

Tennesse-Sierran

The monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 39, Number 2 - February, 2008

David vs. Goliath

Hope Sustains Fight to Deny Permit to Asphalt Plant Along Doe Creek

By Dennis Shekinah
President, Watauga Watershed Alliance

When an agent for Tennessee's Department of Pollution Control-Mining, a division of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), lifted his gaze up to the citizens sitting before him and said, "It gives me no great pleasure to inform you this will more than likely destroy a corner of your community," I felt something well up within me that seemed inappropriate at the time—Hope.

Being a self-avowed environmentalist in Johnson County, Tenn., is an emotional roller-coaster ride. Victories are few and hard-won. Many "old timers" don't know what to make of me. Friends are not the ones met in school or church, but the battle-trying warriors who show up for meetings every month, just like I do.

We know the cards are stacked against us: The Tennessee Legislature is pretty well locked up by the Farm Bureau who lust after agri-corporate opportunities like Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). State agencies are business-friendly who make mention of public resources in their mission statements but punch in every day to issue permits to industries that would harm our air and water for profit. Well-meaning field agents for TDEC are weighed down by obstacles only a perverse bureaucracy could impose.

We all knew the uphill struggle when we gathered at the community building that night to hear and challenge the social and economic justification of having an asphalt plant operate on the banks of Doe Creek, a Tier 2 trout stream in our county. Then the agent said something else that fed the flames of hope.

"The terms of the mining permits that we issue today were drafted in 1968 and revised only once, nearly 35 years ago," he said. Hmm...why was he feeding us these tidbits? Could he also see what most in that room deemed obvious, that Johnson County truly is unique?

The headwaters of the Watauga Watershed begin their journey through TVA's massive dam and reservoir system here. Water, clean as God means it to be, flows out of our hills filling one of the cleanest bodies of water in the United States, Watauga Lake.

There is no asphalt shortage in Johnson County. The stone quarry this family-owned business also runs on site has been repeatedly sent Notice of Violations (NOVs) for exceeding the particulate amounts in their run-off to Doe Creek.

All of my friends share a confidence that such a carelessness and disregard would also be applied to their making of asphalt. Having petroleum byproducts wash down pristine Doe Creek to Watauga Lake conjures up a nightmarish vision that drives our resolve: We must not allow the asphalt plant to be permitted. Did I mention the asphalt plant is in a flood plain?

During the 30-day period for public appeal, we passed out petitions, began fund-raisers, solicited legal advice and wrote letters to TDEC in hopes the permit would be denied. Phone conversations between me and the state agents in the Department of Mining seemed friendly and informative.

"Big Money" in Johnson County wrote letters.

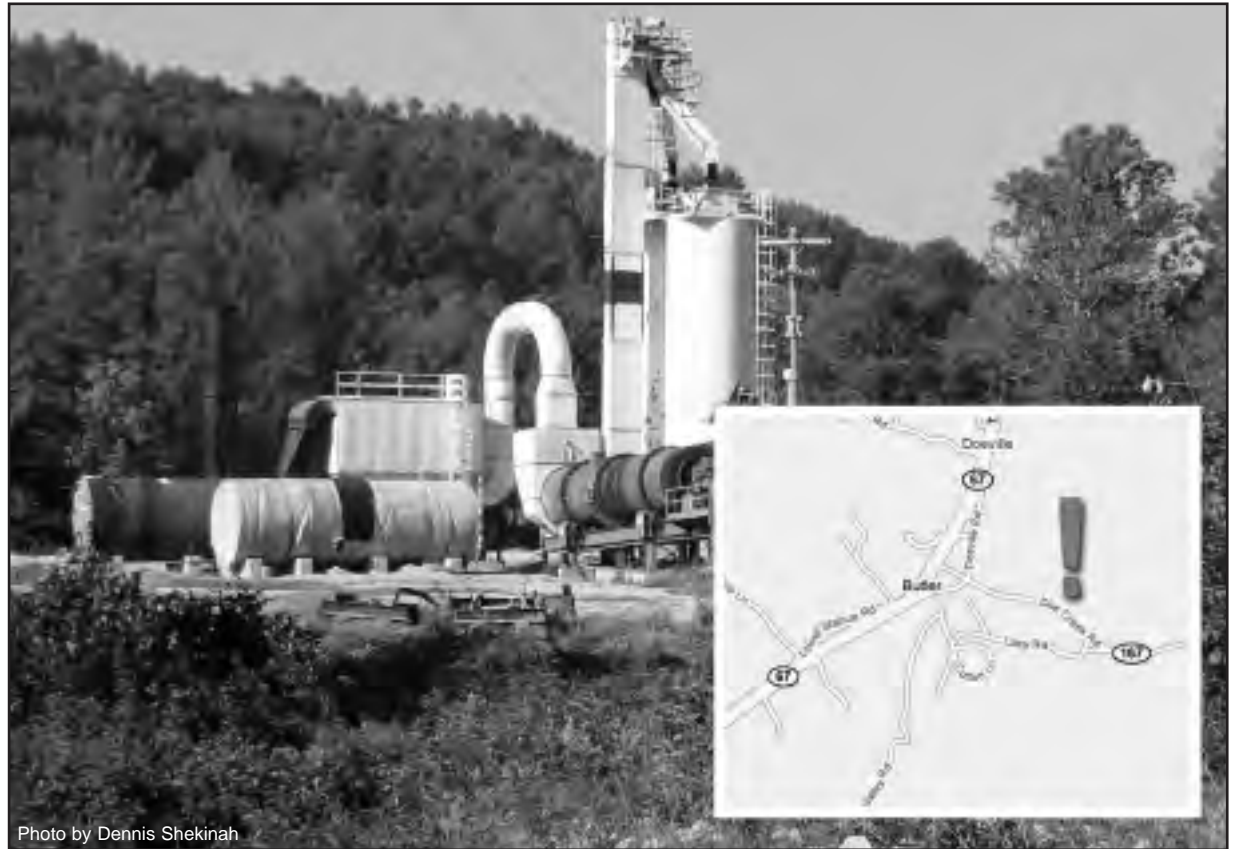


Photo by Dennis Shekinah

The new permit includes the operation of the asphalt plant, already built and ready for production. The plant stands yards away from Doe Creek, a Tier 2 stream and prime native trout fishery.

The Sierra Club chimed in too. Even the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA) wrote a letter expressing their worry that trout could suffer from the operation of an asphalt plant on a Tier 2 stream. It was a united front against the permit. Even though only one asphalt permit had ever been denied in the history of the state, citizens confidently spoke of history being made again in the name of clean water.

Around Thanksgiving, TDEC issued their decision: permit granted with modifications suggested in the storm water controls, but not mandated. Hope had taken one in the gut. We were down, but not out.

Our local group, the Watauga Watershed

Alliance, brought suit against the EPA for allowing TDEC to permit a dairy CAFO in Johnson County. We wrote resolutions against "abnormal agriculture" and submitted them to our county commissioners. They adopted them and months later abandoned them.

Our members went to Nashville to speak to the assistant attorney general and secretary of agriculture. Copies of letters sent to state officials were also sent to newspapers and Governor Bredesen. We went on the radio. I was interviewed by the local TV station on my front lawn with a NO CAFO sign behind me. We took turns writing letters to the editor. While we raised our kids, went

(continued on page 3)

Asphalt Plant Threatens Doe Creek

By Gloria Griffith
Chair, Watauga Group

Residents are rightfully concerned about Radford Quarries' proposed degradation of Doe Creek. Except for the applicant, no one thinks this rock quarry, tripling in size and adding an asphalt plant on the banks of a designated Tier II high quality stream, is in the best economic interests for the residents or the place we proudly call home.

Radford Quarries of Boone, Inc.

Doe Creek Quartzite Mine

555 Doe Creek Rd Butler, TN 37640

NPDES Permit TN0071277

The term "public interest" boils down to imply social and economic benefits for the residents of Johnson and Carter County. This is the regulation leeway the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has to make the right choice. This is the "soft spot" in the permit application and the current state regulations to which TDEC employees must adhere.

This is why focused, written and oral comments

must be made at a Tennessee Water Quality Board hearing to counter the permit applicant's weak and self-serving "alternate analysis" evaluation that boldly states: Pollution degradation of Doe Creek is a necessity and in the residents' best interest.

This challenge is not merely about the fish in Doe Creek, even though "Doe Creek is probably Tennessee's most productive wild trout stream, representing an extremely valuable fishery resource." (TWRA 2000) TWRA Fisheries Dept. 615-781-6570.

Aquatic life in a stream is a barometer; a measurement of a creek's health just like a canary is used in a coal mine. Trout or canaries, both are litmus tests to assure safe and healthy communities for people.

Protecting Doe Creek, less than a third of a mile upstream from Lake Watauga—one of the cleanest bodies of water in the U.S.—helps insure our future water source. Water is the concern. Water is life: clean, clear, drinkable, fishable lakes and creeks that we are proud to view, welcome visitors to explore, and safe to drink.

Tennes-Sierran

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

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

*Email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail

*Address changes are processed much faster if you include your Sierra Club membership number. To find your membership number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

Email: lbaker@usw.org

Snail Mail: Lynne Baker, Tennes-Sierran Editor
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(615) 831-6782

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

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

1. Email and email attached files are preferred. Send to lbaker@usw.org either with embedded text messages, or attached files in PC-based formats. Attached files are preferred. Mac users should embed text in body of an email message only.
2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or .tif file format 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.



With your help, we can clean up our water.

Over the last 30 years, we've made great progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

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Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
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Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____
Exp. Date ____/____/____
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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
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Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, experience-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.00 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org FIMQ 4300 1

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

Vote in Upcoming National Club Election This Spring

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot in early March. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation.

Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by

asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know.

Visit the Club's election website:
<http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2008election>.

This site provides links to additional information about candidates and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. You will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail. A growing number of members find the user friendly Internet voting option to be very convenient as well as saving postage.

Please note that only regular and life members are eligible to vote in the national Club election and will receive a ballot. Introductory members (i.e., members who have not renewed their Club membership prior to Jan. 31, 2008) are not eligible to vote in the national Club election. This change does not apply to chapter and group elections, in which all classes of membership remain eligible to vote.

Candidates for National Board of Directors

The candidates are listed below in the order they will appear on the ballot:

Jeremy Doochin N	Larry Fahn P	Lane Boldman N
Jerry Sutherland P	Barbara Frank N	Matt Urban N
Nathan Wyeth N	Jim Dougherty P	Clark Buchner P
Joni Bosh N	David Scott N	

N = Nominating Committee candidate, P = petition candidate

Maria Condo Project Threatens Nashville Crawfish Endangered Species

By Thomas Scott

It doesn't look like a place for a heroic battle over the future of an endangered species.

Mill Creek is a four-mile-long waterway that snakes from an entrance of the Cumberland River through already developed neighborhoods with a mixture of low income residential and commercial development. The banks of the Cumberland near the mouth are strewn with garbage, and residents that live along its banks make little use of the scenic and winding creek that makes its way under Lebanon Pike and Briley Parkway.

The mud and stone banks back up to parking lots and apartment buildings and snake under noisy underpasses and railroad crossings. Polluted runoff from parking lots that face away from the creek trickles into the stream and trash thrown from cars traveling over the creek on busy roadways is abundant.

Yet this unassuming stream is a precious habitat to a rare and endangered species, the Nashville Crawfish. It is so precious and rare that it is the only stream with the exact geologic conditions that allow this rare species to thrive and it is the only stream in the world where the last of these species have been located.

Development Threat

Incredibly, a group of developers is planning a major marina and condo project along the first mile of Mill Creek that threatens to destroy the prime habitat for this crawfish and possibly wipe out this species for good. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which has a responsibility to protect the species, has allowed the project without doing what many concerned citizens consider to be the proper scientific study.

City and state officials, along with local developers, have been working on riverfront planning to make better use of the scenic Cumberland River, which winds through the center of Nashville. The river is perhaps Nashville's least utilized natural resource and the timing is good for development.

Mill Creek seems like a good choice. The entrance and first mile or so are about eight feet deep, naturally deep enough for medium and some large pleasure craft to navigate. The entrance to the

creek is not far from Downtown Nashville, just upriver from the city water intake and a short boat ride to Titan Stadium and the skyline of downtown. There are some large tracts of waterfront land that have not been developed and what has been developed is low-cost, easy to purchase or control. Besides, who, except hungry Cajuns and local anglers, really cares about a crawfish?

Vic Scoggin does.

Vic Scoggin is a one-man army determined to save as much of the Nashville Crawfish's habitat as he can by speaking up, fighting the development and doing the impossible: getting people to care about the crawfish.

His environmental group Save the Cumberland has been launching a "Save Shoupi" campaign to raise awareness about the threat to the rare crawfish. Over much of the past two years, Scoggin has been the lone voice fighting for the survival of Orconectes Shoupi, better known as the Nashville Crawfish.

So far Scoggin has incurred over \$7,000 in legal bills, which he has paid for himself with a few donations, including a \$1,000 donation from the Sierra Club. Scoggin and his group have been one of the few defenders of the crawfish, and their efforts have slowed the project down.

"I'm deeply committed to the Cumberland River and its surrounding environment," Scoggin says. "Mill Creek is in the center of town and is a valuable natural resource for us. The Nashville Crawfish is very fragile; it is unclear that it will survive this marina project and it is not clear at all that it can be relocated to another stream."

Scoggin hired environmental attorney Chris Jones to file a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "The USFWS has a responsibility to protect all endangered species and to see that those species are eliminated from the endangered species list," Jones says.

Redo Population Count

"The USFWS must determine the size of the existing population and issue a recovery plan for the Nashville Crawfish. It appears that the service allowed the developer to assess the population without doing the required scientific work," Jones added.

(continued on page 5)

Corner

The Chair's

Dear Tennessee Chapter Members,

Our winter chapter meeting was held last weekend in January at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Many thanks are extended to Middle Tennessee Group for hosting the meeting. Mark your calendars now for our spring chapter meeting April 11-13, 2008 at Fall Creek Falls State Park hosted by Upper Cumberland Group.

Next month the Tennessee Chapter will be launching its March Window appeal. March is the month set aside by the Sierra Club in which chapters may fundraise without competition from the national Club. The Tennessee Chapter needs your help more than ever this year since it is an election year. Won't you please consider increasing your donation by ten dollars this year? The money that you contribute stays here in Tennessee to fight environmental battles to make our cities and towns more livable, to preserve our wild places for ourselves and our children, and to ensure that Tennessee does its part to save the globe from climate change. We can't do the work of the Sierra Club without your support. Please give generously this year.

The Tennessee Chapter will be sponsoring a wilderness first aid course again this year. Save the date for June 7&8 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. The cost of the course is \$165 per person which includes course materials and lunch and snacks on both training days. The training will be provided by a certified NOLS Wilderness Medicine instructor through Landmark Learning in North Carolina. Please contact me for additional information and to register for this training at katibug1959@aol.com or 615-943-6877.

I want to personally thank all of you for your support of the Tennessee Chapter through your monetary contributions and volunteer time. To those of you who are becoming active in the Club for the first time, we welcome you!

A special welcome goes to our new Tennessee Sierran editor, Lynne Baker!

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet,

Katherine Pendleton, Chair
Tennessee Chapter

Hope Sustains Fight to Deny Permit to Asphalt Plant Along Doe Creek

(continued from page 1)

to work and tended to our gardens, we were always fighting the CAFO permit.

We were dealt a blow when Judge Campbell, from the middle district federal court of Tennessee, dismissed our suit against the EPA. Still, the pressure against the CAFO stayed at a fever pitch until everyone heard the news: The dairyman's wife had been murdered and her husband, Jerry Anderson, was arrested for the crime.

The partnership for the CAFO crumbled and the work for the project stopped. From the air, one can clearly see the scar left by the foolish dream of a greedy man. Nearly \$100,000 was raised in the fight of the CAFO—money, time and sweat that could have been better spent in one of Tennessee's poorest counties.

And now another fight boils. Our new attorneys encourage us to appeal the asphalt permit on its lack of merit. They feel a properly constructed argument will sway the Tennessee Board of Water Quality to demand a rewrite of the permit, perhaps even call for its dismissal. The appeal will likely cost around \$20,000 to \$50,000.

The asphalt plant is already built. It stands waiting for the go-ahead from the state. I'm sure the family that owns it has absolute confidence in the state's compliance to their demands. Perhaps the owners, already sited for dozens of violations



Photo by Dennis Shekinah

The quarry is unkept and has inadequate storm water controls to keep run-off from the road and tributaries to Doe Creek.

to Doe Creek but never fined by the state, feel untouchable.

Attracted to Tennessee by our lax environmental laws and weak enforcement, they moved here to make money. Not to contribute to our county or

make friends, but to make money. They certainly have everything on their side to "loot and pollute."

And yet, completely inappropriate in the face of certain defeat, I feel something well up within me. I look in my friends' eyes; they feel it too—Hope.

Meetings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

FEBRUARY PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, February 12, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. Melissa Zeigler, of Wilbur Smith Associates, will discuss various aspects of the proposed "Corridor K" highway linking Asheville, North Carolina, and Chattanooga. Wilbur Smith Associates, a consulting firm, is preparing a study of the economic feasibility of such a road. This is a controversial issue that entails, among other things, a highway replacing or paralleling present-day U.S. 64 along the Ocoee River. Everyone is welcome. For information call John Finger at (865) 573-5908.

MARCH PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. This is our Annual Outings Meeting, presided over by Outings Chair Ron Shrieves. Slide show with photos, descriptions and discussion of upcoming HBG hikes, backpacks, bike and canoe trips. Outings are scheduled on weekends of every month. We are also contemplating a more impromptu midweek hiking schedule and will seek indications of interest at this meeting. Come out-it's a great way to meet new people, find out about exciting places, make your plans for the great outdoors, or just see what others are doing. Everyone is welcome. For information call Ron at (865) 922-3518.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, February 14, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville.

Have you ever wondered about the "secrets of Tennessee's past?" Who knows what mysteries may be solved by delving into the earth around us? Perhaps all will be revealed when Historical Archeologist Ben Nance presents a program on World War II sites in Tennessee. Have your Valentine's Day dinner early, but come because this promises to be a truly special event not to be missed! Ben Nance will discuss a recent study of World War II sites in Tennessee including airfields, war camps and other relics of history. Ben has worked for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation since 1988, has a Master's degree in historic preservation, and is a Nashville native. His family has been here since 1805, so he will give us a perspective that few others could.

Please call Martha Wilson at 376-2535 for directions or more information. As always, the event is free and open to the public.

March Preview – March 13 at 7:00 p.m.: Our program will be presented by Brian Bowen of the Natural Heritage Group. More on the topic will be in the March TennesSierran.

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, February 26 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 792-2590.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

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

STATE OF FRANKLIN GROUP (Tri-Cities)

STRATEGY/PROGRAM MONTHLY MEETING: We will be meeting at The Acoustic Coffee House in Johnson City located in the 400 block of West Walnut Street in Old town Johnson City at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6. This meeting is a strategy & membership brainstorm session to inject new and good blood into our rebirth. The Group will be meeting the 1st Wednesday of every month at this location for the next 3 meetings after which an annual calendar will be set and fixed. Contact Tom Mozen at mozenetc@yahoo.com or 423-232-0827 for more information.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Monthly First Thursday Members Gathering:

February 7 & March 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. Anyone interested in learning about the Sierra Club is invited. For more information, contact Juliet Jones, Vice Chair, at (901) 374-0582 or juliet101@comcast.net.

Thursday & Friday, February 7-8, 2008: Clean Water Network Caucus in Memphis, TN—This caucus will focus on strategies for fighting nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in the lower Mississippi River and will be held at the Fogelman Executive Center on the campus of the University of Memphis. The Fogelman Center is at 330 Innovation Drive. To learn more about the caucus or to register, please check the Network's website at: <http://www.cleanwaternet.org> and click on "Meetings and Events" or send an e-mail to Natalie Roy at Natalieroy@cleanwaternet.org

Strategy Meeting: Monday, February 11 & Monday, March 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 Nancy Ream by February 8 (February meeting) to place items on the agenda: (901) 759-9416 or njream@aol.com

Sustainable Agriculture/Organic Foods Films

Wednesday, February 13, 7:30pm – Power House, 45 G.E. Patterson (between Main and Front) Free Admission (donations accepted). Refreshments

available. - Please join the Sierra Club and Indie Memphis for a special Microcinema film presentation. "Go Organic" is a series of short films that together provide a refreshing education on the current state of agriculture, and point out positive sustainable and organic practices that you can take part in. Highlights will include The Meatrix, which exposes the ways of unethical farming through animation; Ladies of the Land, an Academy Award-winning documentary about a new wave of female farmers; and several other shorts.

Chickasaw Group Sierra Club February Program Meeting Wednesday, February 20, 7:00pm – Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar, Memphis, TN. Twenty-seven years ago (with the leadership of the Sierra Club), Tennessee very nearly passed a container-deposit law (a.k.a. "bottle bill"). Had this bill succeeded, today we would be enjoying dramatically increased recycling rates as well as significantly less litter. Fortunately, we have another chance, in the form of SB 1408 / HB 1829—the "Tennessee Deposit Beverage Container Act." Marge Davis, coordinator of PRIDE OF PLACE (POP), will discuss the innovations that have already gained the bill a record number of sponsors; review the energy, environmental, and economic benefits that make it more important than ever; and provide the audience with easy, concrete ways to help assure its passage. For more information about the bottle bill, visit <http://www.tnbottlebill.org/>. For more information about the Sierra Club's February program meeting, contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or bus@thecave.com. Come to the meeting at 6:30pm for social time! Presentation starts at 7:00pm. The public is invited.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee, - Mondays at 1:30pm, Tuesdays at 4:00pm, Wednesdays at 11:30am & 11:00pm, Thursdays at 7:00am, Fridays at 2:30pm, Saturdays at 10:00am, and Sundays at 2:00am. "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program on cable channel 18. For complete schedule listings on cable channel 18, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc/schedule. For more information about "The Nature of Conservation," or if any groups or individuals in the community have a special concern and would like to see a program on it, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu

WATAUGA GROUP (North Eastern TN)

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



Middle Tennessee Group held its holiday party in Nashville.

Photo by Anna Rasmussen

Maria Condo Project Threatens Nashville Crawfish Endangered Species

(continued from page 3)

He contends that the population count submitted by the developer, which is likely a conflict of interest, alleges that there are few to no crawfish in the development area. In fact, the development will consume over 5,500 feet of stream bank, and a large fuel station for boats will sit adjacent to the natural spring that likely sustains the crawfish, making Mill Creek unique.

"The USFWS has a duty to use proper science to assemble its population counts," Jones says. "We allege that this did not take place and that the service has instead acted against the interests of the Nashville Crawfish. Proper population counts would require deep water traps and a scuba biologist who could take counts in the underwater caves.

"The developer hired a consultant to perform the population count and as far as we can tell, they did not turn in the required documentation and may not have placed any traps out. We simply want the government to do its duty and act as the custodian for this endangered animal," Jones says.

He added that the only crawfish the government has found was a juvenile found along the bank on a clump of leaves in a field visit in 2003. From this they deduced that there was only one crawfish every five hundred feet and they speculated that the crawfish might just be washing downstream from further up in the creek.

Not so says Scoggin, who scuba dives in the creek. "I have made several scuba dives into the caves and have seen many of the adult Nashville Crawfish. In fact the largest cave, which contains an underwater spring, is directly across from where the fuel station will be. I want the government to make the dive and see for themselves."

Named the Cumberland Yacht Harbor, the 250-million-dollar project consists of a new marina with slips for 200 yachts and 180 condo villas ranging from \$350,000 to \$1.9 million in price.

The project that California developer Alex Marks calls "an oasis" will bulldoze and dredge entire sections of the creek's bank. It has taken six years to get approval for the project and although the real estate market has plummeted in Nashville, developers claim to have pre-sold 50 percent of the first phase.

Rarest of all Crawfish

When most people think of crawfish, they think of the tasty rust-colored species common at crawfish boils in Louisiana or used for fishing bait. Crawfish are common throughout the south and there is an enormous market for crawfish both for food and bait.

In fact, there are over 400 species of crawfish in the U.S., with most varieties native to the south. Nashville has many species of native crawfish, and they inhabit almost every shallow waterway. Chances are you can find a few species in your neighborhood creeks by simply turning over a few rocks.

Four out of 400 species, however, are rare and listed on the endangered species list by the federal government. The Nashville Crawfish, so named because it has only been found within the city limits of Nashville along Mill Creek, is perhaps the rarest of all crawfish.

The diminutive crustacean is smaller than most crawfish, has red-tipped pinchers and has black marks along its brown body that resemble a saddle. It is one of the few crawfish known to inhabit deeper water and often live in underwater caves. Finding this crawfish and collecting samples is difficult. Unlike most crawfish, which can easily be found by turning over rocks or using a net along the shore, finding the Nashville Crawfish requires scuba gear.

The Nashville Crawfish was first listed as critically endangered on September 26, 1986. It is currently listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act as endangered in its entire range and is on the verge

of extinction.

Scoggin has been successful in documenting the presence of the crawfish, which inhabit several underwater caves just below the waterline of the murky creek. These caves, which are in the path of the proposed marina, may be the key to the survival of the crawfish.

There are many varieties of crawfish inhabiting Nashville streams. The more common varieties, some of which are found in the shallow sections of Mill Creek, easily dominate the smaller Nashville Crawfish. The depth of the water and the presence of the limestone creek bottoms, matched with natural springs and underwater caves, create a fragile environment that gives *Orconectes Shoupi* a place to thrive and survive natural and human-introduced predators.

Slow Down Development

Currently, developers of the Cumberland Yacht Harbor expect to begin construction later this year. Scoggin hopes to employ legal means to slow down the project, at least until it is clear that something can be done to save the crawfish.

His small group is recruiting volunteers and posting news on its website, www.savethecumberland.org. He is actively raising funds to support an ongoing legal battle that he expects to cost over \$50,000.

Chris Jones is hopeful. "We are preparing to file a lawsuit in federal court against the USFWS alleging that they have been negligent in their duty. The government has a duty to protect the Nashville Crawfish. In fact, the government has a duty to foster its population so it can thrive again and become de-listed as an endangered species. We are hopeful that the court will order the service to do a proper scientific study and document the population of endangered Nashville Crawfish."

Thanks to Vic Scoggin, the small crawfish may still have a chance.

The Energy SuperCommittee Wants YOU

Co-Chaired by Steven Sondheim stevensondheim@yahoo.com and Clark Buchner coyotem@usit.net, the Energy SuperCommittee has been successfully working on a number of progressive energy policy changes. We need your help. Please contact either Steven or Clark or any of the issue leads. **We will bring you up to speed, train you and work with you.** We'd like to involve more people at the group level. Also, there is an opportunity for a new lead and additional team members for Nuclear.

Cool Cities—Steven Sondheim leads this team with the help of Diane Perschbacher Phifer diane@propson.com

Current Cool City/Counties are Shelby County, Nashville, Chattanooga, Cookeville, and Signal Mountain. Prospectives with which we are actively working are Knoxville, Germantown, and TriCities (Johnson City, Bristol, and Kingsport). Potential—Memphis, Bartlett, Clarksville, Franklin.

This year we will focus on the next step after a city signs the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement: development of an energy inventory and a climate action plan.

Global Warming and Energy—Clark Buchner and Steven Sondheim lead this team needing folks on a number of issues, especially researching the biofuels situation.

Transportation—Brian Paddock can be reached at bpaddock@twlakes.net He leads this team on freight-rail, Context Sensitive Solutions, reduction of Vehicle Miles Traveled, land-use planning, and citizen involvement in planning.

TVA—David Reister leads the team working with TVA on energy efficiency, renewable energy, reducing dependence on coal and nuclear power, and a number of other issues.

Nuclear—Thanks to Sarah Smith smarie@dtc-com.net who led the Nuclear Committee in 2007. She tirelessly made us aware of why we don't want or need nuclear energy and helped bring to the attention of national Sierra Club the problems of the nuclear loan guarantees.

Smart Growth—led by Dave Bordenkircher dabordenkircher@mindspring.com.

National Energy Bill—Thanks to everyone who wrote letters, sent emails, and called representatives and senators. The bill passed the House and a compromise bill passed the Senate.

Good-CAFÉ standards of 35 mpg by 2020, a lot of support for renewables, and the Nuclear Loan Guarantee was dropped from the bill.

Bad-Defeat of the proposed removal of \$16 billion in tax breaks for the oil industry with that money going to fund renewables, failure of renewable electricity standards of 15 percent.

Ugly—The nuclear loan guarantees were put back in the omnibus bill by Senator Domenici of New Mexico. At least there was less money and congressional oversight remains.

Hopeful—The most important thing is that Congress and the public are taking sensible energy policy seriously. These issues will be addressed again in the near future. With the elections in 2008, the new Congress should be much more amenable to better energy policy. There will also be bills coming up dealing with global warming.

The Energy SuperCommittee works with the **Solar Valley Coalition**, a network of groups working on sensible energy policy. Includes: Sierra Club, Kilowatt Ours, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE), U.S. Green Building Council, TEC, Cumberland Sustainable and many others in a biweekly conference call as well as

working with the TVA board, TDEC, TDOT, NRC, and representatives working for the governor on a state energy plan. Special thanks to Louise Gorenflo who hosts and facilitates these calls. See the website <http://www.solarvalleycoalition.net>

Legislative Committee—We work closely with Penny Brooks, Bill Terry and Mike Murphy on implementing progressive energy legislation including Energy Star equipment, building codes, emission control, recycling, and, of course, the state energy plan.

Please contact any of us with questions or interest. Thanks

Steven Sondheim

901-761-1793

Co-Chair

Energy SuperCommittee

Tennessee Sierra Club

6th Annual Wilderness First Aid Training

When: June 7 & 8, 2008

Where: Fall Creek Falls State Park

Who: Training conducted by NOLS Wilderness Medicine instructors

Cost: \$165/participant includes course materials and lunch/snacks both days

Contact: Katherine Pendleton at katibug1959@aol.com or 615-943-6877

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) **February 23-24, 2008, Winter Breakout Backpack, Grassy Ridge Bald, Highlands of Roan.**

Join us for an overnight on Grassy Ridge Bald in the beautiful Highlands of Roan. The hike begins in Carvers Gap at the western base of Round Bald. We will follow the AT for 1.8-miles over Round Bald and Jane Bald, and then take the spur trail to Grassy Ridge Bald for a total of 2.6 miles on the trail. While the hike distance is relatively easy, the weather can be brutal at high elevation (Grassy Bald 6,200'). High winds and some ice and snow should be expected. Good winter gear and winter backpacking skills are critical. Please speak with the hike leader if you have not previously backpacked in the winter. Driving time, about 3 hours.

If weather conditions make the road to Carver's Gap difficult, we will change the hike location. Pre-registration with Beverly Smith (865) 531.8480 or email blsmith1300@comcast.net (email preferred).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville) **February 7, 2008 Outings Planning Potluck**

We will meet at the home of Katherine Pendleton at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck supper and plan our outings program for 2008. If you are currently a certified outings leader or wish to become an outings leader, please plan on attending this meeting. If you are not interested in becoming an outings leader but enjoy participating on outings, your attendance is welcomed for providing input of outings ideas. Please pre-register with Katherine Pendleton at katibug1959@aol.com or 615-943-6877.

February 9, 2008 Beaman Park Trail Building Workday

Friends of Beaman Park have scheduled another fabulous Trail Building Workday at Beaman Park, and once again they have asked us to lend our quips and biceps. Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 9, from 9 till noon, and consider joining us at the Creekside Trailhead. We are trying to finish the connector trail between the new bridge and the nature center site. Tools, work gloves, drinks and snacks are provided by Friends of Beaman Park. Bring a friend. All are welcome. It's way more fun than staying home and doing laundry! Contact Joy Mayfield at joy.mayfield@comcast.net or 615-851-1192. (Conservation)

February 23, 2008 Inner City Outings Training

An Inner City Outings Program (ICO) is starting in the Middle Tennessee area co-chaired by Alyssa Browning and Tami Hilbert. Part of the requirements for ICO leaders is a training workshop led by a regional Sierra Club ICO representative. This training will be held Saturday, February 23. Please

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!

contact Alyssa Browning for additional information and time and place of the training. 314-369-5705 or Alyssa.browning@vanderbilt.edu. (Education)

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis) **Sierra Club/Park Friends Second Saturday Hike - Saturday, February 9, 10:00-12:00pm -The Old Forest Trail, Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee.**

The Old Forest Hike. Hike the trail through the only urban forest of its type in the region. Located in Overton Park, this moderate hike includes portions of the Old Forest Arboretum. See the Old Forest in winter, identify native trees, and learn Memphis history from its original landscape. The hike is co-sponsored by the Park Friends. Meet on the bridge at the end of the Old Forest Lane. For additional information, contact Don Richardson at (901) 276-1387 or donrich@juno.com.

Chickasaw Group News

Contributed by various members

Chickasaw Group Holiday Party

There was a great turn-out for the Chickasaw Group's Holiday Party on December 14 at the Burch, Porter, Johnson law offices in Memphis. Tennessee Chair Katherine Pendleton was there, along with about eighty others. People were able to come together in a relaxed setting to enjoy food, participate in the holiday spirit, and talk about what concerns them most! State legislators Beverly Marrero, Mike Kernell, and Barbara Cooper dropped by. County Mayor AC Wharton received an "Outstanding Government Leadership" award for his work to make Shelby County a "cool county". He also opened a public trail along the Nonconnah Greenway between Memphis and Collierville. Receiving the award meant that his attention to the environment has not gone unnoticed. The "Conservation Achievement" award went to Lisa Williams, the Shelby County employee who coordinated the funding and construction of the county's new Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Center. The "Outstanding Community Advocacy" award went to Rita Harris, the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice organizer in Memphis. Jessica Gibbons received the "Outstanding Student Leadership" award. She's a founding member of the University of Memphis' Environmental Action Club. Teri Sullivan received the "Volunteer of the Year" award for her unstinting service to the

Chickasaw Group. Judith Rutschman was mentioned for her television show, "The Nature of Conservation", Becki Barnhart was thanked for her good ideas, and David Carter received appreciation for his help setting up Sierra Club booths and tables throughout the year. Soon after Chickasaw Group Chair Tom Lawrence presented Teri with her volunteer award, someone else named him "Officer of the Year"!

Orientation Meeting for New Chickasaw Group Executive Committee Members

Fifteen people met on January 5 at the home of Ed and Juliet Jones to get familiar with the procedures of the Chickasaw Group's ExCom. Present were ExCom members Keith Hoover, Nancy Ream, Teri Sullivan, Gary Bridgman, Don Richardson, Juliet Jones, Paul Stasz, Ed Jones, and Tricia

Higgins. Also attending were Steven Sondheim, Naomi Van Tol, Sue Williams, Tom Lawrence, James Baker, and David Carter. Most of the ExCom members were there! Group Chair Tom Lawrence steered the meeting and led a concluding discussion. Presentations came from longtime Sierrans Don Richardson, Naomi Van Tol, Steven Sondheim, and Teri Sullivan. There was a working lunch, with edibles provided by Steven Sondheim. After the meeting, some attendees adjourned to a local brewpub/eatery to continue their discussions.



Photo by Steven Sondheim

Members of the Chickasaw Group meet at the home of Ed and Juliet Jones. Left to right: Paul Stasz, Sue Williams, David Carter, Ed Jones and Tricia Higgins.

Book Review

Into the Wild: America's Lost Boys (Part 1)

By Josie McQuail
Upper Cumberland group

One of the many chapter epigraphs in Jon Krakauer's *"Into the Wild"* is by Edward Hoagland from "Up the Black to Chalkyitsik:"

"We have in America 'The Big Two-Hearted River' tradition: taking your wounds to the wilderness for a cure, a conversion, a rest, or whatever. And as in the Hemingway story, if your wounds aren't too bad, it works. But this isn't Michigan (or Faulkner's Big Woods in Mississippi, for that matter). This is Alaska."

This quote began to help me come to some understanding of the book and the film adaptation directed by Sean Penn about the life and death of Chris McCandless. This is not just the story of one young man, but it is the story of America. It is a road trip. It is also the story of America's Lost Boys amid a bankrupt society.

Chris McCandless' story, when first reported by Krakauer in *Outside* magazine, invited a lot of invective against Chris, the alienated suburbanite kid from a wealthy family, who in the view of many *Outside* readers was "a kook."

Collectively, reports Krakauer, "The prevailing Alaska wisdom held that McCandless was simply one more dreamy half-cocked greenhorn who went into the country expecting to find answers to all his problems and instead found only mosquitoes and a lonely death."

A reader living in Alaska named Nick Jans opines of McCandless:

"His ignorance, which could have been cured by a USGS quadrant and a Boy Scout manual, is what killed him. And while I feel for his parents, I have no sympathy for him. Such willful ignorance . . . amounts to disrespect for the land, and paradoxically demonstrates the same sort of arrogance that resulted in the Exxon Valdez spill—just another case of under-prepared, overconfident men bumbling around out there and screwing up because they lacked the requisite humility. . . ."

It seems unfair to me that so many tear into Chris McCandless—alias "Alexander Supertramp" as he christened himself—in this way. Hardly anyone picks apart the more typical, and desperate, young American's behavior, evidenced in the novels of, say, Jay McInerney: reckless drug taking, drinking, sexual misadventures, and on top of all that (not meaning to trivialize it), most likely poor eating habits. All of which lead, if not to accidental death, to early heart attacks, chronic or fatal disease and drug overdoses. The Lost Boy can be domesticated or wild, but it is the wild ones who come in for criticism for the most part.

Another Lost Boy whom Krakauer quotes often, Henry David Thoreau, said it best: "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." This quiet desperation, evidence of behavior perhaps more pathological than Chris', draws little notice until a misfit lying under society's radar picks up a gun and commits murder, as happens so often in America I need not provide names. Whether we're talking about the "mass of men" or Chris McCandless, it should be evident that these Lost Boys are a product of a sick and bankrupt society. Chris found perhaps a more healthy way to deal with his alienation than most do.

From personal experience I can cite three young men I knew from nice upper middle class suburban homes who should have had all of the expectations of the American dream from their comfortable upbringing: One, homeless in the Bay Area, ended up burning to death when a tent he was living in caught fire; another died of a heroin overdose just last fall; a third is also homeless—a vagrant for more than 20 years—somewhere in the Bay Area of Northern California, a methadone addict and old before his time.

Chris McCandless got further than any of these three young men I knew. He graduated from Emory University in 1990, and was nominated for membership in Phi Beta Kappa, a prestigious national honorary society (he refused his membership). Chris also

preferred not to renew his driver's license, in apparent solidarity with Thoreau's ideas stated in "Resistance to Civil Government" (better known as "Civil Disobedience"): If you do not approve of your government's actions, you should not buy into it by paying taxes or fees.

He led his parents and sister to believe that he would be going to law school. Instead he took off, driving cross-country in a car with expired registration and no accident insurance, leaving everything behind, including \$24,000 left over from his college fund which he donated to OXFAM America, a charity dedicated to end hunger in America.

Chris was apparently a real-life version of Hemingway's Nick Adams, protagonist of many Hemingway short stories, and like Nick, people were drawn to and sheltered Chris. But also like Nick, Chris eventually always left on his journey following the classic trajectory of the American exodus West to Baja, California (Mexico), Midwest (to South Dakota), California, Oregon, and eventually to Alaska, where he died. As if to emphasize the epic journey Chris takes, each of Krakauer's chapters has a local or place name: "The Alaska Interior," "Bullhead City," "Anza-Borrego," etc.

The story of Chris' travels, which Krakauer meticulously pieces together from Chris' postcards and letters, sketchy journal entries, marginalia and underlining from books Chris read, interviews with people he encountered, and even his graffiti, is a remarkable feat. The book is beautifully and sensitively written; not only the landscape descriptions, but also portraits of the folks Chris meets on his odyssey give us a great impression of present day America (and to his credit, Sean Penn's film conveys this as well).

This is largely the underside of America, contrasted with the affluent life of Chris' parents in "Chesapeake Beach" and "Annandale." There is "the Slabs," an abandoned Navy base in California near Salton City, and "Oh-My-God Hot Springs," further in the desert, both places where "vagrants" set up camp to live out of their cars. Think Rainbow People, Dead Heads, people living off the grid.

Nick Adams was suffering from shell shock or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Hemingway's story collection *"In Our Time."* Chris also seems to have been suffering a psychological malaise of sorts, which Krakauer attributes partly to Chris' discovery that his father, after leaving his first wife for Chris' mother, Billie, had secretly maintained a relationship with both women for a few years after his split, so that Chris actually had a half brother two years younger than him. Chris only discovered this on his first trip west, when after high school he drove to California and visited the neighborhood where he had lived for his first six years.

Finding out that your life as you know it is a lie would be unsettling, and Chris' loss of faith in "normal" life was no doubt an outgrowth of shock at his father's past behavior. Krakauer also brings into discussion later his own troubled relationship with his authoritarian father, which sheds more light on Chris' troubles with his father, Walt.

Perhaps understandably then, Chris seems not to have trusted people, though people were extremely drawn to him. Both film and book portray his friendship with an 80-year-old man, Ron Franz, who even proposed adopting Chris (having lost his own son in a tragic accident years before). Chris did respond to overtures of friendship, but like Nick Adams in "The Big Two-Hearted River" Chris ends up alone and isolated, trying to find meaning in the bare essentials of surviving in nature in the place where he would die, off the Stampede Trail in Denali Park, Alaska.

(See Part 2 of this review in the March issue.)



The Fear of Splitting Plastics Bags

By Coldwell Daniel, IV

How much waste in petroleum is the dirty ocean and the floor of slippery slopes made impromptu and the counter clerk and I care like Goofy driving a jalopy that spills and canisters rolling

cause the fear of splitting plastic bags

so if I hold it in my hands I need once, twice, three times a cradle of impossible recycling by the impostor king of reciclists but bicycles are free on these streets and bin one is not to have been all so the field's still open

And if I cared more for this world than the instinct of my human animal self allows this would not happen; nor would my escape through the drink inside nor passion that just might save the world if he or we all have it or perhaps I'd have a few less plastic things than I don't need instead of a few more than the world can handle.

in its plasticity so like the need of people who can all ways bend to one lover or a few sure that this is it every time, and every one they luxuriate or stroke winds up getting used again and is just as good (if a little crumpled) when they find their most demanding use and burst (from joy) into a freeworld or love a little like the toss of paper thin plastic on the wind over parking:: gamboling and turning unevenly until it is stuck on branches of trees that hold the sap drawn down in the roots under the ground I walk making the errand of thirst and diatribe inwardly smiling prohibiting the idea I am afraid.

Tell the Governor We Need a State Energy Plan

By Louise Gorenflo
Solar Valley Coalition

Energy efficiency (EE) is our cleanest and cheapest energy resource that will do more for the economy than any energy resource. Dollars saved from lower energy bills can be invested in technologies that can further reduce our energy consumption. EE must be our first response to rising energy costs, capacity shortages, and carbon emission challenges. It can provide half of our future energy requirements.

Yet the Southeast as a region has fallen far behind nationally as it continues to invest heavily into new capacity rather than energy efficiency. Tennessee ranks 43rd in energy efficiency policies, but Alabama (46th) and Mississippi (49th) still rank lower.

The Southeast lags for a variety of reasons. Low historic energy prices have kept EE a low political priority. Because the South has a younger economy, the focus has been on meeting growth needs. But now is the time for our governor to make Tennessee a leader in the South and nationally.

Markets alone won't reap enough EE due to barriers such as income elasticity, principal-agent barriers (builder-buyer, landlord-tenant), and information-cost barriers (consumers don't have time and money to study each purchase). Over half of building energy usage is affected by barriers.

Tennessee must have a comprehensive state energy plan that will maximize our reliance on energy efficiency and renewable energies. We need a sustainable transportation plan that reduces our need for oil and new highway construction through public transportation and Smart Growth. Our state needs to address global warming by reducing Tennessee's carbon footprint through energy efficiency and sustainable transportation.

State policies can provide incentives that will lead to job growth and technological innovation, fueling the transformation of our economy. An EE comprehensive state energy plan can clean our water and air with policies that promote compact

development, recycling of resources, and reducing waste.

Actions Needed

Contact the governor and Tennessee Energy Director Ryan Gooch to let them know that you want a comprehensive energy efficiency plan for Tennessee that sets concrete targets for energy efficiency, implementation of renewable energy sources, and consumer education.

Governor Phil Bredesen:

phil.bredesen@state.tn.us

Ryan Gooch, State Energy Policy Director:

ryan.gooch@state.tn.us, 615-741-2994

Please let TN Environmental Council know to track responses: TEC@tectn.org,

More Information

- American Council for Energy Efficient Economy provides recognized leadership in supporting and evaluating state energy plans: www.aceee.org

- Solar Valley Coalition's website has a section on Tennessee's energy planning and other states' energy plans: www.solarvalleycoalition.net/StateEnergyPlan/TNStatePlan.html

Defenders of Tennessee 2007-08 The Time To Join Is Now!

The Chapter's annual Defenders of Tennessee campaign funds our advocacy and lobbying activities, and we invite new members, as well as all Sierrans who have not yet joined the Defenders, to contribute as your 2008 gift to the environment.

During the past 12 years, this program has been very effective in representing the Sierra Club's environmental agenda on Capitol Hill. Our Defenders can be very proud of the work we have done and the accomplishments of our Legislative Committee and our lobbyist, Mike Murphy. The Tennessee Chapter is able to hire a lobbyist such as Mike only because you and other dedicated members donate to this once-a-year solicitation.

Your contribution is not tax-deductible but is critical in enabling us to continue to have an advocate on "the hill." Contributions of any size are valued. The Defender campaign brings in only a portion of the funds that we need to carry out our legislative and lobbying activities, and we must make up the balance out of our reserves. We are proud that this campaign is a volunteer activity, so all donations go to support the Defenders.

Please fill out the form below and send your check made out to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Bill Terry, Legislative Co-Chair

Penny Brooks, Legislative Co-Chair

Please enclose the following with your contribution

Amount of donation: \$75 \$150 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

May we publish your name in the Sierra Club newsletter as a donor?

Yes No (OPTIONAL) Your e-mail address. Sending our letter of appreciation to you electronically will allow us to conserve paper and save money. We will not divulge the address.

Please save Defender funds for legislative activities. Send no acknowledgment letter.

The Sierra Club, Tennessee Chapter thanks this month's contributors to the **Defenders of Tennessee** (December 10-January 9):

Andrew Abernathy
Ken Brame and Judy Mattox
Clark Buchner
Barbara Deneke
Bill and Dorothy DeVan
Jay and Marilyn Hiatt
Dr. and Mrs. Reginald Lowe
Joy Mayfield

John and Chris McCarthy
Annelies Raetzer
Larry Smith and Naomi Van Tol
Bill Terry and Adelle Wood
Gene and Ruth Van Horn
Shipp and Judith Webb
Sue Williams
Glen and Martha Wilson

Tennessee Energy Plan Action Alert

Actions needed –

Contact the governor and Tennessee Energy Director Ryan Gooch to let them know that you want a comprehensive energy efficiency plan for Tennessee that includes concrete targets for energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transportation, climate protection, and market transformation.

Governor Phil Bredesen (phil.bredesen@state.tn.us)

Ryan Gooch, State Energy Policy (ryan.gooch@state.tn.us) **615-741-2994**

Please let the TN Environmental Council (TEC@tectn.org) know you followed through to help track responses.

Talking Points

- Tennessee needs to develop a comprehensive State Energy Plan to move Tennessee to leadership in energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transportation, climate protection, protection of our natural resources, and a clean energy economy.
- Tennessee needs to set targets for energy efficiency and renewable energies with plans on how to meet them over the years.
- Tennessee government needs to lead by example in buildings, transportation, and purchased appliances.
- Tennessee needs to provide sustainable funding for energy efficiency incentives, consumer education, low-income services (such as increased weatherization), R&D, and environmental protection with the long-term goal of market transformation.
- Tennessee can learn and benefit from the energy plans of other states.

More Information

[American Council for Energy Efficient](http://www.aceee.org) provides recognized leadership in supporting and evaluating state energy plans.

[Solar Valley Coalition](http://www.solarvalleycoalition.net/StateEnergyPlan/TNStatePlan.html) has a section on Tennessee energy planning and other states' energy plans.

Moving?

Attach mailing address label, or fill in current name, address & Membership ID#

Current Address: _____

Member ID# _____

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Mail to:

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 52968 Boulder, CO 80322-2968

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group

Tennes-Sierran

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