Chapter to Promote Wind Power in 2005 Legislature

By Craig Volland, Conservation Chair

The Kansas Chapter is launching a campaign to promote both energy efficiency and wind power in Kansas. Our slogan will be Energy Leadership and Clean Air in Kansas. One of our first actions is to promote wind power in the upcoming legislative session.

Kansas has become a net importer of energy. At the same time both Wichita and Kansas City have a problem with air quality. Prior to the unusually cool summer of 2004, both metro areas came close to exceeding the standard for ozone smog. A new vision for energy policy can help solve both these problems. It would involve a focus on energy efficiency and getting wind power off the ground in western Kansas. Such a new policy would help achieve clean air while lowering power costs and increasing tax revenues from economic development.

No to Coal. It’s simply unwise to burn more coal to produce electricity. Coal fired power plants are a major source of air pollution including oxides of nitrogen (NOX) and fine particulate. In Kansas City, the Mid America Regional Council’s new model has identified NOX control as critical to staying within the ozone standard. Recent studies have determined that fine particulate can increase overall mortality in our population. Also coal plants are the largest source of mercury emissions in the United States. Last year the Centers for Disease Control stated that one in six women of child bearing age have levels of mercury in their blood that could harm a fetus.

New coal plants would also be a major source of carbon dioxide which contributes to global warming. According to regional models, climate change is likely to increase urban flood- ing in the Kansas City area but increase drought in western Kansas. The federal government under the Bush Administration has walked away from the Kyoto Accord and is now pushing a new coal gasification process as the answer to dirty coal. But it’s 10 to 15 years away from general use. Thus the conventional coal plants now proposed in Kansas and Missouri will further solidify

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New Food Choices Section ................. pg 18-19
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  Organizational Effectiveness
  Governance Committee
  Presidential/Congressional
  Environmental Voter Education
  Steering Committee
  Sierra Club Mutual Funds
  Investment Committee

see page 20 for contact info

NOTE: because of security measures, mail sent to DC offices may take longer than usual to arrive.
Kansas Chapter PAC a Huge Success

By Bill Griffith (Chapter Chair) and Craig Wolfe (PAC Treasurer)

The Kansas Sierra Club’s Political Action Committee raised $8,367 this year for state legislative races. This is far and away the most ever raised by the chapter for political races. This was due to 61 grassroot volunteers who used a PAC coupon booklet or simply donated money for the effort. Over a period of 18 months the money added up and we made an impact in key races.

We endorsed 29 candidates in the House of which 28 won (some in very tight races) and 13 in the Senate of which 9 won. This includes both the primary and the general elections. A total of $6,850 was dispersed to candidates and $820 went to state fees and the printing of the coupon booklets.

This effort should strengthen the Club’s work in Topeka and it could not have happened without the help of the members involved—and that is how the Club is strongest.
Water Plan Projects Initiative

Solutions for all Kansans to unfinished water business

Water projects that will make short and long-term differences in the lives of Kansans are ready to be put into action by the state’s water agencies and partners. The Water Plan Projects Initiative sets out projects to conserve and extend the life of the Ogallala-High Plains aquifer, protect and restore Kansas watersheds, assure coordinated water infrastructure development and trim debt for water storage in federal reservoirs.

“We must act now if we want to assure future generations of the luxury of abundant water and natural resources we now enjoy,” says Steve Irsik of Ingalls, chair of the Kansas Water Authority. The Water Plan Projects Initiative addresses 13 water resource issues and will be financed through the State Water Plan Fund, contingent on its restoration to its authorized funding level.

The Ogallala - High Plains aquifer initiative is designed to conserve and extend the life of the aquifer through management by aquifer subunits, so that management decisions can be made for local conditions. An incentive-based pilot program, the Irrigation Transition Assistance Program, would provide grants to irrigators who voluntarily convert to non-irrigated land use in high priority, water-short areas. The 2004 Kansas Legislature enacted legislation that allows the purchase of water rights and their permanent dismissal. The State Conservation Commission is charged with developing and implementing the pilot program.

A related project is control of invasive salt cedars and other non-native vegetation in the stream corridors that rob the aquifer of valuable recharge water. Another is development of irrigation management plans that will reduce the salt and selenium levels of Arkansas River water in Colorado and, in turn, Kansas.

The State Water Plan’s Watershed Protection and Restoration Strategy, or WRAPS, is a process designed to bring together members of the watershed community to identify watershed needs and goals, develop cost effective strategies and put them into action. Flood control, wildlife habitat and recreation complement water quality as WRAPS’ goals.

The regional public water supply strategy initiative looks broadly at Kansans’ drinking water needs. Strategies are being developed to make the best shared use of limited resources. It may mean voluntary system interconnections, voluntary water district boundary adjustments, shared treatment facilities, shared accounting or water district mergers.

Funding for the projects will come from the State Water Plan Fund. Unfortunately, it has been tapped since the beginning to pay for projects once funded by the State General Fund. The Kansas Water Authority recommends that the State start to reverse that trend this legislative session by restoring the demand transfer to the State Water Plan Fund from the State General Fund and returning two programs – Aid to Conservation Districts and stream gauging – to the State General Fund balance sheet. The total increased funding for these projects, $3.8 million, would be made available without increasing fees or taxes.

The Kansas Water Authority is a 24-member board made up of gubernatorial and legislative appointees representing various water interests. It provides advice to the Governor and members of the Legislature on water policy.

For more information on the Water Plan Projects Initiative, check out (At your option: Web address for your group) or www.kwo.org on the internet, or call the Kansas Water Office at 785-296-3185. “Water—Your Resource for Life.” This article and an additional series of articles can be found at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/WaterPlan.htm.
Wind continued from cover

the US position as the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases. Each megawatt (MW) of wind power capacity displaces 2000 tons of carbon dioxide.

Yes to Wind. The good news is we don’t need to burn more coal. Why would anyone want to, when we sit next to the Saudi Arabia of wind energy? The cost of generating electricity with wind at good sites has fallen rapidly in the past decade to about 3 cents per kilowatt-hour (net of the 1.5 cents/kwh federal tax credit) compared to about 4.5 cents for new coal-fired power plants. The cost of capturing mercury and carbon dioxide is not included in the coal figure. In fact the cost of coal fired power generation almost doubles when the environmental and health cost “externalities” are added in. Wind power costs are expected to continue to fall for the big wind turbines ideal for western Kansas.

The new 800 MW coal fired power plant proposed by KCP&L will cost in excess of $1 billion. It will be located either just south of Atchison in Kansas or just north of Weston in Missouri. Likewise Sunflower Electric Coop in western Kansas is working with an investor to spend $1 billion on a big new coal fired plant. We have yet to determine what rate increases will result from these facilities, but they are likely to be substantial. In contrast wind power can be phased in quickly, at lower cost, in sets of 50 or 100 MW as demand develops.

Advocates of coal and nuclear power are raising unsubstantiated claims against wind power. They claim that power utilities cannot rely on wind power because the wind doesn’t blow all the time, i.e. that wind farms have a lower “capacity factor” than coal or nuclear.

It is critical to understand that the capacity factor relates only to costs of requiring stand-by capacity for when the wind generators are off-line. Governmental sources show that the requirement for fossil fuel back up is minimal so long as wind constitutes less than 20% of the power company’s total generation portfolio. Since the utility companies in our region use very little wind power, we have a long way to go before bumping up against that limit. Finally this problem is much reduced for western Kansas facilities not only because wind resources are so good, but also because the terrain is ideal for the installation of the big turbines that can efficiently utilize lower wind speeds.

Cheaper to Save Energy. Even if we didn’t have all this wind energy, it would still be cheaper to save energy rather than pay for new generating capacity. Power companies serving Kansas have done very little to encourage energy efficiency among their customers. In fact Kansas utilities rank last in the US for energy efficiency offerings to their rate payers. The Kansas Chapter will be developing information that will advise businesses and individuals on how to save energy. We will also be exploring ways electric utility companies can be given incentives to encourage energy conservation.

Needed: State Energy Leadership. Kansas has fallen behind other states in encouraging energy production from renewable sources like wind. The upcoming legislative session will be crucial to bringing the vision of Kansas wind power leadership to a reality. A major barrier to using our vast wind energy potential is the lack of transmission lines in western Kansas. A bill is being drafted, modeled on a law passed last year in Wyoming that will create a state transmission authority similar to the Kansas Turnpike Authority. The new transmission authority would be able to sell bonds to finance new transmission capacity and facilitate easements for the lines.

In November voters in Colorado approved a measure requiring that 3% of their power come from renewable energy by 2007 and 10% by 2015. Kansas wind farms can sell some of this power, but new lines and equipment are needed to hook up with the grid serving that state. New lines are also needed to serve markets in Kansas and to the south and east. Since this would be a public authority, access to the lines, say for smaller scale local coop producers, would be guaranteed and not mediated by the utility companies. The bad news is that coal fired power generators could also use the lines. We will have to see how this sorts out during the legislative debate.

The legislature also needs to study the benefits of energy efficiency and to monitor the KCC’s rate setting process to see what incentives can be provided to power companies to save energy rather than building new polluting power generators. Also we expect a bill to be introduced that will encourage the use of gas-electric hybrid vehicles in the state’s fleet.

Call To Action

The chapter has developed a fact sheet on wind power in Kansas. Please contact Brooks Albery at b.albery@opinari-research.com, or the chapter at info@kansas.sierraclub.org to request copies. Write letters to the editor of your newspaper. If you haven’t already done so please join our legislative alert system. Primarily during the January to early April legislative session you will be notified about important bills and asked to contact your legislator. Please email Craig Wolfe at info@kansas.sierraclub.org to sign up for the alert list.
Kansas Wind Power

The following is from a Kansas Sierra Club Wind tri-fold brochure. You can request copies at 913-299-4443 or info@kansas.sierraclub.org.

- An Energy Opportunity for Today
- Meet Future Energy Needs Using Existing Wind Power Technology

Wind Power Costs are Competitive 1
- Wind power costs have fallen sharply over the last decade and are now one of the cheapest sources of new electricity: 2
- 2.6¢ per kWh for high wind speed sites and 4.8¢ per kWh for low wind speed sites; compared with
- 4.5¢ for new coal-powered plants. 3
- Wind power is a developing source of energy and costs are expected to fall 40% over the next decade. 4
- Wind Power costs are reduced when financed by public utilities and investor owned utilities. 5
- The environmental and health costs of fossil fuel (3¢-6¢ per kWh for coal and 0.5¢ to 2¢ per kWh for gas) are not currently incorporated into fossil fuel electricity pricing. 6

How does wind power benefit state economies?
State Economic Impacts
- Wind Power creates jobs; often in the poorest rural counties. Jobs include project management, implementation, consulting, operations, maintenance, construction, and manufacturing.
- Wind Power provides lease income for rural land owners.
- Wind Power companies often give money to schools and local governments in lieu of taxes.

Wind Power Benefits

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>AVERAGE PER 100MW 7</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RURAL INCOME</td>
<td>$293,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERMANENT JOBS</td>
<td>35.5</td>
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Is Kansas falling behind in promoting wind power?
State Policy Support
- Stable policy supporting wind power is critical for development.
  - 18 states have Renewable Portfolio Standards
  - 32 states have net metering

- Nineteen percent of U.S. wind power generation occurs in 10 states. 9 Kansas is not a top 10 wind power state even though vast wind resources in western Kansas rank Kansas 3rd among states in potential wind energy.
- A strong vision for Kansas Wind Power is needed along with supporting policy in order for Kansas to succeed in developing its wind power resources.

Are there impacts on the Utilities?
- Wind Power can be built in 50MW or 100MW sets unlike the huge investments required for 500+MW coal electricity generation plants.
- Wind is free and wind power costs are highly stable allowing utilities to hedge future gas prices.
- Reductions in gas usage reduces demand and prices in the gas market, providing significant customer savings.
- Wind Power variability causes negligible impact on utilities if Wind Power is less than 20% of the utility's total generation. 10

Are there Environmental benefits from wind power?
- Wind Power emits no air pollution.
- Every 1MW of Wind Power displaces 2,000 tons of CO2.
- Wind Power farms use only 3-5% of the land area leaving the rest for farming and grazing.
- Wind Power impacts on birds is small. If 100% of U.S. power were produced by Wind Power, bird deaths from wind would still be only 1 out of every 250 human activity related bird deaths. 11
- The cost of coal-based electricity generation doubles when negative health and environmental externalities are incorporated, making wind power even more attractive. 12

2 The Economics of Wind Energy, AWEA, Mar., 2002. Includes a 1.5¢ per kWh tax credit.
7 Averages derived from reported economic impacts from projects around the U.S.
8 Wind Power's Contribution to Electric Power Generation and Impact on Farms and Rural Communities, GAO, Sep., 2004.
Outings Update

By Dave Patton

The Kanza Group and Thomas Hart Benton Group, representing Sierra Club on both sides of Kansas City’s state line, work together to create our Outings Brochure. Below are some helpful tidbits about our outings.

Spring and Summer Outings Preview

I always think of winter as an opportunity to slow down a bit and recharge my batteries. Early each spring I begin planning my year’s outdoor activities. Each year I tell myself I’m not going to try to cram so much activity into my summer, but I never succeed. By June, I usually don’t have a free weekend until late October or November. I guess I enjoy this vicious cycle, because I find myself sitting here now thinking about the upcoming spring and summer. Here’s a little preview of upcoming outings the Thomas Hart Benton/Kanza groups have to offer this year. Perhaps you’ll want to get your calendar out and pencil in a few dates too. Look at our website or an Outings brochure for details.

Backpacking Outings

I’ve been day hiking all my life and always found myself asking, if I can see beautiful scenery like this in a day, how much more beautiful would the scenery be three or four days away from the trailhead? When I started backpacking I found the answer to that question is: exponentially more beautiful.

In February, we are offering a backpacking class for beginners. This class, taught by Paul and Melody Gross, offers the beginner useful and reliable information from both the male and female perspective. Paul and Melody have a tremendous amount of backpacking experience. They lead several backpacking trips a year for the Sierra Club’s National Outings program as well as several regional trips a year for our group.

A couple of weeks after the beginning backpacking class and in April, we are offering short weekend backpacking trips for beginners. These trips will give you an opportunity to try out new equipment and learn by experience the basic skills required for backpacking. Both trips are led by experienced backpackers who will help you work through any problems you might have as well as answer questions.

A multi day trip on a portion of the 170 mile long Ozark Highlands Trail in Arkansas is planned for April. When backpacking is mentioned, many people immediately think of the western mountain states. You’ll find the Ozark back country has a tremendous amount of rugged scenery to offer as well.

Educational Outings

We have several educational offerings this year. These outings are geared towards improving your outdoor experience.

In April we are offering a couple of classes that I am very excited about. These are first time offerings for both classes.

On the 2nd we are offering a Wild Edibles class. This class, which will actually be taught outdoors on the trail, will help you learn what wild plants are edible.

On the 9th we’re offering a compass class. Compass skills are very important in the back country. Very few people have a basic understanding of how to properly use a compass. This class, geared towards beginners, will teach you the basics.

In May we are offering a beginner’s GPS (Global Positioning System) class. This is our third time to offer this class, which has proven to be very popular. You’ll learn how to use a GPS as well as how to relate what it is telling you to a map. If you received a GPS for Christmas, you’ll want to attend this class.

Day Hikes and Day Trips

We have a very robust line up in this category this year. Seven trips are offered through June. Several day hikes give you an opportunity to get out and stretch your legs for a few hours while you explore wild and natural areas in our region.

In April we make our first trip to the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. This is one of the nation’s newest additions to the National Park system.

In May, we’re offering a day trip to historic Hermann, MO for their Maifest celebration. This trip includes visiting some historic sites along with a bit of wine tasting and dining.

See Outings Update on page 8
Outings Update continued from page 7

In June we’ve got a great family outing. We’re visiting the Overland Park Arboretum. Here you’ll see lots of trails, gardens and educational exhibits.

Weekend Car Camp Trips

These outings give you a chance to get out of town for a weekend, have some fun, make some new friends and explore some of the Midwest. We camp in established campgrounds with nice hot showers. If you don’t have a tent there are usually cabins for rent in the campgrounds. We try to have group meals, so cook stoves and so forth aren’t a necessity either, although you’ll be expected to pitch in flipping pancakes or washing dishes. There are two offerings this season.

In April, we’ll make our 2nd annual trip to Blanchard Springs State Park in Arkansas. The park is situated in one of the most lush, green areas of the Ozark mountains. There are trails to hike. A beautiful spring fed stream runs through the campground. The park’s spectacular cavern has been featured in an Imax movie. A few miles away are two other great places to visit. One is Ozark Folk Center State Park. We’ll be visiting during the park’s opening weekend. The other, the town of Mountain View, is also just a few miles away. During the Folk Center’s opening weekend, mountain folk in the surrounding area pick up their musical instruments and head for the old courthouse lawn at Mountain View. Bring your lawn chair because you’ll want to spend the evenings listening to the impromptu Bluegrass jam sessions surrounding the courthouse.

In June we have a trip to Ha Ha Tonka State Park. In the late 1800’s devastation to the Ozarks from logging, mining and hunting caused people to realize that preservation of this unique area was important. In 1909, Missouri Governor Herbert S. Hadley proposed this area as Missouri’s first state park. Ha Ha Tonka is an excellent example of Missouri’s unique Karst geology. Here you will find a 60 foot long natural bridge, several caves, soaring bluffs, huge sink holes, one of Missouri’s largest springs and 15 miles of hiking trails.

Preservation and Maintenance Outings

These outings give us an opportunity to preserve and protect some of the wild areas in our region.

The Thomas Hart Benton group has adopted the Hidden Valley Natural Area in Kansas City. This beautiful natural area has long been neglected and has become overrun with ATV’s and invasive plants. We have an outing scheduled each month to help clean up and preserve this area.

The Kanza group has done a great job of keeping the trails at Perry lake in good condition for hikers. A trail maintenance outing is scheduled for March.

Odds and ends

We’ve got a couple of other trips that are worth mentioning, but don’t fit under any of the other categories.

In May, we’re going canoeing on the Buffalo River in Arkansas. In the 1970’s it appeared that the Buffalo’s fate was to become a chain of dams and lakes as the White River had become. Fortunately people began to realize what a mistake this would be and joined the fight to save this river. This weekend trip is a great opportunity to explore the spectacular beauty of America’s first designated National Scenic River.

In June we’re bicycling 25 miles to Powell Gardens. Powell Gardens is a great place to visit. 25 miles sounds like a long trip by bike for most people. The back roads route has been carefully chosen to make it an easy journey. Transportation is being provided for you and your bike back to the start point.
Calling All Sierra Club Volunteers!

from Elaine Giessel, Volunteer Coordinator, Kanza Group

The time to get involved is now

The outcome of the 2004 elections has made it more important than ever to focus our efforts on building local environmental awareness, forging new partnerships and protecting our own communities. There is a lot of work to be done and your volunteer leaders need help immediately.

Volunteers keep the grassroots growing stronger

Sierra Club members who choose to serve as volunteers nourish our collective grassroots efforts to explore, enjoy and protect our planet. Opportunities to volunteer are frequent and diverse, and all are critical to our work. Two important actions Sierra Club volunteers can take from the comfort of their home are writing letters and making phone calls to support environmental protection. But, the real strength of the Sierra Club comes from collective action, joining with others to make a difference. This can take a variety of forms, from tabling at community events to knocking on doors to participating in public hearings to asking strangers outside the supermarket to sign petitions. Volunteers plan and operate our groups and chapter, serving on committees, leading outings, researching issues, writing stories and taking photos for our newsletter, doing fundraising, educating the public, recruiting other volunteers and attending public meetings.


Meaningful Work Available in KC

This year, the Kanza Group will be focusing primarily on two broad campaigns in the Kansas City Metro area: (1) stopping sprawl, developing regional public transportation and revitalizing existing communities; and (2) curbing global warming and promoting wind energy as a safe, clean alternative to coal-fired power plants. Working groups are being created now to address these issues. In addition, the Kanza Group plans to “table” at several local environmental events, providing educational materials at water festivals, a June’teenth celebration and other environmental expos, including our Earth Day celebration. To get involved in the KC area, contact Elaine Giessel at 913-888-8517 or elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org (To learn what other Kansas groups are doing, contact local group leaders.)

Mark your Calendar for the 35th Celebration of Earth Day in KC!

The annual Earth Day celebration in Kansas City, organized by Bridging the Gap, will be held Saturday, April 23, 2005 at Shawnee Mission Park, 7900 Renner Road in Johnson Co., KS. Entitled “Celebrating our Planet through Family, Fun and Fitness,” this event will include the 9th Annual Earth Day Walk from 9 - 10 am, followed by EarthFest activities, crafts and entertainment in the park from 10 am - 2 pm.

The Kanza Group of Sierra Club plans to table at this celebration. Volunteers should contact Elaine Giessel at 913-888-8517 or elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org immediately so we can map out the event now.
KDOT K-10 Study Comes Up Short

In November, KDOT released its study on the future of K-10. Unfortunately, the study came up short in several respects. The Wakarusa Group sent in the following letter commenting on these shortcomings.

Maggie Thompson
Public Involvement Liaison
Kansas Department of Transportation
700 SW Harrison
Topeka, KS 66603-5368

Ms Thompson:

I would like to comment upon your Department’s K-10 Transportation Study as presented in November in DeSoto. I am writing on behalf of the over 700 members of the Wakarusa Group of the Sierra Club.

We appreciate your recommendation to begin planning a bus service along K-10. Mass transit in this area has long suffered from inattention. Instead, governments have continued the vicious and expensive cycle of building roads, which spurs sprawling development, which require more roads, etc. Such a policy is not economically or environmentally sustainable.

Unfortunately, we were disheartened by the artificially narrow scope of your study. We find mystifying your refusal to consider the air quality impacts of encouraging automobile traffic by widening K-10. We understand that KDOT’s mission is moving people efficiently. However, any reasonable definition of efficient must include consideration of the costs involved. Urinating in your bed is more efficient than getting up and going to the bathroom, if you ignore the costs of buying a new mattress and grossing out everyone. It is only consideration of all the costs that makes obvious the superiority of using the toilet.

The Kansas City region will soon fall out of compliance with the Clean Air Act. Once that happens, governments and consumers throughout the region will face numerous expenses related to making the air breathable. Plus, they will have to suck down contaminants with every breath until the situation is remedied. Encouraging increased traffic by expanding K-10 will only aggravate the situation. Wouldn’t it make sense to consider these costs now? Even better, shouldn’t KDOT explore every option for avoiding these costs? It is always cheaper and easier to avoid a mess than to clean it up.

We believe a thorough study would have looked at ways to reduce traffic on K-10, instead of declaring unrestricted expansion inevitable. There is no discussion of car pool lanes, getting employers to encourage employees to share rides, or other methods of reducing traffic. Also, the mention of mass transit is limited to a proposal that plans for it to be developed. Why couldn’t this study begin that planning process? Would KDOT have accepted the highway expansion part of this study if its conclusion was “Somebody ought to plan to expand the highway”? Why does it accept a mass transit plan saying “Somebody should plan for buses”?

Why couldn’t the study have reminded people that expanding roads always encourages sprawling development? The study could have then looked at how this development would have further added to traffic on K-10, creating more air pollution and necessitating still further highway expansion. Plus, the study could have considered how to work with cities and counties to plan for communities friendlier to mass transit and less reliant on constant road-building.

We understand that our proposals are ambitious and that this is only a preliminary study. However, we believe that the preliminary stage is precisely the time to be ambitious. We fear that we are being set up for a process in which it is never the right time to seriously consider alternatives to highway expansion. Alternatives don’t get consideration now because we are still in a preliminary stage. Later, when KDOT secures money for the highway, we expect to be told that it is too late to consider alternatives, that the highway must be expanded as quickly as possible, and that KDOT is only following plans already in place.

We urge you in the strongest possible terms to rethink and expand this study. It is little more than an ode to highways as an unstoppable force of the universe. We think Kansans deserve a professional and thorough study of every transportation option. We also think they deserve a study that recognizes that people breathe more than they drive. We hope that you will reconfigure this study to take into account the true costs of expanding K-10. And we hope that you remember that even animals are smart enough to know that you don’t pee where you sleep.

Sincerely,
Michael Campbell
Chair, Wakarusa Group of the Sierra Club
One membership—
a lifetime of results.

When you become a Sierra Club Life Member, you create a living legacy. A legacy of wildlife. A legacy of wildlands. A legacy for all of our children to breathe clean air, drink fresh water, and savor the majesty of Earth’s natural environment.

From the very first day of your membership, your dues go to work to support the Sierra Club conservation programs that have proven so effective in protecting our natural heritage. So enroll on your annual renewal form today. And join the indispensable group of honored members who are dedicated to preserving our Earth. For life.

Life Member Program
55 Second Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
www.sierraclub.org

☐ CLEAN LAKE
☐ TOXIC DUMPSITE

Humans have a choice when it comes to protecting our water. Nature doesn’t.
U.S. Can Eliminate Oil Fuel in a Few Decades

From Rocky Mountain Institute
Snowmass, Colorado –

On September 20, Rocky Mountain Institute released ‘Winning the Oil Endgame: Innovation for Profits, Jobs, and Security,’ a Pentagon, co-funded blueprint for freeing the United States from oil use.

The plan outlines how American industry can restore competitiveness and boost profits by mobilizing modern technologies and smart business strategies to displace oil more cheaply than buying it. Winning the Oil Endgame says that, at an average cost of $12 per barrel (in 2000 dollars), the United States can save half its oil usage through efficiency, then substitute competitive biofuels and saved natural gas for the rest — all this without taxation or new federal regulation.

“Unlike previous proposals to bring oil savings through government policy, our proposed transition beyond oil is led by business for profit,” said Amory Lovins, CEO of the institute. “Our recommendations are market-based, innovation-driven without mandates, and designed to support, not distort, business logic. They’re self-financing and would cause the federal deficit to go down, not up.” ‘Winning the Oil Endgame’ shows that by 2015, the United States can save more oil than it gets from the Persian Gulf; by 2025, use less oil than in 1970; by 2040, import no oil; and by 2050, use no oil at all. “Because saving and substituting oil costs less than buying it, our study finds a net savings of $70 billion a year,” Lovins said. “That acts like a giant tax cut for the nation. It makes sense and makes money for all.”

The study focuses on cars and light trucks (SUVs, pickups, and vans). These vehicles account for nearly half of projected 2025 oil use. The report shows that ultra-light, ultrasound materials like carbon-fiber can cut vehicle weight in half, increase safety, and boost efficiency to about 85 mpg for a midsize car or 66 mpg for a midsize SUV. “BMW has confirmed that carbon-fiber auto bodies weigh only half as much as steel and have exceptional crash performance,” said Lovins. “The resulting fuel savings can be like buying gasoline for 56 cents a gallon.”

The RMI report also predicts that to fight better and save money, the Pentagon — the world’s largest oil buyer — will accelerate the market emergence of superefficient land, sea, and air platforms. A more efficient and effective military can protect American citizens, while moving to eliminate oil as a source of conflict. “A fuel-efficient military could save tens of billions of dollars a year,” said Lovins, who served on a Pentagon task force studying this issue.

The report says that by 2015, more efficient vehicles, buildings, and factories will turn oil companies into broad-based energy companies that embrace biofuels as a new product line. The report shows how cellulosic biofuels (wood-based rather than from starchy or sugary plants like corn) can replace one-fifth of current oil use, more than triple farm income, and create 750,000 agriculture jobs. “Europe produces 17 times more biodiesel than we do,” Lovins said. “The EU has shifted farmers from subsidies to durable revenues, and now oil companies compete to sell their petroleum-free fuel.” The report shows half of U.S. natural gas can be saved at less than a fifth of its current price. Two-thirds of that figure comes from saving electricity, especially at peak times when it’s inefficiently produced from natural gas. This step alone could return natural gas to abundance within a few years, cutting gas and power bills by $55 billion per year, Lovins says.

Recommended policy innovations include:

- Revenue-neutral “feebates” — rebates for buyers of efficient cars, paid for by fees on inefficient ones
- Low-income access to affordable mobility, a new nationwide initiative to buy efficient cars in bulk and lease or sell them to low-income drivers at terms they can afford
- R&D investment incentives and temporary loan guarantees to help financially weakened U.S. auto-makers retrain and retool faster
- Temporary federal loan guarantees to U.S. airlines for buying very efficient new airplanes, provided that, for every plane thus financed, an inefficient one is scrapped.

“For the first time, our report adds up the new ways to provide all the services now obtained from oil, but without using oil — which will save us $70 billion a year,” concluded Lovins. “Forging the tools to get our nation off oil forever is the key to revitalizing industry & farming.”

How Now, Industrial Cow?

By Francis Thicke, Prairie Writers Circle

In this Prairie Writers Circle essay, organic dairy farmer Francis Thicke argues for an agriculture that follows nature’s example. Francis Thicke and his wife, Susan, have an organic, grass-based dairy near Fairfield, Iowa. He has served as national program leader for soil science for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Extension Service. He is a member of the Land Institute’s Prairie Writers Circle, Salina, Kan.

As a dairy farmer, I use nature as my model. But most dairy farming today -- and farming in general -- ignores nature. This should concern not only farmers but also consumers, for the sake of their health and Earth’s.

Nature produces no real wastes, because the “waste” of one species is food for another. Also, nature does not use up resources. Its ways are efficient and sustainable. The typical industrial dairy is a much different matter.

First, consider the cows’ diet. It is typically high in corn. Growing corn requires nitrogen fertilizer, whose production uses up a lot of nonrenewable fossil fuel.

Not all of this fertilizer stays on the field. Typically more than half of it is lost, polluting groundwater or flowing downstream through the Mississippi River basin to feed a process that sucks out oxygen and drives life from a New Jersey-size patch of the Gulf of Mexico.

Most corn producers also use pesticides, which further poison the landscape. And because corn must be replanted annually, it promotes soil loss through erosion from fields left bare to wind and rain much of the year.

Waste is another problem with industrial dairies, where cows are confined to feedlots or barns. Manure accumulates in lagoons. Eventually it must be hauled to crop fields. With thousands of cows in a typical industrial dairy, it often is difficult to find enough fields close by to accommodate the manure, which can end up fouling the air or spilling into streams.

In place of this industrial model, I run my farm based on ecology, an understanding of the interconnection of living things and their environment.

The most striking feature of a dairy farm designed and operated on ecological principles is that the land around the milking facility is pasture of perennial grasses and legumes covering the ground year-round. It does not erode. It does not require pesticides.

The cows harvest their own feed by grazing on these plants. The environmentally costly process of growing corn and transporting it is avoided.

There is no need for synthetic nitrogen fertilizer. As the animals move about, they deposit manure, a natural fertilizer. This manure is not concentrated, so it breaks down quickly and is thereby less likely to pollute air and water.

Pasture dairies make sense financially. Milk production per cow is less, but milk production per acre, when acres used to grow feed crops are included, is comparable. Studies at the University of Wisconsin show that grazing dairies are as profitable, or more profitable, than industrial dairies.

What’s more, cows on pasture are healthier and live longer than those on a high-corn diet, which is not their natural food. And research is beginning to suggest that milk from grazing cows is more healthful because it has higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids, beta carotene and conjugated linoleic acids -- substances that may be useful in helping to prevent heart disease or certain cancers.

Given all these benefits, it is time we get serious about focusing our agricultural research, education and government policy on farming that uses ecology as its guide. And we should begin requiring industrial agriculture to pay for the environmental costs that it imposes on our planet -- costs now borne by society as a whole or charged to future generations.
The Neosho River Log Jam
by Deborah Wistrom, with a postscript by Charles Benjamin

An enormous log jam is located on the Neosho River, where the mouth of the river feeds into John Redmond Lake - a reservoir created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the early 1970s. The logjam first started forming in mid-1980’s when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers first started lowering the lake level to plant duck mullet. The length of the logjam during the 1980’s was about 1/4 mile and since that time the Corp has refused to do anything about it.

In the Spring and early Summer 2005 the logjam increased in size to over 2-1/2 miles in length and has now gone past the Strawn Boat Ramp. This increase in size of the logjam has cut off access to the upper portion of the Neosho River in Coffey County. The community of Jacobs Creek, where I live, is approximately 200 yards from the boat ramp.

Within the logs are dead animal caucuses, garbage and barrels of pesticides. It definitely has had adverse effects to the fish and wildlife. The logjam is on Corp property, leased to the Flint Hills Wildlife Refuge.

The residents of the Jacobs Creek Community have tried to bring this to the attention of anyone who would listen. We have the support of the Coffey County Commissioners, our Congressmen and U.S. Senators. State Representative Peggy Long-Mast and State Senator James Barnett have also been very helpful.

The U.S. Congress, in October 2005, ordered the Corp to find $25,000.00 to perform a study on the logjam removal. This study is expected to be completed the later part of January.

State Representative Peggy Long-Mast also had a company called Master Dredging evaluate the logjam. Their findings were that some of the old portions of the logjam are completely sealed from sludge and logs. Therefore the river must leave its banks to reach the lake. They estimate the cost range to remove the logjam from 1 million to 8.8 million dollars, depending on just removing the logs or removing the logs and dredging.

Pete Nerviski of the Corp of Engineers on numerous occasions has stated that this is the first of the rivers in Kansas to be effected this way, but there are others that in the future will have similar problems. Silting is a major problem in the lakes in Kansas that were built by the Corp for flood control. I feel that given time, more rivers here in the state of Kansas could look just like this portion of the Neosho River. I have no problem with flood control. I do have a problem with not maintaining the lakes and rivers. I feel that since the opening of John Redmond Lake, the only concern is flooding in the flood pool, and enough water in the conservation pool to sell. Because of the
silting, the conservation pool cannot provide enough water to sell. Rather than dredge the silt, the Corp and State choose to make the lake bigger. This is wrong, but money is the only concern. I realize a logjam is a natural occurrence, but history shows with proper attention and management, this would not have happened.

Postscript by Charles Benjamin, chapter lobbyist: The people of Jacobs Creek are asking the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club for help. Besides the threats to these folks and their property there is also a threat to the Neosho Madtom, a federally listed threatened and endangered specie, should this log jam continue to expand. During the 2005 legislative session I will be working with State Representative Peggy Long-Mast and State Senator Jim Barnett to convince the Kansas Legislature and the Governor to appropriate funds, to match funds from the federal government that will be devoted to clearing up the Neosho River logjam. This will not be an easy task. The legislature is facing a Kansas Supreme Court order to find up to a billion dollars in increases funding for Kansas’ public schools while many state legislators feel they were elected on a pledge to not increase taxes of any kind. How the legislature and the federal government handle the Neosho log jam could set a public policy precedent for the other artificially created lakes that face silting and log jam issues.
Food and the Climate Crisis: What You Eat Affects the Sky

By Mike Tidwell

(Mike Tidwell is director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network in Takoma Park, MD. He can be reached at mwtidwell@aol.com or 301-920-1633. To learn more about food and global warming, visit: www.chesapeakeclimate.org)

The typical American diet creates nearly as much carbon dioxide as the typical car! But it’s easy switch to a climate-friendly way of eating. Learn more at www.chesapeakeclimate.org

Few of us realize it, but the food we put in our mouths each day dramatically affects the global climate. The typical American diet requires the staggering equivalent of 400 gallons of oil each year. That, in turn, generates, nearly as much planet-warming carbon dioxide as the average U.S. car creates.

We all know cars cause smog and contribute to global warming. But our chicken nuggets? Our winter strawberries? Our Häagen-Dazs fudge swirl? You betcha. Our country derives almost all of its energy from fossil fuels - oil, coal, and natural gas - whose use generates millions of tons of CO2 annually. And nearly one fifth of that energy is devoted in some way to food.

How? Well, let’s start with fertilizer. Virtually all of our food crops - those directly consumed by humans or diverted to meat production - are raised with petroleum-based fertilizers. We actually extract the nitrogen we need for plant stimulation from various petroleum products. This alone takes up 30 percent of our energy budget for food.

Then there’s our complementary use of petroleum-based herbicides and pesticides, as well as diesel fuel and gasoline for combines, tractors, and other farm machinery. We also need fossil fuels to irrigate our crops before harvest and often to dry the same crops after maturity.

Meat consumption and climate change

Our nation’s great consumption of meat, eggs, and dairy products amplifies all of these energy needs many fold since roughly 80 percent of all corn and other grains grown in this country go to feed animals, not people. Not only does our annual per capita consumption of about 230 pounds of meat require an ocean of oil, it leaves us drowning in twice the government’s daily recommended allowance of protein.

Once shipped from the farm, of course, much of our food is then refrigerated, processed, and packaged into everything from Pop Tarts to Atkins-approved microwave dinners. This requires - among other inputs - enormous amounts of electricity, which means burning whole mountains of coal. Over half of our nation’s electricity, after all, comes from the combustion of pulverized coal.

Finally, there’s the runaway explosion in food transportation. Thanks to globalization, artificially low gas prices and massive government highway subsidies, the average kilogram of food in Maryland (and nationwide) travels at least 1500 miles from farm to plate. That’s an increase of 25 percent just since 1980. Indeed, the average prepared meal in the U.S. includes ingredients produced in at least five other countries.

In this modern food transportation system, wasted energy reaches absurd levels. For example, a lettuce farmer near Atlanta, Georgia who wants to sell lettuce to a Safeway in Atlanta, must first ship the lettuce 621 miles to Upper Marlboro, MD for inspection, then ship it back down to Georgia. This transportation not only consumes fossil fuel but takes up extra road space and leaves the lettuce less fresh!

It should be easy now to see that we’re basically eating fossil fuels when we sit down to dinner in America, the equivalent of 400 gallons of oil per capita. Yet even people who consider themselves environmentalists and political liberals, who use efficient light bulbs and join the Sierra Club, rarely consider the impact of their food choices. A person who drives a trendy Toyota Prius hybrid car, for example, but who maintains a typical U.S. diet heavy on meats and processed foods, is actually generating twice the annual CO2 from his diet than his car.

Solution: Eat organic foods grown in your region

All of these diet-related impacts on our climate and natural environment could be dramatically and painlessly reduced if Americans took three easy steps. These are 1) buy locally raised foods whenever possible; 2) buy organic foods; and 3) reduce meat and dairy consumption.

Thankfully, buying local food that has not been trucked thousands of miles gets easier every year. According to the US Department of Agriculture, regionally based farmers markets with a wide variety of fruits and vegetables have grown from 300 in the mid 1970s to 3100 in America today. That growth has certainly been seen in the DC region with outdoor markets now in Anacostia, Adams Morgan, Columbia and many other locations. Such markets simultaneously decrease transportation inputs while increasing community interconnectedness. One study estimates that people have 10 times as many conversations at farmers’ markets than at supermarkets.

People across America can also buy directly from a specific farm nearest their home thanks to a practice called “community-supported agriculture (CSA).” For a set annual price, you essentially “subscribe” to a farm, receiving a standard weekly share of whatever the farm produces during the growing season. For years, my family has been getting most of its annual...
fresh vegetables directly from Claggett Farm in Prince George's County, Maryland. (Visit www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/csa/casastate.htm for a CSA nearest you.)

A second important step, beyond buying locally, is to buy organically raised food. Organic agriculture eschews petroleum-based fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides, relying instead on manure and plant-based fertilizers and reducing losses to insects by building healthy soils and planting a wide diversity of crops.

On average, organic farms use 37 percent less energy than conventional farms. Also, unlike soils rendered nearly biologically lifeless from petroleum inputs, organic soils are full of plant matter and various biological processes that naturally absorb carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. According to a 23-year study by the prestigious Rodale Institute, one acre of organic crops “sequester” as much as 3,700 pounds per year of CO2, the world’s leading greenhouse gas. So organic food consumers fight climate change with every meal they eat.

Both fresh and processed organic foods are now widely available in this country, including at many chain supermarkets. Just as encouraging, Cuba, a nation whose life expectancy is actually longer than the U.S., has made a nearly total national switch to organic agriculture since 1991, disproving previous criticism that modern organic practices could not feed entire nations at affordable prices.

It’s easy to cut down on meat

The last critical step in the food/energy equation is reducing one’s consumption of animal products. Meat, eggs, and dairy products are high-energy, high-impact foods. It takes 40 pounds of grain to produce one pound of beef and every kilocalorie of eggs produced in America requires 39 kilocalories of energy. Simply put, America could feed most of Africa with the grains we feed to livestock.

A vegetarian diet also dramatically reduces your risk of heart disease, the nation’s number one cause of death. You can choose to make the vegetarian switch gradually thanks to a host of great vegetarian “meats” now on the market, from veggie burgers to soy sausage to chicken nuggets.

Here’s the bottom-line good news: By making the switch to mostly regionally raised, organic food - including savory vegetarian meat substitutes - each American can reduce his personal food greenhouse gas budget by at least 60 percent. That’s from around 400 gallons of oil equivalent each year to around 160.

With even the oil industry-friendly Bush Administration now openly admitting that fossil fuels are disrupting our life-giving global climate, and with a full 17 percent of U.S. energy use now devoted to food, it’s clear we’ll never solve the climate crisis with wind farms and hybrid cars alone. We must - and obviously can - cultivate and consume “clean-energy” food, grown close to home for the benefit of the whole world.

Footnotes
2 Average US car driver emits 10,959 pounds of CO2 annually, according to the US EPA. Average US diet requires 400 gallons of oil x 22 pounds of CO2 per gallon = 8800 pounds of CO2
4 Ibid
7 Sustainability of meat-based and plant-based diets and the environment. Pimentel, David and Pimentel, Marcia, American Society for Clinical Nutrition, 2003
12 US Prius driver emits 4,991 pounds of CO2 annually, according to the US EPA. Average US diet requires 400 gallons of oil x 22 pounds of CO2 per gallon = 8800 pounds of CO2
13 Matthew Hora and Judy Tick, From Farm to Table: Making the Connection in the Mid-Atlantic Food System. Washington, D.C., Capital Area Food Bank, 2001.
16 Ibid
17 The End of the Oil Age, Pfeiffer, Dale Allen, 2004. Chapter 19
19 Ibid
20 Worksheet: Average US meat diet = 1.1 gallons of oil/day = 401 gallons/year Lacto-ovo vegetarian = .83 gallons of oil/day = 303 gallons/year (25% reduction over meat diet) Vegan vegetarian = .60 gallons of oil/day = 219 gallons/year (45% drop over meat diet)
The Kansas City Food Circle will host the 7th Annual
Farmers Exhibition

Farmers Exhibition will consist of two events this year.
Saturday, March 26, 2005, 9 AM to 3 PM
Civic Centre 13817 Johnson Dr., Shawnee, KS
Includes half-day workshop, Bounty on the Prairie, featuring speakers on the joys of eating local foods.

Saturday, April 2, 2005, 9 AM to 3 PM.
St. Pius X High School, 1500 NE 42nd Ter. in KCMO north
Free admission and parking.

- Meet local organic farmers who can supply high quality organic fruits and veggies and free range, natural meats for the coming season.
- Seedlings for an early start on your garden
- Pick up a free copy of the 2005 Food Circle Producers Directory

Original music by eco-troubadour, Stan Slaughter

The event is co-sponsored by the Sierra Club

For more info contact
Craig Volland, KC Food Circle
913-334-0556 or hartwood2@mindspring.com

Act Now and Save the Environment!

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature.

For more information and confidential assistance, please complete the form and send to:
John Calaway, Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 977-5639 - e-mail: planned.giving@sierrclub.org

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE

18 Feb/Mar 2005
What impacts the land?
What impacts the air?
What impacts the water?
What impacts transportation?
What supports your local economy?
What supports hard working earth-friendly local farmers?
What helps protect your family’s health?
What’s the one thing YOU control that can possibly do all this?

YOUR Food Choices... Let’s get jiggy with it!!

Yep, it’s time for action. It’s hard to imagine one thing that can have such a great impact on our environment and is so very doable for every family. That is why the Kansas Sierra Club is creating this section of the Planet Kansas. This area will be a include features and short articles. We hope this will be your go-to resource for how you can begin to make a difference. If you have more ideas or a particular question, email it to Craig Wolfe at info@kansas.sierraclub.org, call 913-299-4443, or mail it to 9844 Georgia Avenue, Kansas City, KS, 66109.

Where should I start?

Kansas City Resources
Kansas City Food Circle Hotline 816-374-5899. 
KC area stores with some organic foods, but are rarely locally grown: Hen House, Price Chopper, Wild Oats and Whole Foods.

Lawrence Resources
Community Mercantile, (785)843-8544, 901 Iowa.
Lawrence Farmer’s Market, (785)331-4445, Vermont St between 10th & 11th

State-wide Resouces
Listing of 2004 KS Farmers’ Markets in many Kansas cities http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/pr_kfmd/2004%20Kansas%20Community%20Farmers%20Markets.htm#2004%20Kansas%20Community%20Farmers%20Markets (the % is a space)
Statewide Food Directory: www.oznet.ksu.edu/kcaac/food-directory/welcome.asp
Community Food Systems and Sustainable Agriculture Program at http://agebb.missouri.edu/sustain/index.htm

Feature - Community Mercantile
Since 1974, Community Mercantile has been Lawrence's primary source for natural, whole foods. “The Merc” is the largest consumer-owned natural foods store in the state of Kansas. We are a cooperative retail grocery store now over 2,500 members strong, providing our community with a diverse selection including locally grown produce, meat, poultry and a variety of products from other high-quality businesses. We offer foods that are organically grown, minimally processed and free of toxins. The Merc responds to our members requests for products they need in order to make us their primary grocery store.

The Community Mercantile takes to heart the co-op principle “concern for community.” Each year increasing the amount of donations we give to groups in Lawrence and the surrounding areas. We also connect with the community through our nutrition education and outreach program. Thousands of local school children, seniors, special needs groups and the general public learn the basics of nutrition by attending these classes at the Merc—all of which we teach at no cost to the community.

Offering: Natural and organic baked goods, dairy, full-service deli, full-service meat counter, salad bar, juice bar, produce, bulk, health and body care, general merchandise and grocery, as well as deli seating, classes, store tours upon request, and catering.
Chapter Executive Committee

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***Group Representative to Chapter, ****Committee Chair

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Chapter & Group Leaders
Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter

Feb/Mar 2005
General Meetings

General public is welcome to attend

Flint Hills
(Manhattan)
General Information
For information please call Scott Smith at 785-539-1973 anytime (or email wizard13@cox.net)

Kanza
(Kansas City)
General Information
The Kanza Group has a new location and time for its General Meetings. Come early at 7:00 pm, share some snacks, and enjoy meeting your Kanza Group leaders and members. Watch for our postcards in your mailbox for our upcoming General Meetings. Our meetings are at the Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W. 79th Street. Directions at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzadirections.htm, Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind
(Wichita)
General Information
Southwind Group General Meetings (Wichita) are held the second Friday of each month at The Great Plains Nature Center, 29th N at Woodlawn, Wichita. Social hour with pizza and pop at 6:30 p.m., announcements of local events 7:00 p.m., programs begin at 7:30 p.m., Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kanza
February
No General Meeting

Kanza
March 8, 7:00 pm
Legislative Update and Wind Opportunities

7:00 pm. Come early and share some snacks, and enjoy meeting your Kanza Group leaders and members.

7:30 pm. Legislative Update by Charles Benjamin, Chapter lobbyist and attorney. Charles will give a brief summary and answer questions about key environmental legislation being considered by the Kansas legislature, with a special focus on renewable energy initiatives. Join us and find out how you can make a difference by informing and persuading your state legislators. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org. Directions at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzadirections.htm.

Southwind
March 11, 7:30 pm
General Meeting To Be Announced
Check the Website at: www.kansas.sierraclub.org/EventsSearch.htm or check with Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind
(Wichita)
General Information
Southwind Group General Meetings (Wichita) are held the second Friday of each month at The Great Plains Nature Center, 29th N at Woodlawn, Wichita. Social hour with pizza and pop at 6:30 p.m., announcements of local events 7:00 p.m., programs begin at 7:30 p.m., Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind
March 11, 7:30 pm
General Meeting To Be Announced
Check the Website at: www.kansas.sierraclub.org/EventsSearch.htm or check with Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Wakarusa
(Lawrence)
General Information
The Wakarusa Group has decided to forego general meetings in order to concentrate its energies on other events.
For further information contact, Mike Campbell (785) 542-3885, mike.campbell@kansas.sierraclub.org.
Below is the combined list of all outings by the Kansas Chapter and Groups. The number in [brackets] indicates the area of the outing as shown on the map. Please contact the outing leader listed after the description by phone or e-mail before attending any of these activities. For trips requiring physical exertion, leaders need to know your ability and condition. Sierra Club policy also requires participants to sign a liability waiver or acknowledgement of risk prior to departing the trailhead.

Learn basic backpacking techniques from veteran backpackers and sign up for the beginner’s trip ("Lab 101") on February 19-20. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

[1] Feb 12. **Mill Creek Streamway Park Trail, Johnson Co., KS.**
We’ll hike this asphalt surfaced trail that parallels Mill Creek through woods and meadows on its way to the Kaw (Kansas) River., Mill Creek Streamway Park. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org

Protect native wild flowers by working to remove invasive honeysuckle. Hidden Valley Natural Area. Kanza. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org

A favorite backpacking spot for beginners as well as veterans. Hercules Glades Wilderness. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

[1] Mar 5. **Day Hike at the Prairie Center, Olathe, KS.**
Come experience the subtle beauty of quiet streams, woods and native Kansas prairie. Prairie Center. Kanza. Anne McDonald, (913) 384-6645, anne.mcdonald@kansas.sierraclub.org

We’ll whack down more of the honeysuckle that threatens native wild flowers. Hidden Valley Natural Area. Kanza. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org

A multi-day backpacking trip best suited for experienced hikers or knowledgeable beginners. Ozark Highlands Trail. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org

Have fun with us keeping the Perry Lake trail clear for trail users. Perry Lake Trail. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 599-6028, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

Enjoy this leisurely stroll as we learn about wild edibles and holistic health practices. Little Blue Trace. Kanza. Patty Brown, 816-737-2804

Get your fill of Bluegrass music during the opening weekend at the Ozark Folk Center State Park. Ozark Folk Center State Park. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org or Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Join us for a short dayhike on this remote trail in southeastern Jackson County. Blue & Gray Park. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 599-6028, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

This new addition to the National Park system offers a variety of activities: 1881 ranch house tours, hiking trails, prairie bus tours and more. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. Kanza.
# Committee Meetings

### Kanza Group
**Kansas City**
- **Executive Committee**
  - Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 28 - 7:00 pm, March (date & location TBA)
  - Contact: Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Joint Action Committee**
  - Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 28 - 7:00 pm, Conservation, legislative, political and population.
  - Contact: Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

### Southwind Group
**Wichita**
- **Executive Committee**
  - Dec 5, Jan 2 - 6:00 pm, 2935 S. Seneca, Wichita. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Conservation Committee**
  - Dabe TBA - 6:00 pm, 2935 S. Seneca, Wichita. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

### Wakarusa Group
**Lawrence**
- **Executive Committee**
  - 1st Sunday of month, 7:00 pm, Location TBA. Mike Campbell, (785) 542-3885, mike.campbell@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Conservation Committee**
  - Contact Carey Maynard-Moody, (785) 841-9594, careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org

### Kansas Chapter: (State), Executive Committee, March (date & location TBA)
**Bill Griffith, (913) 772-8960, bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org**

## more outings

**Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org**

We’ll whack down some of the invasive honeysuckle that threatens the lovely native spring wildflowers. Hidden Valley Natural Area. Kanza. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org

[1] **May 7. GPS 101, Shawnee Mission Park, Lenexa, KS.**
Basic instruction on how to use GPS. Shawnee Mission Park. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org or Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Designated as our nation’s first National Scenic River. We will haul all gear with us and spend one night along the river. Signup and $ deposit by April 22. Buffalo National Scenic River. Kanza. Melody Gross, (816) 985-2364, melody.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

Celebrate National Trails Day by hiking this short but rugged trail with its namesake, Bill Eddy. National Trails Day, Eddy Ballentine Trail (Blue River Glades). Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Join us on an easy 25-mile ride through rolling hills from Blue Springs. A return shuttle for riders and bikes will be provided. Powell Gardens. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

Day hiking on trails in the park, sight seeing or just take it easy. Ha-Ha-Tonka State Park. Kanza. Ginger Kohler, 660-886-8870, gingerk@missouri.sierraclub.org

[1] **June 18. Overland Park Arboretum, Overland Park, KS.**
We’ll tour the diverse offerings of the arboretum, such as its walking trails, woodland gardens, environmental education center, and children’s discovery garden. This is a great family activity. Overland Park Arboretum. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 599-6028, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org
Calendar of Events

Summary of all Kansas Chapter Events

Below is a listing of all General Meetings (GM), Outings (Out), and Committee Meetings (CM) for the Kansas Chapter and Groups. For specific information, see General Meetings page 21, Outings page 22, and Committee Meetings page 23. For the latest update on events, go to www.kansas.sierraclub.org/EventsSearch.htm.

Out Feb 5, Backpacking 101, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

CM Feb 6, 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting, Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

GM Feb 11, 7:30 pm. Southwind's General Meeting – To Be Announced. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Feb 12, Mill Creek Streamway Park Trail, Johnson Co., KS. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Feb 13, Hidden Valley Preservation, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org

Out Feb 19-20, Backpacking 101 Lab, Hercules Glades Wilderness, Hilda, MO. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Out Feb 22, 7:00 pm. Potluck Letter Writing Party, Wakarusa. Mike Campbell (785) 542-3885, mike.campbell@kansas.sierraclub.org

CM Feb 24, 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee, Kanza. Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

CM Feb 24, 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting.. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Mar 5, Day Hike at the Prairie Center, Olathe, KS. Kanza. Anne McDonald, (913) 384-6645, anne.mcdonald@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Mar 6, Hidden Valley Preservation, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org

CM Mar 6, 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting, Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

GM Mar 8, 7:00 pm. Legislative Update and Wind Opportunities. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Mar 10-13, Backpacking on the Ozark Highlands Trail, Section 3, Cass, AR. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645; bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org

GM Mar 11, 7:30 pm. Southwind's General Meeting – To Be Announced.

Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Mar 19, Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 599-6028, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

CM Mar 24, 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee, Kanza. Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

CM Mar 24, 10:00 am. Kanza ExCom meeting.. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Apr 2, Wild Edible Class along Little Blue Trail, Independence, MO. Kanza. Patty Brown, 816-737-2804

Out Apr 15-17, Car Camping at Blanchard Springs State Park, Mountain View, AR. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org or Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Out Apr 24, Blue & Gray Trail Dayhike, Lees Summit, MO. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 599-6028, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

CM Apr 28, 10:00 am. Conservation and Joint Action Committee, Kanza. Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

CM Apr 28, 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting.. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Apr 30, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Strong City, KS. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out May 1, Hidden Valley Preservation, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org

Out May 7, GPS 101, Shawnee Mission Park, Lenexa, KS. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org or Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Out May 14-15, Buffalo River Float Trip, Jasper, AR. Kanza. Melody Gross, (816) 985-2364, melody.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

Out May 21, Maifest, Hermann, MO. Kanza. Ginger Kohler, 660-886-8870, gingerk@missouri.sierraclub.org

Out June 4, National Trails Day: Eddy-Ballentine Trail, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org