

# Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 37, Number 1 - January 2006

## 10th Annual Campaign

# Defenders of Tennessee

# NEEDS YOU!

The Sierra Club's Defenders of Tennessee campaign began 10 years ago as a means of funding our legislative program. Because the Sierra Club is a volunteer organization with no paid staff in Tennessee, we would not have a strong voice in the state legislature without this program. Our advocacy and lobbying program consists of three vital activities: phone calls and letters from our members to our lawmakers; volunteer lobbying; and the work of our professional lobbyist, Mike Murphy. Mike is a veteran of the Tennessee House of Representatives and a longtime conservation activist. As such, Mike is uniquely qualified because of his contacts within the legislature and his knowledge of the issues.

We have a large number of faithful contributors, for whom we are very grateful and without whom we could not continue. Through normal attrition, however, we have lost some of our longtime supporters. We ask you to become a Defender so that we can continue with this critical work.

As we celebrate this 10th anniversary, we are pleased to report that during the 2005 legislative session, we enjoyed some significant environmental victories. A few of these victories, which we share with some other organizations, include passage of bills that:

- \* **Provided for a citizen appeal process for inter-basin water transfer (such as sending Tennessee River waters to Atlanta);**
- \* **Provided for a citizen appeal process when there are violations of a discharge permit issued by the Department of Environment and Conservation;**
- \* **Established the Cumberland Plateau Conservation Foundation;**
- \* **Allow landowners to more easily set up a conservation easement.**

Some very important issues that may require our attention next year include:

- \* **A bill that would allow TDEC to issue a stop work order when mining operations violate water quality standards;**
- \* **A bill requiring an impact study prior to clearcutting timber;**
- \* **A bill regulating aerial pesticide spraying;**
- \* **A bill providing a tax exemption for purchase of hybrid vehicles and other cars meeting nonpolluting standards;**
- \* **A bill to add environmental members to environmental protections boards;**
- \* **An antilitter bill through a beverage container deposit program;**
- \* **A bill promoting waterway beautification by safeguarding vegetation in streamside management zones; and**
- \* **A bill establishing a registration and permit system for chip mill facilities.**

Not all of these bills will come up, but you can depend on Mike Murphy to be there to fight for what is right for the environment, and for what is ultimately right for the physical and economic health and well-being of ourselves and our families. He and his colleagues will work hard **see Defenders of Tennessee, page 5**



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**Tennes-Sierran**  
The monthly newsletter of the  
Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

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\*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.

**SEND ARTICLES TO:**

Email: [tn.sierra@gmail.com](mailto:tn.sierra@gmail.com)  
or street address: Shanna Petersen, Tennes-Sierran Editor  
2703 Adobe Hills Place  
Thompson Station, TN 37179

**ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

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

1. Email text submissions, or PDFs are preferred. Send to [tn.sierra@gmail.com](mailto:tn.sierra@gmail.com) either with embedded text messages, or attached files.
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 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; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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

**Sierra Club Officers**

(List in Transition for 2005)

Tennessee Chapter:

- Chair: Don Richardson (901) 276-1387  
[donrich@juno.com](mailto:donrich@juno.com)  
Vice Chair: Catherine Murray (423) 929-8163  
[Cfvcatherine@worldnet.att.net](mailto:Cfvcatherine@worldnet.att.net)  
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- Cherokee Group - Chattanooga**  
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- Chickasaw Group - Memphis**  
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Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819

- Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge**  
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Chair: Axel Ringe (865).397-1840  
[onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net)  
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Chair: David Bordenkircher (615) 333-3377  
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[Diane@Propson.com](mailto:Diane@Propson.com)  
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[Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com)

- State of Franklin Group**  
- Bristol/Johnson City/Kingsport  
[www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/sofg](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/sofg)  
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Conservation: Catherine Murray (423) 929-8163  
[Cfvcatherine@worldnet.att.net](mailto:Cfvcatherine@worldnet.att.net)

- Upper Cumberland Group - Cookeville**  
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**Please notify the Editor  
when changes are needed**

# Moving?



**My new address is:**

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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.

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# Appalachian Children to Lose Piece of Heritage

by Denise Schmoyer  
Sierra Club Member

On November 18 the YMCA of East Tennessee unexpectedly announced the closing of Camp Montvale, its residence camp outside Maryville. Camp Montvale has been in operation for 58 years and for many area children was the site of their first camp-out, first backpacking trip -- first true encounter with nature. The camp sits on 400 acres less than two miles from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Much of the land adjacent to and surrounding the camp is state-owned and as a result the area makes up a large contiguous undeveloped zone very close to the park. Black bears are active on the property as well as a host of Appalachian flora and fauna.

The camp is built on the site of the old Montvale Springs Resort, Tennessee's first spa, which opened in 1830. With the alleged healing effects of Montvale Spring and the area's natural beauty the resort gained world class recognition and was long-lived despite numerous setbacks. The famous Seven Gables Hotel burned to the ground twice and was rebuilt before burning a third and final time in 1933. In 1947 the 394 acres comprising the Montvale Springs Resort were sold by the Pflanze family to the YMCA of

East Tennessee. Building the camp was truly a community effort. Local clubs donated funds to build the dining hall and local businesses gave their products at half price and offered labor at a minimal cost. The first session of camp was held in the summer of 1948. From the beginning, Montvale sought to provide a camping experience for all children, regardless of income. Now that is history.

The YMCA closed Camp Montvale claiming that it has become financially untenable.

Their current statement is that the camp is not for sale but could be at some point in the future. In fact, the threat of development at Montvale remains very real. Coincidentally, on November 21 the YMCA announced plans to build a multimillion-dollar, 40,000 square foot exercise facility in Knoxville's Farragut community. Fundraising for that new facility is to begin immediately.

It will be a sad loss if Camp Montvale is sold to developers. If you have any suggestions or would like to join the efforts to save Camp Montvale, please visit [www.savecampmontvale.org](http://www.savecampmontvale.org).

## 4th Annual Wilderness First Aid Training May 6th & 7th, 2006

The TN Chapter of the Sierra Club is pleased to sponsor our 4th Annual Wilderness First Aid Training (WFA). This year's training will be held the weekend of May 6th and 7th at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Landmark Learning, LLC, a long term partner with SOLO (Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunity) will perform the training again this year.

This WFA course involves 16 hours of participation resulting in a 2-yr WFA 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. Training is by a highly qualified instructor(s).

The very competitive course fee of \$140 includes course instruction, mid-morning snacks, lunch, and mid-afternoon snacks. Lodging, breakfast, and dinner are not included. Most participants camp in the state park.

Additional details and an enrollment form will be included in the next issue of the Tennes-Sierran.

## The Middle Tennessee Group Winter Planning Retreat

All MTG members are invited & encouraged to attend this year's MTG Planning retreat!

This is your chance to help plan the 2006 year agenda for MTG's 2500 members, set goals, develop project plans, and appoint individuals who are interested in helping with each project. The Middle Tennessee Group has many new & exciting plans & we want your input!

**What would encourage you to come to group events or to get involved?**

**What things would you like to change?? Come & let your voice be heard.**

**This retreat is for people of all ages! Bring a friend or a family member!**

No matter what involvement level you have in the Sierra Club, this is the perfect opportunity to do as little or as much as you would like!  
(Remember if you don't let your voice be heard, you can't complain!)

A potluck lunch will be served (please bring a dish of food).

The meeting will be held in the pool house behind the main house (please proceed through the back gate). To RSVP and/or for directions, questions, or comments please contact Jeremy Doochin at [doochers87@aol.com](mailto:doochers87@aol.com) or at 260-5528.

**WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!!**

**Feb 4, 2005 • 9am-4pm  
4411 Tyne Blvd • Nashville**

# Meetings

## UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

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

## STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

**STRATEGY MEETING:** 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, [lcmmodica@aol.com](mailto:lcmmodica@aol.com).

**PROGRAM MEETING:** 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](mailto:mlgav@yahoo.com).

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Tuesday, January 10, 7:30 pm, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. We will try this one again. Local mountaineer, Duane Simmons, will inspire us with a slide presentation on his climb of Russia's Mt. Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe. A volcanic massif located north of the Caucasus main ridge, 18,540-foot Mt. Elbrus rises almost 3,000 feet higher than surrounding peaks. The summit offers breathtaking views of the Caucasus Mountains and the impressive tributary valley systems feeding the raging waters of the Baksan River. For more information call Priscilla Watts at 865-966-4142 or [sigmtngirl@earthlink.net](mailto:sigmtngirl@earthlink.net).

**2006 ANNUAL RETREAT:** January 7, 10 a.m. at the home of Beverly Smith, 1300 Hickory Oak Lane, Knoxville. We urge all Harvey Broome Group members to join us in planning issues, strategies and programs for the coming year. This planning meeting and the monthly strategy meetings provide you with an opportunity for input into issues of concern to you and help set the direction of the local group. Please join us! For more information contact Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840 or email at [onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net)

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Tuesday, January 24, 7:30 p.m. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Interested in conservation issues or in finding out what drives the local Sierra Club, then this meeting is for you. Call Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840 or email at [onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net) for more information.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Thursday, January 12, 2006, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. For more information, contact Shelli Dimarco at (615) 260-0030 or [greenveggie@comcast.net](mailto:greenveggie@comcast.net). (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) Non-members are always welcome!

**PIZZA and DRINK GET-TOGETHER:** Tuesday, January 10, 2006, 6:00 p.m. Meet with other Sierra members at dinner to come up with ideas for activating interested new volunteers. Come just to chat and eat, or come with ideas! We're looking for a plan to get the word out on volunteer opportunities, as well as ideas for rejuvenating and activating potential volunteers. Place to be announced. Please contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or [Diane@Propson.com](mailto:Diane@Propson.com) for the location.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Wednesday, January 4, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sierra Club office, which is located at 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436 (the old St. Bernard Academy). 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. 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 e-mail [Diane@Propson.com](mailto:Diane@Propson.com). For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to David Bordenkircher at [dabordenkircher@mindspring.com](mailto:dabordenkircher@mindspring.com) or call (615) 333-3377.

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** For additional information, contact Rick Gehrke 423-843-9625 or email [rick.gehrke@comcast.net](mailto:rick.gehrke@comcast.net)

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

### MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING:

(NOTE: New Winter Hours):

Thursday, January 5, 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 Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Monday, January 9, 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 Group Chair Charlie Rond by January 6 to place items on the agenda at (901) 409-8150.

**MONTHLY THIRD TUESDAY:** Tuesday, January 17, 2006, 6:00-8:00pm - Cafe Francisco, 400 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "Third Tuesday" monthly gatherings where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713.

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Wednesday, January 25, 2006, 7:00pm - Memphis Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. The January meeting will be a slide-show by Laura and Ray Coleman. They took a national Sierra Club trip in the Grand Canyon, and will show the wonders of a trip through geological history. For more information, contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.

**TELEVISION PROGRAM:** Monday - 1:30pm, Tuesday - 4:00pm, Wednesday - 11:30am, Wednesday - 11:00pm, Thursday - 7:00am. WPYL-Channel 18 - "The Nature of Conservation," is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. In January the program guest will be Andrew Couch of the West Tennessee Clean Cities Coalition. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the month. If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916.



photo/Carlos Paes

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# Defenders of Tennessee

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** to pass good bills and defeat bad ones, but we need your help to continue the Defender program.

PLEASE support the Defender program by donating to this once-a-year solicitation. Your contribution is not tax-deductible, but it is critical in enabling us to continue to have an advocate on "the hill". If we don't have a lobbyist, we don't have a voice. We urge you to fill out the form below and send a check made out to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. Thank you.

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

## takeACTION

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May we publish your name in the Sierra Club newsletter as a donor?  
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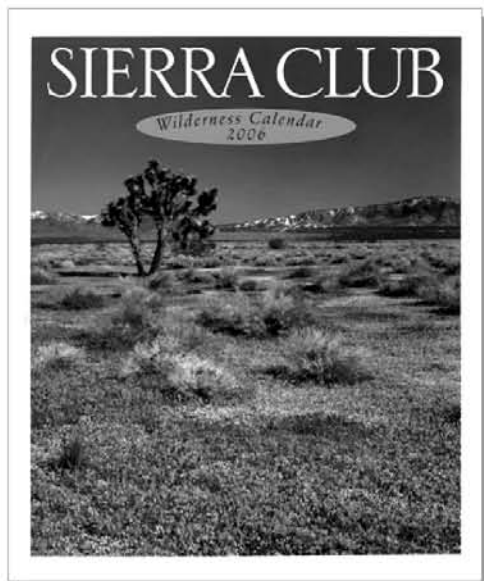
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## many, many thanks to our donors

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## SIERRA CLUB 2006 CALENDARS

**Sierra Club 2006 Engagement Calendar**—Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.



**Sierra Club 2006 Wilderness Wall Calendar**—Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.



### ORDER FORM

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# Outings

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**Wednesday, January 18, Social dinner out at O'Charley's in Brentwood.** Meet about 6 PM or arrive fashionably late (due to traffic?) and let's talk about local issues, introduction to new members and just saying HI. Call Linda Smithyman at 615-822-1979 or email in advance at lsmithymanhbg@yahoo.com

Do you know of a place that you would like to hike at? Or perhaps tour a historical area? Maybe bike? Do some wildflower photography? Drop us a line and maybe someone will coordinate an outing. Contact Katherine Pendleton, Outings Chair at katibug1959@aol.com.

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**Saturday, January 14, 2006 - 10:00am - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. SECOND SATURDAY HIKES.** Explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America. Learn about the forest's history, identify big trees and wildflowers and observe firsthand the impact of natural and human forces on forests in an urban setting. Meet at the bridge next to the parking lot at the end of Old Forest Lane in the center of Overton Park. The informative and entertaining trail map to the self-guided mile-and-a-quarter loop hike with seasonal bird watching and wildflower-viewing guides is available for free at the Golf House in Overton Park at all other times. For additional information, contact Don Richardson at (901) 276-1387. Sponsored by Park Friends.

**Saturday, January 14, 2006 - Annual Eagle Fest at Reelfoot Lake.** The tour will begin at 8am. There will be an optional eagle talk on Friday evening (January 13th) at the AirPark Inn. Reservations required for the tour as only a limited number of participants can be accommodated. For more trip and ride-share information, contact Sue Williams at (901) 274-0524.

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Check the Harvey Broome Group Website for a complete list of scheduled outings.

**Saturday & Sunday, January 21-22, Backpack-GSMNP** (Details to be determined) Pre-register with Beverly Smith, 865-531-8480 (evenings), email blsmith1300@comcast.net.

February 18-19 (Sat-Sun) Backpack, Location and details to be determined. Contact Beverly Smith, 865-531-8480 (evenings, email blsmith1300@comcast.net.

## 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!

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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.

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# GET OUT!

Learn about local chapter outings at  
[www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter)  
today!



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photo/Xavier Gallardo

# News from Memphis...



## Chickasaw Group

Students with the Germantown High School Water Education Team (W.E.T.) program and their instructor - Dr. Victoria Johnson, along with members of the Chickasaw Group, and other volunteers collected 79 bags of litter from a section of shoreline at Wolf River Harbor. Part of Harbor Town is in the background. Photo credit: Sue A. Williams

### Pinson Mounds Archeological State Park Hike

A group of Sierra Club and Tennessee Trails Association members recently hiked part of the Pinson Mounds State Archeological Site near Jackson, Tennessee, where native-Americans of the Middle Woodland period established the largest mound complex in North America. At least 15



Pinson Mounds hikers. Front, left-to-right: Woody Pierce, Susan Collins, Judith Hammond, Sue Williams, David Carter, Lou Pardue. Back, left-to-right: Eleanor Lewis, Carolyn Pierce, Charlie Rond, Margaret Dixon, Bill Neff. Photo credit: Sue A. Williams

earthen mounds, a geometric enclosure, habitation areas and related earthworks remain, covering almost 1,200 acres of the historic site that dates from 1-500 A.D. The hikers met at the Visitors Center, which is a modern two-story mound reproduction with an archeological laboratory in the basement that can be seen from the first story by looking down through observation windows. The group climbed "Saul's Mound", at 72 feet, the tallest of the mound structures, and then hiked along the boardwalk down to the Forked Deer River and back.

### Meeting with TDEC's Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan

A historic meeting with Paul Sloan-the new Deputy Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) was held in Memphis on November 1st. The meeting attracted 30 people, which included members of the Chickasaw Group, as well as other organizations, including the Wolf



Front, left-to-right: Steven Sondheim, Sue Williams, Charlie Rond. Middle, left-to-right: Clark Buchner, Don Richardson, and Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan. Back, left-to-right: Larry Henson and James Baker. Photo credit: Sue A. Williams

River Conservancy, Friends of Shelby Farms Park, Greater Memphis Greenline, and others. Mr. Sloan described how he and TDEC's Commissioner Jim Fyke divide of their responsibilities. Mr. Sloan said, "if it is scenic, Jim has it, if it is carcinogenic, I have it", referring to Commissioner Fyke working on the "conservation" side of TDEC, and Dept. Commissioner Sloan working the "environment" side. Mr. Sloan answered a number of questions from the audience, and he was also presented a written report from James Baker - Tennessee's Water Sentinel.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event in Memphis / "X" Marks the Spot

On a very windy, but warm and dry day, Scott Dye - national Water Sentinels Director joined Charlie Rond - Chickasaw Group Chair and James Baker - Conservation Chair as they volunteered to help at this event. A special thanks go to the over 2,000 citizens of Memphis and Shelby County that brought in their discards so that they could be properly disposed. It was quite a sight to see a county of almost a million disgorge its accumulated tons of household toxins by the carload after carload. A big thank you also goes to the volunteers from the Memphis Area Master Gardeners program. Thanks also go to the City of Memphis Public Works Division, Shelby County



Several of the waste - handling professionals from Clean Harbors, Inc. rapidly fill a third 250-gallon container with used motor oil. The line of cars on the left side of the photo is representative of how busy the day was. Photo credit: James H. Baker

Government, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for their organizing efforts. Lastly, but certainly not least, thanks to the waste - handling professionals at Clean Harbors, Inc. The amount collected was over 204,000 pounds of waste, of which about 750 gallons (about 6,000 pounds) was used motor oil. The number of cans of paint that were collected fairly boggled the mind and worked out to 97,000 pounds of the total. According to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), this event had the largest participation and generated the largest volume of any collection event in Tennessee history. While mobile events like this are good, it will be great when Memphis - Shelby County gets a permanent household hazardous waste collection facility similar to what exists in Nashville, Knoxville, and Chattanooga. Household hazardous waste collection sites and events are needed all across Tennessee and the country. Far better to take it at curbside than to wrench it from the stream later.

In addition, a "X" Marks the Spot event was held on the streets closest to the household waste event. Sierra Club member Patricia Kennedy, along with Scott Dye and James Baker, scoured 0.35 miles of streets and quickly rounded up six bags of trash and litter, which included two bags of recyclable beverage containers. This data is being collected to show Tennessee's Legislators that, despite the claims to the contrary from opponents to Container Deposit Legislation; beverage containers DO make up a sizeable percentage of litter.

### Message In the Bottle Photo Contest



James Baker and Suzanne Askew - the Secretary for Scenic Tennessee.

Photo credit: Marge Davis-Scenic Tennessee's Bottle Bill Coordinator

received his award at the Frist Center for the Performing Arts in Nashville. The photo can be seen at: <http://www.scenictennessee.org/conttest.html>

### Wolf River Harbor Clean Up

On an absolutely perfect early fall day, 18 people worked to clean up along the shoreline of Wolf River Harbor. Many thanks to Dr. Victoria Johnson of Germantown High School who brought 8 of her Water Education Team (W.E.T.) students to help. Members of the Chickasaw Group and other volunteers rounded out the crew that cleaned up about a quarter mile of shoreline. In just two hours, they collected 79 bags of trash, which included 46 bags of recyclable beverage containers. The students quickly learned that there would be a lot less litter to clean up if Tennessee's Legislators would pass a law known as Container Deposit Legislation. That law would require deposits on cans and bottles of soft drinks, beer, bottled water, and other beverages, and result in a financial incentive to not litter these materials. After getting "up close and personal" with many bags of trash, one student summed it up best with the comment, "I will never litter again". After the event, some of the clean up crew enjoyed lunch provided by Café Francisco.

### Holiday Party

The Chickasaw Group Holiday Party drew about 65 members and friends out on a cold and windy Saturday night. Inside, the atmosphere was warm and inviting. A highlight of the evening was the traditional awards ceremony. This year's winners were:

\* Unsung Hero: - Julie Ray. As the owner of Café Francisco, Julie has, since 2003, provided free snacks and drinks to those hard working (and hungry) volunteers that have given of their time to help keep Wolf River Harbor clean.

\* Smart Growth: - John Gary. As Vice-President of Friends for Our Riverfront, John promotes the improvement of the Memphis riverfront to its full potential as a



Chickasaw Group members and friends enjoying each other's company. Photo credit: James Baker

green space for public enjoyment, preserving its historic, natural and aesthetic character. On the web, see: <http://www.memphisriverfront.org/>

\* Friend of the Environment: - Mack Prichard. For years, Mack has been a friend of the environment and the Sierra Club. His slide shows are a reflection of a man who understands the interdependence of all life forms on Planet Earth.

\* Outstanding Environmentalist: - Barry Sulkin. Barry has worked on issues surrounding the pollution of Oliver Creek near Lakeland, TN by land development interests. His latest report, "Oliver Creek is Stuck in the Mud" documents that the creek is still very polluted with silt and mud from construction sites. On the web, see: [http://www.tnpeer.org/News/2004/oliver/final\\_oliver.pdf](http://www.tnpeer.org/News/2004/oliver/final_oliver.pdf)

\* Environmental Justice - On behalf of the Memphis EJ Organizer-Rita Harris, Dick Mochow presented two awards, one to State Representative Barbara Cooper, and another to James Baker for their efforts to stop the operation of a low-level nuclear waste incinerator that was proposed by Radiological Assistance, Consulting and Engineering (RACE).

\* Scorched Earth: - Rusty Hyneman - Rusco Company. No Chickasaw Group Holiday Party would be complete without a "bad boy" award. A November 13th Memphis Commercial Appeal article talked about Hyneman clear-cutting woods to build inexpensive cookie - cutter homes that are the bane of smart-growth advocates. A November 21st article in the same newspaper reported that Hyneman has yet to pay civil penalties, and take steps to correct water pollution problems at a number of his developments. Based on this information, this award was most deserved.

# Winter time energy saving tips

by David Reister  
Sierra Club

Since space heating uses 49% of the energy in our homes (see Figure), turn down your thermostat to 65 degrees. For every degree you lower your heat in the 60-degree to 70-degree range, you'll save up to 5 percent on heating costs. Wear warm clothing like a sweater. Set the thermostat back to 55 degrees at night or when leaving home for an extended time (heat pumps should only be set back two degrees to prevent unneeded use of backup strip heating). Install a programmable thermostat that is compatible with your heating system.

Traditional fireplaces are an energy loser - it's best not to use them because they pull heated air out of the house and up the chimney. When not in use, make absolutely sure the damper is closed. If you decide not to use a fireplace, then block off the chimney with a piece of rigid insulation from the hardware store that fits snugly into the space.

Reduce hot water temperature. Set your water heater to the "normal" setting or 120°, unless the owner's manual for your dishwasher requires a higher setting. Savings are 7-11 percent of water heating costs. Insulate the first five feet of pipe coming out of the top of your water heater.

Shorten showers. Simply reducing that lingering time by a few minutes can save hundreds of gallons of hot water per month for a family of four. Showers account for 2/3 of your water heating costs.

Use compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.

Plug home electronics, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use.

Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.

Look for the ENERGY STAR label on home appliances and products. ENERGY STAR products meet strict efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

## DRIVING TIPS

Idling gets you 0 miles per gallon. The best way to warm up a vehicle is to drive it. No more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days is needed. Anything more simply wastes fuel and increases emissions.

Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration, and hard braking) wastes gas. It can lower your highway gas mileage 33% and city mileage 5%.

Avoid high speeds. Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying \$0.10 more per gallon of gas.

When you use overdrive gearing, your car's engine speed goes down. This saves gas and reduces wear.

Use air conditioning only when necessary.

Clear out your car; extra weight decreases gas mileage.

Reduce drag by placing items inside the car or trunk rather than on roof racks. A loaded roof rack can decrease your fuel economy by 5%.

Check into carpooling and public transit to cut mileage and car maintenance costs.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Department of Energy  
<http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/>

California Energy Commission

<http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/tips.html>



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.

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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**  
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## 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](mailto:dabordenkircher@mindspring.com).

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