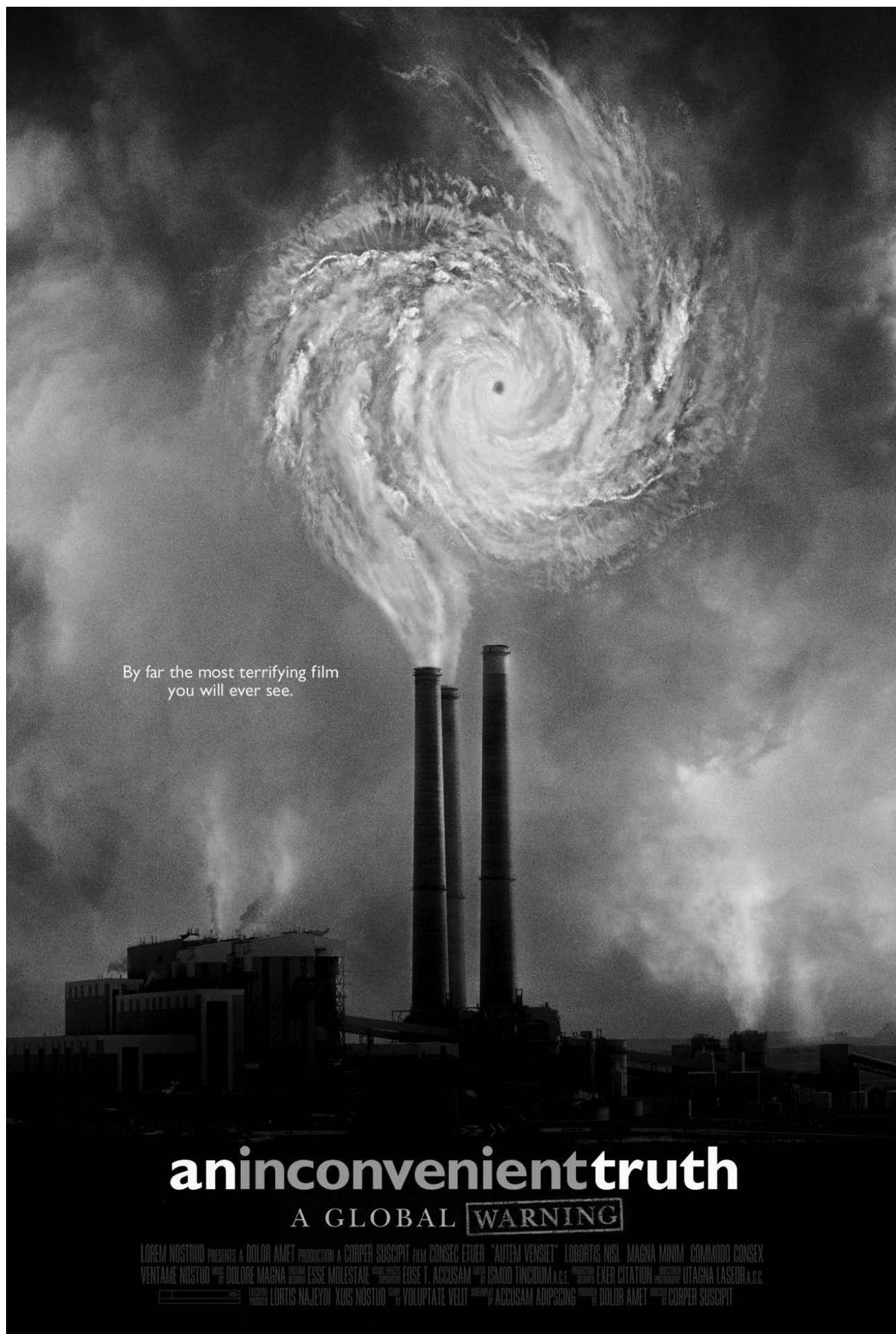


Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 37, Number 8 - August 2006



a review by
David Carter,
Chickasaw
Group member

I haven't seen this much melting ice since the last time I looked into my glass of Wild Turkey. Greenland and both poles will soon disappear. Babies in strollers will plunge down those steps if we don't jump up and do something quick.

An Inconvenient Truth is mockable, but shouldn't be mocked. The problem is real. Earth is getting warmer, and human activities are the cause. When The New Republic recently said that the antis have finally gotten this message, they didn't realize how anti some antis are. Matt Drudge and Rush Limbaugh may dismiss this movie as a feature-length campaign ad, but the rest of us won't. We'll head for Mount Kilimanjaro while it still has snow or dive for a coral reef while it's still in color. Out of nearly a thousand peer-reviewed studies, none say there is no global warming.

The commercial success of Fahrenheit 9/11 probably made this movie possible. (Thank you, Michael Moore.) Maybe activist movies are to this decade what protest songs were to the '60's. Spiced with poetry and those iconic images of earth from space, An Inconvenient Truth makes the case that continued human existence should not be a partisan issue. Al Gore types on his laptop, often in the back seat of a car, and generally shows himself to be the humorous, articulate, and passionate environmentalist he's always been. Other than professing a liking for farm work, Gore talks a lot of sense in this movie. Politicians do that once they stop being politicians. Humanity's future depends on the sense Gore talks in this movie. Rather than being too shrill, An Inconvenient Truth may not be shrill enough.

SEE GLOBAL WARNING ON PAGE 3



Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail
Address changes are processed much faster if you include your
Sierra Club membership number. To find your membership
number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

1. Email embedded text submissions, or PDFs, which are preferred to tn.sierra@gmail.com.
2. Photographs should be in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your disk or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted. Pre-approval from the Editor is required.
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

The 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.



Harvey Broome Group Annual Summer Picnic

Tuesday, August 8, 2006
6:00 pm until Dark

Holston River Park, Shelter # 1
3300 Holston Hills Road

Bring a dish to share and tales of your summer adventures!
HBG will provide the cups, plates, plastic ware and drinks

-See You There!-

MOVING?

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Mail to:

Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, Colorado
80322-2968

Attach mailing address label in this box, or
fill in current name, address & Membership
ID#
Current Address:

Member ID# _____

or Email to:
address.changes@sierraclub.org
(be sure to include your member ID#)

Sierra Club Officers

(List in Transition for 2006)

Tennessee Chapter:

Chair: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387
donrich@juno.com
Vice Chair: Steven Sondheim (901) 761-1793
stevensondheim@yahoo.com
Secretary: Mary Gavlik (423) 434-9535
mlgav@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
Conservation: Gary Bowers (615) 714-3185
GB1Nature@aol.com
Membership: Dick Mochow (901) 274-1510
dinimo@bellsouth.net

TN Local Groups:

Cherokee Group - Chattanooga (in reorganization)
www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee
contact: Terry Miller (423) 842-5053
trmcha@comcast.net

Chickasaw Group - Memphis

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chickasaw
Chair: James Baker (901) 826-2448
kimo_aubrey@yahoo.com
Vice Chair: Allan Lummus (901) 722-9545
alummus@utmem.edu
Conservation: Steven Sondheim (901) 761-1793
stevensondheim@yahoo.com
Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
No e-mail address

Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome
Chair: Axel Ringe (865) 397-1840
onyxfarm@bellsouth.net
Vice-Chair: Beverly Smith (865) 531-8480
Blsmith1300@comcast.net
Conservation: David Reister (865) 670-8991
dreister@bellsouth.net
Outings: Ron Shrieves (865) 922-3518
rshrieve@utk.edu

Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/chapters/tn/mtg
Chair: David Bordenkircher (615) 333-3377
dabordenkircher@mindspring.com
Vice Chair: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com
Conservation: Diane Perschbacher (615) 895-1236
Diane@Propson.com
Outings: Katherine Pendleton (615) 943-6877
Katibug1959@aol.com

Watauga Group - Johnson & Carter Counties

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/watauga
Chair: Gloria Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797627@aol.com
Vice Chair: Dr. Earl Taylor (423) 727-7211
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797627@aol.com

Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville

www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/ucg
Chair: Peggy Evans (931) 432-6680
maevans@twlakes.net
Vice-Chair: Josie McQuail (931) 372-6142
Jmcquail@tntech.edu
Conservation: Mary Mastin (931) 268-2938
zeblady@twlakes.net
Outings: VACANT

Tennessee Sierra Staff:

Rita Harris, Community Organizer
Environmental Justice Program (901) 324-7757
rita.harris@sierraclub.org

**Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed**

Global WARNING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1:

In spite of a narrow release, An Inconvenient Truth has become the highest-grossing nonfiction disaster movie of all time. Rising sea-level is far more of a disaster than Julia Roberts's goosey performance in Erin Brockovich. Based on a talk Gore has given over a thousand times, An Inconvenient Truth makes its point not only with graphs and charts, but with surprisingly emotional images as well. The Gore farm used to raise tobacco. Al Gore stated his sister smoked since she was a teenager and later died from lung cancer. The Gore farm no longer raises tobacco. A pensive Al Gore stands in the remains of a tobacco barn.

Comparison of today's photos with archive photos dramatizes receding glaciers. Cartoon segments and computer-generated images save a fact-heavy script from dryness. ("If they drown that polar bear, I'm outta here.") You hate Power-Point? Just wait; there'll be some calving glaciers along in a minute. The challenge was to make a good movie out of an auditorium lecture, and the moviemakers succeeded splendidly.

The Truth is Inconvenient mainly for business-as-usual operators who believe that sensible carbon policies are bad for the bottom line. Businesses and so-called think-tanks have long tried to discredit Gore as "pedantic," "condescending," and "self-serving." The Memphis Commercial Appeal's reviewer (who liked the movie) praised Gore as a "noble patsy." Rush consistently calls him "Al Gore." The elder Bush once said that if we listen to him, "we'd be up to our neck in owls." We didn't listen to Gore then, and now look at us.

Too often, important topics become "important topics." Messengers get shot; or worse, ridiculed. We count some hanging chads so we can get back to sleep. If Al Gore can't be our nation's leader, perhaps he can be our environmental movement's leader. An Inconvenient Truth gives him that opportunity.

"I used to be the next president..." is like Jack Benny's violin. We don't want to hear it again, but it has become a comforting trademark. Contrary to his media reputation for woodenness, Gore is a regular guy who likes trees and rivers and deep breathing. We went to high school with this guy, or studied General Science under him. If he's running for something, he deserves our vote. If not, he at least deserves our attention.

This is the kind of movie that shouldn't be seen just by the blue state choir. The rest of America needs a dose of Truth as well. Trick people into seeing An Inconvenient Truth. Tell them it stars Paris Hilton. Tell them www.climatecrisis.net has naughty pictures. Anything to keep this movie from becoming just one of the artifacts that archaeologists from another planet will find in the rubble of our civilization.

tenthingstodo

Want to do something to help stop global warming?
Here are 10 simple things you can do and how much carbon dioxide you'll save doing them.

Change a light

Replacing one regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Drive less

Walk, bike, carpool or take mass transit more often. You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive!

Recycle more

You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half of your household waste.

Check your tires

Keeping your tires inflated properly can improve gas mileage by more than 3%.

Every gallon of gasoline saved keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere!

Use less hot water

It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Use less hot water by installing a low flow showerhead (350 pounds of CO₂ saved per year) and washing your clothes in cold or warm water (500 pounds saved per year).

Avoid products with a lot of packaging

You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide if you cut down your garbage by 10%.

Adjust your thermostat

Moving your thermostat just 2 degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in summer

You could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year with this simple adjustment.

Plant a tree

A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.

Turn off electronic devices

Simply turning off your television, DVD player, stereo, and computer when you're not using them will save you thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Spread the word! Encourage your friends to see An Inconvenient Truth



aninconvenienttruth
in theaters this summer

www.climatecrisis.net

for group ticket sales please call

(866) 397-6339

Global Warming has the power to affect everyone on the planet.

from www.sierraclub.org/energy

Rising sea levels, more powerful storms and the spread of terrible diseases are just some of the problems we are likely to face while energy prices continue to rise and supply shocks wreak hardship on our families and communities. We are all at risk unless we learn to curb our greenhouse gas emissions and end our addiction to fossil fuels. The Sierra Club believes that we can save our planet while preserving our way of life, that instead of falling into despair, we should look to this challenge as an opportunity.

We have the technology today to implement real energy solutions that will move our country forward into a brighter energy future. These solutions can curb global warming, while at the same time building a clean, sustainable economy that lowers energy bills and creates thousands of new jobs. The Sierra Club is working in city halls, state legislatures, Congress, and corporate boardrooms to advocate for these solutions.

An Overview

We already have the technology to tackle some of our most pressing problems, like global warming, air pollution, and our dependence on nuclear, oil and coal. The Smart Energy Solutions conservation initiative aims to strengthen the political will to adopt them. Key components include:

Pushing for "Clean Car" laws in more states. Eleven U.S. states and Canada require the auto industry to produce cleaner, more efficient cars and trucks than federal standards dictate. Adding more will force the auto industry to make all cars sold in the U.S. and Canada to meet these standards.

Encouraging more states to adopt energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and goals. Twenty-one states now require local utility companies to derive a specified percentage of energy from renewable sources. Our goal is to have more states and ultimately the entire country, adopt a standard of at least 20 percent renewable energy by 2020 and to increase electric efficiency by at least 2 percent per year.

Expanding the "Cool Cities" campaign. The Sierra Club has given the title "Cool Cities" to nearly 200 cities that signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and pledged to reduce global-warming pollution. The campaign aims to help these cities fulfill their pledges through energy efficiency and renewable energy, and encourage more cities to become "cool."

Stopping the coal rush by opposing as many new polluting coal plants as possible and cleaning up existing plants. We also want to have states and the federal government cut mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants by 90 percent.

Protecting the Arctic Refuge, coastal waters, and other sensitive lands from coal, oil, and gas development.

Promoting the job-creation potential of clean energy using our key partnerships with labor and consumer groups.

We need your help to fulfill these visions. Contact your local chapter or go to sierraclub.org/energy to find out more.

Meetings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY FIRST THURSDAY MEMBERS GATHERING: (NOTE: New Hours) - Thursday, August 3, 2006, 5:30-7:00pm - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee: Join us for Chickasaw Group's "First Thursday" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Karen Prosser - Membership Chair at (901) 327-9820 or kprosser@bellsouth.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, August 14, 2006, 6:30pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, Tennessee: This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Allan Lummus - vice-Chair by August 11 to place items on the agenda at (901) 722-9545 or alummus@utm.edu

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, August 23, 2006, 7:00pm - NOTE: CHANGED LOCATION, Memphis Public Library and Information Center - Cordova Branch at 8457 Trinity Road, Cordova, TN 38018 - next to Bert Ferguson Park - east of Germantown Parkway. The August program will feature a talk by Suzy Askew, who will discuss the gardens located at one of the oldest remaining residences in Memphis, the historic Magevney House. Suzy Askew has worked with a group of local enthusiastic volunteers from the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs to lovingly restore the garden to antebellum condition by researching plants and layouts to recreate a garden of the era. Learn about the wonderful variety of plants in the garden, proven to be adapted to the climate of the Mid-South. Some of these plants, used in the mid 1800's are still common while others may seem unusual today. Learn how the lessons of the past can be applied in our gardens today. Contact Tom Lawrence - Program Chair at (901) 237-4819 or tomlawrence@bellsouth.net for more information.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, August 8, 2006, 6:00 pm until dark: Our Annual Summer Picnic, Holston River Park, Shelter # 1, 3300 Holston Hills Road. Bring a dish to share and tales of your summer adventures! HBG will provide the cups, plates, plastic ware and drinks. Directions: I-40 {I-75} east or west, exit 388A onto James White Parkway. Keep right onto ramp towards Summit Hill Drive. Keep left onto E. Summit Hill Drive (road name changes to Dandridge Ave). Turn right to stay on Dandridge Ave. Bear left (east onto Riverside Drive). Turn left onto Holston Hills Road.

STRATEGY MEETING: 7:30 p.m., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. We urge all Harvey Broome Group members to join us as we discuss and plan strategies for issues of concern to the group. These meetings provide you an opportunity for input into issues of concern to you. Please join us! For more information contact Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, August 10, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Wendy Smith, who directs the World Wildlife Fund's Southeast Rivers and Streams Program in Nashville, will tell us about their work, including species introduction work and other successes. The Tennessee/Cumberland and Mobile Basins have some of the richest aquatic biodiversity in the world, rivaling places like the Amazon Basin and the Mekong Delta. Wendy's video presentation will answer the question of why the pygmy madtom is so mad and will expose the intriguing sex life of those cheating mussels. She will also present some of the threats and challenges the fish, mussels and snails of our river basins face. The health of these creatures reflects the health of the water they inhabit, which ultimately affects the health and safety of all of us. Wendy has worked on conservation issues in Tennessee since 1973. She has worked as a naturalist in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, as conservation education director for the state of Tennessee, in private business, with the Cumberland River Compact and with WWF. For more information on this program, contact Adelle Wood at (615) 665-1010. Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike. Non-members are always welcome!

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, August 23 at 6:30 p.m. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING DAY HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH. Conservation issues are first on the agenda! Come and get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting on the 4th floor at 2021 21st Avenue South (the old St. Bernard Academy Building). We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or email Diane@Propson.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to David Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@mind-spring.com or call 333-3377.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith, (615) 479-7627 @ aol.com), (423) 727-4797 for more information.

Chickasaw Group News

Contributed by various members

Summer Solstice Walk

20 members and friends of the Chickasaw Group showed up at Mississippi River Greenbelt Park for our Solstice Walk. Our one non-human friend was James Baker's dog, Aubrey, who really enjoyed the company of the walkers. The walk was warm and muggy, and we saw the sun set at its most northerly point for the year. Until the breeze failed, the mosquitoes were held at arm's length, but as it grew dark, they found the range, so we knew it was time to go. Some of the group enjoyed an after-walk dinner at a nearby Harbor Town restaurant.



A number of solstice walkers enjoy the walk in Mississippi Greenbelt Park. Foreground walkers (left to right) are Warren Johnson and Sue A. Williams. Photographer: James H. Baker

One River Mississippi

Over 1,500 Memphis residents came to Mud Island River Park to watch the Memphis performance of One River Mississippi. Billed as the world's largest site specific performance, the stated goal was to draw connections along the entire length of the main stem of the Mississippi. The Chickasaw Group, along with several coalition partners, the Friends For Our Riverfront and the Wolf River Conservancy set up tables to pass out literature educate the public. For more on the performances, and some photos, go to the One River Mississippi website at: <http://www.onerivermississippi.org/>. Prior to the performance, a small number of Chickasaw Group members and friends paddled canoes and kayaks around Wolf River Harbor.

4th of July picnic

The Chickasaw Group's Annual 4th of July picnic drew about 32 members and friends to Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. We had two non-human friends. Chickasaw member Tom Lawrence's dog, Comet and James Baker's dog, Aubrey enjoyed both the human and each other's company, and the occasional treat. We dodged a rain bullet, and the weather was fine, albeit extremely muggy from the earlier rainstorm. Many thanks go to Chickasaw members Patricia and Jim Kennedy for being grill masters and Margaret Dixon for bringing festive decorations. Many thanks to everyone who brought a pot-luck dish to share.

pitch a tent with
someone you love



Water Matters

by Margo Farnsworth
Cumberland River Compact

In this harum scarum world you hear that “All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten” and in large part that could be true. Treat others like you want to be treated. Waste not, want not. Be careful how you make your bed because you’ll have to lie in it. These are simple things, but they’re really central to the question of all our environmental sciences.

What we know today about water is at once frightening and comforting.

The comforting includes:

-If I put all the world’s water in a gallon jug, only the last eyedropper full would be useable freshwater BUT it would be enough if we used it with care.

-The growth of actual water use (Peter Gleick et al The World’s Water 2002-2003) has been slower than predicted.

-Because of separating our sanitary sewer from our storm sewer in Nashville over 30 miles of the Cumberland River was removed from the impaired waters list several years ago.

The frightening includes:

-1.2 billion - Number of People worldwide who do not have access to clean water

- 6.8 billion - Gallons of water Americans flush down their toilets every day.

-By 2025 two-thirds of the world’s people will be facing water stress. Towns like Crossville, Franklin, Springfield, and many others here in Middle Tennessee are dealing with water supply challenges now or will be in the next 10 years.

-U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service estimates that 70% of the riparian, or riverside, habitat nationwide has been lost or altered.

In addition to helping wildlife, this zone provides anchoring to keep our nation’s soil in place. Silt/Dirt is the number one pollutant in the Southeast and indeed across most of the country. Currently, there is much discussion about how much soil we’re actually losing but a very rough figure is that (in the mid-90’s) for every pound of food we ate, we lost about 6 pounds of farmable topsoil. Americans eat about 1500 pounds of food a year. When you multiply that by a rough 1.3 million people in Nashville and then multiply that by 6 pounds of soil per pound of food; you get a topsoil loss annually of 11,700,000,000. What does this staggering figure equate to? Well, as of the day I wrote this – it was just about twice the world’s total population. How can we digest this impossible figure?

The world is a very, very large place, and we are very small. But this is incongruous with the way we think about ourselves. My neighbor has known a world only 6 counties large. That’s as far as she’s ever set foot – and for her; that is the world. Many of us have traveled much more extensively and yet our view of the planet is still extremely limited. We tend to intellectually accept that certain things are important – clean, plentiful water, enough food on our tables ... and yet many of us have not had to pay a personal price for acting counter to what would provide these things not only for ourselves, but for our neighbors. Clean water? Turn on a faucet.

We feel very noble when we commit various acts of conservation but in fact discount the effects of our good deeds. We tend to think of our actions as “I’m only one person so what could it matter that I don’t turn off the water when I brush my teeth ... or don’t use a water-saving showerhead?”

It matters plenty and is the first line of defense that you as a regular citizen can take by living deliberately and living as stewards of the earth instead of transients. If 30 people in the restaurant you visited last week were to switch to a water saving showerhead we could save 219,000 gallons of water in a year. What does that mean? At our current usage rates we could provide 6 people with all their water for a year. Now, imagine you tell your friends and they tell their friends until everyone in the Nashville area changed a little behavior – like turning off the water while brushing our teeth - we could save 1,423,500,000 gallons of water. You just gave water to my entire hometown for a year.

Of course, we expect many more complex answers to the challenges of our world. Indeed, to address the larger, more long-term water needs we do have to think in larger terms. So, if you are interested in water at that level here are some things you can do to have an impact on your community:

1. Make your bed so that you want to lie in it. Encourage local officials – be they Mayors, County Mayors, Planners, and especially Boards of Aldermen, Councilmen, Zoning and Codes – to plan communities on a watershed-wide basis. This means to plan growth – not to stop it, to plan it – and if you’re planning for enhanced water quality and quantity there are a couple of special areas for you to think about – the headwaters of your rivers and recharge zones. The headwaters of a river are like the tips of your fingers that flow to larger rivers and finally to a given point such as the mouth of the Ohio and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico – which is where all the waters of the Cumberland River run. Recharge zones are the areas where water returns to the water table. In the most basic terms if you protect these two areas you can do a lot to protect your water supply.

Just ask New York City. In 1998 Eddie Nickens described their process in American Forests in the following passage. “In 1990 the federal government decreed that all public supplies of surface water be filtered for microbial contaminants. For New York City, the nation’s sole million-plus municipality that did not already filter its water, that meant the construction of a \$4 to \$6 billion plant to filter the waters that flow from its upstate watershed.

What has happened since then is as improbable and fantastic as turning a South Bronx water tap and getting a clean drink. After years of open warfare, last year the City and some 30 watershed communities signed the New York City Watershed Agreement, a \$1.4 billion deal to protect the working landscape of family farms and woodlots that have protected the Catskills/Delaware watershed for decades. (Water from the city’s heavily developed Croton watershed will have to be filtered.)

Simply put, the plan frees New York City from filtering water from the watershed, provided it can otherwise meet 66 EPA “filtration avoidance criteria.” In return, Catskills communities and landowners - under threat of drastic regulatory control of development and resource use - get a pot of badly needed gold to help pay for programs designed to simultaneously protect water quality and shore up traditional land uses. The City will spend \$550 million to improve water quality in dozens of watershed communities, such as upgrading more than 100 aging sewage treatment plants and repairing or replacing failing septic systems. Another \$666 million is earmarked for land and conservation easement acquisition and partnership programs. New York state will kick in \$53 million to foster partnership projects and aid innovative agriculture and forestry programs designed to protect water quality.”

So, in effect the city traded a \$4-6 billion water treatment plant for a \$1.4 billion natural treatment system. Neighbors worked through a difficult process but emerged with everybody winning.

2. Treat others like you want to be treated. You may have heard the adage, “We all live downstream. Well, it’s true and even if you live in a headwater area you probably work downstream, go to restaurants downstream, have friends downstream, have or know kids that go to school downstream. Watershed protection takes deliberate choices in which you may need to invest money, as a community, in an area upstream or downstream of your particular home. Make choices that treat everyone well and you will personally profit.

3. Waste not. Want not. You’ve already read some pretty amazing stats on how much water you can save by using low-flow showerheads and simply turning off the water while you brush your teeth.

4. Learn and practice one word – “enough”. Global warming, pollution, ecological measures, recycling, alternatives to fossil fuels; are all tag lines in the world-wide environmental discussions of today with a nexus of water. By practicing the word “enough” we have an effect both globally and locally.

5. Get active in supporting the organizations like the Cumberland River Compact that educate people about water issues, work with local leaders and actually put projects on the ground to keep our soil in place and enhance water quality.

Sometimes science doesn’t have to be baffling, complex, or something we feel we can’t relate to. Sometimes it’s as simple as living deliberately and gently on this good earth.

Margo Farnsworth is Senior Fellow for the Cumberland River Compact, a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing water quality in the Cumberland River and its tributaries through education and by promoting cooperation among citizens and businesses in Kentucky and Tennessee. For more information visit www.CumberlandRiverCompact.org.

From the National Sustainable Consumption Committee

CONSERVING GAS

The price of gas has caused us all to rethink our needless driving. Combining trips is one of the most obvious ways to keep our fuel costs down, but besides moving closer to work and buying a more fuel efficient auto, there are a number of things you can do to save energy and impact global climate change in a positive way.

Here are a few things to think about:

-Lighten your load. Two hundred pounds of extra junk in your car can add as much as one mile per gallon in fuel consumption. Empty your trunk for the environment.

-Accelerate gently and advance through your gears as quickly as your gears allow to save fuel. Sudden stops and starts cost fuel.

-Put your luggage inside your vehicle. Luggage bins on top of your car cause wind drag and consume more fuel.

-Tire Pressure- Under inflated tires cut fuel efficiency by 2% per pound! The correct tire pressure is written on the side of your tires. If your tires have 27 psi and they are supposed to have 32 psi, you are wasting 10% of your fuel.

-Air filter. A dirty air filter can waste as much as 10% of your fuel. It is easy to change yourself.

-Drive slower. The faster your drive, the more fuel you waste.

-Avoid traffic jams. Driving too slow also wastes gas. Drive when others don't drive.

-Public transportation. Have you ever tried it? Maybe you could get rid of one of your cars?

-Short trips waste gas. Drive your bike or walk. It is good for you!

Fuel consumption in the U.S. will be a problem for many years because of our suburban lifestyle and our gas guzzling cars, but the times are changing. Inexpensive suburban houses are not seen as such a bargain any more. Time spent in traffic jams and the high cost of driving are now part of the decision on where to buy a house. In the meantime, there are simple steps you can try that will ease the pain.

The High Price of Materialism, By Tim Kasser — A Book Review

By Gordon LaBedz
GLaBedzMD@aol.com
National Sustainable Consumption Committee

The High Price of Materialism is a book about consumption. It is not a book about the environment; it is a scientific review of the research on the relationship between "wealth" and happiness. The question you are probably asking, is, why is there a review of this book in an environmental publication?

The answer is simple, if you trace back just about any environmental issue, you will, most likely, find that its root cause is either human or domestic animal overpopulation and/or Western over-consumption. After all, we Americans use about 20% of the world's resources. If the whole world lived like us, we would need about five more Planets. The Sierra Club has taken a strong stand on sustainable consumption. We presently have sustainable consumption committees in Groups and Chapters all over the United States. Our goal is to educate our members and the public on how their everyday buying habits impact the environment.

Tim Kasser has done an excellent job laying out the case, that, no matter how you measure happiness, wealth beyond the basics of food, clothing, housing and transportation, don't seem to make you happier or more fulfilled. This is important knowledge for those of us who are trying to protect the environment. It turns out that the old slogan, "I'd rather be shopping," comes from emptiness and lack of belonging, rather than the pursuit of any sort of inner peace. What Kasser and his colleagues did discover is that social and community involvement and family and friends are what make most people "happy."

This is very important because economists are always saying that the U.S. economy is "consumer-driven." This means that if consumers stop spending, our economy will go into a recession/depression. That's why Bush told us all to go shopping after the attack on the New York Twin Towers.

In poor third world countries, abject poverty is very harmful to the environment. Poor people have many children who will support them in their old age. Poor people will destroy forests for firewood, wetlands are filled for agriculture and there is no affordable technology for pollution prevention. In Western countries, however, an economic slow down means people buy fewer cars, houses and other resource-consuming articles. In a wealthy country, a booming economy hurts the environment. In a poor country a booming economy can help the environment. One great exception is China which wants to have our life style immediately.

The question tackled by this book is whether all the 'wealth' of Western culture will bring more happiness. The answer apparently is no. There is now scientific research to combat the "shop until you drop" movement. Our slogan can be, "work less, spend less and spend more time with your family, friends and your community."



photo/Kevin Walsh

It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

Add your voice to protect the planet. Join the Sierra Club today.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W4300 1**
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Outings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

The Old Forest Hike - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. NOTE: There will not be Second Saturday hikes in July and August.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee: "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. The August show is an interview of Randy Johnson who is Director of Solar Engineering at Sharp Manufacturing in Memphis. He will be discussing the basics and practical uses of electrical energy from solar power, rather than conventional sources, such as coal fired power plants. A different program is aired, usually each month. For the schedule, please see the website: <http://www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/18SCHD.htm>

If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

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>.

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.

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!

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

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

August 8, 2006 (Tues). Harvey Broome Group Annual Summer Picnic. Join us at the Holston River Park, Shelter #1, 6:00 pm for our annual summer potluck picnic. Bring a dish to share and some great tales about your summer adventures. Drinks, plates, cups and plastic ware will be furnished. No pre-registration necessary. If you have any questions, contact Beverly Smith, 531.8480 (evenings) or blsmith1300@comcast.net (email preferred). Picnic replaces the August program meeting. Directions: 1-40 {I-75} east or west, exit 388A onto James White Parkway. Keep right onto Ramp towards Summit Hill Drive. Keep left onto E. Summit Hill Drive (road name changes to Dandridge Ave). Bear left (east onto Riverside Drive). Turn left on Holston Hills Road. Address: Holston River Park, Shelter # 1, 3300 Holston Hills Road

August 12-13, 2006 (Sat-Sun). Shining Rocks Wilderness Backpack. The Shining Rocks Wilderness in North Carolina (off the Blue Ridge Parkway and near Waynesville) is one of the three original wilderness areas in the Eastern US, designated by the Wilderness Act when it was first passed in 1964. It is certainly one of our best, and the HBG has periodically done backpacks in the area in early August since the mid-1970's. The wild blueberries are usually plentiful and ripe then. We'll return again this year, and will camp at a recently discovered and relatively unused and unknown high elevation campsite off the main crest that provides views, blueberries, water and a great grassy bald campsite. Distance will be about 9 miles total. Rated Moderate. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; W 521-6200; whshome@bell-south.net.

September 16-17, 2006 (Sat-Sun). Backpack, Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park. We will start at the Polls Gap trailhead and hike the Rough Fork Trail to the intersection with the Caldwell Fork trail and follow that to campsite #41 for a hiking total of 5.2 miles. On our way in we will pass some huge trees that are worth taking a picture off. On Sunday will hike the Hemphill Bald trail a total of 8 miles back to Polls Gap. This trail has some great views and is used very little. DIFFICULTY - RATED MODERATE - THE SECOND DAY WILL HAVE A THREE MILE SECTION THAT IS UP HILL. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: sharvey86@aol.com; phone 865-986-4608 (days), 865-986-6798 (evening).

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiver.PDF>, or call 415-977-5630, for a printed version.

Transportation to the outing including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

August 3-12, 2006. Olympic Mountains Backpack: Make plans now to join Katherine Pendleton for a 10 day trip to the Pacific Northwest in the Olympic Mountains in Washington. Katherine led a trip to this area in 2003 and is familiar with this area of Washington. The backpacking trip will begin in the HOH Rainforest and end in Sol Duc at the hot springs resort. Participants responsible for their own gear, airfare, food, incidentals and share of a rental car. The trip is rated strenuous. For information related to the trip itinerary and other details, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com



photo/Carlos Paes

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Sierra Club members are 750,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet.
The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.



photo/Clara Natoli

ATTENTION WATAUGA GROUP MEMBERS FROM CARTER AND JOHNSON COUNTIES

You are invited to submit names into nomination for our first EXCOM election. Do so by contacting Gloria Griffith at 423-727-4797 or GLa4797627@aol.com or 800-995-0275 no later than August 31. Please include contact information and a brief bio of the WG candidate. If you prefer, the nomination committee of Dean Whitworth, Edward Dowgin or Dennis Shekinah, may be contacted with the candidate approved nominations and information.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MTG has vacancies on the Executive Committee and is looking for Sierra members with an interest in becoming more involved with the Club's activities. A more formal call for candidates will appear in next month's TennesSierran. In the meantime, if you want more information, please contact Adelle Wood at adelleintn@juno.com or (615) 665-1010.

Would you like to advertise your Environmentally Friendly Business, Service or Event?

Your message will reach
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when you advertise in *The TennesSierran*.

Contact Shanna Petersen, editor, for more information.
Email tn.sierra@gmail.com.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE CHICKASAW GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Nominating Committee for the Chickasaw Group urges you to nominate potential candidates for the Executive Committee members for a two-year term beginning in January 2007. We seek candidates for the election who are:

- 1) Sierra Club member in good standing;
- 2) Dedicated to the purposes and goals of the Sierra Club;
- 3) Willing and able to accept the legal and financial responsibilities of a Group Executive Committee member;
- 4) Able to listen and communicate effectively and work in a team environment;
- 5) Able and willing to dedicate sufficient personal time for Executive Committee duties. This would be approximately 10 hours per month, as broken down below:
 - * Attend the monthly Executive Committee meeting. (2 to 3 hours/month).
 - * Willingness to attend two of the monthly outreach gatherings in a calendar year. (4 hours/year)
 - * Willingness to attend two of the monthly program meetings in a calendar year. (4 hours/year)
 - * Willingness to be one of the two Group Delegates to the TN-Chapter. The TN-Chapter meets four (4) times per year – travel is required, or consider being one of the three Group Alternate Delegates to the TN-Chapter (including travel – Friday to Sunday).
 - * Under the leadership and training of the Conservation Chair – take on a personal Conservation Focus and be willing to dedicate approximately five (5) hours per month to that focus.
- 6) Able to think and plan strategically and politically;
- 7) Willing to become knowledgeable regarding critical environmental and political issues;
- 8) Willing to learn the structure and operations of the Group, Chapter and National Club;
- 9) Willing to become an effective Group leader; and
- 10) Willing to deal with the broad range of issues that comes before the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee members approve supporting proposed local and state legislation, appropriate Group funds, and endorse political candidates, in addition to other tasks. The Group Executive Committee is composed of thirteen members and the term of office is two years with seven members' terms expiring one year, and six members' terms expiring in the next year. The cycle repeats.

The Nominating Committee will consider all potential candidates and recommend qualified candidates to the Executive Committee based on the above criteria. Send nominations to: Nominating Committee-Chickasaw Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 111094, Memphis, TN 38111 or e-mail to Allan Lummus - Chair of the NomComm at: alummus@utm.edu

The deadline for nominations is August 31, 2006. The deadline for members to be eligible for the election by the petition process is September 25, 2006. To be eligible to run for election by the petition process, the willing candidate must submit a petition to: Nominating Committee-Chickasaw Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 111094, Memphis, TN 38111 with the names of at least twenty-five (25) Chickasaw Group members in good standing.

In all cases, please verify that the potential candidate is willing to serve and state why this potential candidate would make a good member of the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee.

SAVE THE DATE!

FALL FAMILY MEETING

The Sierra Club's annual fall family meeting will be held at Pickett State Park, October 20 – 22. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Some of the planned activities include:

- A Saturday night bonfire with s'mores and ghost stories (and maybe a ghost story-telling contest)
- Hikes, some easy and some not so easy
- Children's hikes and activities, if enough kids are pre-registered
- Music around the fire, if people will bring their guitars and/ or other instruments
- An optional trip on the Big South Fork Scenic Railroad (<http://www.bsfsry.com/>)
- A silent auction
- An awards ceremony
- Beautiful scenery and, if we are lucky, beautiful fall colors.

Next month's TennesSierran will include more details. Make plans to attend!

Volunteer Opportunity!

To help the Middle Tennessee Group, to help our senior and disabled recyclers, to have fun and to meet other Sierrans, please consider volunteering at our recycling site at the Elysian Fields Kroger in Nashville. The site is open Saturday mornings from 9:00 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.

The Sierra Club - Middle TN Group
Tennes-Sierran
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