

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 38, Number 8 - August 2007

PART ONE OF A THREE PART SERIES

Adventures in Paradise

Fun and Service in the U. S. Virgin Islands National Park

By Dallas Smith,
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Member

Adventure is discomfort recalled at leisure, a wit observed. This then, must be an adventure story.

Sixteen Sierra Club members met at Cruz Bay, St. John on Saturday, February 10 for a service trip to the Virgin Island National Park. We stuffed ourselves into a rented Ranger pickup and Ford Explorer for the ride to the Virgin Island Environmental Resource Station (VIERS), a facility belonging to the University of the Virgin Islands.

From Cruz Bay it is eight miles east across the island to Coral Bay, and then six more meandering miles south to VIERS. Since the National Park takes up three-fourths of this hilly island, it is less developed than the other two major islands. The roads are about as winding and steep as any you will see, even if you grew up in Jackson County, Tennessee.

Six of us rode in the back of the Ranger. The truck's bed was equipped with two opposing benches and a cloth canopy. Our assistant leader, Carol, from Maryland, drove, joined in the cab by leader trainee, John, from California. So there were eight of us in the Ranger, eight in the Explorer. Starting, we were strangers, but not for long. The overloaded Ranger dragged its body on a wheel gratingly each time Carol bent it around a switchback.

She remembered to drive on the left most of the time. The U. S. vehicles configured for right-side driving made it harder. Once when she drifted over to the right, an outcry from us brought her back. Then on a climbing switchback, the Explorer, driven by trip leader, Peggy, from Maryland, together with our Ranger, locked into a logjam with a tractor-trailer. Everything stopped on that steep hill. It took a while to untangle, before we could go on.

Sitting directly opposite and bumping knees with me was Pete, a retired professor of anatomy from New York, elder of our group, out pacing me by two years. He would end up being my only roommate at VIERS. They wisely put the two professors together, figuring they might talk someone's leg off—a matter of protecting the party.

Sitting next to Pete was Brenda, a fiery redhead from New York. Her outspoken demeanor makes Bette Davis in the old movies look timid. She enjoyed badgering me about my Tennessee drawl. Far from being a bother, that only provoked thicker cornpone. It helped that I was the South's only son there.

"Well, it's not standard broadcast English," she announced one day, referring to my speech. I doubt she knew I'd lived a scholar's life. I used the quaint word "passel" to describe a large number of sea urchins one day. That brought a hoot. I suggested looking it up. It was great fun.

On the bench next to me sat Meredith, 20, a rock climber and college student from Indianapolis. Lithe as a snake, she wore a piece of metal through her tongue, and hair under her arms. She was missing a week of classes to make the trip. "You gonna have a lot of work to make up," I told her. "I've already made it up," she informed me. You had to like her.

VIERS is a remote collection of 19 wooden cabins squatting in the jungle near Little Lameshur Bay on the island's southeast side. One cabin was equipped as an office and library. Another was kitchen and mess hall. Still another was a classroom. The bathrooms were in a separate building, as were the showers. Various groups come to VIERS for workshops and short courses.

Sometimes we heard lectures. The president of Friends of V. I. National Park described his organization's efforts. We sat outside in a circle of plastic chairs permanently arranged around an unneeded fire pit. Palms heavy with coconuts together with an immense rain tree spread their shade over the scene. At the end the president was responding quietly to questions. The scene was peaceful as a garden club.

I remember a brief rustling from something overhead. Then it slammed my face. I shoved away a rough piece of wood. The circle sat in shock. I stood up, stunned. Scott, the camp manager, rushed over, squinting hard at my face. "Are you hurt?" he asked.

"I don't know. You can see better than I can." I touched my cheek and pulled back bloody fingers. "Oh, my God!" a woman cried.



Plantation ruins at Lameshur Bay look out over the Caribbean. Photo by Dallas Smith.

"Go with Scott," Peggy said. We headed to the bathroom. Scott had a first aid kit. I washed away the blood. It was coming from a cut one inch below my left eye. An inch higher and I might have lost a peeper. My upper lip had taken the hardest lick; the bruise penetrated to my teeth roots. An inch lower, without my lip for a cushion, and I might have lost teeth. As it was, I just had a fat lip. There was a three-inch bruise and laceration on my left shoulder and another bruise and laceration on my neck.

"What hit me?" I asked Scott; I still didn't know what had happened.

It was a coconut palm frond, he said. My question made him wonder about my noodle. He asked me to state my full name, which I was able to do. Then he wanted to know the current date. The display on my Ironman watch may have helped me out on that one. He was satisfied.

I wasn't addled, just lacking information. The frond turned out to be 15-feet long, later examination showed. It weighed several more pounds than any fish I've ever caught. It fell from a height of 40 feet, gaining a good load of energy and dumping it on my face. It fell like an arrow, the blades acting like vanes. The butt end was close to a foot wide, explaining how it managed to hit me in so many places.

It was all lucky. Pete later told me that my reflexes had helped, that I'd put up my hands, which helped slow it down. I have no memory of that, but it must be true because the insides of both my wrists were scraped. I have no memory of looking up either, but I certainly did because the thing cut my cheek without hitting my cap bill. Looked up at the perfect angle, too, so that it landed between my teeth and eye, missing both.

A couple of Band-Aids later and I returned to the circle. Everyone applauded. I raised my arms in celebration like a victorious marathoner.

SEE PART 2 IN THE SEPTEMBER *TENNES-SIERRAN*

SIERRA CLUB SERVICE TRIPS

America's public lands and wilderness need your support, and hands-on teamwork is a great way to give something back. Accommodating all levels of skill and stamina, service trips include a variety of tasks, such as building and maintaining trails, repairing meadows, helping archaeologists, and eradicating non-native vegetation. For more information on our service trip program, check out our website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/service.asp>



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The Chair's Corner

Dear Tennessee Sierra Club Members,

The month of July was an exciting month for me as your chapter chair. I traveled to upper East Tennessee twice, visiting Watauga Group for their monthly meeting on July 10 and then attending the re-organizational meeting for State of Franklin Group on July 30. I also attended the re-organizational meeting for Cherokee Group on July 25. I appreciated the hospitality of the members in these groups.

Interim chairs have been appointed for Cherokee Group and State of Franklin Group. Ayla Callihan is the interim chair for Cherokee Group and may be contacted at 423-715-1756 or ayla-callihan@utc.edu. Vincent Whitright is the interim chair for SOFG and may be reached at 423-747-1967 or cleanenergy@excite.com.

The Tennessee Chapter is sponsoring a chapter wide outing riding as a team in the "Jack & Back" October 6-7. The "Jack & Back" is a fully supported bike ride benefiting the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Please refer to the announcement in the MTG outings section this month for full details. This is a wonderful opportunity for the TN Chapter Sierra Club to receive publicity. I'd like to encourage those of you who bike to consider joining our team for this ride. We will have our own training ride on September 1 on the Natchez Trace Parkway starting at Meriwether Lewis campground. To register to be on our team visit <http://www.msouth.org>.

The Georgia Chapter Annual Retreat is being held at Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island November 9-11, 2007. The TN Chapter has been invited to attend. This weekend will include a variety of outings involving bikes, hikes, boats, birding, whale watching, and sea kayaking. The retreat will feature an awards banquet with the keynote address by Greg Haegele, National Sierra Club Conservation Director. Greg will discuss our work to address Global Warming including our 2% Solution. For complete registration information regarding this retreat please contact me at 615-943-6877 or by email at Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org. I will be attending this retreat and will be able to transport two people with me.

August 21-23 I will be visiting Chickasaw Group. Contact Tom Lawrence at 901-729-4590 or tom-lawrence@bellsouth.net for details of activities planned during my visit.

Many thanks to everyone who recently sent in March Window and PAC contributions to the TN Chapter. Your support is appreciated very much. We still need support from those of you who have not yet sent in your contributions. Please make out contribution checks to either TN Chapter Sierra Club (March Window) or TN Chapter Sierra Club PAC and mail to P.O. Box 290306, Nashville, TN 37229.

Looking forward to seeing you at the TN Chapter Meeting August 3-5 at DuBose Conference Center at Monteagle, TN. The Chickasaw Group has a great meeting planned.

Katherine Pendleton
Chair, Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter

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Please notify the Editor when changes are needed

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Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

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or mail: Shanna Petersen, Tennes-Sierran Editor
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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.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP NEWS

Honoring the Founders

Photos and Story contributed by Adelle Wood,
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Member

The Middle Tennessee Group hosted a potluck picnic at Edwin Warner Park in Nashville on June 23 to honor the founders and early activists of the Tennessee Chapter. A number of people arrived early to go on a bike ride and a hike, while others played frisbee and badminton. There may even have been an attempt at croquet, but by then the day was turning very warm and people headed for the shade and the food.

The picnic was a bit like clowns coming out of a Volkswagen. It seemed at first that there wouldn't be enough to eat, but just before the scheduled time to begin eating,

it all began to appear and there was enough to feed several hungry horses. In addition to all of the other food and desserts, there was a cake depicting John Muir standing in front of El Capitan at Yosemite.



Mack Prichard brought a number of books about the Sierra Club and John Muir, including some first editions, and he spoke to the group about the origins and the early movers and shakers of the Tennessee Chapter. The afternoon ended

with a belated happy birthday song for Carl Leathers, followed by a thunder shower that sent us all packing, even though it turned out to be more sound than fury.

We hope to make this an annual event and to involve more participants from the chapter, and we are open to other locations to accommodate more people from across the state. We especially want to search out some of the founders that we were unable to locate this year and will be asking for your help.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

Contributed by Joy Mayfield,
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Member

Did you know that the USDA has a restoration program called the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)?

It is available to stewards who are interested in converting non-native grass plots to native warm season grasses and food plots for wildlife. This creates a desirable habitat for many different species of upland wildlife, requires little maintenance and very little mowing.

What got us started was a field of fescue that served as our front lawn that we definitely did not want to continually mow. We thought that if we let it "go back to nature" wildlife would flock to the area so we didn't mow it for a year. What we noted was that in that year of letting it go wild nothing in the way of wildlife was attracted to it. The field seemed devoid of most animal life. We read about the services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and made an appointment with the state wildlife biologist. After the biologist walked our property, his recommendation was to convert four acres of fescue into a warm season grasses habitat and a perennial food plot which would provide shelter for small mammals and birds, insect, reptile and amphibian life and provide a high quality food source for wildlife.

By eradicating non-native fescue as well as planting cool season legumes and native grasses, we have provided wildlife a habitat that is familiar and hospitable. Plus, very little mowing reduces CO2 emissions and helps move us another step away from our dependency on fossil fuel.

If you're interested in converting YOUR lawn, feel free to contact me.

—Joy Mayfield
Middle Tennessee Group



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CHICKASAW GROUP NEWS

Contributed by various members



Sierra Club hikers enjoyed the Shiloh Battlefield in June. Photo by David Carter

An Outing at Shiloh

The historic importance of the Shiloh Battlefield is matched by its natural beauty. Ken Hansgen is a walk leader who knows both sides of this Tennessee River gem. The Chickasaw Group invited people from everywhere for a June 16 walk at the place where military history was made. There were even walkers from as far away as New Mexico! (Ken's daughter and granddaughter.) Ken explained the symbolism of the monuments and showed the group some little-known parts of the battlefield. A conveniently-timed artillery demonstration, heard from a distance, gave everybody a feel for what it must have been like on those fateful days in 1862. A post-walk meal nearby revived everyone's spirits. The June heat actually didn't feel so bad—even Gracie the dog managed the walk with just one bowl of water!



Clark Buchner's dog Gracie laps up some water at Shiloh. Photo by David Carter.



Greenline walkers pause near the new yellow "station house" in the Vollintine-Evergreen community in Memphis. Photo by David Carter.

A Tour of Memphis' First Greenline

Sierra Club member and Vollintine-Evergreen volunteer Bill Rehberg conducted a walk along the V & E Greenline in June. It happened to be June 23, the same day as the community's fund-raising yard sale at the "old station house." Neighborhood residents (with generous corporate assistance) constructed the Greenline in 1995. To this day, it is maintained entirely by volunteers. The V & E Greenline runs from Springdale Street (near Jackson and University) to the old Sears Crosstown building. For years it was just an abandoned railway; a "no man's land" that was a magnet for litter and crime. The Greenline is now 1.7 miles of natural beauty in an urban neighborhood setting. There's an arboretum and even a space for blooming flowers! In spite of the June heat, the walkers stayed cool thanks to frequent shady places along the way.

4th of July Picnic

There was food and fun at the Chickasaw Group's 4th of July picnic at Shelby Forest! This year's picnic was held in conjunction with the Bluff City Canoe Club. Every Sierra Club member brought something, even if it was just chips and ice! Non-members were welcome, too. There were some office holders and candidates there. Plenty of folks brought their dogs so that they could enjoy a day in the woods. Juliet and Ed Jones provided burgers for both vegetarians and omnivores. Passing clouds, the shade of a picnic shelter, and a cool breeze off the lake provided welcome relief from the July heat.



Don Richardson and Juliet Jones model "It's Hip To Be Green" t-shirts at the Chickasaw Group's 4th of July picnic at Shelby Forest. Photo by David Carter.



Nature persists in an urban setting along the Mississippi River Bluffwalk. Photo by David Carter.

Celebrating the Summer Solstice with a Walk in Memphis

Clark Buchner and Juliet Jones co-led the Chickasaw Group's Summer Solstice Walk in Memphis. The walk along the downtown river bluff was dedicated to Sierra Club member Dick Mochow. Dick, who passed away just recently, was one of the leaders in the fight to get the bluffwalk built. Members and non-members alike enjoyed the easy, paved, urban walk. The sunset over the river was equal to anything to be found in the wilderness. Afterwards, participants gathered at a local watering hole and held their glasses high in memory of Dick, a longtime lover of the Mississippi River and a tough proponent of its environmental preservation.

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ONE MEMBER

Spotlight On Betsy Garber

By Joy Mayfield,
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club Member

When reading *The Tennes-Sierran* do you ever stop and reflect on the author of the piece? Do you catch yourself wondering if there is a Sierra Club stereotype and if so, how do we here in Tennessee measure up? Just how do other Sierra Club members conduct their daily lives and do they practice what they preach? And if so, how?

Let's take a look at Betsy Garber of the Middle Tennessee group. If you don't know her, this will serve as an introduction.

Until I met Betsy in 1995 I'd been an errant member of the Sierra Club. Oh, I'd written tons of letters destined to end up in some politician's "lunatic file" but it was Betsy who got me motivated to actually participate in a visible way. She wrote a plea in *The Tennes-Sierran* for volunteers at the Elysian Fields recycling site that appealed to me. I called her up and whispered my willingness to help out one Saturday a month. Betsy had a system worked out that made that place thrive. She made sure to schedule two people at the site together, one of whom was always a seasoned volunteer. She provided us with name tags and official Sierra Club badges to identify ourselves as volunteers. She wrote us thank you notes after we'd worked our shift. She solicited new members from a roster provided by the membership committee so there was always plenty of coverage. Everything just clicked. Volunteering there became a social event. It was actually fun.

It was Betsy who inspired me to organize a tree planting as a memorial to the victims of 9/11. She spent hours on the phone soliciting volunteers for this event and through her efforts over 40 people turned out to help plant 30 native Tennessee trees at the Mill Creek Greenway.

Over the 12 years of our friendship, I've watched her do a bit of everything on behalf of the club, from setting up the exhibit at the Lawn and Garden Show, to setting up the Earth Day booth at the annual Earth Day celebration at Centennial Park. I've watched her wrap baby tree seedlings by the hundreds to hand out for Earth Day 2002. I've watched her scoop wildflower seeds into tiny envelopes by the thousands to hand out for Earth Day 2003. I've bought calendars from the trunk of her car as well as her card table station in front of Wild Oats.

She recently volunteered her services to the ex-com in order to finish out the term of Jeremy Doochin, who headed off to college. She works ever so diligently with membership to keep our new members informed and in the fold. She shares office telephone duty with Diane P. too.

If this hasn't impressed you yet then read on. She is as committed to the environment at home as she is committed to the environment through the club. Anna, her daughter, will readily attest to Betsy's conservation ethic. When interviewed, Anna confided that their house was hot in the summertime and cold in the winter because of where her mother sets the thermostat! She has recently installed solar panels on her house and hopes to generate 50% of her own electricity by doing so. When Betsy renovated her kitchen a few years ago she was adamant about using only certified wood from sustainable forests for the cabinetry. She insisted on a real linoleum floor as opposed to the petroleum-based product we all think of as linoleum. She installed a Bosch energy efficient dishwasher, high efficiency front load washer, and chose a smaller refrigerator with energy star rating. By the way, Anna says to be sure to mention that they're in the process of replacing incandescent bulbs with fluorescent, using power surge strips for the TV and DVD player, have created a fish pond in the front yard to attract songbirds, use their own canvas bags to haul groceries home, have a compost pile out back for kitchen refuse, keep hormone free milk in the frig and they both eat lightly on the planet, a predominantly vegetarian diet. Oh wait - let's not forget the Prius.



So now you know Betsy Garber, Sierra Club member.

Does this sound like anyone else YOU know?

Tennessee Chapter announcement

Please consider joining a
TN Chapter wide outing October 6-7, 2007
riding as a team in the Jack Daniel's
"Bike to Jack & Back."

This ride is sponsored by the
National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The "Bike to Jack & Back" starts in Franklin, TN at Page High School and finishes at Motlow State Community College in Lynchburg, TN. This is a beautiful, scenic ride through Tennessee's countryside just on the brink of fall. Enjoy a tour of the incredible Jack Daniel's Distillery, and feast on all of the Jack Daniel's fixin's that you can eat, as well as some Lynchburg Lemonade, during the program and party on the hill! The National MS Society and local sponsors will provide rest stops every 10-12 miles, supplied with refreshments to support you along the route. SAG Trucks, Bike Mechanics and Medical staff are also there to help you throughout the weekend.

For additional information and to join the TN Chapter Sierra Club team, visit www.ms-mid-south.org or contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org.

This is an exciting opportunity for the TN Chapter to be involved with the community and get people to know who we are.

Katherine Pendleton
Chair, TN Chapter
615-943-6877



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, please contact:

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Preserve the Future

Outings

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

For information on upcoming outings, please visit our web site at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee/index.htm>.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee: "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program on cable channel 18. For the complete "The Nature of Conservation" schedule on cable channel 18, 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

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

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

August 11. Dayhike, GSMNP, Abrams Falls, THE LONG WAY. Want to see Abrams Falls minus the crowds? Try this route, about 11 miles roundtrip. Strenuous. Starts at Lower Abrams Creek Ranger Station in Happy Valley, follows Cooper Road a short distance and branches off to Little Bottoms, then follows Abrams Creek the rest of the way to the falls. Mostly ungraded trail with some sharp ups and downs. Driving distance approximately 35 miles each way. Preregister with John Finger: phone 573-5908; email jfinger@utk.edu.

August 14. Harvey Broome Group Annual Summer Grill-out and Picnic. Join us at the Victor Ashe Park Shelter for our annual summer grill-out and potluck picnic. The HBG will furnish burgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, drinks, plates, cups and plastic ware. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and some great stories about your summer vacation. No pre-registration is necessary. We will light the grills at 5:30 pm. If you have any questions, contact Beverly Smith, email: blsmith1300@comcast.net, Cell: 865.659.8480. Picnic replaces the August program meeting.
Directions: I-40 from the East or West Exit I-640 toward Lexington, KY Exit #1 (Western Avenue), turn right on Western (TN-62) Drive .7-miles and turn left (N) onto Pleasant Ridge Road NW Drive 1.6-miles and arrive at Victor Ashe Park, 4901 Bradshaw Road.

August 18-19. Backpack, GSMNP - Balsam Mountain Area. This backpack will get us into a portion of the Park that is not heavily used. We will start at Polls Gap and take the Rough Fork Trail to the intersection with the Caldwell Fork Trail down to campsite # 41 - along the way we will pass the site of the "Big Poplars" - some of the largest trees on the East Coast. On Sunday we will climb three miles up to Double Gap on the Hemphill Bald trail and loop around back to Polls Gap. Hike, 13.7mi, rated difficult due to the climb out on Hemphill Bald Trail. Drive is 180 miles round trip. Pre-register with Steve Harvey: email sharvey86@aol.com; phone 865-986-4608 (days), 865-986-6798 (evening).

September 10. Dayhike, GSMNP - Thomas Divide /Kanati Fork trails. This is a 4.7 mile wildflower trail off the Newfound Gap Road. Though it's late for wildflowers, at least it will be cool at these elevations. We will begin at the Thomas Divide trailhead 3.5 miles south of the Newfound Gap soon passing over a 5,000 knoll where hunters used to flush out turkeys at nearby Turkey Flyup. We will continue on down the trail for 1.8 miles to the junction with Kanati Fork Trail. This will take us into Kanati Fork Valley and the Kanati trailhead. We will then shuttle back up to our cars at Thomas Divide. Distance 4.7 miles, rated moderate. Driving time from Knoxville, about 2 hours. Pre-register with Priscilla Watts, 865-966-4142; email sigmtngirl@earthlink.net.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

August 26. Ultra-light/Beginning Backpacking Class. Have you wanted to learn how to backpack or change to ultra-light backpacking? This class will teach the fundamental principles of backpacking using ultra-light gear. Backpacking cooking will also be discussed during this class. For additional information and meeting time and place contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

August 31-September 3, Labor Day Weekend Car Camping Trip. Join us for our 2nd Annual Labor Day Car Camping trip to Meriwether Lewis National Park on the Natchez Trace. There are no campsite fees at Meriwether Lewis Campground. Come at your leisure and stay for part or the whole weekend. Bring your own camping gear, food, and beverages. Hiking, biking, and swimming activities available. Plan on a weekend of fun and relaxation. For additional information contact Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org or 615-943-6877.

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.

September 1 - Training Bike Ride for Jack & Back. During our Labor Day Camping weekend at Meriwether Lewis we will have a training ride on the Natchez Trace for the TN Chapter bike team riding in the "Jack & Back." Meet at the Meriwether Lewis campground at 7:30 a.m. Length of ride will depend on the participants present. The ride will take place on the Natchez Trace Parkway. For additional information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com. Please read below for information regarding the Jack & Back bike ride.

September 6 - Cedars of Lebanon Dayhike. Would you like to see a grove of Juniper trees? Considered unusual by early botanists, we will hike the five mile Hidden Springs Trail, discovering the natural rock gardens called "cedar glades." We will try to spot one (or more!) of the nineteen indigenous rare and endangered species of plants that grows here, and no where else in the world. Loop trail is easy to moderate. Cedars of Lebanon State Park is located approx: 31 miles East of Nashville in Wilson County. For exact directions and registration, contact Celeste Dye at greyceleste@yahoo.com. 323-828-8892.

September 10 - Outings Leader 101. A requirement of the Sierra Club to become an outings leader. This class covers the basics of being an outings leader. There is no charge for the training. A light supper will be served. For meeting place and time contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

September 14-17 - AT Section Backpacking Trip. Plans are in the works for a section hike on the Appalachian Trail on the section from Max Patch to Hot Springs. Rated strenuous. For additional information contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com.

TENNESSEE CHAPTER (All Members)

October 6-7, Jack & Back Bike Ride. The TN Chapter is participating as a team riding in the Jack Daniel's "Bike to Jack & Back" October 6-7. The ride starts in Franklin, TN at Page High School and finishes at Motlow State Community College in Lynchburg, TN. This is a beautiful, scenic ride through Tennessee's countryside just on the brink of fall. Enjoy a tour of the incredible Jack Daniel's Distillery, and feast on all of the Jack Daniel's fixin's that you can eat, as well as some Lynchburg Lemonade during the program and party on the hill! The National MS Society and local sponsors will provide rest stops every 10-12 miles, supplied with refreshments to support you along the route. SAG trucks, Bike Mechanics and Medical staff are also there to help you throughout the weekend. To register, visit <http://www.msouth.org> and sign up under TN Chapter Sierra Club. You can also contact Katherine Pendleton for more information at 615-943-6877 or Katibug1959@aol.com. Come on out and join Sierra Club in this ride to help our community and let our community see who we are.

November 9-11, Georgia Chapter Retreat. The Georgia Chapter has invited the TN Chapter to attend their annual retreat that this year is being held at Epworth-by-the-Sea on St. Simond Island, GA.

March 1-8, 2008, Clair Tappaan Lodge Ski Trip. Make your reservation now to go with MTG to Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge for a week that you will never forget! Several TN Chapter members traveled to Clair Tappaan in February, 2007 for a ski trip with the Kentucky Chapter and had a memorable experience. Clair Tappaan Lodge is located 7000 feet in California's Sierra Nevada 45 minutes west of Reno, Nevada. Activities planned for our week at Clair Tappaan include cross country skiing and a guided overnight snowshoeing trip to Peter Grub Ski Hut. Skiing classes are available. Accommodations are in bunk beds equipped with mattresses. Bring your own bedding and towel. Restroom and shower facilities are shared with two men's and two women's bathrooms. Meals are served family style. Price for the trip is \$499 per person and includes lodging, all meals from supper on March 1 thru breakfast on March 8, overnight snowshoeing trek, and transportation from airport to lodge and back to airport. Trip price does not include airfare, ski rental, ski lessons, ski fees, incidentals, breakfast and lunch on March 1 and lunch and supper on March 8. Reservations are limited. Non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due by December 1, 2007. Complete information regarding equipment rental rates, cross country skiing activities planned, accommodations, and any other inquiries may be directed to Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or Katherine.pendleton@sierraclub.org.

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!

Meetings

CHEROKEE GROUP

(Chattanooga)

For information on upcoming events, please visit our web site at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee/index.htm>.

CHICKASAW GROUP

(Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering: Aug. 2 & Sept. 6, 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 Juliet Jones, Vice Chair, at (901) 374-0582 or juliet101@comcast.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Aug. 13 & Sept. 10, 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 Tom Lawrence by Aug. 10 (Aug. meeting) & Sept. 7 (Sept. 10 meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, August 22, 7:00pm - Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar, Memphis, TN. Come at 6:30pm for social time! Program meeting starts at 7:00pm. August topic: "The Future of Food." Is it really safe to eat the food you find in the grocery store? Are we becoming guinea pigs for companies that want to genetically engineer our groceries for larger production and higher profits? If you're worried, come to the August program meeting, see the film "The Future of Food," and judge for yourself. The film offers an in-depth study of the disturbing truth behind much of the unlabeled and genetically engineered food that has been lining the shelves of grocery stores for several years. Tennessee Chapter chair Katherine Pendleton will present this must-see program. Get to know the Chapter chair and also learn more about a topic that touches us all! For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com

HARVEY BROOME GROUP

(Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, August 14. Harvey Broome Group Annual Summer Grill-out and Picnic. Join us at the Victor Ashe Park Shelter for our annual summer grill-out and potluck picnic. The HBG will furnish burgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, drinks, plates, cups and plastic ware. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and some great stories about your summer vacation. No pre-registration is necessary. We will light the grills at 5:30 pm. If you have any questions, contact Beverly Smith, email: blsmith1300@comcast.net, Cell: 865.659.8480. Picnic replaces the August program meeting.

Directions: I-40 from the East or West Exit I-640 toward Lexington, KY Exit #1 (Western Avenue), turn right on Western (TN-62) Drive .7-miles and turn left (N) onto Pleasant Ridge Road NW Drive 1.6-miles and arrive at Victor Ashe Park, 4901 Bradshaw Road.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, August 28, 7:30 p.m., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. We urge all Harvey Broome Group members to join us as we discuss and plan strategies for issues of concern to the group. These meetings provide you an opportunity for input into issues of concern to you. Please join us! For more information contact Axel Ringe at 865-397-1840.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP

(Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, August 9, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. With all the bad news out there, it will be a delight to sit back and enjoy a thoroughly pleasant evening with National Public Television's award winning documentary, "Beautiful Tennessee", starring OUR beautiful state! Presented for the first time on Tennessee Crossroads, this visually stunning film highlights the natural beauty of Tennessee, illustrates how the land was developed and used for agricultural purposes, how it has evolved to the present day, and emphasizes the importance of our preservation efforts. It was shot mainly in state and national parks and depicts our native wildlife as well as a bit of the history since the first settlements. It will be presented by NPT's own Miguel Otero, who grew up in a military family and loves travel and nature. He attended Austin Peay State University, where he majored in Corporate Communications. He has been with NPT since October, 2006 and is currently their Development Associate. Don't miss this terrific film! For more information, please contact Martha Wilson at (615) 376-2535.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, August 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the old St. Bernard's Academy Building, 2021 21st Avenue South, 4th floor. Conservation issues are first on the agenda. All members are invited to attend this conservation and administrative meeting to get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. 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 Rachel Floyd at rfloyd557@bellsouth.net or call (615) 792-2590.

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP

MEETING: August 30 at 6 p.m. at the Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 136 Jobe Road, Gray, TN. The contact person is Vincent Whitright, Interim Chair, 423-747-1967 or cleanenergy@excite.com.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP

(Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING: The fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (four times a year at a minimum) in the lower level meeting room of the Putnam County Public Library. Please contact Peggy Evans for meeting details at maevans@twlakes.net or (931)432-6680.

WATAUGA GROUP

PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith, (gla4797@earthlink.net), (423) 727-4797 for more information



photo/Kevin Walsh

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

HELP RESTORE THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES OF NEW ORLEANS

Join Sierra Club Service Outings for Public Lands in Public Hands Weekend

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed.

**Did you want to help but not know how?
Did you give but want to do more?
Do you still want to help?**

Join Sierra Club members from across the country in New Orleans September 28-30 for our Public Lands in Public Hands weekend event in celebration of National Public Lands Day!

By working side by side with Louisiana residents on restoration projects, Sierra Club volunteers will advance the clean up of a devastated landscape while supporting the rebuilding efforts of the people of New Orleans -- actively showing them that the Sierra Club remembers and cares about their plight - and experience first-hand the remains of storm ravaged communities.

New Orleans is coming back thanks to the help of groups like the Sierra Club. The world class restaurants, beautiful historic districts and jazz music are back. This service outing is unique in that you can really make a difference during the day and enjoy this national treasure after work.

ACTIVE SERVICE PROJECTS

#1 Restore Bayou Bienvenu: The Bayou Bienvenu project is a partnership with the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, University of Wisconsin and the Environmental Justice program of the Sierra Club. Activities will include trail building and planting.

#2 City Park: City Park is an Olmstead Brothers (Central Park) designed public park within the city of New Orleans. The park was badly hit by the hurricane. Activities will include clearing brush and planting.

LESS ACTIVE SERVICE PROJECTS

(actual will be determined closer to event)

#1 Interview FEMA trailer residents about Formaldehyde complaints

#2 Polish statues in statue garden in City Park

#3 Work with volunteer team doing energy efficiency in the lower ninth ward.

TRANSPORTATION

Airfare/travel is to be paid by the participants. We will try to arrange pick-ups at the airport, otherwise you will need to take a taxi to the church. Transportation to work sites will be provided. If you drive to New Orleans, there is ample safe on street parking near the church.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Post storm adventure -- accommodations aren't fancy, but they are clean and dry! You will stay in a dormitory in the Carrolton United Methodist Church, a historic church in the Uptown area. Our group is one of thousands to have come for a week or more to donate their time to help New Orleans rebuild. Sleep on air mattresses. Community showers with separate men's and women's facilities. Facility is upstairs so need to be comfortable with stairs. Almost like camping indoors. Bring your own sleeping bag, towels, etc. The Sierra Club will be paying the bill. If this is too primitive for you, we can recommend nearby hotels where you can stay at your own expense.

MEALS

Breakfast and sack lunch will be provided. Dinners are on your own. The church is within short walking distance to a variety of restaurants and a short cab ride to the French Quarter.

MISCELLANEOUS

* Participants need to be over 18 unless accompanied by a parent.

* In the event that someone needs medical attention, please note that we will have first aid personnel available but emergency services are not up to par with most cities.

* Please watch the weather in advance; it can still be hot at the end of September. Pack accordingly.

* We retain the right to cancel the event in case of extreme weather such as an oncoming hurricane or tropical storm.

Besides this New Orleans event, the Sierra Club is sponsoring single day events across the country.

Participation in a

Public Lands in Public Hands

event on September 29th is a great opportunity to engage community members in a project that improves their neighborhood or distant public land they care about and educate citizens about the Sierra Club's actions to protect our public land resources and to stop the public lands giveaways. Want to sponsor an event? Contact Keren Murphy at keren.murphy@sierraclub.org.

For additional information or an application, please contact: Jill Workman, Chair, America's Wild Legacy Conservation Initiative Committee, at (503) 654-8670 or workmanjm@aol.com, or Keren O'Brien Murphy, Conservation Organizer, at keren.murphy@sierraclub.org.

Get Inspired: Host or Attend a Screening of *Maquilapolis: City of Factories*

Contributed by Andrew Christie,
Sierra Club, Santa Lucia Chapter Director

People often say that without environmental or labor safeguards, free trade agreements create a "race to the bottom." But what does that mean?

Well, let's take the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for example. NAFTA was designed to facilitate trade between Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Yet it also led to a fundamental re-structuring of the rural economy in Mexico. Many small farmers, unable to compete with subsidized U.S. corn, were left with no choice but to move and find jobs in the maquiladoras -- foreign owned assembly factories - on the U.S.-Mexico border. Despite flagrant workers' rights abuses and rampant pollution, these Maquiladoras are frequently the only hiring employers in border regions, forcing workers to compete for meager salaries in often toxic work environments.

Maquilapolis: City of Factories documents the daily struggles of women factory workers in Tijuana as they fight for better treatment and a cleaner living environment. Despite daily contact with toxic chemicals, a group of women, known as promotoras, bravely take a stand against the corporate giants who deny them their basic rights.

Host a house party screening of this film! This short documentary is a great way to begin a conversation about the impacts trade agreements can have on communities, families and the environment. Your screening will allow you to share the promotoras' experience with others in your community while discussing the issue and taking action. The film screening series will culminate in a Sierra Club sponsored US-Mexico border tour on October 27-28 in San Diego, Tijuana and surrounding areas.

No need to be a free trade expert, the Sierra Club can help you plan your party or find one in your neighborhood. Visit www.sierraclub.org/trade or contact Susan Ellsworth at 202-548-6593 or at susan.ellsworth@sierraclub.org for more information.

Help Wanted in Upper Cumberland Group

Upper Cumberland Group is seeking applicants for the positions of

**OUTINGS CHAIR
and
PROGRAM CHAIR**

If interested please contact Peggy Evans, UCG Chair
at 931-432-6680 or maevans@twlakes.net

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