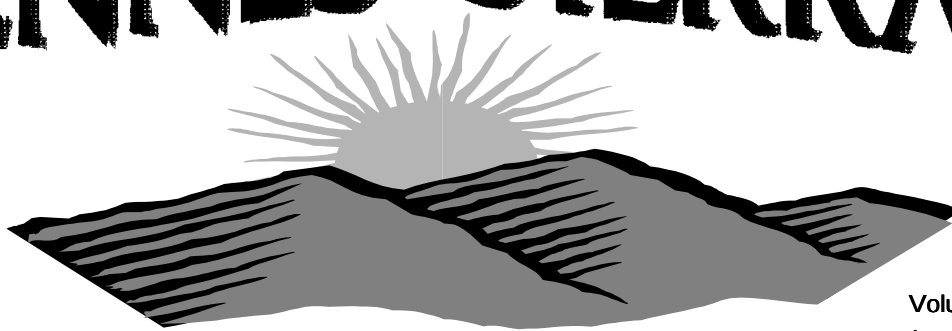




TENNESSEE SIERRA



Volume 29, Number 6
June, 1999

Tennessee Legislators have Trouble Seeing the Forest for the Trees

Gary Bowers
Conservation Chair-TN Chapter

The three pro-active forestry bills supported by the Tennessee environmental community were up in the House Conservation and Environment Committee on Tuesday, May 6th at 3:30 P.M. Each of these bills had been successfully passed out of the Environment subcommittee of the House Conservation and Environment Committee in April. They now faced the next step in the legislative process - passage out of the full C&E Committee.

First up in the committee that afternoon was the Environmental Action Fund (EAF) Bad Actor Bill. This bill called for notification of commercial harvest over ten acres in size and gave the Tennessee Department of Conservation and Environment the authority to fine operators or stop their operations that were polluting waters of the State of Tennessee. While it was not a "consensus" of the Forest Management Advisory Panel (FMAP), it was one of the areas of general agreement that the State of Tennessee needed "notification" if we were to be able to track "bad actors" and stop them prior to major damage being done. The discussion was lively, but the bill was unable to be acted upon that day, as the committee was forced to adjourn due to an imposed ending time.

How They Voted
EAF Bad Actor Bill

Committee Member	District Phone Number	How They Voted
Don Ridgeway, Chairman	901/942-6314	Not Voting as Chairman
Gary Odom, Vice Chairman	615/266-9092	Yes
Tommy F. Brown, Secretary	423/822-7474	Yes
H.E. Birtle, Jr.	423/893-5999	No
Charles Cantino	931/761-2600	No
Steven M. Gadsby	423/889-6858	No
Michael L. Kennel	901/454-9380	Yes
Bill H. McAfee	423/870-2143	Not Present
Joe McCord	423/380-9980	No
Larry Stragan	901/861-1580	No
Arnold A. Stalco	423/332-3125	Yes
John Charles Tidwell	931/535-7333	No

Hold legislators accountable for their actions. Call those who voted "No" and tell them that you are disappointed in their lack of responsibility regarding the forests of Tennessee. Call those who voted "Yes" and let them know of your appreciation of their support. You can be sure that they are receiving calls from those who wanted them to vote "No."

The committee resumed debate of the EAF bill the next day, Wednesday the 5th, at 10:30 A.M.. During discussion, the bill was amended to contain only the "notifications" portion with a maximum of a \$100 fine for failure to do so. A roll call vote was requested by the bill's sponsor, Rep Gary Odom. The vote was 4-6-2, and the bill was defeated in spite of the amendment lessening the impact of the bill. As a result, Tennessee continues to be blind to what forest harvesting is being done on private lands. Refer to the scoreboard in this issue for details of the vote.

Second up was the Sierra Club's Tennessee State Forest Bill. This bill required the study of our State Forests for possible expansion of recreational uses, required the inventory of all State Forests to determine and protect the special archeological, geological, ecological, and historical sites as well as potential old growth timber stands, reduced the amount of timber harvested by clearcutting, eliminated pine conversion, and required single tree selection harvest methods to be demonstrated in the State Forests by the Division of Forestry. (No single tree selection harvest is currently done in our State Forests.)

Sponsor Gary Odom amended the bill in an effort to make it more passable. The bill was amended to change the immediate moratorium on timber harvest while the forest inventories were completed to a moratorium which would take effect on January 1, 2001, if the inventories were not completed by that date. This action was taken to reduce the \$500,000 fiscal note which had been attached to the bill. With virtually no discussion following the amendment, the question was called. Rep Odom, the sponsor of this bill also, again called for a roll call vote. With great anticipation, those of us present watched and listened as each member of the committee voted-a tie vote-5 to 5! What now? E&C Committee Chairman, Don Ridgeway, Democrat of Paris, TN, spoke. He noted that while it pained him to do so, "we still have the Forest Management Advisory Panel" and that his vote was "NO." This vote came in spite of Chairman Ridgeway's knowledge of the

FMAP's failure to address issues that applied to Tennessee's State Forests. Our Sierra Club lobbyist, Stewart Clifton, had spent a considerable amount of time on this issue with the Chairman and most of the other members of the E&C Committee. Refer to the scoreboard in this issue

How They Voted
Sierra Club State Forest Bill

Committee Member	District Phone Number	How They Voted
Don Ridgeway, Chairman	901/942-6314	Tie-Breaking No
Gary Odom, Vice Chairman	615/266-9092	Yes
Tommy F. Brown, Secretary	423/822-7474	Yes
H.E. Birtle, Jr.	423/893-5999	No
Charles Cantino	931/761-2600	No
Steven M. Gadsby	423/889-6858	No
Michael L. Kennel	901/454-9380	Yes
Bill H. McAfee	423/870-2143	Not Present
Joe McCord	423/380-9980	No
Larry Stragan	901/861-1580	Yes
Arnold A. Stalco	423/332-3125	Yes
John Charles Tidwell	931/535-7333	No

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for details of the vote.

While the defeat of the bill was a disappointment, our success in moving the bill out of the subcommittee into the full committee and requiring a tie-breaking vote by the E&C Committee Chair is to be considered as a major success story, as two years ago we were unable to move the bill out of the initial subcommittee.

The third bill up was the Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM) Tennessee Economic Incentive Bill. This bill required that, before state economic incentives are awarded to large pulpwood facilities, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation undertake a forest resource assessment to analyze the impact the facility would have on potential over-harvesting of the forest and on existing forest using businesses. This bill was passed on voice vote, and proceeds to the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee.

So, as we evaluate what has happened thus far in this legislative session, we find that we have come a long way since our initial attempt at forestry legislation two years ago. We have, as an environmental community:

1. Moved three pro-active forestry bills to the full House C&E Committee

2. Expanded our outreach through the environmental community
3. Educated members of the general public regarding forestry issues via the Friends of the Forest organization and the Tennessee Environmental Activist Messaging (T.E.A.M.) system and the related phone trees
4. Identified legislative friends (and a courageous sponsor) and those whose friendship, at least on forestry issues, awaits future opportunities
5. Held the Division of Forestry accountable through pointed legislative questions which went unanswered
6. Brought a new, higher focus to the issue of what is happening to the trees and forests of our state on both public and private lands

AND, we will be back next year and every year thereafter until the Tennessee Legislature passes the legislation necessary to protect our forests and our environment. Our goals for this summer must include educating the legislators who did not vote for this legislation. We must convince them that this legislation must be passed for the good of Tennessee, both its citizens and its forests.

If you would like to become active in forestry issues in Tennessee, please e-mail or call me: Gary Bowers, Conservation Chair-TN Chapter at GBINATURE@AOL.COM or 615/366-4738.

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TENNES-SIERRAN
The monthly newsletter of
the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Editor: Rachel Floyd - P.O. Box 1561 - Brentwood, Tennessee 37024-1561
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SEND ARTICLES TO: Editor, Tennes-Sierran according to following guidelines:

1. E-mail is the first preference. Send to **rfloyd557@aol.com** with attached files in a **PC-based** format. Mac users should embed text in body of message.
2. Most desired wordprocessor is WordPerfect 6.1 or higher. Microsoft Word 95 is acceptable, but whatever is used please specify your software name and version on the subject line of your transmission, or within the text body of your message.
3. Photographs should be scanned whenever possible and saved to a file or diskette, then either attached to e-mail or mailed via US Postal Service. Scanned Prints and slides should be saved in a .TIF format (preferred), but a .JPG format is fine.
4. 35 mm slides/negatives, or prints up to 5"x7" can be submitted to Editor, Tennes-Sierran, P. O. Box 1561 - Brentwood, Tennessee 37024-1561. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your pictures returned.
5. Floppy disk, or 3.5 diskette can be submitted to Editor, Tennes-Sierran, P. O. Box 1561 - Brentwood, Tennessee 37024-1561. Please remember that the preferred format is **PC-based**. Mac-format disks will be accepted, but please allow an additional 5 days for processing. Disks will not be returned unless a 2-oz stamped, self addressed envelope suitable for disk protection is provided.
6. Hardcopy articles are accepted, but please note that non-electronic articles require additional time for processing, and should be submitted as far in advance of the deadline as possible. Articles must be typed, and double spaced, and on single sided copies. Send to: Editor, Tennes-Sierran - P. O. Box 1561 - Brentwood, Tennessee 37024-1561.

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

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

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Outings:	Don Howard			



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It's easy!
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Our Chapter sponsors 2 Lists.
The List Names are:

- TENNESSEE-NEWS for outings, announcements, and alerts.
- TENNESSEE-TALK for information & discussion.

To subscribe, send the following message via e-mail to
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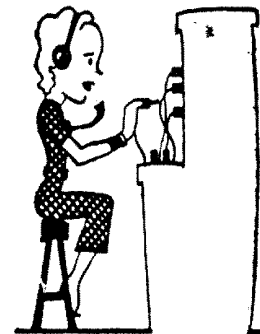
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The Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club maintains T.E.A.M., the **Tennessee Environmental Activist Messaging** system. T.E.A.M. provides timely updates on environmental and legislative topics of interest to the Sierra Club and other environmental activists. To access the T.E.A.M. system call

(615) 259-4345

and select the topic of interest from the menu. Thanks for joining the T.E.A.M.!



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Clearcut Photo Campaign Announced!

By Joe W. McCaleb

What you can do!

On May 5, 1999, The Tennessee Sustainable Forest Management Act was narrowly defeated in the House Environment and Conservation Committee. At the end of voting, the count was 5 to 5 and Committee Chairman Ridgeway broke the tie and voted to defeat the Bill 6 to 5. Those members who voted for the Bill were Odom, Kernell, Brown, Stulce and Scroggs. That's five more votes than we had last year! All of us need to call/write and sincerely thank them whether they are in your district or not. Those of you in their district should offer to help in their next campaign.

This ain't over yet folks! Public forests belong to you and me! They don't belong to the Division of Forestry nor do they belong to the Farm Bureaus of the world. We can change the management paradigm in our public forest if we have the will, and I have an idea in which EVERYONE can participate. We are a hik-

ing club, right? Yes, we do much more than hike, but we do sponsor outings and we hike. There are 13 state forests in Tennessee and there is more than one near every Group. The state forests are being Clearcut (even-aged managed) little by little. (Only Prentice Cooper escapes being Clearcut, and there is a good reason for that which many of you know) Some cuts are larger than others but they all need to be documented.

We can do that, and get ready for the General Assembly of 2000! Cuts in the state forest are in sections away from the public eye. The Tennessee Department of Forestry (TDF) does not want you to see what they are doing. But you can put on your daypack or backpack, carry your trusty 35mm camera and find those suckers and photograph them!! Then come next year, we can compile all those good photos and provide every legislator with his/her own photo album. I believe the Chapter should easily set aside some money to each Group to document the cuts. I recommend about 10 good photos per forest. It won't be easy limiting it to

ten.

Just this past weekend at the Chapter's Spring Quarterly meeting at Standing Stone State Park, I did an 8-mile hike on the Cooper Mountain Trail in the Standing Stone State Forest. Approximately one mile above the Overton Lodge the trail reaches a ridge and there was a haul road cut just the week before. It was cut on the top of the ridge and guess where the trail was? It was gone for 40 to 50 yards!! That's right, TDF allowed the logger to cut a haul road over the trail. It took me 30 minutes to find where the trail continued on because all of the blaze trees were down. Then another mile further at the Glasscock Access, I ran into an old Clearcut, maybe 3 seasons old. It seemed large, about 25-30 acres, but because of the lay of the land I couldn't see all of the cut area.

TDF makes public statements like state forests are for multiple use, for recreation, etc. Well, recreational values are being trampled on and the true color of the TDF comes out deep in the forest. And it ain't Green!

So fellow Tennes-Sierrans, if you want to help with this campaign next year, if you want to protect public forests in Tennessee and get some hiking miles in too, if you want to see some Clearcuts and help the Chapter document what is really going on, here is your chance. I challenge you backpackers (and I know most of you) to get it done. I challenge each Group to adopt two State Forests and find those cuts. I promise you it won't be hard. That will cover the 12 forests being cut in some phase. And if you see the TDF doing something good like riparian buffer zones, document that too. Then we can compare what TDF is doing and where. We can then do our own charts and graphs.

To borrow a well-known vernacular, "Just Do It!"



EDITORIAL SUPPORT AND STATEWIDE MEDIA COVERAGE OF FOREST PROTECTION BILL PACKAGE

By Brian Paddock

At a clear cut you don't see trees and you don't see TV and print reporters. On April 29th the forest protection community demonstrated the need to protect our forests from terrible injuries. TV cameras and print and radio reporters from around the state came to a 1200 acre clear-cut in Humphreys County, just west of the Buffalo scenic river. Part of this huge cut is visible from I-40 near milepost 141.

That evening the story of silted streams and stripped earth ran on two Nashville channels as well as Jackson's TV station. All the stories were right on target. On Nashville's Channel 2 "Turko" used his patented style to make the point that Tennessee has no laws to protect our forests, soils or waters from unlimited irreparable clear-cutting.

Save Our Cumberland Mountains co-hosted the press conference with a lot of help from our friends including Southwings which flew in reporters and camera crews from around the state. Doug Murray at The Center and the Dogwood Alliance provided video of clear-cuts and silted streams from the new "Forest Watch" project. This video was used by TV outlets in Upper East Ten-

nessee when the flight to the site was canceled due to bad weather. Sierra Clubbers, Memphis Audubon, and the Tennessee Forest Defense Council all helped in areas of the state where they are strong.

The press conference was held at the edge of the forest area owned by local resident Gene Smith. The beauty of the forest contrasted to the bare, muddy, clear-cut which started 25 feet away. "Moonscape" was the description that came to mind in looking at this small section of the clear-cut which will soon grow to 1700 acres.

The press conference featured Tennesseans from around the state hurt by clear cutting. Stories of clear-cut devastation from landowners, and small saw millers and furniture makers were reinforced by representatives from fishing and other outdoor recreation organizations and local public officials.

A special report on the costs of water pollution and siltation from clear cutting was released. The report, prepared by Tennessee Tech economist Jon Jonakin, conservatively estimated costs to municipalities and adjacent landowners in dealing with water siltation due to timber cutting operations. These costs range from 27 to 83 million dollars each year, every year. These costs are large when imposed on citizens, taxpayers and water system

customers. They are small compared to the cost of preventing siltation by an industry that has a total industrial output valued at 15.5 billion (sic) dollars each year.

Editorials favorable to our forest protection bill package appeared in the Nashville Tennessean, the Chattanooga Times, and the Memphis Commercial Appeal, thanks to advance meetings with editors and editorial boards. These editorials and the news coverage immediately preceded the key House Conservation Committee votes on Wednesday, May 7th. Unfortunately two of the three bills fell short of the necessary majority. However, the members voting "No" have been put on record as refusing to protect forests, soils and waters. They must defend this failure in full view of the public and the press.

Brian Paddock is a member of the Upper Cumberland Group and Chair of SOCM's Forestry Committee. He is an attorney who lives in Jackson County.

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**PRESERVE OUR
FORESTS**

Want to Help End Commercial Logging in the Cherokee National Forest?

The National Sierra Club has awarded the Tennessee Chapter one of the two End Commercial Logging (ECL) Environmental Public Educational Campaign (EPEC) sites in the United States. The focus of this site is to educate the public regarding the need to end commercial logging in the Cherokee National Forest in particular and eventually on all federal public lands. Would you like to help in this effort? If so, please contact Gary Bowers, EPEC site coordinator at GB1NATURE@AOL.COM or 615/366-4738.

Clearing the Air

This article is excerpted from the Tennessee Valley Energy Reform Coalition's (TVERC's) newly released report on the air quality in Tennessee, entitled **Clearing the Air: Getting the Dirt on TVA's Coal-fired Power Plants**. You can download this report from www.TnGreen.com or contact TVERC at (423) 637-6055 for more information.

You may have heard about the bad air days in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, or you may have noticed that during most of this summer you could not see the mountains because of a cloak of sulfur haze. But did you know that several days this summer it was unsafe for you to be outside in downtown Knoxville? On the afternoon of August 24th, Knoxville set a state record for the highest level of ozone and the main-stream media never bothered to tell you.

We aren't setting these records because of just cars. The majority of air pollution in Tennessee comes from coal-fired power plants. According to the EPA just one of TVA's larger power plants emits more ozone-forming pollution than 7.3 million cars, which is more than all of the cars in all of Knoxville even on game day! TVA has eleven of these giant plants burning coal 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and you are breathing the emissions.

Over half of the people in the state of Tennessee live in counties where air pollution puts their health at risk. This includes 570,000 children, 350,000 seniors, 153,000 people with asthma, and 170,000 people with emphysema or chronic bronchitis--those who are most susceptible to pollution. But even if you are healthy, you may be at risk. Anything that causes you to breathe hard, like playing football, hiking, running, or even walking quickly, increases the effects of pollutants.

You're healthy, so what does this have to do with you? Every time you flip your light switch, or raise your thermostat, or watch television, you use electricity gen-

erated by TVA; and if you are like the average person in Tennessee, you consume more electricity than a residential customer in any other state.

While most people think that TVA generates electricity from hydro-power, or harnessing the rivers, TVA actually gets most of its electricity from dirty coal-fired power plants. Last year alone, TVA's coal-fired power plants burned a total of 41 million tons of coal--enough to fill 410,000 railroad cars, which is more than any other single utility in the nation.

The bottom line is that in Tennessee, where electricity costs are approximately \$.06 per kilowatt hour, a person who pays \$70 a month for electricity burns approximately 4.2 tons of coal a year. (Insert table.) As a result of this one person's electricity use, nearly 150 pounds of haze-forming sulfur dioxide, 85 pounds of ozone-forming nitrogen oxides, and 18,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, the principle global warming gas, are released into our air. For a state with some 4.5 million people, the results of using high-polluting coal-fired electricity are tragic:

- * Visibility in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has dropped from 93 miles to an average of 22 miles. In the summer visibility is even worse, averaging only 12 miles; and on several days this past summer, visibility dropped below 5 miles.

- * The average acidity of wet precipitation in the Smokies, pH 4.5, is five to ten times more acidic than natural rainfall in the region. And cloud water in the area has an average pH of 3.5 and has been measured as low as 2.0--a pH equal to vinegar.

- * Reductions in growth resulting from exposure to ozone are costing Tennessee farmers from \$38 million to \$65 million annually.

- * And at least 30 species in the Great

Smoky Mountains National Park exhibit physical evidence of ozone damage, and sixty additional species are showing damage consistent with ozone exposure.

Last year, TVA emitted 880,000 tons of SO₂; 505,000 tons of NO_x; and 108,358,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the principal global warming gas. Only two other utilities, Southern Company and American Electric Power, had higher emissions of these key pollutants. These rankings show that TVA is one of the nation's worst air polluters. Even if you consider each plant individually, it is ranked among the worst polluters. TVA's Paradise and Cumberland plants each emit more NO_x than any of the other 887 coal-fired power plants in the nation, and four additional plants are among the top 50 emitters. To give a feeling for the amount of pollution still belching from TVA's plants, Paradise alone emits more SO₂ than all of the coal-fired power plants in the state of New York.

Lethal Loophole - Why are these plants polluting so much? For the most part, it is because TVA's plants are old. Most of TVA's power plants were built during the post war industrial era of the 1950s, so on average, Tennessee's power plants are 40 years old. Because of their age, TVA and other utilities across the country are al-



lowed to pollute at levels much higher than current pollution standards. Average emission rates at TVA's plants remain about six times new plant standards. This "loophole" in the law, however, can be lethal. It puts 2.5 million people at risk in Tennessee alone. The "grandfathering" of TVA's old plants results in large quantities of "excess emissions," i.e., emissions over and above those that would occur if the plants were meeting the new standards. Last year, TVA released 721,714 tons of "excess SO₂" and 425,338 tons of "excess No_x." Removing this lethal loophole may be the single best method of cleaning our air, and it makes sense.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

On Saturday, June 12th, the Tennessee Clean Air Task Force will be holding a meeting to "Clear the Air" about energy use in Tennessee. The meeting will inform conference attendees about the impacts of electricity use on air quality, as well as educate participants about cleaner forms of low-carbon and renewable energy.

The first part of the conference will include sessions on how air pollution impacts regional forests, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and human health. It will also include updates on national clean air policy work and regional haze. The afternoon session will be an up-to-the-minute update on TVA's green power program including information on how to get solar, wind and biomass on the ground in the Tennessee Valley, information on the latest status of TVA's test market, how you can purchase renewable energy and change the direction of TVA, and much more...

Who should attend? People interested in renewable energy, clean air advocates, and anyone interested or concerned about Tennessee's environment.

The meeting will be held from 9 am to 5 pm at the Scarritt-Bennett Center, 1008 Nineteenth Ave. South in Nashville, Tennessee. The conference is free, but there will be a \$10.00 charge for participants who are interested in eating lunch at the Scarritt-Bennett Center. Rooms are also available for \$31.00/night with an advanced reservation. For more information, email the Tennessee Clean Air Task Force at TNCATF@tngreen.com.

For more information about the work done by the Tennessee Clean Air Task Force, please see our website, www.tngreen.com/air. You can download the Task Force's recent report "Getting the Dirt on TVA," and "TVA's Coal-fired Power Plants and the Health of Tennesseans" from this website.

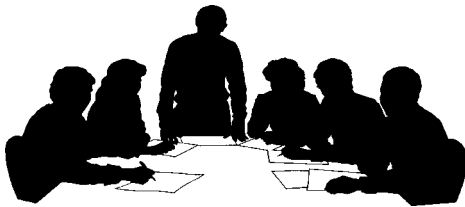
From The Light Switch to The Smokestack

You can help stop pollution by conserving energy. Every time you flip the light switch, coal is burned to produce your electricity. In Tennessee, where electricity costs are approximately \$.06 per kilowatt hour, a person who pays \$70 a month for electricity burns approximately 700 pounds of coal a month--more than 4.2 tons of coal a year. See the table below to see how much coal you use and how much you pollute based on your electric bill.

If your bill is...	Each month, you use approximately...	Or every year approximately...	As a result, every year you release...		
			SO ₂	NO _x	CO ₂
\$ 50 per month	500 lbs of coal	3.0 tons of coal	105 lbs	60 lbs	12,915 lbs
\$ 70 per month	700 lbs of coal	4.2 tons of coal	147 lbs	85 lbs	18,081 lbs
\$100 per month	1000 lbs of coal	6.0 tons of coal	210 lbs	121 lbs	25,830 lbs
\$120 per month	1200 lbs of coal	7.2 tons of coal	253 lbs	145 lbs	30,996 lbs
\$140 per month	1400 lbs of coal	8.4 tons of coal	295 lbs	169 lbs	36,162 lbs
\$160 per month	1600 lbs of coal	9.6 tons of coal	337 lbs	194 lbs	41,328 lbs

*Note that this does not include the additional electricity needed per person for activities outside of the home.

MEETINGS



HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, June 8th; 7:30 p.m. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Lately you've probably been reading about the zoning wars over Tiger Haven, the big cat rescue center, located down in Roane County. For our June program meeting, we will have representatives from that organization. Connie Melton, spokesperson, and/or owners, Joe and Mary Lynn Parker, will be with us to talk about their efforts in rescuing big cats from zoos, private owners, and carnivals. Come out and hear about it "straight from the horse's mouth", so to speak. And, don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors. And, please stick around afterwards for the excellent refreshments, organized by Cathy Gibson!

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, June 22nd; 7:30 p.m. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. If you're interested in getting more involved or in finding out about what drives the Sierra Club in this area, this is the meeting to attend. Call 558-5645 or 690-3257 for more information.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, June 10th; 7:30 p.m. Radnor Lake Visitor Center in Nashville. (Enter from the west side, off Granny White Pike.) "Planting for the Future" is the theme of this program presented by Metro Urban Forester Joe Willis, whose work involves administration of Metro's tree ordinances. He will show us how the landscaping ordinance benefits us all and will tell us about the use of different plant materials for specific situations. He will teach us which trees are best to plant in our area (and which are not), and why. If you want to learn a better alternative to such short-lived trees as the popular Bradford pear, join us for this informative program, which is open to the public.

STRATEGY MEETING: Wednesday, June 23rd; 7:00 p.m. Meeting at the Sierra Club office, 1 Vantage Way (in Metro Center), Suite D-105. Park in back of the building and enter through the back door. All members are invited to attend this business and conservation meeting.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, June 24th; 6:00 p.m. In the lower meeting room of Putnam Co. Library (rear entrance) - Ruth Speir, Cookeville native, will lead a tour of the "natural" or formerly natural Cookeville. See where streams are now underground, where the town springs were located, etc.. There may be some driving to sites, so there will be carpooling.

SPECIAL EVENT: Thursday, July 22nd; 10 a.m. - In the social hall at the Uplands Community in Pleasant Hill. Steve Stedman, TTU English professor and bird-watcher, speaking on Birds of the Upper Cumberland. Focus is on rare birds and endangered birds? Time can be double-checked by calling Peggy Evans at (931)432-6680.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

STRATEGY MEETING: Thursday, June 10th; 7:00 p.m. Wild Oats store/restaurant, 5022 Poplar Ave, Memphis. We are gathering in the meeting room at the new Wild Oats (Poplar) store. All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend. For more information, please call Clark Buchner (901) 327-2545. (This Executive Committee meeting is the second Thursday of each month.)

INNER CITY OUTINGS MEETING: Monday, June 7th; 7:00 p.m. (First Monday of each month.) Wild Oats, 1801 Union Avenue (Union at Mclean), Memphis. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact Susan Prech (901) 755-9792.

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, June 22nd; 7:30 p.m., Memphis Botanic Garden, Audubon Park, 750 Cherry Road. A sea kayak might seem an unlikely craft in our part of the country, far away from oceans and bays. Yet its stability, maneuverability, and storage capacity make it an ideal boat for various activities on our area lakes and streams. Joe Royer, of Outdoors Inc., will illustrate, with slides, how this type of boat can be used to enhance our wilderness or recreational experiences in our own region. Active in both the Sierra Club and Bluff City Canoe Club, Joe is an expert kayaker who has led sea kayaking outings on Glacier Bay and other adventure spots. For more information, contact Memphis Botanic Garden at (901)685-1566, or Charlie Rond at (901)795-5092.

TELEVISION PROGRAM: Every Monday; 4:30 p.m. & every Friday; 5:30 p.m. - The Library Channel, Memphis Cable 18. "The Nature of Conservation" is sponsored by the Sierra Club. A different program each month. The program repeats through the current month. If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Nancy Brannon (901) 829-4360, or Sue Williams (901) 274-0524.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Watch for your Cherokee Group Newsletter for details on upcoming meetings and outings. If you would like to be informed via email, please send a note to SC_CherokeeGrp@hotmail.com. For other information, call Janet Suber at 423-867-0439.



Tennessee Chapter Summer Meeting @ Wesley Woods - Townsend, TN (near the Great Smoky Mountain National Park)

July 16-18, 1999



Photo from: www.nps.gov/grsm/

Early check in time Friday is 5:00 pm. Remember to bring your own bedding and towels. Breakfasts and Saturday dinner will be available, but you are responsible for Friday supper and trail or sack lunches. Swimming at the pool will be available at posted times. Unfortunately, no dogs are allowed at the camp. If you have questions, please contact Caty Butcher at 615-382-9152. Registration closes July 10th.

Directions: Take I-40 and either US 129 or US 321 to Maryville TN. From Maryville, TN take US 321 North (it is actually heading east) out of town toward Townsend, TN. From Blount Memorial Hospital on the east side of Maryville, it is 14 miles to the Kinzel House Restaurant (on the right). At the restaurant, take a left, and cross the Little River on a one-lane bridge. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn left, and go 1.5 miles on Old Walland Hwy to the entrance to the Camp and go to Nickel Lodge.



Tennessee Chapter Summer Meeting Registration Form Wesley Woods - July 16-18, 1999

Total # of Registrants _____ @ \$2.00 = _____ # of Vegetarians _____
 Friday Lodging _____ @ \$5.00 = _____ # of Omnivores _____
 Saturday Breakfast _____ @ \$3.00 = _____
 Supper _____ @ \$5.00 = _____
 Lodging _____ @ \$5.00 = _____
 Sunday Breakfast _____ @ \$3.00 = _____
 Total enclosed \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Make checks payable to Sierra Club- Middle Tennessee Group
 Mail to: Caty Butcher- 607 Fifth Ave West - Springfield, TN 37172

OUTINGS



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 the 10 Essentials for hiking, 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 (always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Knife
8. Flashlight
9. Extra food
10. The tenth essential. You decide what is the most important thing to bring!

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)



Saturday-Sunday, June 5th and 6th - Car Camp, Blue Ridge Parkway.

Come join us for this car camp high atop the Blue Ridge Parkway in Western NC (exact site to be determined). Breathtaking vistas, hiking and wildflowers are the highlights of this outing. Pre-register 2 weeks in advance (so I can reserve enough sites) with outing coordinator John Schmidt, 693-1613 (evenings).

Sunday, June 6th - Day Hike, Mt. LeConte via Alum Cave, GSMNP. The rhododendron may be in bloom and the views are outstanding. We'll stop for lunch and relax at Clifftops after our steady ascent to the top of Mt. LeConte. Round trip hiking distance is 11 miles, rated moderately difficult. Pre-register with trip coordinator, Stan Gloeckner, 690-0892.



Saturday-Sunday, June 19th and 20th Semi-Exploratory Backpack, Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area.

We continue our exploration of the highlands surrounding Virginia's Mt. Rogers. This trip will involve a car shuttle, as we plan to hike parts of the AT through this region, from Whitetop Mountain to Fox Creek trailhead, traversing the rhododendron-dotted Pine Mountain ridge while camping at one of the finest

high elevation campsites in the SE, surrounded by high mountain meadows, in the shadows of craggy Wilburn Ridge. The blooming Catawba rhododendron should be near their peak, only adding to the beauty of this spectacular trip. Driving distance: 330 miles round trip. Hiking distance: 13 miles, moderate. Pre-register with trip coordinator, Roger Jenkins, 576-8594(W), 690-3257(H).



Saturday, June 26th - Full Moon Night Hike, Angel Falls Overlook, BSFNRA.

Come along for a night hike to Angel Falls Overlook. A full moon should provide a good nighttime view of the river valley below, while typically warm weather makes our vantage point comfortable for a snack break. A short ascent makes flashlight and boots a requirement, with sturdy gloves and rain gear advised. Pre-register with trip coordinator, Steve Dyer: 689-3151(W), 922-3489(H).



Saturday-Sunday, June 26th and 27th - Back- pack, Pond Mountain Wilderness.

Pond Mountain is one of upper East Tennessee's best wilderness areas. Its 6,195 acres contain Laurel Fork Gorge and one of the most scenic portions of the Appalachian Trail. We'll enter the gorge and then hike up to a campsite high on Pond Mountain. Around 8 miles of moderate hiking. Pre-register with Will Skelton (H) 523-2272, (W) 521-6200.

Saturday, July 3rd - Easy hike primarily downhill in GSMNP. We'll do 2 miles of Schoolhouse Gap and then walk along the ridge and down to the Townsend Wye on the Chestnut Top trail. A dip in the river will cool us off at the end of the trip. Call Linda Smithyman at 482-0566.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday, June 19th, 1999 - Day Hike Bower's North Chicamauga Creek Trail. We will hike and have a swim in the clear waters, then go into town for Chattanooga's Riverbend music festival. This is a moderate 8 mile hike. Boots are an absolute requirement. Bring lunch, water, something to swim in (besides your underwear please), and expect to have a good time all day. Call Heloise at 254-5461(w), or 896-6278 (h), or e-mail her at hshilstat@hardaway.net.



Saturday and Sunday, June 26th & 27th - Car Camp and Buffalo River Float.

We'll put in mid Sunday morning at Metal Ford, just off the Natchez Trace Parkway, for a lazy float down the Buffalo River. Bring a lunch, and binoculars if you like birding. We have a couple of solo canoes for those lacking, don't forget your own paddles, PFD's, water bottles, sunblock, swimsuits, and dry clothes. If you like, mosey on down early on Saturday evening, and join us for an optional short bicycle (helmets required) excursion on the Natchez Trace Parkway, and car camp at Meriweather Lewis campground. To register contact either Rachel Floyd 615-837-2279 (H) - rfloyd557@aol.com, or Skip Sherrod 615-595-8060 (H) - hsherrod@aol.com

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)



Saturday, June 5th; 10:00 a.m. - Lucius Burch Day Hike.

Enjoy a hike through the Lucius Burch State Natural Area, a bottomland hardwood forest along the Wolf River next to Shelby Farms. Wear good shoes, preferably hiking boots, bring water and snack, and a hiking staff is recommended. Meet at the soccer fields in Shelby Farms; turn south off of Walnut Grove 2/10 of a mile west of the stop light at Farm Road and Walnut Grove. Hiking distance is 5-6 miles with opportunities to loop back if you desire a shorter hike. Call Larry Smith at (901) 452-6500, or Sue Williams at (901) 274-0524 for more information.

Sunday, June 20th; 10:00 a.m. - Hatchie River Canoe Float. This Hatchie River float will begin on Kelso



Lake a cypress studded oxbow lake in the heart of the Hatchie

River Wildlife Refuge, and after a short portage, continue through the refuge on the river itself to Highway 76. It will be an easy to moderate paddle of about five (5) hours. Participants will have to provide their own canoe, since canoe rentals are not available in this area. Bring water, lunch or snack, sunscreen and insect repellent. Some type of sun hat is recommended also. Contact Jesse McCabe at (901) 829-3283 for information and to join the outing.



Saturday, July 3rd; 9:00 a.m. Lucius Burch Day Hike.

Enjoy a hike through the Lucius Burch State Natural Area, a bottom and hardwood forest along the Wolf River next to Shelby Farms. Wear good shoes, preferably hiking boots, bring water and snack, and a hiking staff is recommended. Meet at the soccer fields in Shelby Farms; turn south off of Walnut Grove 2/10 of a mile west of the stop light at Farm Road and Walnut Grove. Hiking distance: 5-6 miles with opportunities to loop back if you desire a shorter hike. Call Larry Smith at 901/452-6500 or Sue Williams at 901/274-0524 for more information.

Saturday, June 5th National Trail Days

Hike the Cumberland Trails State Park. Hikes for everyone (easy, moderate, challenging) on the State's first Linear State Park! There are currently over 65 miles of the Cumberland Trail (CT) open for hiking. Hikes will begin at Cumberland Gap National Park, Cove Lake State Park, Frozen Point National Military Park, and Prentice Cooper State Forest. Additional details on the CT website, (<http://users.multipro.com/cumberlandtrail>), as the planning progresses, as well as in the Tennes-Sierran and the TTA and CTC newsletters.

If interested contact, the CT or one of the three Sierra Club contacts:

Cherokee Group: Monty Matney
mmatney@utc.campus.mcl.net or
423-344-1003

Harvey Broome Group: David Reister
reisterdb@ornl.gov or 423-670-8991

Middle TN Group: Alan Ball
aball@mail.state.tn.us or 615-228-1962

CT: Rob Weber robweber1@prodigy.net
or 423-533-2620

Backcountry Strategy: The Medium is Not the Message by Roger Jenkins

I am sure there are a lot of unprepared backpackers who show up at the backcountry desks of our National Parks, Monuments, and Forests wanting hiking permits. These folks may lack the skills, experience, or common sense required, or maybe they simply have not done their planning homework, and don't have a clue about what they may be getting themselves into. It falls to the contact person or ranger who greets them to instruct, inform, and maybe cajole them into taking - what for them - will be an enjoyable and safe trip.

But our group from Tennessee which showed up at the Escalante contact station in mid-April to take a week long backpack in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument could hardly be characterized as inexperienced, or unprepared. Most had been backpacking for more than 20 years, and many had 15 or more canyon backpacks under their hip belts. So I was more than a bit taken aback when the on-duty ranger challenged both the content of our trip (a day or so on our route would be in a tough side canyon of the Escalante River) and the common sense we were exhibiting by wanting to hike upstream rather than downstream in the river canyon. (Here's a hint: If you are actually hiking in the river, as opposed to up on the river banks, you *are* clueless.) The ranger regaled us with the horrors of our planned route. Despite her own admitted inexperience with the area of concern, nothing we could say seemed to diminish her grave concerns - which she expressed in no uncertain terms. That her depiction of the river we would be crossing as un-



several folks crossing
The Escalante river. . .
note the lack of
icebergs in the river.

bearably cold, deep and muddy simply did not jibe with what we had just seen 20 minutes previously as we had crossed over the Escalante River bridge didn't seem to sway her. I tried to explain in detail the experiences we had on our first *four* trips to this *same* canyon system, but nothing I could say reduced her stridency. As I walked out of the office, reluctantly-issued permit in hand, she reminded us that we would have to pay for our own helicopter rescue. As the group drove down Hole-in-the Rock Road to the trailhead, we all joked about icebergs in the river, and the Ranger's finger hovering over the helicopter alert button all week while we plied our way up-canyon.

Well, these trips never go quite as planned, which is part of the adventure we enjoy. At first, warm, sunny days stimulated snow melt on the Aquarius Plateau, which increased the river's flow and decreased its clarity. Next, we ran into some folks that had actually hiked in the "area of concern," and we decided it sounded more like work than fun, so we made a minor route shift. Then, towards the end of the week, we were hit by an uncharacteristic, winter-like storm, which plunged temperatures and raised the water level by 15 inches or so. What had been knee-deep crossings became waist deep for our shorter participants. As they say, we had to shift to "Plan B." In this case, Plan B is what ever you decide to do, based on changing circumstances. For us, it meant three very dicey - but slow and carefully conducted - river crossings to a point where we could make a 5-hour climb out of the canyon to an old jeep road, a waterless night's camp, followed by an early morning walk to the highway. Not what we had planned, but at least the sweeping views from the canyon rim rewarded us for our hard work.

During the trip and ensuing weeks, I have given a lot of thought to that unsatisfactory encounter with the Ranger. Despite the fact that she came off as inexperienced, negative, and bordering on the hysterical, there was no doubt in my mind that the message she was trying to impart was right on target. In cutting through all the bun to get to the meat (sorry, you vegetarians), her guidance - if you could call it that - seems as follows:

1. **Plan your trip well.** Read the hiking guides, study the maps, and consider the kinds of difficulties you are likely to encounter. If you are unfamiliar with a certain type of terrain (for example, if you have never hiked above 10,000 feet), be conservative your first time out. We usually start planning our canyon trips 4 - 6 months in advance, and we have been do-



Dolph Goodin looking for
a spot to climb the bank.

ing this for nearly 20 years.

2. **Know the strength of your crew.** Under adverse - or really all - circumstances, you will be limited by the size or strength of your smallest trip participant. Crossing a river in waist deep water can be pretty scary for someone who is 5 feet tall. Their head is not very far above the foam.

3. **Plan for the worst.** It seems to go without saying that you should always have a fall-back plan, or plans. Someone can get sick or injured, a river can rise, or a rockslide can block a route. Don't just carry the topo maps that cover your exact route. Take a couple of overview maps (1:100,000 scale or so) to give you the big picture, in case you have to exit the wilderness on the other side of the mountain.

4. **Don't be afraid to turn around if you feel you are getting in over your head, or things turn sour.** I can recall a cold winter day hike on which I accidentally broke through the ice covering a small stream, flooding my right boot. Despite my strong desire to complete the hike, I decided that such was not worth the cost of frozen toes.

I am not sure what the bottom line is in all of this, except that maybe you should not be afraid to hear the message that the ranger is trying to impart, even if it is delivered with a big dose of vinegar, rather than honey. It never hurts to be reminded to hike safely. Don't let your ego get in the way of the message. And to all the rangers or volunteer contact folks out there, try to deliver your message in such a manner that it doesn't challenge of the egos or insult the intelligence of the recipient. Sure, they may be clueless, but then again, they may be more experienced than you.

GROUP NEWS

Harvey Broome Group

The Harvey Broome Group (HBG) has decided to make a pledge of \$1,000 to the Foothills Land Conservancy for the Smith Bend project below Watts Bar Dam to preserve the area for wildlife and conservation. This is their newest project and over \$1million needs to be raised by 2001. The Gulf Tract land mentioned last month has support from Cocke County and it is now up to the Appropriations Committee, of which Zach Wamp is a member, to supply some of the needed funds. We were told that the land is #19 on a list of 100 items and is the most expensive project. Our support is behind this land adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. HBG would like to put together a slide about the Sierra Club and present it to various groups in our jurisdiction. Anyone that can provide some assistance, including volunteering to present the show when ready, may contact Linda Smithyman at (423) 482-0566.

Chickasaw Group News

HIKES: The wild flowers' blossoms were abundant for April's Lucius Burch State Natural Area, Overton Park, and Meeman-Shelby Forest's hikes. Those of us able to participate have been richly rewarded. And while the Bluffwalk was not as complete as had been anticipated, the hikers still got to enjoy the magnificent view from the historic Chickasaw Bluffs. EARTH DAY: Earth Day in Overton Park was a success! Many people signed post cards to President Clinton and Vice President Gore about protecting America's threatened wild places and halting clearcutting in Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest. Many more attendees stopped by our table to learn about Memphis environmental issues and The Chickasaw Group's many activities. Special thanks go to the members who worked this event: Don Richardson, our Conservation Chair, was there most of the weekend and led interpretative hikes both days through Overton Park's old growth forest. Dick Mochow, Ralph and Debbie Fox, Bill Rehberg and Regina Bailey, Jesse McCabe and Sue Williams also served as table hosts (Clark Buchner was spied behind the table several times as well). If you did not attend, you missed a chance to buy our beautiful "Earth Day" t-shirt. Your next chance to buy a t-shirt will be at the May program meeting.

Group News (Cont'd on page 8)

Group News (Cont from page 7)

COOPER-YOUNG FEST: We're already planning for the Cooper-Young Festival in September. If you are interested in helping for this event, contact Clark Buchner at 901/327-2545 (evenings) or e-mail him at clark.buchner@sierraclub.org.

AIR QUALITY: If you caught the Memphis television news on March 31, you likely saw Chickasaw Group members at the Tennessee Clean Air Task Force event. The Task Force includes Tennessee Environmental Council (Sierra Club is a member organization of the Council) and the American Lung Association. We helped with the media conference to release the report, "Cleaning the Air: TVA's Coal Fired Power Plants and the Health of Tennesseans." If you're interested in air pollution, contact Sue Williams at 901/274-0524 or <suewilliams@juno.com> to obtain a copy of this important report.

Middle Tennessee Group

The Middle Tennessee Group has received group and chapter approval to start an Inner City Outing program. A proposal is currently being drafted so that the national Sierra Club will give us the green light. In order to participate, interested persons must become first aid/cpr trained. A little training and materials will be provided by the group and the national program. Plans are underway to "intern"(help out once or twice) with the Urban Naturalist Steve Lovett and get familiar with kids at one of the community centers so that we can begin to offer activities beginning in August.

Hopefully, this will be a monthly activity/outing (or every two months) with the goal of a big hiking/biking/or canoe trip. If doing some outdoor education/outings with a small group of kids appeals to you, please contact Caty Butcher at (615)382-9152.

Our revenue from the Elysian Fields Kroger is providing funding for the office and for our outreach to the community (the Inner City Outings). Please do your part and volunteer just once by calling our terrific Recycling Coordinator, Betsy Garber, at 370-9454.

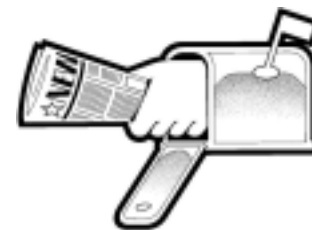
Thanks to Cumberland Transit for inviting the Sierra Club to participate in the sponsorship of the presentation by Jamling Tenzing Norgay, son of Tenzing Norgay, the Sherpa who accompanied Sir Edmund Hillary on his first ascent of Mt. Everest. Jamling Tenzing Norgay completed his own ascent of Mt. Everest and presented a slide show in April to a sold-out audience. As a result of the generosity of Cumberland Transit, the Middle Tennessee Group was able to donate \$250 to the Tennessee Chapter's Defenders program, which helps to support our Sierra Club lobbyist. Our group hosts the July statewide meeting at Camp Wesley Woods near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Volunteers for cooking/serving a few easy delicious meals and helping with entertainment are needed with the reward of a cool cabin near the cool woods with a cool swimming pool during the brutal heat of July. Call Caty Butcher at (615)382-9152.

The Sierra Club-Middle TN Group
Tennes-Sierran
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Nashville, TN 37215

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Tennes-Sierran
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The Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club invites you to become more environmentally active by volunteering for this new position as Distrubution Manager of our state newsletter. If you live in the Nashville, Tennessee area, have some basic computer skills, dependable transportation, and about 4 hours a month to spare, your volunteer time would be very appreciated! If interested, please call the Editor, Rachel Floyd at 615-837-2279 (H), 615-874-6867 (W), or email rlfloyd557@AOL.COM - **thank you!**

**KROGER RECYCLING
SITE UPDATE**
by Betsy Garber



Volunteer helps recycling resident at the Elysian Fields Kroger Recycling Site

When I hesitantly volunteered to line up the volunteers for our Recycling Site at the Kroger near Harding Mall, it never occurred to me that people would actually sign up. But except for two weekends, since the end of February, we've had at least 3 volunteers there every Saturday, and sometimes more. I'm writing this about a month before you read it, but in that time, we've had 34 different folks volunteer.

Another surprise was that even though recruiting people you don't know by telephone is a challenge (OK, horrific at moments), I've discovered that there are a lot of very nice folks in Nashville. And April's volunteers were no exception. A big thanks to **Jim, Leslie, Mitzi, David, Judith, Andy, Keith, Reba, Mike, and Hal!** These volunteers have made it possible to fund our local Tennessee State Chapter Sierra Club office! This office has lured a Regional National Sierra Club staff representative to headquarter with us in Nashville, helped us secure a National Sierra Club site grant to End Commercial Logging in the Cherokee National Forest, and will enable us to have an even more credible presence here locally. Bravo, to our volunteers! You do so much for our club, and you have also made it possible for people in the community to recycle at a clean and safe site saving landfill space and preserving natural resources!



Have you remembered the Sierra Club in your will?



Let us know. Bequests have played a key role in the Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years. Planning now may make your gift more meaningful or reduce taxes on your estate. We can help you direct your gift to a specific Club program or your home Chapter. For more information and confidential assistance, contact the Sierra Club Planned Giving Program, 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105, (415) 977-5538.

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