

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 37, Number 11 - November 2006

Celebrating an Earth-Friendly Thanksgiving

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

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

What is Eco-Cuisine?

In his book, *Eco-Cuisine: An Ecological Approach to Gourmet Vegetarian Cooking*, author Ron Picarski writes, "Ecology is an awareness of the interrelationships between living organisms and their environment. Eco-Cuisine is about the human diet and its relationship to our personal health and the natural environment."

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

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

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

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

For more Thanksgiving Recipes, visit these informative sites
www.gentlethanksgiving.org/about.htm
<http://vegweb.com/food/events/index-thanksgiving.shtml>
www.pcrm.org/health/Recipes/thanksgiving.html
www.vegan.com/current/thanks.html
www.shepherds-rod-message.org/health/eats.html
www.tazarat.com/thanksgiving.html

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

Make a difference!

EAT Local

If you care about global warming, don't buy food that has traveled hundreds or thousands of miles by plane and truck to get to you.

If you care about open spaces, buy food that is grown on small local farms, which help keep open spaces from being paved over.

If you care about stopping sprawl, buy from local producers rather than from big chain stores.

EAT Organic

If you care about biodiversity and endangered species, don't buy food that is produced with toxic pesticides, which kill all sorts of creatures.

If you care about global warming, don't buy food that is grown with petroleum-based fertilizers.

If you care about clean air, water and soil, look for food that is grown on farms where farmers don't use chemical pesticides that are sprayed from the air and leach into the water and soil.

EAT more vegetables, fruits, nuts, grains, and seeds

If you care about forests, wild places, biodiversity, and endangered species, you should know that a leading cause of deforestation in the Americas and elsewhere is the raising of cattle and their feed.

If you care about clean water and soil, don't buy meat from factory farms where animals are raised in confined operations so that their wastes poison the air, soil and water around them.

Watch in the December issue for the Tennessee Conservation Voters newly released 2006 Legislative Scorecard, which can also be accessed online at www.tnconservationvoters.org

**It's time to vote!!
Look for your ballot inside
this issue and vote for
Tennessee's Sierra Club
leadership today!**



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
Or mail new address to:
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
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.

Mark your Calendar!

Defender Mailing Party Wednesday, November 15, 7:30

Every year for the past 11 years, the Tennessee Chapter has sent out a selected mailing to solicit funds for the Sierra Defender program. This critical effort provides most of the funding needed to cover expenses for our lobbying and advocacy efforts, and we need the help of some Middle Tennessee volunteers to help address, stuff, seal (with glue sticks!), and stamp the letters. We send out only about 200 letters, so the time investment is very small in relation to the benefit to the Club.
4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville 37215.
Please RSVP (in case of any schedule changes) to Adelle Wood, 665-1010. Email adelleintn@juno.com

Come and help us do the mailing, share some snacks, and meet some fellow Sierrans!

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
allan.lummus@gmail.com
Conservation: Steven Sondheim (901) 761-1793
stevensondheim@yahoo.com
Outings: Judith Hammond (901) 276-2819
hammondjudithm@yahoo.com

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/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
gla4797@earthlink.net
Vice Chair: Dr. Earl Taylor (423) 727-7211
Conservation: Dean Whitworth (423) 727-7214
Outings: Webb Griffith (423) 727-4797
gla4797@earthlink.net

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

National Sierra Staff in Tennessee:

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

Bill McCabe, Central Appalachian EJ Organizer
office - 423-944-3220 fax - 423-944-3221 (call first)

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



At a recent Middle Tennessee Group outing Diane, Rory, and Joby hosted an amazing hummingbird and close encounters cookout in Rockvale. Also pictured, Katherine, Keith, Steve, & Betsy. Photo by Anna. Submitted by Betsy Garber.

Please submit photos from your event to:
tn.sierra@gmail.com

Moving?

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

or Email to:

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

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# _____

Election Ballot for At-Large Delegates for the 2007-2008 Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee

Please vote for four (4) of the following candidates.

Membership

Single

Dual

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gary Bowers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Brian Paddock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Katherine Pendleton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Don Richardson |

Only Current members can vote. Please put your membership number (found on the mailing label of the Tennes-Sierran) on the outside of the envelope. Place that envelope inside another envelope and mail by close of business, Thursday, November 30, 2006 to:

Robert M. Hill
Election Committee Chair
11504 Mountain View Road
Knoxville TN 37934

Your vote counts here and at the Group Level, so please remember to vote for your Group candidates as well!

Tennessee Chapter Candidate Statements:

(Also posted on the Chapter Web page)

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

- * Sierra Club - TN Chapter Executive Committee 1998 - 2006 (At Large Delegate 2001-2002, 2005-2006)
- * Sierra Club - TN Chapter Conservation Chair 1998 - 2006
- * Sierra Club - TN Chapter Site Coordinator - Environmental Public Education Campaign (EPEC) to End Commercial Logging (ECL) in the Cherokee National Forest 1999-2002 (wrote campaign matrix that garnered the first EPEC ECL site in the country)
- * Sierra Club - TN Chapter - founder and maintainer - TN Environmental Activist Messaging (TEAM) system 1998 - 2002
- * Sierra Club - TN Chapter - Sara Hines Award (for conservation) winner 1999
- * Sierra Club - TN Chapter - initiator and organizer - One Thin Dollar Silent Auction - proceeds going to support TN Chapter lobbyist
- * Sierra Club - Middle TN Group Executive Committee - late 1980's to present
- * TN Scenic Rivers (TSRA) - Conservationist of the Year 2003
- * Co-founder Friends of the Forest - the first assembly of environmental groups working to pass legislation to reform management practices of Tennessee's State Forests
- * TN Forests Council (TFC) - steering committee charter member - a unification of environmental groups working to stop the destruction of Tennessee's hardwood forests
- * Co-author TN Sustainable Forest Management Act
- * Author - TN Forest Landowner Boundary Protection Act
- * TN Scenic Rivers (TSRA) - Board of Directors 2001-2003

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

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

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

Watauga Group Election Ballot

For the 2007 Executive Committee.

Please vote for five (5) of the following candidates.

Membership

Single

Dual

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ann Austin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Edward Dowgin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wilbert "Webb" Griffith |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gloria Griffith |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dennis Shekinah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Louise Shoen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Earl Taylor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dean Whitworth |

Vote for 5 out of the 8 candidates nominated. The top five vote recipients will be full term (2 year) members of the EXCOM and the remaining candidates will win 1 year terms. For your vote to count, you must enclose your marked ballot in an envelope marked "Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope for mailing. Write your membership number, which can be found on the address label of your newsletter, on the outer envelope with your return address. Envelopes without a membership number cannot be counted. Mail your ballot to:

Gloria Griffith
 5907 HWY 421 South
 Mountain City, TN 37683

The deadline for submitting your ballot is December 1, 2006.

Watauga Candidate Statements:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Harvey Broome Candidate Statements:

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

Elizabeth (Liz) Dixon - I have been a Sierra club Member since 1994 and was chair of the Tennessee Chapter for 3 years beginning in 2002. I have been active in the activities of the End Commercial Logging (ECL) campaign, The Save Our Smokies campaign, the Reform TDOT campaign, the lawsuit against TVA power plant pollution, the campaign against mountain top removal mining. I am the Web Mistress for the Tennessee Chapter and for the Harvey Broome Group. I am also List Mistress for list serves for the Harvey Broome Group ExCom, HBG News, and the Great smoky Mountains Coalition(GSMC) Previously I have served TN Chapter Vice Chair, HBG as Group Chair, Conservation Chair, Vice Chair, and Hospitality Chair, Group and representative to the Board of Cherokee Forest Voices. I have worked closely with the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP), Save our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM) and SPEAK. The student environmental group at the University of Tennessee (UTK) I am a computer specialist by trade. I enjoy scuba diving, travel and all forms of dancing (contra, salsa, waltz, swing and tango).

Robin Ferguson - I graduated from East Tennessee State University in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in Human Ecology with an emphasis on Nutrition. I am currently employed in the Knox County TN Health Department as Nutrition Educator and Lactation Consultant. I have participated in HBG activities and outings for the past 13 years and have been a member of the Sierra Club since 2003. I am currently serving as Hospitality Chair for the HBG. I served in the Peace Corps 1997-1999 in the Dominican Republic where I was assigned to the Child Survival Sector. I was also active in the AgroForestry sector, working to reforest badly eroded areas in that country. I am an avid outdoors person and enjoy back packing, day hiking, canoeing, and many other things related to Outdoors. I am active in conservation and preservation issues in the HBG area and nationally.

Cheryl Quinn - I am a 1994 Graduate of the University Of Tennessee -Knoxville with a Bachelors degree in Social Service and have a Masters Degree from UTK earned in 1995 in that same field. My work in that field included work for the State of Tennessee providing therapy for children in the foster care system... I left that field in 2006 and am now taking classes at UTK to gain skills in the computer applications and environmental areas. I have been a hiker for more than 20 years and have recently begun to back pack when I joined the Sierra Club HBG in 2005. I enjoy hiking in the Great Smoky Mountain and the Big South Fork National Parks and in the Cherokee National Forest. I am very interested in local environmental issues and am currently actively engaged in the HBG work to Stop I-3. As a Grandmother, I feel that the Sierra Club can be an important factor in preserving the wilderness areas and the environment that our children and grand children will inherit.

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

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

Harvey Broome Group Election Ballot

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

Membership

Single

Dual

- _____ Barbara Allen
- _____ Elizabeth (Liz) Dixon
- _____ Robin Ferguson
- _____ Cheryl Quinn
- _____ David Reister
- _____ Ed Soler

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

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

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

Middle Tennessee Candidate Statements:

Rachel Floyd: *"Rachel became active in the Sierra Club in 1992 through listening and learning about issues important to our planet's environment. Over the past 15 years, she has served a number of terms on the MTG ExComm in positions such as Secretary, Treasurer, and Group Chair. Rachel has also served terms as a Group Delegate and At-Large Delegate at the Chapter level, as well as Editor of the state newsletter, the Tennes-Sierran for 6.5 years. She is continually interested and active in conservation of wildlands, renewable energy, clean water, environmental, economic and human sustainability. A vote for Rachel would assist election of a long time committed conservationist who loves putting her administrative expertise to work for our environment."*

Don Scharf: *"A former Middle Tennessee Group Chair, Treasurer and Conservation Chair; and a former Tennessee Chapter Conservation Chair, he has been part of many conservation issues including recycling public land protection, air quality protection and global warming. In July, he was chosen to join the Executive Committee to complete the term of a member who moved out of the area. He is working with other ExComm members to find new activists and improve communications with Sierra Club members."*

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

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

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

Middle Tennessee Group Election Ballot

For the 2007 Executive Committee

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

Membership

Single

Dual

- _____ Dave Bordenkircher
- _____ Gary Bowers
- _____ Rachel Floyd
- _____ Phillip Miller
- _____ Don Scharf

For your vote to count, you must enclose your marked ballot in an envelope marked "Ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope for mailing. Write your membership number, which can be found on the address label of your newsletter, on the outer envelope with your return address. Envelopes without a membership number cannot be counted. Mail your ballot to:

Katherine Pendleton
PO Box 290306
Nashville, TN 37229-0306

The deadline for submitting your ballot is December 1, 2006.

Chickasaw Group Election Ballot

For the 2007 Executive Committee. Please vote for up to and including six (6) of the following candidates. Candidate Joe Kyle wishes to serve a one (1) year term, the rest will serve a two (2) year term.

Membership

Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Juliet Jones
_____	_____	Don Richardson
_____	_____	Walter Diggs
_____	_____	Jessica Gibbons
_____	_____	Teri L. Sullivan
_____	_____	Joe Kyle

FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT, you must enclose your marked ballot in an envelope marked "ballot" on the outside. Place that envelope inside another envelope for mailing. Write your membership number which can be found on the address label of your newsletter, on the outer envelope with your return address. ENVELOPES WITHOUT A MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WILL NOT BE COUNTED. Mail your ballot to:

**Attn. Election Committee
Chickasaw Group-Sierra Club
P.O. Box 111094
Memphis, TN 38111**

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

Chickasaw Candidate Statements:

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

Don Richardson - I request your vote to continue serving the Chickasaw Group as a guiding voice on your Executive Committee. Sierra Club at all levels is at a crossroads in redefining itself to meet the needs of its members and reverse the trend of denial and degradation of nature's services and benefits at all levels of government. No where is this more noticeable than in the greater Memphis area and throughout Tennessee. I hope my experience and efforts at the local level and beyond have produced the kind of results, sometimes appearing to be baby steps compared to the challenges we face, to earn your vote to continue the hard and mostly unrecognized work of speaking up for the natural environment and its unrepresented denizens, and building resilient safe and healthy communities in environmentally responsible ways. Please vote so we know you care, and please contact your Executive Committee so they can learn your issues and serve Memphis and West Tennessee more effectively.

Walter Diggs - I am requesting your vote to be elected to the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee.

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

Member: Bluff City Canoe Club and past Treasurer, Greater Memphis Greenline, Common Sense, Shelby Park Alliance, and Wolf River Conservancy.

Board Chairman: Cocaine, Alcohol Addiction Program (CAAP) and the Delta Foundation.

Manage the family farm and garden in Cordova with environmental criteria.

Jessica Gibbons - Jessica Gibbons is a sophomore at the University of Memphis, majoring in International and Environmental Studies. She is one of the key leaders of the Environmental Action Club at the U of M, and is currently working on a Green Power Campaign on campus. She is also very involved in the Cool County campaign that the Chickasaw group is currently working on. Jessica plans on attending graduate school and dedicating her life to being a community organizer around environmental and social issues.

Teri L. Sullivan - I am requesting your vote to be elected again to the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee. I served for two years on the Excom in 2003-2004. I planned program meetings and helped with public relations for the group. I continue to do public relations for the group and am a P.R. professional in public television. I have been active in environmentalism for nearly twenty years. I am also on the board of Mid South Reads and the Coalition for Livable Communities, a Smart Growth education group. I have recently completed a year of training from The Leadership Academy.

Joe Kyle - I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1993. I was on the CKG ExCom from 1994-1997, serving as Vice-Chairman and then Chairman during that period. I am currently finishing up the second year of another term on the ExCom, serving as the group's treasurer. I have held a lifelong interest in the environment. When I was a kid I began my love of camping and hiking in the Boy Scouts. This continued throughout my life, and I finally joined the Sierra Club in 1993. My primary interest at that time was the protection of wild places. I quickly learned about other issues such as Environmental Justice, which is so important in Memphis. At the present, I am involved in Building Environmental Communities (BEC), an initiative in the CKG which is all about 'saving the parks & growing the greenways'. I would like to continue to do that and serve again on the ExCom, for one additional year (2007) if the Group sees fit.

Upper Cumberland Group Election Ballot

For the 2007 Executive Committee. Please vote for two (2) of the following candidates.

Membership

Single	Dual	
_____	_____	Mary Mastin
_____	_____	Eston Evans
_____	_____	Ralph Bowden

_____ Sierra Club membership number
Please return your ballots by December 1, 2006.

Mail your ballot to:

Margaret Olson
P.O. Box 256
Pleasant Hill TN 38578

Upper Cumberland Candidate Statements:

Mary Mastin - Mary has held various positions within both the group and chapter level of TN Chapter of the Sierra Club. As an environmental lawyer Mary continues to defend the waters and land of TN from environmental damage through litigation. Currently Mary is the conservation chair of the Upper Cumberland group.

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

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

Outings

CHEROKEE GROUP

(Chattanooga)

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP

(Knoxville)

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

November 4-5, 2006 (Sat-Sun). Iron Mountain Trail Backpack. Years ago the Appalachian Trail followed Iron Mountain all the way north of Hampton, TN, to Damascus, VA; today the AT follows Iron Mountain about half-way to Damascus, then turns to the west near Shady Valley and follows Holston Mountain on to Damascus. The "old" AT along the rest of Iron Mountain, much of which we will traverse, is still there for hiking, now with lots of solitude. It is basically a ridge top hike, with lots of great views of Shady Valley and other similarly scenic upper East TN valleys. The portion we will hike is 13.4 miles and is rated Moderate. Preregister with Will Skelton: Home 523-2272, Work 521-0363; whshome@bellsouth.net.

December 9, 2006 (Sat). Dayhike - Charlie's Bunion, GSMNP. About 8 miles roundtrip from the Newfound Gap parking lot. Max elevation gain about 1200 feet. Rated moderate. A busy section of the AT, but the almost continuous views from the crest of the Smokies make the relatively heavy hiker activity worth putting up with. Will probably hike a little beyond the "Bunion" to a good lunch spot. In the event that highway 441 is closed due to snow, an alternate hike at lower elevation will be substituted. Driving time from Knoxville, about 1.5 to 2 hours. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or rshrieve@utk.edu (email is preferred).

10 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!

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP

(Nashville)

Sunday, November 5 Radnor Lake Dayhike - Radnor Lake Hike at 2:30 p.m. We'll do the Lake Trail (1.6 miles easy) and the South Lake Trail (.9 miles moderate). We'll meet by the handicap parking sign in the west parking lot (access only from Granny White Pike). Directions: Take I 65 to Harding Place, exit 78. Travel west on Harding Place (also called Battery Lane) to Granny White Pike. Turn left on Granny White Pike and travel south to Otter Creek Road. Turn left onto Otter Creek Road (across from the Granny White Market). Parking lot is down a bit on your left. Please let Betsy know you're coming at 370-9454 or at garberb@hotmail.com (write "Sierra Club RSVP" in the subject line).

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

Friday-Sunday, November 24-26 - Thanksgiving Weekend Backpack. This will be a joint backpacking trip with the Northern Kentucky Group in Big South Fork on the Yahoo Falls loop. We will meet Friday night at Pickett State Park to camp and then meet up at the trailhead Saturday morning with the group from Kentucky. Average hiking distance Saturday and Sunday 7 miles rated moderate. We will hike at a moderate pace approximately 2 miles/hour. Experienced backpackers only please. Pre-registration required. Each participant must supply own gear, food, and transportation. Contact Katherine Pendleton no later than November 20 if interested in participating at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

Looking ahead! Mark your calendar now for MTG Holiday Party Saturday, December 16, 2006 from 6-10 p.m. at the home of Katherine Pendleton and Keith Romig. Plan to bring something to share such as a vegetable, salad, dessert, or appetizer. Bring your own libation. Directions will be available in December issue of newsletter.

CHICKASAW GROUP

(Memphis)

Saturday - Sunday, November 4 - 5: Buffalo National River Trails hikes, Jasper, Arkansas; with Tennessee Trails. Will see wonderful scenery and beautiful Fall colors. Hikes are 5 and 8 miles round trip. Moderate. For more information and reservations, contact Woody Pierce 755-5635.

Saturday, November 11, 2006 - The Old Forest Hike - The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee. Second Saturday Hikes. Explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America. Meet at the bridge next to the parking lot at the end of Old Forest Lane 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 or donrich@juno.com. Sponsored by Park Friends and the Sierra Club.

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

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

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee: "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. A different program is aired, usually each month. The November show features Lakeland Urban Forester Eric Bridges talking about smart, green policies for cities. For the schedule, please see the website: 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



Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe. ©2006 Shanna Petersen

PLAN NOW!

CHAPTER OUTING FOR FEBRUARY

CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE WINTER SKI AND SNOWSHOE ADVENTURE-FEBRUARY 17-FEBRUARY 24, 2007

Experience winter like never before! Snow lovers of the Tennessee Chapter are invited to join Cumberland Chapter (Kentucky) members on an outing to the Sierra Club's own rustic Clair Tappaan Lodge. Located on Donner Summit, the area receives the highest average snowfall of the entire Sierra Nevada range, making the Lodge a favorite with winter sports enthusiasts. We'll fly into Reno, Nevada, on Saturday morning and shuttle to the lodge. After some lessons, we'll glide into action in the Tahoe National Forest and Royal Gorge, the world's largest cross-country ski resort. Several other resorts for downhill skiing or snowboarding are easily accessible from the lodge. We will have the option of a three-mile guided trek along the Pacific Crest Trail past Castle Peak to a backcountry hut for an overnight stay. We'll also have ample time to learn about the enchanting history of the Sierra Nevadas and current conservation issues. On our last night, we'll enjoy an evening in South Lake Tahoe. Participants must be age 16 or over. Minimum number of participants is 7 and the maximum is 14. Reservation deadline: February 1, 2007. Cost is \$499 per person and includes lodging, meals, ground transportation from the airport to the lodge and day trips. The leader will provide free snowshoe lessons. Not included: airfare, equipment rental and cross-country ski lessons. Discounted ski resort trail passes and lift tickets will be available through Clair Tappaan Lodge. Rating: While this trip is suitable for beginners, Clair Tappaan Lodge is at 7,000 feet elevation making activity feel slightly more difficult. Some activities may involve up to 9,000 feet altitude, but individuals will have options for less strenuous activity like sledding, building a snowman or simply enjoying a cozy day by the fire or reading in the library at the lodge. For additional information, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com

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

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



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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Card Number _____

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Meetings

CHICKASAW GROUP

(Memphis)

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

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, November 13, 2006, 6:30pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, Tennessee: This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Allan Lummus - vice-Chair by November 10 to place items on the agenda at (901) 722-9545 or allan.lummus@gmail.com

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, November 29, 2006, 7:00pm - NOTE: CHANGED LOCATION, Memphis Public Library and Information Center - Cordova Branch at 8457 Trinity Road, Cordova, TN 38018 - next to Bert Ferguson Park - east of Germantown Parkway. The November program will feature a PowerPoint presentation by James Baker - the Tennessee Water Sentinel. He will be showing how mud and silt from poor erosion controls at construction sites is one of the leading causes of stream impairments in Shelby County and how he wants you to be part of his new program, Mud Busters. Mud Busters will inform the appropriate regulatory agency about sub-standard erosion controls at construction sites in Shelby County. For more information, contact Tom Lawrence - Program Chair at (901) 237-4819 or tom-lawrence@bellsouth.net for more information.

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

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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP

(Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, November 14, 2006, 7:30pm, at Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. "TVA, the Tellico Dam, and Science: the Snail Darter Controversy" Dr. David A. Etnier, Emeritus Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Tennessee, will discuss his 1973 discovery of the Snail Darter in the lower Little Tennessee River and its impact in delaying construction of the controversial Tellico Dam. In opposing the Tellico project, he noted that "Some environmental damages may be reparable, but once a river is dammed it's dead forever." A native of St. Cloud, MN, Etnier earned his Bachelor of Science and Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota and taught a variety of courses at UT between 1965 and his retirement in 2001. As a specialist in ichthyology and aquatic insects, he "inspired thousands of future aquatic resource professionals." In 1993 he and Dr. Wayne Starnes, a former student, published the 681-page *The Fishes of Tennessee*, which "filled a huge void in fisheries literature . . . providing both a taxonomic source and a natural history reference for one of the most biologically rich

regions in the country." In 2004 the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN) selected Dr. Etnier as the first recipient of the "Bill Russell River Hero Award." For more information contact John Finger at (865) 573-5908 or jfinger@utk.edu.

STRATEGY MEETING: 7:30 p.m., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 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, November 9, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. (Come any time between 6:00 and 8:00.) This month, in place of our regular program meeting, we are joining forces with Friends of Radnor Lake and The Chestnut Group to celebrate our natural sanctuaries through wonderful "plein air" paintings, which will be on display at Radnor Lake November 9-12. This Preview Party on November 9 will include the art show, a silent auction and refreshments. Several of the artists will be on hand to answer questions about plein air painting (which means painting in "fresh air") and their works of Radnor and other middle Tennessee treasures. The Chestnut Group is a non-profit organization made up of artists dedicated to preserving endangered ecosystems and historic locales. They embrace the historic tradition of plein air painting. It is the art of capturing the experience, the light, and the feeling of a scene quickly on canvas. Through events such as this sale, The Chestnut Group raises awareness and funds to protect treasures such as Radnor Lake. Radnor Lake is kind enough to host our monthly program meetings, and many of us are members and supporters of Friends of Radnor Lake. Please join us for the Preview Party and help us all Celebrate Our Natural Sanctuaries. Please note that this event is 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. For additional questions, please feel free to contact Friends of Radnor Lake at 251-1471. Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike. Non-members are always welcome!

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are first on the agenda! Come and get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting on the 4th floor at 2021 21st Avenue South (the old St. Bernard Academy Building). We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Diane 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@mindspring.com or call 333-3377.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP

(Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Peggy Evans at maevans@twlakes.net or (931)432-6680

WATAUGA GROUP

PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith, (gla4797627@aol.com), (423) 727-4797 for more information.

Bill McKibben at Rhodes College

Environmentally concerned Memphians turned out over 300 strong to hear author Bill McKibben speak at Rhodes College on September 19th. Mr. McKibben, author of the 1989 book *The End of Nature*, spoke at the McCallum Ballroom as part of the 2006 Gilliland Lecture series. Many members of the Sierra Club Chickasaw Group were present.

Global warming is McKibben's big concern. In his talk, he cited statistics about the problem, but focused most on his solutions. We humans have to make ourselves "smaller", he said. He explained that by "smaller" he meant that we must use fewer natural resources, and stop thinking of ourselves as the center of all creation. Technology has a part to play in the solution, but the key is to find a sense of greater community that will enable us to live together and in harmony with nature. As far back as 1989 he was saying, "...we've grown about as powerful as it's wise to grow".



Bill McKibben spoke at Rhodes College in Memphis. Photo by James Baker.

One questioner wanted to know if it was possible that natural processes could account for recently observed changes in the earth's temperature. McKibben answered that temperatures have gone beyond the limits of the natural cycle. He was surprised that no ameliorating factors had materialized to lighten the dire predictions of the climatological models. For example, as atmospheric water vapor increased, the high altitude clouds that could reflect solar radiation back into space never formed.

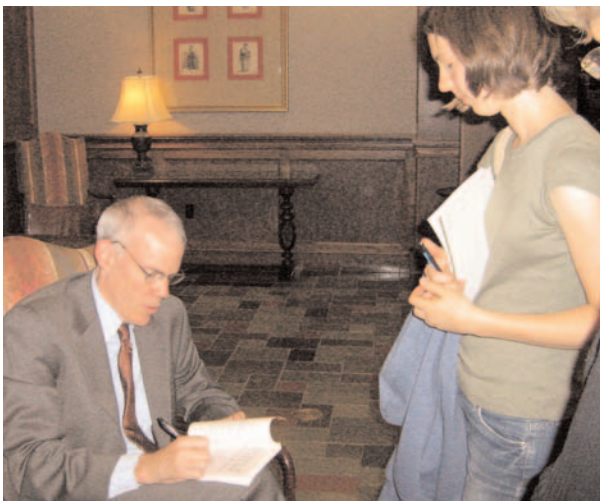
McKibben said that political leadership is needed to point up the magnitude of the global warming problem. President Bush's refusal to accept the standards of the Kyoto treaty does not bode well for the environment or for America's reputation in the world. Al Gore himself, when he was vice-president, said, "the minimum that is scientifically necessary is greater than the maximum that is politically feasible". As more

Americans become aware of the problem, this is changing. Recently, McKibben was one of the leaders of a walk across Vermont to draw attention to global warming.

Part of McKibben's solution is to save transportation energy by eating locally-grown food. As an experiment, he once ate well through an entire winter, just consuming food grown near his home in Vermont. So well, in fact, that he wrote up his experiences for *Gourmet* magazine.

He said we should be concerned less about our "belongings" and more about "belonging" to a community that can assist us in maintaining an environmentally sensible way of life.

McKibben's most recent book is *Wandering Home* (2006) about a hiking trip from his current home in Vermont to his old haunts in the Adirondacks of New York.



Author Bill McKibben autographed books after his talk. Photo by David Carter.

Two Hours for the Children

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

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

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

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

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

Chickasaw Group News

Contributed by various members

Cooper-Young Festival

The Chickasaw Group hosted two booths at this year's Cooper-Young festival, which had fine (but hot) weather and a huge crowd. One booth was for our Building Environmental Communities (BEC) project. This booth was shared by one of our BEC coalition partners – Greater Memphis Greenline. We collected 350 signatures on a petition to "keep our parks – grow our greenways", 30 surveys of likely volunteers and 20 post-cards plus we had numerous conversations about more bikeways, walkways, greenways and parks in Memphis. Chickasaw member – Deborah Mays said it well, "I can't believe there are so many people interested in this." Yes there are! We all want the built environment to allow walkability, outdoor access and recreation so we don't necessarily have to drive our cars to get everywhere. It is good for our health, the environment, the pocketbook and the community. The Sierra Club booth adopted a focus of also getting petition signatures, but for a different issue, reducing the effects of global warming. We have a continuing petition drive to work with Shelby County Mayor A.C. Wharton, Jr. so that he will sign and implement the United States Mayors Climate Protection Agreement so that Shelby County can become a "Cool County". The signature count after Cooper-Young stands at 540. Other environmentally-minded groups from the Memphis area had booths as well, such as Friends for Our Riverfront, Park Friends, Inc., Greater Memphis Greenline and Wolf River Conservancy. Many thanks to the volunteers for organizing and working at the booths. These include; Karen Prosser, Carolyn Pierce, Margaret Dixon, Judith Hammond, Deborah Mays, Mary Cargill, Paula Maat, Jessica Gibbons, Rebecca Rollins, Margrethe Frankle, Ann Thompson, Ernestine Carpenter, Julian Prewitt, Tom Lawrence, Bill Runyan, Allan Lummus, Joe Kyle, Jim Anhalt, Brian Eason, David Carter, Bob Hayes, Steven Sondheim and James Baker. The evening was capped off with pyrotechnics as Deborah Mays, Maureen Marr, Steven Sondheim, Bob Hayes, Benjamin Boorman, and James Baker shared an after festival meal at Central Bar-B-Que. We watched a fine fireworks display being launched for the Southern Heritage Classic football game. It was a wonderful end to a great day.



In center, from left to right-Heathie Colvett and Virginia McLean with Friends for Our Riverfront (FfOR) along with Steven Sondheim-Conservation Chair of the Chickasaw Group in front of the FfOR's tent as the Cooper Young crowd swirls past. Photo by James H. Baker.

Wolf River Harbor clean sweep

Tennessee Water Sentinel James Baker organized a fall clean sweep of Wolf River Harbor, which took place on an absolutely perfect fall afternoon. 16 adults and 3 youths picked up enough recyclable beverage containers and non-recyclable trash to fill a pickup truck bed-twice. Many thanks to Deborah Mays and son Matthew, Sue A. Williams, Julian Prewitt, Krishna Kasi, and Juliet and Ed Jones for giving up two hours of such a beautiful day to pick up litter and trash. Included in the haul was one tire (with rim), a partial bottle of used motor oil, a plastic inner fender from a car, a milk crate, a hand grenade (only a plastic toy-gotcha!) and an unusual item, an electronic valve position transmitter that looked fairly new.



Young Jack and Maggie Maguire add to the growing pile of trash collected from the shore of Wolf River Harbor. Photo by James Baker.

Additional kudos to Sharon Gordon, Derek Willis and Don Hudgins of the City of Memphis storm water pollution department, as well as Ensign Austin Campbell and several other volunteers from the United States Coast Guard's Sector Lower Mississippi River facility. Sharon brought one of her children and Patrick Maguire of the Coast Guard brought his two children. Also a thank you to Joyce Williams with the City of Memphis Solid Waste recycling department and her husband Jerry for driving over in his pickup and hauling away two full loads to the city's Solid Waste facility. One of the Coast Guard volunteers remarked to Juliet that seeing this amount of trash sensitizes him against even littering a gum wrapper. Two people, Joe Royer, the co-owner of a local outdoors shop, Outdoors, Inc., and an unidentified bicyclist and kayaker congratulated the efforts of the volunteers. For their efforts, everyone received a Water Sentinels t-shirt and in addition, the three youth received Sierra Club backpacks.

Glenview Park

The Chickasaw Group and one of its projects, Building Environmental Community (BEC) shared a table at the Glenview Park community fair on September 30. The fair was indoors at the park's Community Center (though it was a great day to be outdoors). Another 22 petitions to save Memphis parks were signed at the half-day event. Many visitors enjoyed locating their homes and the nearest park on the BEC's big map. The Chickasaw Group offered the colorful 2007 calendars for sale.

The Sierra Club - Middle TN Group
Tennes-Sierran
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