



‘Midway Atoll: Its Birds and a Lot More...’ is topic of February 4 program

Come to the February 4th meeting to hear Dr. Sandy Echernacht’s presentation “*Midway Atoll: It’s Birds and a Lot More...*”

Midway Atoll, located near the northeastern end of the Hawaiian archipelago, hosts one of the most remote National Wildlife Refuges and is home to nearly two million birds. Located in the Pacific Ocean many of the birds found at Midway are seabirds, including the world’s largest population of Laysan Albatrosses, or “gooney birds.”

Dr. Echernacht, a herpetologist and head of UT’s Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, traveled to Midway in 1999 and 2001. He ventured to Midway to pursue his hobby of nature photography, as well as conduct a little science. Much of Dr. Echernacht’s research focuses on lizards, including a tropical lizard that resides in the southeast as far north as the Little River. One of the lizards he focuses

on here in the southeast happens to have been introduced to Midway.

“*Midway Atoll: It’s Birds and a Lot More...*” will focus on the atoll, its history, and its birds and other wildlife. At the close of his presentation he will give a status report of the current visiting situation (since January 2002 public access to the Atoll is very limited). KTOS member Harold Howell has heard Dr. Echernacht speak about Midway Atoll and gives him a strong recommendation.

The February meeting will be Wednesday, February 4 at 7 p.m. in Room 117 (across the hall from Pendergrass Library), UT Vet School on Center Drive off Neyland Drive. See you there! If you need directions call an officer listed on the back of this newsletter.

- Tracey Muise, program coordinator

📅 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February field trips. There are birds out there, let’s find ‘em.

Saturday, February 7, 8 AM

Trip to Foothills Parkway and private property nearby. See page 1.

Sunday, February 8, 8:30 AM

Trip to Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, Birchwood, TN. See page 2.

Sunday, February 15, 4 PM until dark

McKnight home in Greenback, TN. See page 2.

Saturday, February 7, 8:00 AM

Trip to Foothills Parkway and private property nearby.

Leader: Bridget McNew (865) 856-8782 (h)

Meet at the intersection of the Foothills Parkway and US 129 at 8 a.m. We will bird up the parkway to where it is closed, then return to the 35 acre McNew homestead. Bridget has asked that we help develop a bird list for her property. We will also scan Chilhowee Lake for waterfowl. Plan on lunch at the McNew home.

(Continued on page 2)

“Still cheerily the chickadee, Singeth to me on fence and tree.”

“Midwinter” Poem by John Townsend Trowbridge (1827-1916)

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, February 8, 8:30 AM

Trip to Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, Birchwood, TN

Coordinator: Harold Howell (865) 828-6302, howellh2@bellsouth.net

Meet at the Stokley Building parking lot at 320 North Cedar Bluff Rd. for carpooling. The group will go to Birchwood for Sandhill Crane viewing days sponsored by the Chattanooga Chapter of TOS. Sandhill Cranes are the target birds, but a good number of ducks are possible, and there is good sparrow habitat nearby. On the way we will stop along the Hiwassee River to scan for shore birds and snipe. Spotting scopes are recommended.

Sunday, February 15, 4 PM until dark

McKnight home in Greenback, TN.

Leader: Janet McKnight (865) 856-8332 (h)

Meet at 4 p.m. at the home of Janet McKnight in Greenback, TN. (Please call Janet for directions.) Janet will show what she does to encourage bird habitat on her 12 acre property. We will study the usual feeder visitors as well as: possible sights of

four sparrow species side by side (song, field, white crowned and white throated); possible sights of house and purple finches feeding side by side; possible Loggerhead Shrike; possible Cooper's Hawk nailing one of Janet's white pigeons; yard list of 62 species, last addition being a flock of American Pipits. There will be shade-grown coffee and donuts on the Porch!

- Harold Howell, KTOS Field Trip Coordinator

 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April Prairie Chicken Trip being planned

A trip to southern Illinois and the St. Louis area is currently being planned for April 2-4. We will visit Prairie Ridge State Natural Area to see the mating dance of the Greater Prairie-Chicken and the St. Louis area for Eurasian Tree Sparrows. Other target birds include American Golden-Plover and Smith's Longspur. Trip cost is \$15.

If you are interested in attending this trip, please contact David Trently at dtrently@utk.edu; (865) 531-1473 (h); 974-8664 (w)

KTOS Financial Reports - Compiled by Marie Oakes, Financial Committee

Calendar Year 2003 with Annual Summary

	December	November	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$646.00	\$416.00	\$2,862.00
. Mugs	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$179.50
. Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$125.06
. Misc Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7.50
. Spring Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,909.00
. Owen Memorial	\$62.00	\$0.00	\$1,271.70
. Fuller Memorial	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$420.00</u>
Total Income	\$714.00	\$426.00	\$7,774.76
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$174.09	\$185.89	\$1,319.58
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$87.31
. Member Dues to TOS	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$1,376.00
. Spring Meeting Expense	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$2,313.46</u>
Total Expenses	\$184.09	\$195.89	\$5,096.35
Other:			
. Foothills Conservancy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
. Friends of UT Gardens	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60.00
. Fuller Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120.00
. Girl Scouts of Tanasi Council	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
. Memorial Books	<u>\$33.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$123.00</u>
Total Other	\$33.00	\$0.00	\$1,053.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$5,127.62	\$4,692.71	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$5,684.11	\$5,622.11	

Memberships 175 171

January 2004

	January	YTD
Income:		
. Dues	\$568.00	\$568.00
. Mugs	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Interest	\$41.04	\$41.04
. Dividend	\$26.38	\$26.38
. Spring Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Owen Memorial	\$4.00	\$4.00
. Fuller Memorial	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Income	\$639.42	\$639.42
Expenses:		
. Newsletter	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Member Dues to TOS	\$678.00	\$678.00
. Spring Meeting Expense	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$678.00	\$678.00
Other:		
. Foothills Conservancy	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Friends of UT Gardens	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Fuller Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Owen Award : J. Powers	\$500.00	\$500.00
. Memorial Books	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Other	\$500.00	\$500.00
Account Balances		
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$5,050.17	\$5,127.62
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$5,222.98	\$5,684.11

Memberships 175 175

J.B. Owen Overlook dedicated on Sharps Ridge - *By Lyn Bales*

In the spring it's the place to be; that bony finger of Cambrian sandstone we call Sharps Ridge.

It seems an anomaly, located in the center of urban Knoxville. The busy city, a chaotic whirling dervish, sprawls around and below the formation. Yet, up there, you're somehow above it all. Its location offers remarkable views. Looking toward the southeast, you can see for miles, as cityscape gives way to ridge and valley all the way to the aged Appalachians. On a good day you can see the entire Smokies' crest and its famous peaks: LeConte, Collins, Mingus, Buckley, Thunderhead, Clingmans Dome.

And then there's the glorious month of April, when wave after wave of migrating warbler and vireo and oriole pause on Sharps Ridge to take refuge and refuel. During the spring it's a gathering spot for local birders. Walking along the park's narrow road and pausing at the overlook, spring literally explodes all around you. It's a tonic that revitalizes the citified heart and mind still waking from winter's cabin fever.

You'd often find the late J.B. Owen there. "It became his favorite place to bird in Knoxville," said Frances Owen, his widow. "This was *his* spot." Now the lofty perch bears his name. On December 16, 2003, outgoing Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe dedicated the site with a plaque in his honor. For now and forevermore the location will be known as the J.B. Owen Overlook at Sharps Ridge Park.

"I know J.B. is up there, looking down on us smiling," said Mayor Ashe to the gathered covey. Also in attendance that sunny but cool day were Vice Mayor Jack Sharp, Parks and Recreation Director Sam Anderson, councilmen Larry Cox and Steve Hall, plus, as you would expect, a large contingent from KTOS including Frances Owen. J.B. was president of KTOS in 1952-53.

Like Sharps Ridge, J.B. Owen was a treasure. His newspaper column "For the Birds" began in the old *Knoxville Journal* on March 10, 1960, moved to the *Knoxville News Sentinel* January 7, 1973 and appeared there weekly as "Nature Scrapbook" until his death. He passed away February 4, 2001 the same day his last column—about mute swans—appeared.

For many East Tennesseans, J.B.'s newspaper accounts were our introduction and weekly foray into the wonderful world of birds. Growing up in

Gatlinburg, I was a regular reader, a fan who for years made copies of his columns. I have hundreds in my collection. (My oldest, about purple finches, goes back to December 27, 1969.)

The first time I ever saw J.B. was on Sharps Ridge, almost 20 years ago in the spring. He was walking along with his brown hat pulled down over his head almost to his eyes.

I wanted to go up and say something to him; but couldn't conjure up the right words. But, then again, maybe I didn't want to intrude into his reverie for he seemed quite at peace, just strolling along looking and listening to his beloved birds.

Naming the lofty location for him was the right thing to do. His dedication to the birds and people of East Tennessee was heartfelt. As long-time KTOS member Jim Campbell is quoted as saying, it "couldn't have been more appropriate."

I'm sure we all agree because we know his spirit will always be found there.



Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe dedicates the J.B. Owen Overlook at Sharps Ridge Memorial Park December 16, 2003.



Mayor Ashe with Frances Owen at overlook's dedication.

Prolific Career: For over twelve years, the late J. B. Owen wrote three columns a week called "For the Birds" for the old *Knoxville Journal* beginning on March 10, 1960. He then switched and wrote one column a week called "Nature Scrapbook" for the *Knoxville News Sentinel* from January 7, 1973 until February 4, 2001. If you do the math, that's over 3400 newspaper columns. Remarkable!

Check your bird-lists for Seven Islands - David Trently

We would like to compile a list of all the bird species identified at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge in east Knox County. The following is a list of birds that I know have been found there. Please review this list

and your own records of your visits there and see how many more you can add to the list. I know there are more! Send your updates to me at dtrently@utk.edu or call me at 531-1473 (h); 974-8664 (w).

Double-crested Cormorant	Peregrine Falcon	Willow Flycatcher	White-breasted Nuthatch	Fox Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Wild Turkey	Eastern Phoebe	Brown Creeper	Song Sparrow
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Northern Bobwhite	Great Crested Flycatcher	Loggerhead Shrike	Lincoln's Sparrow
Canada Goose	Sandhill Crane	Eastern Kingbird	Blue Jay	Swamp Sparrow
Wood Duck	Killdeer	Purple Martin	American Crow	White-crowned Sparrow
American Wigeon	Common Snipe	Tree Swallow	European Starling	White-throated Sparrow
Gadwall	Rock Pigeon	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Red-eyed Vireo	Dark-eyed Junco
Mallard	Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	Tennessee Warbler	Northern Cardinal
Lesser Scaup	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	American Pipit	Orange-crowned Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black Vulture	Barn Owl	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Magnolia Warbler	Blue Grosbeak
Turkey Vulture	Eastern Screech-Owl	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Osprey	Chuck-will's-widow	Cedar Waxwing	Pine Warbler	Bobolink
Bald Eagle	Chimney Swift	Carolina Wren	Palm Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Northern Harrier	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	House Wren	Black-and-white Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Belted Kingfisher	Northern Mockingbird	Common Yellowthroat	Common Grackle
Cooper's Hawk	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Yellow-breasted Chat	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Eastern Bluebird	Scarlet Tanager	Baltimore Oriole
Broad-winged Hawk	Downy Woodpecker	Wood Thrush	Summer Tanager	Orchard Oriole
Red-tailed Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin	Eastern Towhee	House Finch
American Kestrel	Northern Flicker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Chipping Sparrow	American Goldfinch
Merlin	Pileated Woodpecker	Carolina Chickadee	Field Sparrow	
	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Tufted Titmouse	Savannah Sparrow	
			Grasshopper Sparrow	

 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Great Backyard Bird Count is Feb. 13-16

The seventh annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will be February 13-16, 2004.

• **How to count:** On the day(s) that you count, watch your bird feeders, or take a short walk (less than 1 mile) in your neighborhood or park.

For each species you see, keep track of the highest number of individuals you observe at any ONE time. Be careful not to count the same bird over and over!

• **Submitting your tallies:** At the end of the day go to "Submit your bird checklist" on the GBBC website (see below). Fill out the questions about your location, local habitat and count duration. Then enter your high counts for each species found on that day and location. You can submit one bird checklist for each day that you count or for each new area you count in.

• **Problems Getting Access to the Internet?** Ask a friend that's online or go to your local library.

For more information or to download a tally sheet or report your tallies go online to BirdSource at www.birdsource.org. You also can go online to check the results for your city, state or any other location.

The GBBC is a project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It's sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited, CIT and NRCS.

GBBC statistics from 2003:

Total Checklists Submitted:	47,740
Total Species Observed:	573
Total Individual Birds Counted:	4,204,058

Last year Knoxville only turned in 44 species. We can do better than that!

Ijams adds new exhibit honoring its namesake - By Lyn Bales

For years, one of the most often asked questions posed by visitors to Ijams Nature Center was, "Why is Ijams called Ijams?" A new exhibit at the center answers the common query.

The park was founded on the original homesite of H.P. and Alice Ijams. For several decades, their home was the place to go if you wanted to learn about birds or plants or if you simply wanted to take a quiet walk in the woods. The Ijams family graciously shared their home and property with anyone who took the time to stop by.

H.P. was an illustrator and birder. He was one of the founding members of the East Tennessee Ornithological Society, the group that later became KTOS. H.P. served as the club's first president in 1924-25 and the Ijams' "Island Home" was the club's rallying point for years. H.P. was also elected president of the statewide TOS in 1932 and held a U.S. patent on a bird box he designed.

In 1944, Alice Ijams was a charter member of the Knoxville Garden Club and served as its first

president. She was also president of the Knox County Council of Garden Clubs for two years.

Along with their four daughters, the Ijams family worked to create a wildlife refuge on their 17 acres. They built ponds, lily pools, wooded trails, gardens and greenhouses. They also established the tradition of nature and environmental education that is still being carried out today at the center.



For several decades, a 1935 illustration by H. P. Ijams appeared on the cover of *The Migrant*, the quarterly journal of TOS.

'Dr. Tanner and the Ivory-billed' exhibit in the works at Ijams

Ijams is in the process of adding or updating many of its exhibits. One of the new displays being added will honor a KTOS member, the late Dr. James Tanner, who served as the editor of *The Migrant* for nine years and president of TOS for two terms.

The new exhibit focuses on an early adventure in Dr. Tanner's life. In 1935, Cornell University's Dr. Arthur Allen lead a team made up of Dr. Peter Kellogg and graduate student Jim Tanner on an ambitious 15,000 mile expedition across the country to record rare birds. The group traveled to remote locations and recorded many species using what was called a "sounds-on-film" or "movietone" system. The 1,500 pounds of equipment by today's standards was heavy and cumbersome.

The most famous discovery of the expedition came in Madison Parish, Louisiana, where the group rediscovered and recorded the long-lost Ivory-billed Woodpecker. By the trip's end, they had recorded more than 96 birds and had shot around ten miles of motion picture film. While on the famous expedition, a very large diamondback rattlesnake decided to take up residence in the group's tent. After several attempts to evict the intruder, the snake had to be

killed. Its mounted skin was donated to Ijams by Nancy Tanner and hangs with the exhibit.

Dr. Tanner went on to become a professor of zoology at the University of Tennessee. As many folks will remember, KTOS member Nancy Tanner was a long-time volunteer naturalist at Ijams. Nancy also is the only living person to have an actual, documented sighting of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker.



KTOS member Nancy Tanner in front of new Tanner exhibit being installed at Ijams Nature Center.

KTOS Winter Birding Weekend - *By David Trently*

On January 16, eleven KTOS members left Knoxville to begin a four day birding trip to South Carolina and Georgia. We would be joined by two birders from Chattanooga to bring our total to a lucky thirteen. Soon after entering North Carolina, two Common Ravens flew along the highway—perhaps as omens of what was to happen next? Within minutes, one of the three cars in our caravan drove right on past the rest area where we had all planned to stop! Gone before we could radio them to wait for us up ahead. An hour of driving and calling to them on the radios was finally rewarded when we met up at a rest area in South Carolina. No damage done—and the rest of the weekend would be excellent!

At Santee National Wildlife Refuge, we watched an episode of "Naturescene" which showed us a bit about what can be found at the refuge. We then birded the Cuddo Unit where we were sung to by Pine Warblers. An adult Bald Eagle soared overhead. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and a Common Yellowthroat made us think of spring.

One bird that Janet McKnight really wanted to see was an American Bittern. With the gate to the wildlife drive scheduled to automatically close at 5:00, we had to hurry toward the exit, but Denise (whose last name we may never know!) spotted a bittern out in the open in a swamp, after two cars sped right past it. We backed up and, just as Janet was getting out of the car for a good look...off it flew. Certainly we'll see another, right?

Saturday morning we checked out the Wrights Bluff Nature Trail back at Santee NWR and were reminded of spring once again, with White-eyed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler and more gnatcatchers. Then it was off to Savannah NWR. Boat-tailed Grackles told us we were near the coast when we stopped for lunch, which we ate under the watchful eyes of a beautiful, nesting Great Horned Owl (I'm sure we'll be seeing Harold Howell's pictures of this bird at a future meeting). Highlights at Savannah included White and Glossy Ibises, lots of moorhens, dozens of shorebirds and Tree Swallows. By mid-afternoon it was finally time to get to the ocean, but with a stop at Fort Pulaski first. Here we saw a beautiful chocolate-brown mink,

and a Forster's Tern sitting on a bridge.

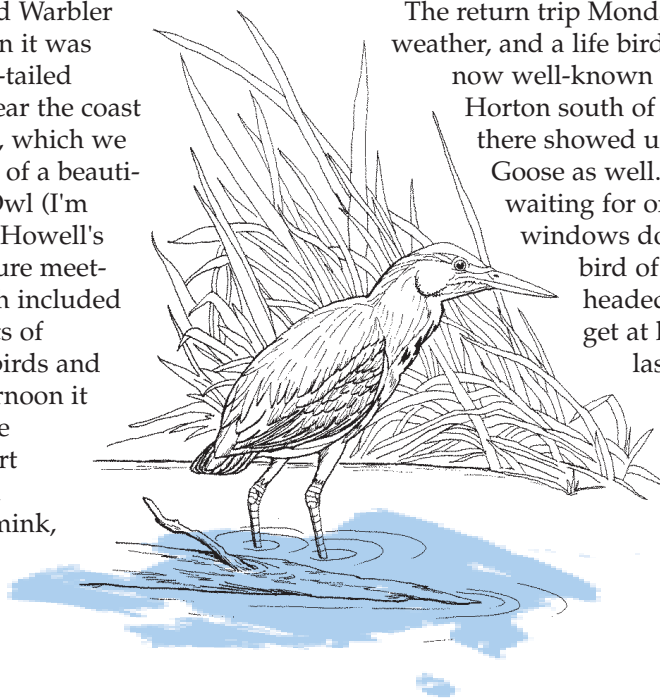
On the beach at Tybee Island was a large flock of Black Skimmers, two or three Purple Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings. Off shore were Red-throated Loons, Northern Gannets and a few dolphins. As darkness came, we headed inland to find food and shelter.

Sunday morning brought rainy skies, but nowhere near the rain that was forecast. In fact, after a couple hours of threatening bad weather, it cleared up and the temperature rose to the mid-70s! Great weather to visit Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area and watch a Merlin, Gull-billed Tern and, oh yeah... remember that American Bittern that Janet wanted to see? Well.....everyone else saw it. Ask Janet about that one. :-) You should see some great Loggerhead Shrike pictures from here some day too.

After Altamaha, we finished the day at Harris Neck NWR, our third NWR of the trip. This is a really nice place and we recommend you visit it! We were guided by volunteers Dot Bombach and Matt Ryan who showed us a pond with alligators and lots of herons, including our only Black-crowned Night-Herons of the trip. With the bright sun behind us, we had wonderful looks at lots of Green-winged Teal, some Bufflehead and Hooded Mergansers. On the nearby river we had Red-breasted Mergansers and were attacked by 'no-see-ums'. These tiny insects were quite a nuisance here! We finished the night with a Screech-Owl and Great Horned Owl calling to us, and then did some sky-watching in the warm night air, looking at some moons of Jupiter.

The return trip Monday brought us back to colder weather, and a life bird for almost all of us—the now well-known Yellow-billed Loon at Lake Horton south of Atlanta. Friendly birders there showed us where to find a Ross's Goose as well. After a lunch stop, while waiting for one car to catch up, with the windows down, we added our last new bird of the trip, #135. Brown-headed Nuthatch. I had hoped to get at least 125, about what we had last year on the Florida trip.

It was nice to see so many great birds. It was still light as we returned to Knoxville...and I started planning our next trip...





Presidential Perch

- By Charlie Muise

Hi folks. We have an important vote scheduled for the February meeting. As you've read in previous newsletters, a number of us have been working hard at the monthly planning meeting to find a way for the club to do business better. What we have come up with is an Executive Committee that would conduct the day-to-day business needed for a club to operate effectively.

At the January meeting I nominated ten people to serve as our first Executive Committee. Nearly all of them currently hold, or formerly held elected positions in our club. They include most of the people who have been most active in the planning meetings. Most of them were quite active in planning our very successful spring TOS meeting in May. They have worked hard for us, and have made good decisions. I am confident that this committee can help our club continue its long history of success. They are:

David Trently (immediate past president)
 Chris Welsh (TOS Director)
 Charlie Muise (current president)
 Dan Mooney (TOS Director)
 Tracey Muise (Vice president)
 Laurie Mooney (TOS Director)
 Jerry Hadder (Treasurer)
 Kim Henry
 Jean Alexander
 Dev Joslin (TOS Director)

The work of this group will be subject to scrutiny of all members. Meetings will continue to be immediately prior to regular club meetings, and open to all members. The Committee members will be elected annually at the same time as officers, and will generally consist of elected officers and TOS directors. The president reserves the right to nominate people to take the place of officers or TOS directors who are unable to fulfill this additional role. As president I welcome club member feedback.

The Executive Committee will make smaller financial decisions (such as payments for events like Bloomsdays, snacks for meetings, postage, etc.) that are currently made by just two or three people, so it will be a more democratic process. Large expenditures will still be voted on at general meetings. The purpose of this committee is to expedite business and shorten the business portion of meetings as much as possible. In cases where the committee cannot come to a consensus on an issue, that issue will be brought up in the following general club meeting.

The first item of business for the committee is an item we have already been working on—putting the finishing touches on our chapter bylaws and bringing them before the club for a vote.

Get your newsletter online!

Would you rather get your newsletter online as a pdf file? And save paper and KTOS money? Let Charlie know and we'll drop your name from the postal mailing list. You then can go to the state website each month to read or download your newsletter.

Chattanooga to host 2004 Annual Meeting, April 30-May 2

The Chattanooga Chapter invites everyone to join them for the 2004 Spring State Meeting, to be held April 30-May 2. The chapter will also be celebrating its 50th anniversary, which will make for an even more festive occasion. The timing of the meeting coincides with the peak of spring migration in the area, and there will be some good field trips, such as the Craven's House (the best site for songbird migration) and Brainerd Levee (the best local shorebird spot).

The banquet will be held on board the Southern Belle Riverboat. The banquet cruise will be from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 1. The cost will be \$20 per person, which includes the meal, cruise, taxes and tip. There is one catch, however. YOUR MONEY MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN APRIL 9! This deadline is imposed by the riverboat company and is

non-negotiable. Reservations received after April 9 will be returned.

While there are many motel options in this area, the chapter recommends the EconoLodge in Tiftonia, TN. The Tiftonia area is convenient to many of the field trips as well as the riverboat. The EconoLodge have very nice facilities, and are holding a block of 25 rooms for \$58.00/night + tax. The owners also said they'd be willing to provide continental breakfast at 5 a.m. to accommodate our early activities (they normally don't serve until 6 a.m.).

To make motel reservations, call (423) 821-9000 and mention that you are with TOS. They will be holding these rooms until March 30, so make sure you reserve before then. For more information contact chapter president, David Aborn at: David-Aborn@utc.edu

OF NOTE!

J. T. Tanner Fellowship Award announced

The Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association has a James T. Tanner Memorial Fellowship Award for birders doing research in the Smokies. Last year \$10,000 was awarded to Fred Alsop for his summer's research. This year \$10,000 was given to T. Simons from North Carolina State University, the U.S.G.S. Cooperative Research Unit, Department of Zoology. His topic is "Assessing the relationship between acid precipitation, which causes calcium depletion, and avian productivity in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park."

FOR SALE: 1 - Kowa 77mm spotting telescope, TSN-4 (straight eyepiece) with fluorite lenses and a 20x-60x eye piece + a 30x wide angle eyepiece, a cordura weather cover and tripod adapter plate. Excellent condition. New price is approximately \$1300. Our price is \$700.

1 - Bogen (or Manfrotto) tripod, model #3221. Excellent condition. New is approximately \$165. Our price is \$100. Contact Ron Hoff or Dollyann Myers at 865-435-4547 or dollyron@esper.com.

Special thanks: To Madeleine Hassil for helping Cindy fold, sort and mail this and other newsletters.

Wanted: Nature enthusiasts!

A new nature study group has been formed and we are looking for more members. We have already done a very successful salamander field trip (12 species!) and a trip to a planetarium. We have plans to study trees, wildflowers, snakes, butterflies, dragonflies... more! We will be helping with a butterfly survey in the mountains of North Carolina...a flora and fauna inventory of Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge...nature study of the highest elevations in neighboring states....We also want new ideas for field trips.

If this sounds like something you want to be part of, contact David Trently at dtrently@utk.edu; 531-1473 (h); 974-8664 (w)

CONDOLENCES

KTOS member Henri Levy passes away

We regret to report the death of Henri Levy in March 2003. Henri and his wife Bettie joined KTOS in 1985. The club will make a book donation in memory of Henri to the Oak Ridge library. Our deepest condolences to Bettie and the rest of his family.



KTOS Membership Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues to: Jerry Hadder, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Membership fees are \$18 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Sustaining memberships are \$28 and a Life membership with TOS is \$200 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter.

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