather like a wolf spider (*Lycosid*), with pale green tints on its body, well-camouflaged among lichens. Earlier, back-lit in a shaft of sunlight, fairly low down, I noticed several slow-flying moths, probably aphids. A dull grayish fly, suggesting a too-large housefly but likely a parasitical tachinid, ran nervously around on green foliage, then flew to the fallen leaf. A well-camouflaged beige geometrid moth suggesting *Antepione* thisoaria was on some dead leaves.

Browsing through TTU library journals recently, I located a 2002 article in *Ecology* by Longino (and others) discussing ants at La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica, in the lowland rain forest. For a roughly 1500-hectare area, there were collected (over

Continued on Page 8

Dear Sierra Club Friends, and Friends of your Friends,

My name is Tallahassee May and I am a farmer in Turnbull Creek Farm in Bon Aqua, Tennessee, just outside of Nashville. Here in Bon Aqua, we have a small family farm that **specializes in high quality and organically grown produce**, herbs, and flowers. For the past few years we have been selling our goods at the Franklin Farmers Market, where customers love our tender lettuce mixes, baby summer squashes, variety of heirloom and European eggplants, peppers, and tomatoes, aromatic fresh herbs and our stunning flower bouquets. We really enjoy being there! This season, we are extending the opportunity to get fresh, local organic produce to more people in the Nashville area. Together with Drury Family Farm, also a small organic farm in Bon Aqua, we are forming the Fresh Harvest Cooperative.

The Fresh Harvest Cooperative is a way for you to access delicious, healthy produce that is absolutely fresh. Begin your subscription by placing a small deposit on account with us, and then once a week, you can place an order from the variety of vegetables, herbs, and flowers that are available. We will deliver it to a pick up point in Nashville (Trinity Church in Green Hills). If you have a bunch of people who want to sign up from your workplace, we are also willing to consider workplace deliveries.

This is a subscription service where you will be choosing what you receive and when. You are not obligated to purchase produce every week. For example, on Monday you will receive an email letting you know what we have available and the pricing. In July it may be an offering of corn, cherry and slicing tomatoes of many varieties, summer squashes (zucchini, yellow, pattypan, Italian and Middle eastern varieties), cucumbers, baby potatoes, carrots, greens (kale, chard, and Asian greens), oriental eggplant, sweet peppers of all colors, basil, sunflowers, and even more! You let us know by Tuesday what you would like. Your order will be picked and delivered by Wednesday. The subscription service starts in May and continues into October.

If you are interested and would like to learn more about the Fresh Harvest Cooperative and our subscription service, or about our farms, please email me at Turnbullcreek@bellsouth.net, or call at 615-412-5650. We look forward to hearing from you soon. The growing season is just around the corner!

Thanks!
Tallahassee May

Outings

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/SignIn-Waiver.PDF>, or call 415-977-5630, for a printed version. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

March 12-13 (Sat-Sun). Backpack - Citico Creek Wilderness. We'll drive to Farr Gap at the north end of the Wilderness, then hike the Fodderstack trail along the ridge separating the Citico Creek and Slickrock Creek areas. We'll camp at Big Stack Gap (4.2 mi), where



Ten Essentials for Hiking

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

1. Adequate map
2. First aid kit
3. Compass
4. Rain gear
5. Extra clothing (it is a good idea to always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Knife
8. Flashlight
9. Extra food, water
10. The tenth essential. You decide what is the most important thing to bring!

the Mill Branch Trail intersects with the Fodderstack trail. Sunday, we'll have time to explore the Big Fodderstack before heading down the mountain on the Pine Ridge Trail (0.8 + 3.5 mi), to end near the Warden Station on Doublecamp Road. This is an easy hike, with 4.2 miles on Saturday, and 4.3 miles on Sunday (mostly downhill). Driving time from Knoxville, about 2 hours. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or email rshrieve@utk.edu (email is preferred).

March 19 (Sat), Day hike - GSMNP Smokemont Loop-Bradley Fork Trail. We'll hike the Smokemont Loop trail from the Smokemont Campground to the Bradley Fork Trail, which will bring us back to the campground. Bradleystown was the original name of Smokemont, which acquired its current name when a town grew up around a sawmill used by Champion Fibre Company. We'll visit the Bradley Cemetery and hopefully see some early spring wildflowers along the way. This is a hike for you folks who've requested easier hikes. Hike 6.1 miles, rated easy. Pre-register with Barbara Allen at 865-558-9214 or b-tallen@msn.com.

April 2 (Sat, 9 AM). Thirteenth Annual Greenways 5K Race. The HBG cosponsors (with the Knox Greenways Coalition and Knoxville Track Club) 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; by mail before race day. Cost is \$ 15 if pre-registered, \$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 Will Skelton for information/applications: Home 523-2272, Work 521-0363; email whshome@bellsouth.net.

April 3 (Sun). Day hike - GSMNP to Mt. LeConte via Boulevard and down Alum Cave Bluff. We'll hike from Newfound Gap on the AT to the Boulevard. The trail travels a rambling route northward on and near the crest of the Boulevard to Mt. LeConte. From the Boulevard's crest you can look into Porters Creek valley. We'll pass over Anakeesta Knob, which is the high point of Anakeesta Ridge and on to Mt. LeConte. From Mt. LeConte we'll descend on the Alum Cave Bluff Trail, the steepest trail to Mt. LeConte and probably the most used trail. Hike 12.9 miles, rated moderate. Round trip drive approx. 130 miles. Pre-register with Barbara Allen at 865-558-0214 or b-tallen@msn.com.

April 9-10 (Sat-Sun). Backpack - Benton MacKaye Trail, Upper Bald River

Wilderness, Cherokee National Forest. The new Benton MacKaye Trail, from Springer Mountain in Georgia to the Smokies, is now nearly completed in the CNF. It passes through the CNF's proposed Upper Bald River Wilderness and we're going to backpack the section from the Tellico River to the Bald River Road. The trail climbs over Sugar Mountain and is about 7 miles of relatively easy hiking. Saturday night we'll camp on the trail below Sugar Mountain, and may explore Bald River off-trail to its uppermost headwaters. Rated Easy. Pre-register with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; W 521-6200; whshome@bellsouth.net.

MIDDLE TN GROUP (Nashville)

Thursday - Sunday, March 3-6 - Volunteer at our booth at the Lawn and Garden Show. All shifts needed. Must be outgoing, happy people and willing to approach people as they walk by. Get into the show FREE by volunteering. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com.

Friday - Sunday, March 4-6 - Pickett State Park Backpack- Stormy weather prevented us from backpacking the Hidden Passage Trail in November, so let's try this again! We will stay at the campground Friday night and backpack the Hidden Passage Trail (11 mile moderate loop trail) on Sat./Sun. Let's plan to eat supper Friday night at Bacara's German restaurant. This trip is suitable for beginners. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at Katibug1959@aol.com or 615-360-3481 after 8 p.m., or leave a message.

Friday - Sunday, March 11-13 - Savage Gulf Backpack - This trip will begin at the Savage Ranger Station. On Friday, we'll hike the South Rim Trail to Stagecoach Campsite and spend the night (6 miles and moderate). Saturday our hike will take us to Hobb's Cabin via the Stagecoach Road and Connector Trails (approx. 5 miles and moderate to strenuous) where we will camp. Sunday, we will end up back at the ranger station via the North Rim Trail (approx. 8 miles, moderate). The trails on this hike offer scenic overlooks and historic stone architecture. The Stagecoach Trail was originally a Stagecoach road built in the 1800s. This is an intermediate rated backpacking trip. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at Katibug1959@aol.com or 615-360-3481 after 8 p.m., or leave a message.

Saturday March 12 - Creek Cleanup - We will meet to cleanup a local creek bed. Bring your own gloves, boots, etc. Start at 9 a.m. and stay till noon. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com for details.

Sunday, March 13 - Early Wildflower Hike - Early search for wildflowers hike, location to be decided. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, March 15 - Dinner and Friends- Join us for a social night

out, dinner at a restaurant, location to be decided. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com.

Saturday, April 2 - -Murfreesboro Wetlands of Sinking Creek Cleanup - Meet at the Crossing strip mall on Memorial Drive for cleanup of a local creek bed. This is a joint venture between the Stones River Watershed Association and the Sierra Club. Call Heloise at 615-896-6278, or e-mail her at stillwild@bellsouth.net for a time and what to bring.

Sunday, April 3 - Old Stone Fort Wildflower Scouting - Walk for four or five miles in the afternoon, along the riverside and the ridge. The bluebells and hepatica should be in bloom (and maybe 40 others!). Call Heloise at 615-896-6278, or e-mail her at stillwild@bellsouth.net.

NOTE: Places and times are subject to change. Contact the outings leader for further information, and check the newsletter or website (<http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/mtgoutings.htm>) for updates. Also, all participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Saturday, March 19 - 8 mile hike - Bald River Gorge (Cherokee NF) This is a joint hike with the Chattanooga Hiking Club along a quiet stream to a beautiful waterfall. You must pre-register for this event. Call Chris at 867-4957 for more info.

Thursday, April 7 - 4 mile walk - Tennessee Riverpark (Downtown Chattanooga) We begin our Summer Hiking Series with the return of our Thursday evening hikes. Meet Susan Faidley at the south end of the Walnut Street Bridge @ 5:30PM for a 3-4 mile walk along the Tennessee Riverpark from downtown out past the old Sandbar Restaurant.

Saturday, April 16 - 12 mile hike (3000' elevation gain) Big Frog Mountain (Cherokee NF) This will be one of our more rigorous outings of the year. Join Terry Miller on an all-day outing to Big Frog Mountain deep inside the Cherokee National Forest. Meet at Hardees in Ooltewah (exit 11 off I-75) @ 8AM

For information on upcoming outings, contact Chris O'Connor at chris_o77@yahoo.com or visit our web site at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee/index.htm>

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

DISCLAIMER: The following activities are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. They are published

only as a service to our members. The Sierra Club makes no representation or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of these activities. Transportation to the outing, including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

OLD FOREST HIKE: Saturday, March 12, 2004 - 10:00am - The Old Forest Trail. 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-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 <donrich@juno.com> at (901) 276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends.

OMAR ROBINSON ROAD CLEAN-UP: Saturday, March 19, 2005, 9:00am-12:00 Noon - Meet at the Douglass Community Center at 1616 Ash Street. We will work on Omar Robinson Road in the Douglass Community to clean up the illegally dumped materials and litter that have a potential for getting into the Wolf River. Contact James Baker <aubrey_kimo@worldnet.att.net> at (901) 826-2448 for more information.

V&E GREENLINE HIKE: Saturday, March 26, 2005 - 9:00am-12noon - V&E Greenline, Memphis, Tennessee. Bill Rehberg will lead volunteers for regular greenline "spruce-up". At 11am we will break away to do a hike along the 1.7 mile length of the greenline. Meet in front of St. John's Orthodox Church at 1663 Tutwiler and we will then go to the section of the greenline being spruced. If you are unable to do the clean-up you can show up at 11am and just do the walk. Please let coordinator know if you are coming so you can be contacted in case of cancellation or time change. Contact Judith Hammond at (901) 276-2819.

SHELBY FOREST WILDFLOWER HIKE: Saturday, April 2, 2005, 10:00am - Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, Memphis, Tennessee. Chickasaw Group Chair Charlie Rond will lead this wildflower hike at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park on the first Saturday in April. A number of wildflowers such as Blue Phlox, Solomon's Seal, Spicebush and various Violets should be in bloom. Meet at the visitors center at 10:00am. Bring water and a sack lunch or snacks. Raingear may be needed and boots or sturdy tennis shoes if it is muddy.

Volunteer Opportunity!

To help the Middle Tennessee Group, to help our senior and disabled recyclers, to have fun and to meet other Sierran's, please consider volunteering at our recycling site at the Elysian Fields Kroger in Nashville. The site is open Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00. You will have at least one other person working with you, and you can choose to volunteer only when it is convenient for you, whether that is just one time, monthly, quarterly, or every few months. Please call Recycling Coordinator David Bordenkircher at 333-3377 (H) or 741-1597, or e-mail him at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com.

Many thanks to DariusThieme for many weeks of devoted work at our recycling site!



3rd Annual Wilderness First Aid Training

April 16th & 17th

Fall Creek Falls State Park

A wilderness first aid course where you invest 16 hours for a 2 year certification

By Diane Perschbacher Phifer, Katherine Pendleton and Gary Bowers, Co-organizers

Join us for the third annual Sierra sponsored wilderness first aid training (WFA) the weekend of April 16th and 17th 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. Landmark's WFA training, as described on their website:

WFA - Wilderness First Aid - 16 hours / 2-yr certification. Originally called Backcountry First Aid, this course was the first wilderness medical training to be taught anywhere in the world. WFA covers the basics and the most common traumatic, medical, and environmental issues that occur in the backcountry.

Class includes:

- the anatomy of a crisis
- the correct procedure to protect yourself and others on your trip while caring for the injured
- the patient assessment survey
- vital signs
- the physical exam
- shock
- blisters
- burns
- hypothermia
- frostbite
- lightning
- allergies
- muscular skeletal injuries (ie, sprains and strains)
- fractures
- splints
- dislocations

This class does not include CPR.

This educational weekend features top notch first aid training in an outdoor setting by instructors that have actual in the field experience. Last year's training featured hands on learning, fellowship, group dining and just plain fun. Here are some quotes from previous year's participants.

"An excellent course-very informative-very knowledgeable creative instructors-a must for all trip leaders or anyone who hikes outside organized trips." -- Miram McClendon

"There is no way that anyone should venture into the backcountry without a basic level of competence in first aid. The WFA course should be at the top of everyone's skill acquisition wish list. Simply outstanding." -- Tim Scholl

"A highly recommended course...essential learning for anyone who ventures into the backcountry, and a great group of folks with similar interests. I thoroughly enjoyed it." -- Robin Johnston

When: April 16th and 17th
 Where: Fall Creek Falls State Park
 What is included: Training by highly qualified instructors, mid-morning snacks, lunch, mid-afternoon snacks
 What is not included: Breakfast, dinner, lodging
 Lodging: We plan to camp in the state park. Make your own arrangements.
 Cost: \$135, non-refundable (we commit to Landmark, you commit to Sierra)
 Payment due: Hurry! Payment due in full by March 15th
 Other: Membership in Sierra is required. You can join on line at <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/> or Katherine can send you a membership form. Introductory memberships are \$25.
 Questions: Contact Katherine Pendleton at 615/943-6877 evenings or email at katibug1959@aol.com.

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

enroll now. To enroll, please complete the form below and send it to Katherine Pendleton. Katherine must receive your check by March 15th to insure your reservation in this top notch training program.

3rd Annual First Aid Wilderness Training Registration Form

Name _____ Phone # _____
 Street _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Previous 1st Aid Training _____

I am interested in camping with the other training participants YES ___ NO ___

Group Dinner at the Lodge YES ___ NO ___

Non-refundable payment of \$135 is due by March 15th

NOTE - breakfast, dinner and lodging not included

Please send payment to:

Katherine Pendleton - 105 Catamaran Court - Nashville, TN 37217



Defenders of Tennessee 2005 NEEDS YOUR Help to Reach Our Goal!

The Chapter's annual **Defenders of Tennessee** campaign brings in only a portion of the funds that we need to carry out our legislative and lobbying activities, and we must make up the balance out of our dwindling reserves. **We have not yet reached our goal this year,** and we urge all Sierrans who have not yet joined the **Defenders** to join as your 2005 gift to the environment.

The Defender fund, 8 years old this year, makes possible the effective work of our Legislative Committee and our lobbyist as they, and we, strive to protect Tennessee's environment. Your contribution is not tax-deductible but is critical in enabling us to continue to this vital program. All contributions, regardless of size, are very much appreciated. *We are proud that this campaign is a volunteer activity, so all donations go to support the Defenders.*

The Sierra Club gives heartfelt appreciation to this month's contributors to the **Defenders of Tennessee**

(January 5 - February 7)

- Anonymous
- Brian Eason
- Charlie High
- Corinne Giagnorio and Van Bunch
- David Bordenkircher
- Deborah Narrigan
- Dick and Nicole Mochow
- Don and Teri Scharf
- Dr. Wallace and Pat Bigbee
- Drew and Laurie Danko
- Eileen Segal
- Gary Bowers
- Gene and Ruth Van Horn
- Harry Hodgdon
- Keith Kirkland
- Margaret Olson
- Michael and Lisa Jones
- Naomi Van Tol
- Paul and Margaret Sloan
- Ray Conatser
- Russell Yttri
- William Stubblefield

PLEASE fill out the form below and send your check made out to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. **BE A DEFENDER! Thank you!**

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

*Email: _____

*Optional - Your e-mail address, if you want to receive acknowledgment of your donation electronically rather than by letter. We will not use email addresses for other purposes.

FIELD NOTES

Autumn 2004

By Richard Simmers

Continued from Page 4

a good many years) a total of 437 ant species, 6 of which have not been found elsewhere. (For comparison, the California ant fauna, as of 2003, totals 277 species.) This is a more definite figure than what E.O. Wilson provides in *The Density of Life*. It will be a long time before any team can compile a field guide to the ants of tropical America I suspect; and likely a good many ants have been driven to extinction. Keep in mind that ants are dominant insects (in terms of biomass) in many ecosystems.

In the latest *American Birds* (Vol. 58), summarizing the 104th Christmas Bird Count mostly, there is an article (pp. 26-33) discussing the effects on birds caused by the massive spruce budworm outbreak in eastern Canada during the 1970's, which at its 1975 peak affected 55 million hectares of boreal forest (the combined areas of the states of NY, PA, VA and NC are a bit-less!) and eventually killed about half the conifers in this region. The author, (Bolgiano) believes that several populations of boreal forest birds, including crossbills, evening grosbeak, purple finch, and boreal chickadee, collapsed following this outbreak. Elsewhere in this issue (pp.17-18) the rusty blackbird is mentioned as a bird in deep trouble, having declined as estimated 85% since 1966; the reasons are obscure.

Chickasaw Group News

By Charlie Rond

A group of 17 citizens from Shelby County and the City of Memphis, including Chickasaw Group Chair Charlie Rond, were recently named by Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton to a select board that will decide the route of a new roadway through Shelby Farms Park.

The group named itself Shelby Farms Parkway Advisory Team and met for a whole day at the Shelby Farms Visitors Center to begin the roadway planning process.

Shelby County Road Public Works Director Ted Fox and Memphis City Engineer Wayne Gaskins were among the city and county leaders while Shelby Farms Park President Laura Adams, Wolf River Conservancy Executive Director Keith Kirkland, Mid-South Trails Association President Brad Corey and Rond represented environmentalists.

Other meetings are scheduled to accomplish the two important goals of what Mayor Wharton called "a comprehensive process and a good project."

The roadway route has been a controversial one with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the City of Memphis, Shelby County, developers and environmentalists failing to agree and unable or unwilling to reach a compromise.

Mayor Wharton intends this select board to arrive at a satisfactory consensus of the roadway's path through the 4,700-acre park, the largest such urban park in the nation.

The Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Seeks a New Volunteer Newsletter Editor for the **Tennes-Sierran**

If you are PC and Internet savvy, have proven and excellent communication/organizational skills, are able to commit to attending quarterly Tennessee chapter meetings, and have a "media" vision to share with our membership, we'd love to hear from you.

Graphics software (Adobe InDesign CS) is provided, however, we recommend that the new editor have a PC computer with Windows 2000, 1.0GHz Pentium® 4 Processor, 256 RAM, CD-RW Rom, or better, IP service and email in place. A high-speed (DSL or Cable) Internet connection is recommended, however, dialup is sufficient.

Software orientation and some procedural training will be available as well as ongoing support and consultations from former newsletter editors. There are also other training opportunities offered by Sierra Club in which the new editor can participate alongside other state newsletter editors throughout the USA.

Our new Editor will ideally assume responsibilities beginning with the September 2005 issue of the Tennes-Sierran. The September 2005 issue of the Tennes-Sierran begins production the end of July 2005. All materials, including software, templates, file archives, etc. will be transferred to new editor at the Summer 2005 Tennessee Chapter Meeting. The summer chapter meeting will be held July 29-31, 2005 - Sterchi Lodge at Max Patch in the Great Smokies Mountains.

Please consult <http://tennessee.sierraclub.org/mtg/guidelinesforsubmission.htm> for current standards of operation and production calendar. Then contact Rachel Floyd at Rfloyd557@aol.com, or call 615-406-9204 if interested.

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