

# Tennes-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 35, Number 8 - August, 2004

## Certification Course is Big Success

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wilderness First Aid Training

By Diane Perschbacher

Thirteen people attended Wilderness First Aid training at Falls Creek Falls State Park during the April 24<sup>th</sup> weekend, having a great time and learning the basics of outdoor first aid treatment. Taught by Charlie Muise, from Landmark Learning LLC and a teacher at the Tremont Center in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the 16 hour Sierra sponsored course covered basic first aid plus the most common injuries and illnesses which occur in the backcountry.

People attended the two year certification course for various reasons. Several people needed the class to lead backcountry Sierra Club outings, while one student was taking the course in order to lead middle school age boys on summer wilderness trips.

The class was well received and taught in a witty manner. As one participant put it, "An informative and entertaining course. I would highly recommend it for anyone who leads groups or recreates in an outdoor/wilderness setting."

Day one of training included learning the basics of accident assessment and trauma management. To test us, the instructor partnered us up for patient assessment practice. One partner would "develop" an illness and the other partner would perform a full patient assessment, which included scene size up, primary assessment, patient history, vitals and a physical exam. After practicing one way, the two people would switch roles.

Day two began with more education on handling injuries, from burns to bee stings. We also discussed safety procedures for lightening storms and other inclement weather. With the group's experience in the wilderness, not only did we learn how to treat medical issues but also how to make judgement calls for evacuating a patient and handling severe weather conditions.

Charlie, as part of his instruction, would unsettle many of us by setting up practice simulations. For these scenarios, half the class were "victims", the other half "rescuers". During one simulation, the victims had fallen prey to a bees' nest, and the rescuers just happened to meet them while they were being viciously bitten by swarms of bees. Another simulation tested our handling of a playground accident. (Not all problems we tackled took place two days from civilization!) Lifelike scenarios are a great teacher.

Lunch, provided by the club, gave us time to relax and socialize. We'd mention places we'd seen in our adventures and laugh at each other's antics. Camping at night also afforded us time to swap stories and enjoy the outdoors.

Of course the days were not without humor, too. Sunday, in particular, found dogs trying to become part of the class and errant frisbees landing on the tables. Mornings found little notes written in our car windows, as classmates took advantage of the pollen being dropped by the pines.

For the last afternoon we practiced splinting and reducing dislocations, before taking the written exam. All students passed, certified for another two years in WFA. One student summed the class up as follows: "Very useful! This training would be really beneficial in the

back country."

Watch for details of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wilderness First Aid Training in the Spring of 2005. Ron Shrieves of the Harvey Broome Group noted that "This class is a must for anyone who hikes/backpacks on a regular basis – whether they lead outings or not – the life you save may be your own."

Top Photo: Students practice splinting a broken arm with materials available in their pack.

Bottom Photo: Instructor Charlie Muise shows class members J. Mark Booth, Ron Shrieves, Gary Bow-ers, Douglas Cooper, James Kidd, Mary Ruffin, Chris O'Connor, Bob LaBreck, Nelson Edwards, Diane Perschbacher, Susan Faidley, Donald Box and Gabrielle Zeiger learn how to relocate a shoulder.



## Corridor J Resource Team Update

By Peggy Evans

This writer is one of 18 members of the Corridor J Resource Team in the Upper Cumberland area facilitated by TDOT and HMB Professional Engineers Inc.. It has been the most blatant display of raw politicking I have ever witnessed firsthand, by resource team members. TDOT decided to do away with voting for a chair and vice chair for the Team. I was greatly relieved as I dreaded the vote. The Team seemed to have broken down into factions and they held separate meetings. This solution

was better so the Team could devote all of its time giving solutions to the facilitators, TDOT & HMB. This nipped in the bud the blatant factions.

At the third meeting the Resource Team composed a rough draft of a questionnaire to be mailed to folks on the TDOT/HMB mailing list. At this time there are thousands of names on the list. I have tried my best to get environmental concerns on the questionnaire. I was on the so-called "environmental sub-team" of the Resource Team. I was the only member of the 5-member group who knew anything about the environment. I will be giving my suggestions, based on consultation with my local "constituents" to the HMB people. The three of us on the Team who have no "agenda" will be fighting to include, in the letter, that a "no-build" option is not an afterthought.

More later; stay tuned!



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## Tennes-Sierran

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### ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to [TennesSierran@aol.com](mailto:TennesSierran@aol.com) either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a 3 1/2 diskette or CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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

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Please notify the Editor  
when changes are needed



# Simmers Wilderness Field Notes

## A Report of Tennessee's Winter, Spring 2004

By Richard W. Simmers, Jr.

I apologize to my readers for being slow to get out this column. I had 3 operations between February and May, two of which involving the nasty C-word; and I joined the "I.V. League" in January. However; I did manage to conclude lots of heavy garden work prior to major confinements, and now have 10 beds for veggies (only 4 last year), but still this does not seem like enough to go around. The volunteer tomatoes look much healthier than my homegrown seedlings; one had a flower open June 2! I harvested some lettuce June 2 also. Enough of that, now! Let's move on to the notes I am sure you are waiting on:

The winter of 2003-4 was fairly mild hereabouts. The lowest temperatures (in late Jan.) being around 10 F. I noted a heavy hoarfrost on local trees Dec. 12, a rather rare event here. Dec. was rather damp, with over 4.6" of rain (equivalent) at Crossville, mostly on 16th and 29th; the temperature climbed to near 60 F on 26th and 28th. Jan began warm (near 70 F on 3rd), but soon got very cold (7th, 11th, etc.); there were a few light snows and some rain; precip was moderate. Feb. had some heavy rain (5th, 20th) and some snow and sleet. March was a wet month (about 6-1/2" of rain at Crossville) alternating between warm and chilly; there was heavy frost on 23rd; warm days included 20th, 25th-28th, with about 81 F on 28th. April had warm and cold spells as usual, with much rain on 12th, and a heavy wet snow on the Cumberland Plateau the 13th (about 6" at Monterey), breaking over a good many redbuds in full bloom. Hot 80's occurred April 17-18, 20, 24. May began wet, then had a last killing frost on 4th near Monterey (locally); at least the last half of the month was summer-like with hot, muggy weather and local showers. For a spring summary, I could say March came in like a lamb, May went out like a lion (severe local storms). Rainfall was mostly adequate; we missed the continuing drought in the SE and the Midwestern flooding (and many of their storms).

Although not quite up to last year for some trees, we had a very good display on our flowering trees and shrubs this spring. Red maples had another great season for flowering and fruiting; a few had begun to bloom at TTU (Tenn Tech University) Feb. 27, with full bloom around March 10-15 near Cookeville and March 19 on the plateau; fruits had ripened by mid-April and begun dispersing. Additional red maple seedlings began appearing before this, so these were leftovers from the previous year (many fruits germinated last season, however). Silver maples had their first open flowers by Feb. 21, and many fruited heavily. It was no surprise following last year's lavish flowering and fruiting (a "mast year"), that sugar maples failed to bloom; dense carpets of their seedlings appeared in many areas, even along woodland roadsides. Flowering dogwoods had a fair bloom, but redbuds were outstanding in the early spring landscape, putting on a magnificent show of blooms between March 29 and April 23, peaking April 6-10 near Cookeville and a bit later near Monterey. Elms had only a mediocre fruiting season. Late in April, paulonias and black locusts had profuse flowers (more than last year), and crossvines began a superb display of blooms lasting until mid-May. Among cultivated trees, Bradford pears had barely begun to flower March 16 in Cookeville, were full March 20-23, and were not much injured by frost. Japanese flowering cherries made a fine show of flowers starting around March 19 near Cookeville (the early crimson-pink hybrid was full March 14), later (March

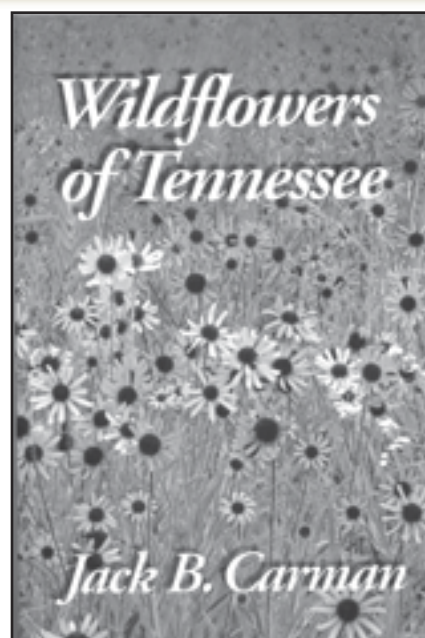
25) at Barnes Hollow, where they set many fruits (starting to ripen May 11). The "tulip" or saucer magnolias, usually frozen out, lost only a few early flowers and had one of their best displays of flowers I can remember locally. Plums (Japanese?) had a heavy bloom by March 19, peaches were in bloom by March 25, and apples were in flower April 7-23, ornamental crabapples somewhat earlier as usual.

A few yellow-woods bloomed briefly in May; both kinds of catalpas again were in flower during late May. Most of the plants I regard as characteristic early June roadside flowers came into bloom late in May, including orange daylilies, butterfly weed, black-eyed susan,



Queen Anne's Lace, white sweet clover, chicory, daisy fleabane, wild hydrangea, elder, and prairie rose. Mimosa (Albizia), smooth sumac and trumpet vine were in bloom June 1, if not earlier, at least west of Cookeville.

I did get to look at woodland spring wildflowers a few times. This was a good season to see bloodroots in bloom in late March, and wild blue phlox abounded in late March and early April. I hardly saw any trout lilies (just once in March), they finished so fast. On April 14 I drove along Spring



Top Left - Queen Anne's Lace  
Top Right - Prairie Rose  
Second Row - Wild Hydrangea  
Third Row Left - Common Orange Daylily  
Third Row Right - Harbinger-of-Spring

← All photos above by Jack B. Carman from his wonderful book, "Wildflower of Tennessee" ISBN 0-9708418-0-9

Continued on Page 8



# Meetings

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Tuesday, August 10, 6:00 p.m. For our annual potluck picnic, we'll head west to "The Cove" at Concord Park. For those of you who have attended previous picnics at Concord Park, this is a different location so pay close attention to the following directions. Take Kingston Pike west to Concord Road. Turn left on Concord Road and follow it until it dead-ends at Northshore Road. Turn right on Northshore and go about 3 miles. The Cove will be on your left, beyond the Yacht Club. We will gather under the large picnic gazebo. This is an old-fashioned covered dish affair, so bring enough to feed yourself and share with others. Drinks will be furnished. Please bring your own utensils and plates (disposables will be provided for those who forget). Call Susie McDonald at 690-3257 for more information.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Tuesday August 24, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. If you're interested in getting more involved or in finding out about what drives the Sierra Club in this area, this is the meeting to attend. Call Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840 for more information.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Thursday, August 12th at 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville.

**NEW GEAR & GADGETS PRESENTED BY REI** - If you've been wondering what's hot this season in backpacking gear and gadgetry, this program is for you. REI will present the best of new outdoor gear including backpacks, sleeping bags, headlamps and more. Join us and have fun as we munch on light refreshments and ask tons of questions. Whether you're an experienced backpacker or just starting down the road to becoming a gearhead, come and find out what tempting items are available for your next wilderness adventure! For more information on this program, contact Shelli Dimarco at globalpeace04@hotmail.com or call (615) 260-0030. (Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike.) Non-members are always welcome!

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Wednesday, August 25th at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are first on the agenda! Come early, bring your re-usable cup and sack dinner, or snack on refreshments provided by our group and get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting at 2021 21st Avenue South (the old St. Bernard Academy Building). We meet on the 4th floor. We welcome each of you to participate or just to be with us to learn of the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. Additions to the agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to Katherine Pendleton Katibug1959@aol.com or call 943-6877.

## UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

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

## STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

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

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

**PROGRAM MEETINGS:** Fourth Monday of every month, 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Monday August 23 the program meeting will include a two week hiking and cultural Sierra Club international outing to the least inhabited Greek Dodecanese Islands off the coast of Turkey. Sharon and Powell Foster will give a slide presentation of their group's journey. FMI: Mary Gavlik, Vice Chair, (423) 434-9535, mlgav@yahoo.com.

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Thursday August 26th @ 7:00 p.m., Greenway Farms in Hixson - Our August Program will feature guest speaker Steve O'Neil. Steve is the Executive Director of the Chattanooga Nature Center. Steve will be speaking to us about the mission of the center as well as some exciting changes that are currently in the works at the CNC.

**REMINDER:** The night of our monthly programs was changed from the third Thursday of each month to the fourth Thursday of each month. Monthly strategy meetings are generally held prior to the program meetings and everyone is welcome to attend. The strategy meetings begin at 5:30. For additional information, contact Rick Gehrke 423-843-9625 or email rick.gehrke@comcast.net

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**MONTHLY MEMBERS GATHERING:** Thursday, August 5, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Otherlands, 641 South

Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "FIRST THURSDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston <jdjhstn@memphis.edu> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

**STRATEGY MEETING:** Monday, August 9, 6:30 p.m. - University of Memphis Alumni Center, 635 Normal Street, Memphis, Tennessee. This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Charlie Rond <chasrond@bellsouth.net> (by August 4 to place items on the agenda) at (901) 452-8150 for more information.

**THIRD TUESDAY GATHERING:** Tuesday, August 17, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Café Francisco, 400 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee. Join us for Chickasaw Group's "THIRD TUESDAY" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Membership Chair Jill Johnston <jdjhstn@memphis.edu> at (901) 278-2713 for more information.

**PROGRAM MEETING:** Wednesday, August 25, 2004 - 6:00 p.m. - Memphis and Shelby County Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. Although urban sprawl seems inevitable to some, the one-hour program, Save Our Land, Save Our Towns offers constructive suggestions on how people can save their cities, towns and countryside from a future filled with strip malls and subdivisions. Pulitzer Prize winner and small-town newsman Tom Hylton - in this PBS-produced documentary - explores the growing concern about over-development - as well as its effect on traffic congestion, open space and inner cities - among ordinary citizens. Refreshments will be served. (NOTE: The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. tonight.) Contact Teri Sullivan <tsulliv5@midsouth.rr.com> at (901) 320-7191 for more information.

**TELEVISION PROGRAM:** Every Monday at 1:30pm, Tuesday at 4:00pm and Wednesday at 11:30am, CST, The Library Channel, Memphis Cable 18, WYPL, "The Nature of Conservation" is sponsored by the Sierra Club. In August host Judith Rutschman interviews Bob Benson of Ducks Unlimited on "What's up with Bats." Benson will present bat myths and facts, bat diversity, benefits of bats, and needs for conservation, as well as tell us about Bat Conservation International initiatives and projects. A different program is aired, usually each month, with the program repeating every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the month. If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman RUTSCHMAN@rhodes.edu at (901) 767-5916.

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# INVITATION TO NOMINATE FOR CHAPTER AWARDS

At our annual Fall Family Meeting at Pickett State Park in October, the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club is proud to present awards to those who have worked tirelessly to preserve our natural heritage.

We invite members to nominate deserving persons for the following awards:

1. The Sarah Hines Award goes to a Sierra Club member who has worked above and beyond in performing volunteer service to the Club, to the Chapter, and to conservation efforts in Tennessee.

Sarah Hines was a Memphis woman who was in the forefront of the fight to stop TDOT and other agencies from cutting I-40 through Overton Park. In spite of contracting cancer while still involved in the struggle to save the park, she never gave up until her disease overcame her. This is a very important award that is not, and should not, be given lightly.

2. The Mack Prichard Award is named for state naturalist and environmental champion Mack Prichard. This award goes to a person (who may or may not be a Sierra Club member) for important conservation work that is not necessarily on behalf of the Club. This prestigious award is given to someone who, like Mack himself, has diligently defended the natural treasures of our state.

3. The Unsung Hero Award goes to one of the many people who may not hold an elective office or may not be the one who gets the publicity, but who works behind the scenes to get things done. This may be the person who arranges the mailing parties, organizes the outings, schedules the programs, meets with legislators, folds, staples, cooks, writes newsletter articles – you get the picture.

4. The Award of Appreciation goes to someone in public service, such as a legislator, city council member, or government employee who has supported conservation causes in Tennessee. More than one person may receive this award.

We all enjoy being recognized for the work we do. There are many out there who have worked hard to protect our environment and who deserve one of these awards, but it can't happen unless YOU send us your nominations on the form below.

Please complete and mail by September 1, 2004) to Bonita Barger, PO Box 2906, Cookeville, TN. 38502 If you prefer to e-mail your nomination, send a request to [bbarger@tntech.edu](mailto:bbarger@tntech.edu).

Please do not send a name without the other information requested.

Thank you!

The nomination committee-, Bonita Barger, Clark Buchner, Adelle Wood

## NOMINATION FOR SIERRA CLUB AWARD TENNESSEE CHAPTER

1. Name of Award (Circle One)

Unsung Hero   Sarah Hines   Mack Prichard   Award of Appreciation

2. Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which Group Affiliated With? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Approximate length of Sierra Club membership, if known \_\_\_\_\_

5. Any offices held, committees, etc. at group, chapter or national level \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Reasons why your nominee should receive this award \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Please continue on reverse if necessary. Thank you !

## Sign on to Save Our Smokies!

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

**Greater\_Smoky\_Mountains\_  
Coalition-subscribe  
@yahoogroups.com**

You will receive a subscription confirmation message. Just reply to the confirmation message, and your subscription will be complete.

If you run into any difficulties, just email Liz Dixon at [dixon@cs.utk.edu](mailto:dixon@cs.utk.edu)

## Now 2 Shirts to Choose From!

### Sierra Club John Muir Quote T's – NEW!

Mountain stream picture with John Muir quote "There is nothing more eloquent in nature than a mountain stream"

Sizes:



Medium – Qty	_____ x \$15/shirt = _____
Large - Qty	_____ x \$15/shirt = _____
X-large – Qty	_____ x \$15/shirt = _____
XX-large - Qty	_____ x \$15/shirt = _____
Total \$ - John Muir quote t-shirts	= _____

### Save Our Smokies T's

Shirt features a montage of very special shots from our Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Sizes:



Small - Qty	_____ x \$12/shirt = _____
Medium – Qty	_____ x \$12/shirt = _____
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X-large – Qty	_____ x \$12/shirt = _____
XX-large - Qty	_____ x \$12/shirt = _____
Total \$ - Save Our Smokies t-shirts	= _____

### Total T-shirt order

Grand Total (from above)	= _____
+ Shipping & Handling @\$3/shirt	= _____
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Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards. Please make check payable to Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club and mail to:  
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club, 2021 21st Avenue South,  
Suite 436 - Nashville, TN 37212

\*\*\*\*\*

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



# Outings

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/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.

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

**Saturday-Sunday, July 31-August 1<sup>st</sup> - Cold Mountain Backpack (Shining Rocks Wilderness, NC).** The HBG outings program has featured numerous backpacks over the years to Cold Mountain of recent bestselling book and movie fame (unfortunately the movie was filmed in Romania which spoiled the movie for those of us who know Cold Mountain). We will see the real Cold Mountain on this backpack, and will camp near the 6,030 foot summit of Cold Mountain. The wildflowers and views should be perfect, although we will be a bit early for blueberries. Rated Moder-



## Ten Essentials for Hiking

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

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

ate. Pre-register with Will Skelton: 865-523-2272 (H); 865-521-6200 (W), [whshome@bellsouth.net](mailto:whshome@bellsouth.net).

**Saturday-Sunday, August 7-8 - Car Camp, Balsam Mountain Campground, GSMNP.** Escape the August heat in the lowlands and join us for a cool weekend at the highest elevation campground in the Smokies. Located on a spur road off the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Balsam Mountain Campground is high in the spruce-fir zone at 5310' elevation. We will take a short 2.6 mile hike on the beautiful Flat Creek Trail for sure and possibly others around the camp. Please pre-register with Priscilla Watts, 865-966-4142 or Barbara Allen, (865) 558-9214 (H) or 215-5180 (W), email: [b-tallen@email.msn.com](mailto:b-tallen@email.msn.com).

**Sunday, August 22. Day Hike - Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina.** Enjoy a challenging day filled with rock ledges, large boulders, ladders, cables and a rock wall called "The Chute" as we hike the trails of Grandfather Mountain. We first experienced this hike in 2001 as a backpack and decided to bring it back as a day hike (see the backpack story at [http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome/gr\\_father\\_mtn\\_bkpk.htm](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome/gr_father_mtn_bkpk.htm)). We will car shuttle and begin the hike in via the Boone Fork Parking Area. The hike will include the Nu-wa-ti Trail, the Cragway Trail, Daniel Boone Scout Trail and finally the Grandfather Trail. Along the way, we will experience a very diverse ecosystem from rhododendron thickets, hardwood forests, a stand of quaking Aspens, beds of lush green ferns, open grassy areas to wind-dwarfed spruce and firs. Weather cooperating, we will have incredible views of the mountains in all direction and summit the highest point on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Callaway Peak at 5964'. A trip across the mile high swinging bridge is a must once we reach the visitors center. If anyone is interested, we would like to stop in Boone for an early dinner. The weather will be muggy in the lower elevation but quickly become cool and windy as we reach Callaway Peak. Please be prepared for rain or sun. Also bring \$6.00/ per person for hiking permit. Grandfather Mountain is not a publicly supported area. Pre-register with Beverly Smith, 865-531-8480 (Evenings), [blsmith1300@comcast.net](mailto:blsmith1300@comcast.net).

**Saturday, August 28. Day Hike, Honey Creek Pocket Wilderness.** - Join us for a classic hike in the Big South Fork River and Recreation Area. This hike packs a lot into 5.2 miles (it always seems longer). It's a great day hike, combining overlooks, gorges, waterfalls, ladders and creepy-crawly passages. Pre-register with John Finger: 865-573-5908; email: [jfinger@utk.edu](mailto:jfinger@utk.edu).

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> - Shakespeare at Centennial Park** - Dinner out and Shakespeare in the Park, performing "A Comedy of Errors" at Centennial Park - FREE. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket and mosquito repellent to enjoy an evening outdoors. Show starts at 7:30, with music at 6:30. We'll go out for dinner beforehand if there's interest. Call Linda Smityman at 615-822-1979.

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Aug. 27-29 - Smokies Backpack-Newfound Gap to Davenport Gap** - This trip will be another section hike of the Appalachian Trail

from Newfound Gap to Davenport Gap in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Friday we will hike from NFG to Peck's Corner covering approx. 11 miles. Saturday, we will hike from Peck's Corner to Cosby Knob shelter, covering approx. 13 miles. Sunday, we will finish our hike at Davenport Gap, 7.3 miles. Rated strenuous. Trip size limited. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email [Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com).

**Saturday, Aug 28 - Whitewater Rafting on the Ocoee in Eastern TN** - Want to beat the summer heat? Try whitewater rafting down one of Tennessee's fantastic rivers. Outfitter and exact location not determined yet. If interested, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or [Diane@Propson.com](mailto:Diane@Propson.com). Since reservations are required with an outfitter, we will "reserve" a limited number of spots and ask participants to contact the outfitter directly for payment purposes. We will camp afterwards, for those that are interested, or go out to dinner. NOTE: The Sierra Club is not sponsoring the rafting trip: this trip is organized as a group of individuals who are interested in rafting.

**Tuesday, September 2 - Backpacking 101 at REI** - For anyone interested in beginning the great sport of backpacking, this is an excellent opportunity, as MTG and state Outing Chair Katherine Pendleton will present a seminar on the basics of backpacking at REI in Brentwood at 6:30 p.m. Learn the essentials of lightweight gear, food fundamentals, and more! This two hour seminar will be information packed! A trip to Savage Gulf will follow this seminar on September 11-12. For information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email [Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com).

**September 11-12 - Savage Gulf Backpack** - This trip is a continuation of the Backpacking 101 seminar. Even if you didn't get a chance to attend the seminar, come on out and join us because there is much more to learn! We will be hiking from Stone Door Ranger Station to Alum Gap campsite. Total mileage 8 miles. Rated easy. For additional information and to register, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email [Katibug1959@aol.com](mailto:Katibug1959@aol.com).

**Saturday, September 25 - Cave Exploration and Short Hike at Dunbar Cave**

**Natural Area** - Take a look inside of Dunbar Caves (located near Clarksville) with a park interpretive specialist. After the cave tour, we will hike a short distance on the Natural Area's trails. Cave tour begins at 1:00 pm and last approximately 75 minutes: reservations with the park manager are required and space is limited, so please contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or [Diane@Propson.com](mailto:Diane@Propson.com) at least three weeks in advance.

## CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

We will continue our Summer hiking series with our first Thursday/third Saturday outings. This month we will be taking a 4 mile hike on the Veterans Parkway in Collegedale (**Thursday August 5th at 6:00 p.m.**... meet at the Hardees in Ooltewah I-75 at exit 11) and a 5 mile hike at Fort Mountain State Park near Dalton, GA (**Saturday August 21st at 8:00 p.m.**...meet at the Burger King in East Ridge I-75 at exit 1). For additional information on outings please visit our website at [www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee](http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee) or e-mail Chris O'Connor at [chris\\_o77@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_o77@yahoo.com)

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**Saturday, August 7, 2004, 9:00am - Germantown Greenbelt Hike.** Join Carolyn Pierce for a four-mile round trip walk along the south side of the Wolf River on the Germantown Greenbelt and enjoy this wild area on a shady (mostly) trail. There are nature stops along the trail with information on the Wolf and the local wildlife that live here, and a turtle pond. Meet at the Chick Filet parking lot on Germantown Parkway by the old Wal-Mart. Bring water, bug repellent, and binoculars. Afterward the group will go to a nearby restaurant for refreshment. Contact Carolyn Pierce at (901) 755-5635.

**Saturday, August 14, 2004, 8:00am - Bicycle Trip - Shelby Farms Park.** Meet at the visitors center parking lot. Bring your bicycle and join in for an easy bicycle ride, primarily on the paved trails. Bring water and the kids. It's the cool of the day, but wear sun protection. Contact Margaret Dixon (662) 893-1794 for more information.



## Farm House Inn Bed & Breakfast

Peg & Tim Taylor, Inn Keepers  
735 Taylor Branch Road  
Parkers Lake, KY 42634  
[www.farmhouseinnbb.com](http://www.farmhouseinnbb.com)

Located on Good Spring Farm, The Farm House Inn offers accommodations for small groups and families. Walk through a diverse forest to waterfalls, cliffs, wildlife areas, fishing ponds or relax and watch farm life and wild life from the Inn's porch. Surrounded by the Daniel Boone National Forest, the Farm House Inn is 20 minutes away from Cumberland Falls State Park and 45 minutes from the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

For reservations and information,  
Call (606) 376-7383; 376-8042



# Gulf Coast Regional Conservation Committee Meeting

Reiterates Threat of Commercial Logging in Region's National Forests

By James Baker & Don Richardson

The June meeting of the Gulf Coast Regional Conservation Committee GCRCC was held in the mountains of north Georgia at Amicalola Falls State Park.

Chapter delegates Don Richardson and James Baker joined 25 other volunteers and staff from the region in weekend workshops focused on the threat of commercial logging to the National forests of the Southern Appalachians.

Key impacts of this issue include:

- The Forest Service's logging program is subsidized by we taxpayers and operates at a huge loss. In addition to the loss incurred by timber sales in the National Forests, taxpayers get to pay for the environmental clean up of the areas damaged by logging. This is outright corporate welfare as the only profiteer is the U.S. forest products industry.
- National Forests provide less than FOUR PERCENT of the total timber used by the U.S. forest products industry. However, 22% of that 4% goes directly into pulp and paper manufacture. Another 10% of that 4% are funneled indirectly into pulp and paper in the form of lumber by-products such as chips and sawdust. The manufacture of paper and pulp products has become the major economic force driving logging on public lands.
- That some changes in the purchasing patterns of American consumers would vastly reduce or eliminate the need to log our public lands. This would include consumer demand for more recycled paper and pulp products, more consumer use of "tree free" paper products that would be made from kenaf, agricultural residue and hemp.

Tennessee Chapter's role as the early sole EPEC site for the national ECL (End Commercial Logging) Campaign and our innovative role in advocating sustainable forestry on private lands, represented by our new Tennessee Forests Committee chaired by Cielo Sand of the Cherokee Group, were accorded applause during the sessions.

For more information, see:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/forests/> and [http://www.sierraclub.org/sustainable\\_consumption/](http://www.sierraclub.org/sustainable_consumption/)

On the way to and from the meeting Don and James conducted their own eco-tour of the region. The day before the meeting, they met with Bryan Burgess, an Alabama Water Sentinel. Burgess has developed a mainframe-accessible GIS database that identifies permitted and un-permitted CAFO's (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) and their impact on Alabama's water quality by overlaying over 25 areas of negative influence. This level of technical enterprise will not only be applied to the evolution of Tennessee's Hot Spots Mapping Project, but will offer Sierra Club chapters and groups throughout the country a low cost, state-of-the-art geographical mapping advocacy tool in the near future. Also along the way, they traveled through national forests, toured natural bridges and ancient American cultural sites and visited the second worst air polluting coal-fired power plant in Georgia, the Bowen plant in Bartow County.

On the return trip, Don and James drove back along U.S. 64 through the Ocoee River Gorge, east of Chattanooga. Readers of the *Tennes-Sierran* will recognize this as the TDOT expansion project the Cherokee Group is opposing that would build an elevated "Interstate-ready" highway atop the gorge inside the Cherokee National Forest. Proposed on the pretext of relieving traffic pressures on commercial trucking,



**Top Photo** - The upper part of Amicalola Falls (Amicalola-Cherokee for "tumbling water"). This cascade is 729 feet of vertical drop and is the tallest waterfall east of the Mississippi River. Photo by James Baker

**Bottom Photo** - GCRCC attendees after a full morning of workshops, (from left to right) Don Richardson, Genie Strickland, Dick Short, and James Baker relax on a trail leading to Amicalola Falls overlook. Special note; this trail is surfaced with ground up old tires that were bound together with a polyurathane binder. Reuse is one of the three "R"s (reduce, reuse and recycle). Photo by Sam Booher

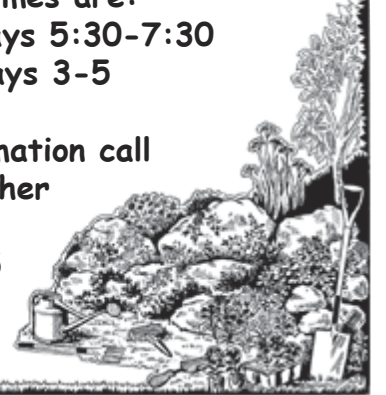
they noted not one single truck was seen while they traversed US 64. At the same time, even though it was a rainy Sunday afternoon, hundreds of tourists, rafters and kayakers were enjoying the Ocoee River, the site of Olympic whitewater competition for the 1996 Olympics. Once you actually visit this special place, it is very obvious what a natural and economic disaster an elevated interstate highway would create to the surrounding area.

Come join the  
Sierra Club &  
EarthMattersTN

For outings of a  
different sort, come join  
our community garden  
project in  
East Nashville!

Planting times are:  
Wednesdays 5:30-7:30  
and Sundays 3-5

For information call  
Caty Butcher  
at  
226-8925



## Volunteer Opportunity!

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

We want to give a big thanks to all of our volunteers, and a special thanks to Michelle Pfeffer, who was a frequent volunteer during the summer of 2003.





# Simmers Wilderness Field Notes

## A Report of Tennessee's Winter, Spring 2004

By Richard W. Simmers, Jr.

Continued from Page 3

Creek and Roaring River, but it was a chilly day and many were closed up. My first crocus in flower was on Feb. 4 near my cabin, with full bloom Feb. 21; my first daffodil on Feb. 24 along I-40, with full bloom March 5 near my cabin. My first native wildflower, the harbinger-of-spring, was in full bloom March 7 at Barnes Hollow - [afterwards B.H.].

The sandhill cranes had good migrations, with some flights noted Dec. 2, 12 (350+ counted B.H.), 20 (240+, mostly at B.H.), and 22 (ca. 20 cranes), also Feb. 13, 18 (over 200, B.H.), 21 (250+ at "G" E of Monterey), 22, 28 and March 12 (14 counted at G). As always I was thrilled to see and hear them.

I was too preoccupied to study birds much this season, but I did notice some good days for migrant warblers, especially April 23-26 and May 6, at B.H. with an early singing Canada warbler April 26. Wood thrushes were scarce for me until mid-May, and I heard only a few Swainson's thrushes this spring (no veeries nor gray-cheeks).

There was a fine flight of cloudless sulphur butterflies

## Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Endorsements

The Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club's endorsements of candidates for the General Assembly for the primary election:

### State Senate Endorsements:

Senator William C. (Bill) Clabough District 8 (for his work on land acquisition monies),  
Senator Ward Crutchfield District 10,  
Senator Tommy Kilby District 12,  
Senator Larry Trail District 16,  
Senator Joe Haynes District 20,  
Senator James F. Kyle District 28,  
Senator Stephen Ira Cohen District 30,  
Senator JoAnn Graves District 18,  
Senator Roy Herron District 24.

### State House Endorsements:

Representative Nathan Vaughan District 2,  
Representative Harry Brooks District 19 (for his work on a bill to stop waste dumping in sinkholes),  
Representative Russell Johnson District 21,  
Representative Jere Hargrove District 42,  
Representative Mike McDonald District 44,  
Representative Kent Coleman District 49,  
Representative Mike Turner District 51 (for his work on the stream buffer bill),  
Representative Robert W. Briley District 52,  
Representative Gary Odom District 55,  
Representative Sherry Jones District 59,  
Representative Joe Fowlkes District 65,  
Representative Kim McMillan District 67,  
Representative Michael Kernell District 93

We thank them all for their support of the environment in the 2004 Legislative Session. To get involved in a campaign, please contact the candidate, your local group or Chapter Political Chair Caty Butcher at 615-347-1480 or jlclbutch@comcast.net

in May; I found 3 or more at B.H. on several dates, with 2 mating May 17th. At "G" I noted cloudless sulphurs (singles) May 8 and 17. It was also a fairly good year for clouded and orange sulphurs, and I noted a few likely sleepy oranges, unlike last spring Tiger swallowtails were in good numbers this spring, especially in May; I observed a few giant swallowtails also, mostly at B.H. in May. Falcate orange-tips had a fairly good flight in early spring. In mid-May, little wood satyrs were the most numerous butterfly seen at G.

Seventeen year cicadas appeared this season, but with no swarming; I first heard a few at B.H. May 12, with somewhat more in evidence on the plateau (at "G") later in May into June. My first firefly (or lightning bug) was seen flashing April 21; my first of the usual summer firefly (*Photinus pyralis*) was just before dusk May 25 at B.H. I heard field crickets calling at B.H. starting April 17; I heard the spring ground cricket trilling March 26. My first dragonfly, a green darner (*Anax junius*), was seen at "G" April 9; not far away was an orange-tip, unusual here.

The first frogs I heard were a few spring peepers calling Jan. 3; I next heard these March 2 (at G). Spring Peepers were in large evening choruses at B.H. in late April, and were calling in groups April 26 and May 11 at G. Their close relative, the upland chorus frog, was calling Feb. 3 and were numerous calling March 4. Wood frogs were most in evidence in late Feb, with hundreds of egg clusters already laid by the 21st; a few frogs were still swimming around, including a pair of anplexus, that day. (2 egg clusters were spotted Jan. 24; all at "G").

By Feb. 22, several more wood frog egg clusters had been laid; and I found over a hundred more egg clusters at another pond not checked earlier.

Southern leopard frogs were calling at a pond at G on March 25; overwintered tadpoles were observed in April or May. Bullfrogs were first heard April 24, and were chorusing most of May. Green frogs were not heard calling until May 19 at G, but had fairly strong choruses into June.

American toads were calling near Muddy Pond Road, E of Monterey on March 6; tadpoles were seen "hatching" at G March 13. A few toads were calling at G March 20 and 25, and there was a full chorus March 26-27. In early May, well-grown toad tadpoles were numerous at several of my ponds or pools at G; (transformed) toadlets were hopping about in numbers May 25. I heard a Fowler's toad calling (ridgetop, G) May 6.

Tree frogs (*Hyla chrysoscelis*) were a bit late to appear this year, my first heard April 15 (ridgetop, G). They were chorusing near my gardens at G May 11, with some calling May 5-6, also later in May. Small

egg packets were seen on the surface of pools May 15 and June 7-8.

Cricket frogs were first heard calling April 23 at G.

Red-spotted newts were often seen close to wood frog eggs; a group of at least 10 was in a small pool March 5, with 2 pairs in anplexus. On March 8, I found a dead mole salamander in a garden bed; possible eggs of this species (*Ambystoma talpoideum*) were observed about 1/2 mile away March 11 at a very temporary pool where I had seen *Ambystoma* larvae last year.

## Group News

### Compiled by various members

#### HATCHIE RIVER CANOE

A breezy overcast day created almost the perfect weather for a canoe and kayak outing on an 11-mile stretch of the Hatchie River. Jesse McCabe led a group of three canoes and two kayaks on a day-long canoe float on the beautiful wilderness river near Brownsville, Tennessee.

We began the float at the Highway 76 bridge and floated down to the takeout at the Highway 70 bridge. Along the way we pulled into an abandoned fishing camp for lunch and to swap a few stories.

It provided an excellent chance to see Tennessee wetlands up close. Later in the day there were several banded water snakes sunning themselves on logs in the river.

#### SHELBY FOREST INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC

The Chickasaw Group celebrated Independence Day with an afternoon picnic at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. There were about 30 members and guests at the park who shared grilled hot dogs and a host of side dishes.

Along with cole slaw and several varieties of baked beans, there were exotic offerings of couscous, potato salad and salsa and cheese dips.

The more energetic of the bunch tossed Frisbees and played catch with a football.

Citronella candles held the insects at bay and a good time was had by all. Many of us ended the night by going up to the Parkway House roof for a spectacular view of fireworks around the city.

#### MUD ISLAND KAYAK

Carolyn Pierce nosed her kayak out into the Mississippi River from Mud Island to lead kayak and canoe paddlers on a recent downtown river outing.

There were three kayaks, a tandem kayak and a canoe of adventurers who paddled up near the end of Wolf River harbor and back. Several of the vessels were rented from Adventure Center at Mud Island.

It was a pleasant but breezy afternoon excursion and was followed by a long dinner for nine people at Gordon Biersche on Main Street.



The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group  
**Tennes-Sierran**  
2021 21st Avenue South, Suite 436  
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

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