2005 Kansas Legislative Update
By Charles Benjamin, Legislative Coordinator

Setting the Chapter’s Legislative Priorities: The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club, primarily through its Legislative Committee (LegCom), sets the legislative priorities and goals of the Chapter in consultation with the Chapter’s legislative liaison, Charles Benjamin. This legislative update is not a compendium of all legislation, affecting the Kansas environment introduced during the 2005 Kansas legislative session. Instead, it focuses on specific legislation that the Chapter LegCom has decided it wants to promote or to defeat in order to further the conservation goals of the Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club. The LegCom also sends out legislative alerts to the “Tree”. The Tree is the Legislative Action Tree comprised of Sierra Club member volunteers who are willing to call their legislators in time of need. The following describes general legislative conservation goals of the Chapter and specific pieces of legislation dealing with those goals, as of the time of this writing, March 11, 2005.

Energy Efficiency: The Chapter is strongly committed to more efficient uses of existing energy resources, no matter where they are used. See Legislative on page 4

Quarry + Parkland + Creek ≠ Compatibility
By Penny Seavertson and Elaine Giessel

Johnson County residents enjoy high quality of life amenities. Johnson County recently was ranked seventh in the nation in a quality of life analysis because of the excellent park system and visions for the future. Kill Creek Nature Park, the future Kill Creek Streamway Trails and the proposed redevelopment for Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant are critical for sustaining the quality of life for the Northwest part of Johnson County as well as other Kansans. The Hunt Martin Materials LLC (formerly Hunt/Midwest Sunflower Quarry) operation is in the center of this major public parkland and future green space plans for the Northwest area of Johnson County, and it is not compatible with the surrounding area.

The Hunt Martin Quarry is not compatible because it is

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NOTE: because of security measures, mail sent to DC offices may take longer than usual to arrive.
The Tragedy of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge
Editorial by Craig Wolfe, Communications Chair

Last week, the U.S. Senate voted to add Arctic Refuge oil-lease revenues to the Federal Budget Resolution, thus limiting debate and beginning the process to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or ANWR. Certainly, ANWR represents one of the most sacred cows for the environmental movement. Our National Sierra Club Website describes it as follows...

“The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of America's greatest natural treasures. The 19 million-acre Refuge harbors an unparalleled diversity of wildlife. Encompassing an entire mountain range cross-section, it is the last place in North America where the full spectrum of arctic life is protected in one seamless expanse. Nestled between the Brooks Mountain Range and the shores of the Beaufort Sea in remote northeast Alaska, the narrow 1.5 million-acre coastal plain of the Refuge is the biological heart of this untamed wilderness.”

It is this coastal plain that is threatened by drilling. The tragedy lies in the lack of leadership given to us by the administration and our current leaders. The tragedy is our lack of perspective of our place and responsibility on this planet. The tragedy may well be that this example of the priorities we choose for ourselves will represent why our species will ultimately fail the test for survival on this little petri dish called Earth.

We, as members of the Sierra Club and as citizens of the United States, must show our outrage as the Bush administration poorly and blindly leads us into our energy future. Rather than provide a strategy that recognizes the obvious limitations that fossil fuels provide, that pursues solutions for new and renewable sources of energy, and that encourages conservation, Bush leads us down a tired strategy that only recognizes oil as our savior at the expense of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

We, as members of the Sierra Club and as citizens of our planet, must begin now to recognize that the path to a secure energy future begins with the daily choices we make. Who we vote for, what we buy, and when we loudly raise our voices will determine the future. If we fail now, we run the risk of a tragedy of enormous proportions for our children's children. The future is not a guarantee for them. The Earth is our well. We have only this one well to drink from.

So, will you and I let this choice stand? Will our choice be to let this symbol of nature and God's earth be swapped for barrels of oil? If so, we may be choosing the future of a failed species, guided by greed and blind to the small choices that can accumulate to a failed design.

To choose something different, go to: www.sierraclub.org/wildlands/arctic/index.asp

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The authority would be governed by a seven-member board of directors, five of whom are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate and two of whom are the chairs of the House and Senate utilities committees. The transmission authority would be authorized to construct transmission lines in places where there is demand for such lines but the electric public utilities cannot or will not build them. The authority would work with the Kansas development finance authority to seek bonding for such lines. The bonds would be paid off by the proceeds received by the authority from those seeking access to such lines.

S.B. 280 provides for a $.013 state tax credit per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated by wind, biomass, solar, hydro or geothermal sources – only if and when the current $.18 federal tax credit expires after 12/31/05. S.B. 280 also enacts a $.005 tax credit for each kilowatt-hour of electricity generated by “community wind energy facilities” (with a rated production capacity of between 1 and 30 megawatts) - with or without renewal of federal tax credits. Neither of these state tax credits would be available for any renewable energy facilities located in the “Heart of the Flint Hills” – an area bounded on the north by U.S. 24, on the east by K-99 and K-4, and on the west by K-77 – thus serving as a disincentive for large scale wind turbine projects in this region of the state.

State and local park funding and expansion. The Chapter is strongly committed to public policy that adequately funds and expands state and local parks. S.B. 87 and H.B. 2226 focus on state and local parks funding and expansion.

S.B. 87 provides for a $4 “outdoor recreation fee” on vehicle registrations with $3.20 dedicated to the state park fund and $.80 dedicated to the “local government outdoor recreation grant program fund” with both funds housed with and disbursed by the state treasurer. All funding for state parks from the state general fund would end, as would park entrance fees for Kansans, and all vehicles with a Kansas tag would be allowed free access to state parks.

H.B. 2226 would put serious obstacles to state acquisition of more park land, by willing sellers of land, by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP). The original bill, opposed by KDWP and Sierra Club, would have required KDWP to seek the permission of county commissioners, subject to a local referendum, and state legislative approval, for acquisition of any future state park land, no matter what size. An amended version of H.B. 2226 required state legislative approval of any state park acquisition greater than 480 acres, but eliminated the requirement of county commission approval subject to a local referendum. This version of the bill, while less onerous than the original, is still opposed by KDWP and Sierra Club because it unnecessarily politicizes park acquisition. Sierra Club opposed H.B. 2226.
Quarry, continued from cover

located right next to a huge nature park, land designated for parkland, streamway trails, low density residential development, and Kill Creek. Area residents have taken major steps to stop the quarry’s destruction of the landscape. They have had many successes and are determined to be successful in stopping the quarry. The battle has been waged for 15 years and the end is in sight. The quarry application for a Conditional Use Permit will be decided by June 2005.

This is a complex issue with a long history. Some background information is needed to understand the reasons for the strong opposition to the quarry.

- Hunt Quarry (HQ) did not adequately notify surrounding neighbors about their application for a conditional use permit (CUP) in 1989. Neighbors within 1000 feet of the property line were supposed to be notified, but HQ defined the quarry property line as inside the land they were leasing. Therefore, very few neighbors were qualified for notification. Due to this process, HQ received a 10-year CUP from the county. The CUP was from January 1991 to January 2001.
- In 1990, the residents formed the Sunflower Neighbors Group (SNG) made up of people who lived near the quarry. The group soon grew to include many people outside of the De Soto area because of the empty promises of this quarry business. Residents were feeling the air borne vibrations in their homes, startled by the blasting, bothered by the dust, hearing the noise from the rock crushing equipment, and seeing the increased heavy duty truck traffic. In addition, families joined the group because the quarry borders the Kill Creek Nature Park on the south, Kill Creek (which flows into the Kansas River that is a source of drinking water) on the west, and Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant (where approximately 2000 acres of parkland will be transferred to Johnson County Parks and Recreation) on the west.
- SNG was prepared to oppose the quarry’s continued operation when the CUP expired in 2001. From 2001 to 2003, SNG members fought the quarry in Johnson County District Court and in the KS Supreme Court. SNG won all three times in court with the KS Supreme court’s final ruling indicating that HQ has no vested right to quarry. This occurred in 2003. HQ has had no permit to operate since Jan. 2001, but the quarry has continued to blast and conduct business every day.
- In 2003 the District Court judge ruled the quarry is subject to the Johnson County regulations which require a conditional use permit to operate a quarry. HQ refused to cease operations. Since Nov. 2003, the county codes department has been citing HQ, Monday through Friday, for operating without a conditional use permit, and since January 2004 for blasting without a blasting permit. It doesn’t receive tickets on Saturdays and Sundays even though it is open and operating because the county doesn’t have a codes officer to issue the tickets on the weekend. Each day that the quarry continues its illegal operation, more of the natural landscape is being destroyed and the pit is growing larger and larger.
- In June and July of 2004, the application for a conditional use permit went to the county zoning board. The vote was 4-1 to deny the conditional use permit.
- The quarry has destroyed over 125 acres of natural habitat for wildlife. The barren 125 acre pit over 100 feet deep has drastically and permanently changed the natural contour of the landscape. Within the quarry site are forest, wetlands/stream, and grassland/ prairie.
- The current application is to expand the pit by another 179 acres bringing it closer

### Before

![Before Image](image1)

### After

![After Image](image2)

Photo on left shows pre-quarry (1990) view looking south, while the photo on the right (2005) shows view looking east. The quarry has destroyed 125+ acres and is applying to expand the quarry operation to 179 more acres. Complete photo gallery of quarry is at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/alerts/quarryphotos.htm

See Quarry on page 6

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to Kill Creek Nature Park. The quarry Vice President has stated that the quarry would consider mining within 100 feet of the property lines.

- HQ has a permit to remove up to 7.5 million gallons of water from Kill Creek. To remove this volume of water, a gravel ramp to the base of the creek was built. This ramp destroyed the natural beauty of that portion of the creek. The water removed from Kill Creek is used to wash down dusty trucks, roads, machinery, and rock stockpiles. Then, the water containing sediment and silt has been observed going back into Kill Creek which may be creating problems for aquatic species in the creek.

- Although HQ was required to reclaim the land during its first 10 year conditional use permit; almost no reclamation was completed before January 2001 when the CUP expired. Currently, only 11 acres have been reclaimed. Rather than restore the land to its original environment, the quarry provided only enough top soil to grow grass in the pit.

- Much of the quarry land is adjacent to Kill Creek. This beautiful creek meanders northward through two well defined valleys with numerous tributaries as it moves towards the Kansas River approximately three miles from the quarry site.

Local and state Sierra Club representatives have expressed opposition to the mining activities at the quarry, primarily because quarry operations are not compatible with the anticipated use of the adjacent area as an integral part of the proposed Johnson County Streamway Park and Trail system. Sierra Club spokespersons have expressed concerns at public meetings about the negative impacts of the quarry on the health of Kill Creek and the wildlife habitats it supports.

Several aerial pictures show the land before the quarry began operation and views of different areas of the quarry. These pictures are at the Sierra Club website www.kansas.sierraclub.org/alerts/quarryphotos.htm. The picture taken in 1990 before the quarry began should be compared to the eleven pictures taken in February 2005 that show the destructive, unsustainable nature of the quarry operation and demonstrate the quarry operator's lack of respect and appreciation for the natural environment.

The development of the streamway park between the trailhead south of De Soto and Kill Creek Park will offer Johnson County citizens a unique opportunity to transit several miles of trails along the wooded riparian zones of the creek and through restored tall grass prairie habitats. But, if the Sunflower Quarry is allowed to operate, and to expand to the north and south as proposed, almost two (2) miles of the new trail will be situated within approximately twenty (20) yards of the western quarry property line. There is virtually no setback of quarry operations from this property line. See picture #7.

The quarry is clearly visible from the west banks of Kill Creek where the trail will be located. Hikers and bikers will have to cope with disturbing levels of noise from quarry activities, including blasting in the pit, crushing of rock, loading and stockpiling of materials within the operations area, and transporting of products by trucks on the haul road. Air quality along the trail will be compromised by dust from quarry operations and from the haul trucks; the proposed asphalt plant is likely to add noxious odors. Since the planned streamway park is between Kill Creek and the haul road, there are also serious safety issues for trail users, particularly where the pathway will cross the road near the quarry entrance. See picture #2.

The aerial photos provided at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/alerts/quarryphotos.htm indicate that quarried materials have not been controlled adequately and are washing into Kill Creek at the haul road bridge and at the ramp at the southern end of the working area. See picture #9.

Observations of Kill Creek some distance upstream of the quarry within the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, as well as along the property line both above and below the quarry, and at the 95th street streamway park...
What Ever Happened to Senate Bill 204?

In 2001, the issue of when is a stream not a stream in Kansas came to the fore as a result of the state's obligation to provide the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with a list of designated uses for its streams. Once a stream is classified as a stream, its uses can be designated. After the uses for a stream are designated, then it can be determined whether the stream meets those uses.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), charged with carrying out provisions of the Clean Water Act, initially worked from a topographical map to identify streams and assign uses. The kicker is that once a use is designated with or without on-the-ground verification, it can't be removed without a formal Use Attainability Analysis (UAA).

When landowners learned that the intermittent draw that crossed their land had been designated for recreational use (suitable for fishing and swimming), they rallied to push legislation that would define a stream. It made no sense to them that the swales and gullies in and along their fields or rangeland that they'd farmed or grazed for years would be considered a stream.

Environmental interests, led by the Kansas Sierra Club, and the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners will conduct the last two meetings on this important issue some time between April and the end of June. Help the effort that began in 1989 to protect the peaceful environment of the creek, parks, and trails by checking the website and attending these two critical meetings!
SB 204, continued from page 7

contended that what happens in an upstream drainage affects downstream uses. Even the secretaries of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department of Agriculture became embroiled in the issue.

The upshot, passage of Substitute for Senate Bill 204 by the Kansas Legislature defined classified stream segments. It did not address lakes or wetlands. Under the law, KDHE is to review all stream segments listed on the 1999 Kansas Surface Water Register which do not meet the law’s definition of a classified stream segment prior to December 31, 2005. Classified stream segments under SB204 (K.S.A. 82a-2001 et. seq.) are explained below.

Classified stream segments under KSA 82a-2001 et. seq. must meet one of five requirements to be a classified stream. They are:

• Stream segments indicated on the Environmental Protection Agency’s Reach File 1 (RF1 promulgated in 1982) and have the most recent 10-year median flow of equal to or in excess of 1 cubic foot per second (cfs). A cubic foot per second equals 450 gallons per minute. The U.S. Geological Survey, under contract with KDHE, completed on Dec. 31, 2002 the study and modeling to determine which streams met the 1 cfs or greater flow threshold.

• Stream segments not indicated on EPA’s RF1 and have the most recent 10-year median flow of equal to or in excess of 1 cfs.

• Stream segments actually inhabited by threatened or endangered aquatic species

• Stream segments at the point of discharge and downstream from such point where the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

• A stream shall be classified if scientific studies conducted by KDHE show that stream segments provide important refuges for aquatic life during periods of flow of less than one cfs. If aquatic life is present, then a cost/benefit analysis needs to be conducted. For a stream to be classified under this criterion, the cost/benefit analysis must show that the benefits of classifying the stream

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Current Status

Stream exploration conjures images of warm spring days and relaxation for most of us. For the Bureau of Environmental Field Services of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, stream exploration, or assessment, is work. Their work will assess which waterways qualify as streams and the statutory uses they meet.

In 2001, the job began to assess whether the state’s 2,232 stream segments and 365 lakes, wetlands, wildlife areas and ponds met the seven designated uses defined in the Kansas Surface Water Quality Standards (K.A.R. 28-16-28d (b) or K.S.A. 82a-2001). All of the water bodies are listed in the Kansas Surface Water Register.

Recreation was the first designated use to be evaluated by the Bureau of Environmental Field Services using the Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) process. Both primary and secondary contact recreation were addressed. The distinction between the two relates to the degree of contact with the water. Swimming would be considered primary contact; wading, secondary contact. Amendments to the law in 2003 also sub-categorized recreation by degree of accessibility, creating three categories of primary recreation and two for secondary recreation.

Stream recreational UAA surveys are conducted from county road bridges. Digital photos are made both upstream and downstream of the survey site. The length, width and depth of aquatic habitats are measured. In addition, the survey team notes an estimate of the type of flow, the type of substrate (rock, sand or mud bottom), the type of stream (perennial, intermittent or ephemeral) and any aquatic life present. Any recreational uses at the survey site and water quality impacts are posted. Assessment of accessibility also is made.

UAAs have been completed and approved on 480 stream segments. Approval is pending on 427 stream segment UAAs completed in 2003 and 537 completed in 2004. Stream recreational UAAs are to be completed on 560 streams by the statutory deadline of Dec. 31, 2005. For all changes to be effective, the UAAs and Kansas Surface Water Register changes (deletion of stream segments; changes in recreation status) have to go through a public notice and hearing process. They also have to be approved by the EPA as detailed in the Clean Water Act and federal regulations.

The next step, to conduct UAAs on all other designated uses, must be completed by Dec. 31, 2007.

The designated uses in addition to recreation are:
- Aquatic life support use
- Agriculture water supply use
- Domestic water supply use
- Industrial water supply use
- Food procurement use
- Groundwater recharge use

For additional information, contact Craig Thompson, KDHE’s Bureau of Environmental Field Services, Topeka. His e-mail address is cthompson@kdhe.state.ks.us or call (785) 296-5569. Additional information may be found at www.kdhe.state.ks.us/befs/resources_publications.html.
Volunteer for the 35th Anniversary of Earth Day!

**KC will Celebrate April 23rd**

In the Kansas City area, the annual Earth Day celebration will be held on April 23rd at the Theater-in-the-Park in the northeast corner of Shawnee Mission Park, 7710 Renner Road, Shawnee, KS. The event is being sponsored by Bridging the Gap, Johnson County Parks and Recreation District, and Friends for Parks and Recreation. All of Kansas City is invited! For details on this event, go online to: http://www.bridgingthegap.org/earthdayMain.htm .

**Participate in the KC Earth Walk**

The annual Kansas City EarthWalk will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the park, with on-site registration from 7:30 to 9:00. The course length is 2.6 miles. Entry fees vary (child $7, adult $13, family $33), and t-shirts are available. EarthWalk proceeds stay in Kansas City to support Bridging The Gap programs— including recycling, area cleanup and beautification efforts, environmental education programs for youth, environmental consulting for small businesses and much more. Participants can make an even greater difference and win prizes by raising pledges; team participation by organizations is also encouraged. A food tent will be provided for participants from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Online registration opens Feb. 1 and closes at midnight on April 17; registration packets can be picked up at Wild Oats, 5101 Johnson Drive from noon to 7 p.m., April 21. Go to http://www.bridgingthegap.org/earthDay/earthWalk.asp for details or contact Leslie Barland , 816 561 1061, ext. 128 or leslie@bridgingthegap.org.

**Volunteers Needed for EarthFest!**

Come celebrate family, fun and our planet with the first ever regional Kansas City EarthFest from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Shawnee Mission Park, following the EarthWalk. EarthFest will feature live entertainment, games, crafts and activities for kids of all ages (and adults, too).

The Kanza Group of Sierra Club will be a participant at this event, and we need your help to staff our table. All Sierra Club public education materials will be provided, but we need volunteers of all ages to facilitate simple hands-on activities for kids and adults. Volunteers will work in shifts so we all can enjoy the other EarthFest activities. Even if you can’t assist, be sure to stop by our table and introduce yourself as a Sierra Club member!

To volunteer at the Kanza Group table, please contact Elaine Giessel at elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org or call 913-888-8517.

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**Old Goat to Lead Southwind Outing**

I think I bought the poorest farm in the state, and I love it. It won’t grow much, so the former owner raised goats on it, because they will eat thorns, burrs and tree bark. The county named the road that leads up to my mail box, “Old Goat Ranch Road.” Its 200 acres of weeds, cockle burrs, deep forest, 40 feet high sand dunes, and a mile of riverfront on the Arkansas River. I have no animals except a motley assortment of white tail deer, turkeys, coyotes, armadillos, hawks and bald eagles. Of course we are visited by pelicans, cormorants geese, etc.

The “old goat” has agreed to lead overnight hikes March 12-13, May 7-8, and June 25-26. He requests R.S.V.P. and arrival time is set for 11:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. He is also leading a canoe trip from the river landing to destinations (overnight or not) to be determined later based on river depth on date of departure on May 14, June 18, July 16, August 20, and September 17. R.S.V.P. is required (limited boats available for rent.) All these outings are around the full moon. The Goat Ranch is 20 minutes south of Wichita. We will retrace the route of the Indians who took furs down river to the new French fur trading fort name Fernandina in 1719 after Queen Ann’s war. The American mountain men would follow a century later after the 1815 war.

I hope Sierrans will join us almost 200 years later – that is in the summer of 2005. We will explore, protect and enjoy the Arkansas River.

Please call Bill Cather – 316-522-4741
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Apr/May 2005
Environmental Justice Report: EPA Hosts An Hispanic Stakeholders Forum In The Heartland

On February 11, 1994, President Bill Clinton signed Executive Order # 12898, specifying “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.”

For the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

More than 10 years after Clinton signed the EJ Executive Order, low income neighborhoods and communities of color still bear disproportionate environmental burdens in our society. These communities are more frequently chosen as sites for polluting facilities such as oil refineries, chemical plants, landfills and incinerators over wealthier, predominantly white communities that have more political power and demonstrated organizing abilities. Low income families often can only afford housing in areas where poor air quality, both indoors and out, exacerbates asthma symptoms. Pre-1978 homes may also endanger children by exposing them to lead paint. And, occupations in agricultural and horticultural industries pose risk of exposure to hazardous pesticides and herbicides.

The Board of Directors of the Sierra Club recognizes that to achieve our mission of environmental protection and a sustainable future for the planet, we must attain social justice and human rights at home and around the globe. There is a national EJ Committee and a network of EJ activists nationwide. In recognition of our efforts to address EJ issues, a link to Sierra Club is posted on the EPA Human Resources Hispanic Outreach Strategy web site.

Elaine Giessel, EJ chair for the Kansas Chapter recently attended an Hispanic Stakeholders Forum and Training Session sponsored by the EPA in Kansas City. EPA introduced its National Hispanic Outreach Strategy (NHOS) in 1999, to “strengthen its relationship with Hispanic Americans and better serve the nation’s growing Latino community.” Initially, there were four NHOS strategy elements or “pillars”: Employment and Professional Advancement, Education Pipeline, Economic Opportunities, and Community Partnerships. A fifth component has been added recently to assess results of the program.

While EPA’s NHOS largely concentrates on economic and employment issues in the Hispanic community, there are goals to facilitate access to environmental information and to improve the delivery of programs and services of particular importance to Hispanics.

EPA has done a laudable job developing Spanish language environmental materials and making them available online at a special Spanish “portal.” The range of topics covered is impressive. In addition, the Office of Solid Waste has created several educational packets in Spanish directed at school-aged children. These resource materials should be of great use to Sierra Club activists working in Hispanic communities.

Hispanics are the fastest growing ethnic group in Kansas, but environmental concerns within our Hispanic communities, in both rural and urban areas, are just beginning to be explored.

El Centro, a Kansas City area organization that provides social services to Latino immigrants, does not include environmental issues in the programs developed to assist local Hispanics.

There is an urgent need and an opportunity for Sierra Club activists to engage with EPA and other local Hispanic resource centers to raise environmental awareness. It is critical that we use our expertise to assist in identifying issues of concern, and to help communities develop solutions.

If you are interested in working on EJ issues in Kansas, contact Elaine Giessel at elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org.

More resources:
EPA’s Spanish Language Portal http://www.epa.gov/espanol/
EPA’s National Hispanic Outreach Strategy (http://www.epa.gov/ohr/hispanicoutreach/strategy.html)
Cafta Fails The Test On Environment
Craig Volland, Trade Chair

The Central American Free Trade Agreement is an expansion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to include Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. It was signed in May, 2004 and soon will be up for a vote in Congress.

CAFTA will have a negative impact on the environment of Central America and, indirectly, on us as well. Central America includes only one percent of the world’s land area but has 8% of all the planet’s biodiversity. Three out of four migratory bird routes in the Western Hemisphere pass through CAFTA countries. Even US Trade negotiators admitted that CAFTA could contribute to the loss of migratory bird habitat through investments in the agricultural sector.

NAFTA restructured the agricultural sector of Mexico, and the subsequent dumping of subsidized corn from the US drove 1.5 million small farmers off their land. These people either migrated to the US or were forced to clear trees for fuel. Since the implementation of NAFTA the rate of deforestation in Mexico has almost doubled.

CAFTA provides for fines if countries do not enforce their laws, but only after a vague, cumbersome, process. Some CAFTA countries essentially have no laws to enforce anyway, nor the resources to do so. The Bush administration, in February, announced an “Environmental Cooperation Agreement” in a transparent attempt to cool the opposition. The Clinton Administration did exactly the same thing with “environmental side accords” to help pass NAFTA. One need only assess the poor record of NAFTA to understand that this new accord is also just window dressing.

In any event, CAFTA includes “investor rights” rules, like NAFTA’s infamous Chapter 11, which allow corporations to sue countries for cash damages for any perceived loss of profits from any law or measure that interferes with their operations. Since Central American countries are small and poor, it’s unlikely that US laws will be threatened by CAFTA. Rather US corporations will move into Central America to extract minerals, cut forests and develop the pristine coastlines in the region.

Please Ask Your Congressional Reps To Vote No On Cafta

The Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) is expected to come up for a vote as soon as the Republican leadership in Congress thinks they have the votes. So it’s important for you to contact your congressional representatives now and ask them to oppose CAFTA. A sample letter is provided below. To read the Club’s CAFTA Fact Sheets, log on to the national Sierra Club website at www.sierraclub.org/trade. Email: hartwood2@mindspring.com

SAMPLE LETTER

Rep/Sen.,
Washington, D. C. 20515

Subject: Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)

Dear ______________________

I am opposed to the U.S.- Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). CAFTA is based on the failed NAFTA model and is a step in the wrong direction. CAFTA’s rules would undermine U.S. and Central American environmental standards by allowing foreign investors to challenge environmental and public health laws before international tribunals, bypassing domestic courts. For developing Central American countries, the simple threat of costly investor challenges could freeze adoption of environmental standards.

Central America faces daunting environmental challenges that jeopardize the region’s capacity for sustainable development. CAFTA’s rules do not ensure that environmental protection in Central America will be improved or even maintained in a meaningful way. These flaws are particularly critical for a region with such a bright future for eco-tourism. Many Americans have enjoyed the phenomenal biodiversity and beauty of the region’s parks, preserves and coastline.

Trade agreements should support, not undermine environmental protection, human rights and labor standards. Regrettably CAFTA, and the recently announced “Environmental Cooperation Agreement,” fail this test. I urge you to oppose this agreement when it comes to a vote.

Sincerely

Your Name
Endorsements for Lawrence Elections
By Mike Campbell, Wakarusa Group Chair

The Wakarusa Group has endorsed three candidates for this spring’s Lawrence City Commission race. The endorsees are, Tom Bracciano, Jim Carpenter, and David Schauner. Schauner is an incumbent, while the other two are first-time candidates. Campaigns can always use volunteers to stuff envelopes, distribute literature, and put up yard signs. We encourage you to contact one or more of these candidates and offer them help. You can contact them at:

- Tom Bracciano: 841-8354, www.tomforcom.com
- Jim Carpenter: http://www.jamescarpenter.org/
- David Schauner: dschauner@sunflower.com

To make our endorsements, we sent questionnaires to all nine candidates running for the three contested seats. The questionnaires had four questions:

1) Do you support extending the South Lawrence Trafficway through the Haskell/Baker wetlands?
2) Mass transit is any important part of the public infrastructure, much like streets, and schools. Like streets and schools, mass transit is not self-supporting. Do you support continued funding of the T [Lawrence’s city bus system] by the city? Would you support efforts to merge the T with KU’s bus system?
3) As Lawrence grows, it continually absorbs and develops surrounding open space including farmland and areas of floodplain. Would you support development of a green belt around the city to reduce flooding, protect valuable farmland, and ensure open space for the public?
4) Low-density, car-dependent developments require lots of government subsidies in the form of taxpayer-supported infrastructure like streets and sewers. What steps would you take to limit sprawl and its associated costs?

To get our support, candidates had to oppose the destruction of the Haskell/Baker wetlands, support the T, support green space, and be willing to work to limit sprawl – no surprise there. We also evaluated the quality of the answers. We wanted to see if the answers indicated a familiarity with the topics and reflected a genuine concern for the topic, or if they were general and vague.

We posted the answer from the three endorse candidates on our website. You can see them at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/endorsements.htm. If you would like to see the answers from the other candidates, please contact Mike Campbell at (785)542-3885 or mike.campbell@kansas.sierraclub.org. In addition to Bracciano, Carpenter, and Schauner, we got answers from Mike Amyx, Sue Hack, and David Holroyd. We did not hear from Mike Grieb, Doug Holiday, or Greg Robinson.

All three of our candidates won on the 1 March primary and advanced to the general election on 5 April. The top three vote getters in that election will take office. The top two will get four-year terms and the third-place candidate will get a two-year term.
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- Discover something for everyone from the outdoor enthusiast to the environmentally-conscious consumer
- Exchange ideas with like-minded folks and top-flight keynote speakers
- Enjoy four days of fun, entertainment and personal inspiration

For registration and up-to-date information, visit www.sierrasummit2005.org
For information on exhibiting or sponsoring, contact Noreen Burke, Exhibit Manager, at 812-541-0567 or email info@evongo.com

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Humans have a choice when it comes to protecting the land. Nature doesn’t.

Join us!
Sierra Club Southwind Group’s April’s General Meeting

Tour of the Water Center

Speakers:

Vaughn Weaver
Title - "Biomonitoring"
City of Wichita Environmental Water Quality Specialist
BS. Sterling College, MS Wichita State University

Becky Gagnon
Title - "Arkansas River: Restore, Protect & Enjoy"
City of Wichita, Pretreatment Administrator
BS Wichita State University
Member of Kansas Water Environment Association

Joe Botinelly
Title - "Lift Stations and Cross Connections"
City of Wichita Sewer Maintenance Superintendent, formerly Water Distribution Superintendent Member of the Lower Arkansas Basin Advisory Committee
Member of the technical support group for the Ark River Task Force
Member of Water Environment Association and its Kansas chapter the Kansas Water Environment Association

Libby Albers
Title - "River Ambassadors"
City of Wichita, Department of Environmental Health, WATER Center
BA, Kansas Newman College, BA Wichita State University

Location: We will meet at the Water Center, Herman Hill Park, 101 E. Pawnee, Wichita.

Date: Friday, April 8, 2005

Time: 7:00 pm

Pizza and pop will be available from 6:30 to 7:00 pm.

For more information Contact:
Sierra Club Southwind Group Office
Phone: (316) 522-4741
Email: bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Activist Outings Update
Vicky Hoover, National Activist Outing Chair

As spring days grow longer, our thoughts turn toward outings into the wilds! This year, why not select a Sierra Club national activist outing?

What’s an activist outing? An intriguing Club trip that takes you to a special place that needs protection or otherwise deserves your attention and help. And while you’re enjoying a memorable outdoor experience in a scenic location, you’re learning how you can become a leader in the campaign to keep the area wild.

Why an activist outing? As a Sierra Club member, you are eager to do more than just travel: to blend your wildlands enjoyment with advocacy for the magnificent place you are visiting. Activist trips make it easy and also help you defend America’s wild heritage against the sinister attacks of the Bush Administration. Activist outings will empower you.

In 2005, the Sierra Club proudly presents five national activist outings—from May to September: choose from Maine, Nevada, Idaho, Alaska, or Utah.

May 20-28: Protecting the Owyhee Canyonlands of Nevada, Oregon, and Idaho: Three States and One Treasure. The little-known desert uplands and deep, sheer canyons where Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada intersect boast spectacular scenery, dramatic geology, and immensely varied biology. Hike, camp, travel by van, and explore ways to help gain permanent wilderness protection for this breathtaking, incomparable wide-open country. Leader: Craig Deutsche. Price: $625. [05035A]

July 14-25: Rafting the Wild Rivers of Alaska: A Journey Through the Wrangell, St. Elias, and Chugach Mountains. Rafting the mighty Copper River, surrounded by lofty peaks and massive glaciers, is a world-class adventure. Float 150 miles as the rushing Kennicott, Nizina, and Chitina Rivers lead into the Copper and toward the sea. Draw inspiration from this remote wilderness while learning how to defend roadless Alaska. Enjoy time for hiking, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Minimum age: 16. Leader: Cristina Breen. Price: $2,495. [05036A]

July 16-24: Protecting Wild Nevada. Mountain streams, lush meadows, and 11,000-foot snowy peaks in Nevada? Yes, you’ll drive across this little-known and less-traveled state to its eastern edge to day hike in a variety of astounding wild areas. Stay mostly in U.S. Forest Service campgrounds. The Schell Creek Range and Mt. Moriah are just the start; there’s more. Nevada has more potential wilderness than any other state. Leaders: Cal and Letty French. Price: $595 [05101A]

July 17-23: Vision for the Maine Woods: restoring Valuable Wilderness. Maine activists are working to create wilderness areas in a once-primeval forest now largely privately-owned. Learn more about this major long-range campaign as you canoe four days on the idyllic west branch of the Penobscot River [once explored by Thoreau] and camp one night at Lily Bay State Park. Climb Mt. Kineo, with views of Moosehead Lake. Canoes provided. Leaders: Joan and Barry Saxe. Price $475. [05102A]

September 17-24: Utah’s Wild West Desert. Virtually unknown compared to red rock country, western Utah offers compelling Great Basin mountain ranges and endless, sweeping landscapes. Car camping by van, explore on day hikes and one overnight backpack. Enjoy scenic peak climbs in the majestic Deep Creek and House Ranges, plus shorter visits to less-known but equally wild mountain areas, all part of Utah’s Citizens’ Wilderness proposal. Leader: Vicky Hoover. Price $525. [05103A]

These remarkable adventures will give participants a clear picture of the serious attacks on our wild lands by the Bush Administration.

For more information, contact Vicky Hoover at (415) 977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. Ask about partial scholarships for applicants for whom cost is a deterrent. Some Chapters may be able to help if you become an official Chapter representative. For a trip brochure and application form, call the Sierra Club Outing Department’s 24-hour voicemail at (415) 977-5522, or visit www.sierraclub.org/outings.
Join the Kanza Group of the Sierra Club

35th Celebration of Earth Day
Saturday • April 16 • 7–10 p.m.
7200 Eby Drive, Georgetown Apt. Clubhouse, Merriam
off I-35, east on 75th to Frontage Rd., 4 blocks North to Eby

気軽に Dennis Moore
Special Guest
Silent Auction
get some great bargains

Environmental Awards

$15 Admission
snacks & beverages, door prizes

Raffle for GPS TIMES $3/each or four/$10
GARMIN eTrex Personal Navigator
donated by Garmin Int'l.

Need not be present to win. If you cannot attend but would like to purchase raffle tickets,
email maryarps@sbcglobal.net.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY! EARN FREE ADMISSION!

The Kanza Group is very much in need of volunteers to assist
with this Earth Day event, our only annual fundraiser.

Volunteers will earn free admission
in exchange for 1-2 hours of service

Your help is needed for...
parking assistance
auction and food setup,
food/bar service,
check-in/greetings table,
raffle ticket sales,
clean-up, etc.

To help,
please contact Elaine Giessel at
913-888-8517 or at
elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org
Your Food Choices, Your Planet

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? This regular section of the Planet Kansas is dedicated to promoting safe and sustainable food choices for our members.

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.

Kansas City Food Circle

The following is an excerpt from the directory of the Kansas City Food Circle. You can download the complete directory at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/Issues/FoodCircleDirectory.pdf

What the Food Circle Does
1) Educate the public about the environmental and health dangers of industrial scale petrochemical dependent agriculture.
2) Dramatically increase the demand for regionally grown organic and natural foods
3) To help small organic family farmers who demonstrate a deep commitment to sustainable agriculture, stay on the land.

Kansas City Food Circle Resources
In its directory, The Kansas City Food Circle provides the following resources:
• a list of over a dozen Farmers’ Markets
• a list of restaurants providing food grown by the Food Circle farmers
• a complete list of over 40 Food Circle food producers
• buying tips from Farm Circle sources
Download or print your own copy of the 2004 Food Circle Directory by going to: www.kansas.sierraclub.org/Issues/FoodCircleDirectory.pdf

Organic: Voting for the Earth
Organic is more than just not spraying with chemicals. Organic refers to a method of growing and processing foods. Organic growing methods are “Earth Friendly.” Weeds and pests are controlled using environmentally sound practices which sustain the health of our planet and ultimately, our own health.

Organic farming is a whole system of good stewardship. Organic farmers do not use chemicals (pesticides, fungicides or fertilizers) in an environmentally harmful manner. They utilize a blend of old and new technologies to balance the Earth’s natural ecosystem. Organic farmers work with nature to build and replenish the nutrients in the soil through crop rotations, composting and cultivation. Ecological benefits include less soil erosion. Organic growers manage their farms as whole systems that must be ecologically planned and balanced to improve the soil and protect the groundwater. Good soil stewardship pays off in other ways beside the benefits to the environment. Namely, it produces better availability of nutrients in the vegetables you buy – and noticeably better flavor! Every purchase you make is really a vote for the way that product was grown and processed. Why not vote in favor of protecting the health of our own environment?

Where should I start?
Our website has several links on food at: http://kansas.sierraclub.org/Issues/FoodChoices.htm

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 Resources
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 %20 is a space)
Statewide Food Directory: www.oznet.ksu.edu/kcaac/fooddirectory/welcome.asp
Community Food Systems and Sustainable Agriculture Program at http://agebb.missouri.edu/sustain/index.htm
### Chapter Executive Committee

**Officers, Committee Chairs**
- *Elected ExCom member; **Appointed ExCom member, ***Group Representative to Chapter, ****Committee Chair

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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- Eric Banner*, Vice-Chair, ebanner@ksu.edu
- Jeffrey Neel*, Conservation Chair, (785) 770-9229, jneel@ksu.edu
- Richard Pitts*, Outings Chair, (785) 776-1234, wonder@kansas.net

**Kanza Group (Kansas City)**
- Craig Wolfe*, Group Chair, Communities Chair, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Craig Lubow*, Vice Chair, Calendars, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Tom Thompson*, Secretary, Political Chair, Chapter/Group Alt, (913) 236-9161, tommnmary1@mindspring.com

**Southwind Group (Wichita)**
- Bill Cather*, Chair, Chapter/Group Rep, (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Larry Ross*, Vice Chair, Outings Chair, (316) 685-5681, lross12@msn.com
- Tom Kneil*, Secretary, Wetlands Chair, (913) 744-1016, thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Craig Wolfe*, Webmaster, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Sarita Singh***, Kanza Chapter/Group Rep Alternate, Population, (913) 541-9185, sarita888@hotmail.com
- Michael Campbell***, Chapter/Group Rep, (785) 542-3885, mike.campbell@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Bill Cather***, Legal Chair, Chapter/Group Rep, (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Scott Smith***, Flint Hills Chapter/Group Rep, Genetic Engineering, 2111 Snowbird Dr, Manhattan, KS 66502-1960, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net
- Yvonne Cather****, Legislative Chair, SPRCC Delegate, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Steve Hassler*****, Outings Chair, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Topoek Section**
- Paul Post, Chair, (800) 347-1353 (day), paulpost@paulpost.com
- Judy Williams, Vice Chair, (785) 272-3215
- Bill Cutter, Treasurer, (785) 379-9756, spudspa@yahoo.com
- Jack Smith, Outings Chair, (785) 273-3138
- Jo Ann Van Meter, Conservation Chair, (785) 323-9019, worrybeads@aol.com

**Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)**
- Michael Campbell*, Chair, Chapter/Group Rep, (785) 542-3885, mike.campbell@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Carey Maynard-Moody*, Vice-Chair, Political Chair, Sprawl/Transportation, (785) 841-9594, careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Frank J. Norman*, Treasurer, (913) 887-6775, frank.norman@appliedeco.com
General Meetings

General public is welcome to attend

Flint Hills Group
(Manhattan)

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

Kanza Group
(Kansas City)

General Information
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 map at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzadirections.htm, Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kanza Group
April 16, 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Earth Day Celebration Event
A Special celebration of Earth Day with special guest speaker Congressman Dennis Moore.
Directions map at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzaearthday.htm.
See ad page 18

Kanza Group
May 10, 7:00 pm
Johnson County Is Taking the Environment and Energy Seriously

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

7:30 pm. Neal Angrisano, Deputy Facilities Director for Johnson County, will talk about the new “green building” and energy initiatives that the County has recently undertaken. From recycling, to transportation, to energy efficiency, strong steps are being taken to reach the “Gold Level” of performance. More information on their programs is available at http://facilities.jocogov.org/… Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org. Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W. 79th Street.
Directions map at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzadirections.htm.

Southwind Group
(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 Group
April 8, 7:00 pm
Tour of the Water Center
SPECIAL LOCATION.
Speakers: Vaughn Weaver, Becky Gagnon, Joe Botinelly and Libby Albers will give a talk and tour of the Water Center. The meeting will take place at the Water Center at Herman Hill Park at 101 E. Pawnee. (Pawnee & Broadway). Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org.
See ad page 16

Southwind Group
No May General Meeting

Topeka Section.
Apr 26, May 24, Jun 28. 7:00 pm
Topeka Section Meeting
The Topeka Section is currently in an organizing mode. If you are interested in learning more, contact Paul Post. (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

Wakarusa Group
(Lawrence)

General Information
The Wakarusa Group has decided to forego regular general meetings in order to concentrate its energies on special events. For further information contact, Mike Campbell (785) 542-3885, mike.campbell@kansas.sierraclub.org.

Wakarusa Group
Apr 27. 7:00 pm.
Volunteer Signups for Club Campaigns
Meet at the Lawrence Public Library. Discuss how you can help keep Wakarusa Group going.
Mike Campbell (785) 542-3885, mike.campbell@kansas.sierraclub.org

April/May 2005
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.

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

Learn compass and orienteering basics. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileenm@planetkc.com

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

Overnight backpacking trip for beginners on the 4.5 mile loop trail in the Woodridge Primitive Area. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileenm@planetkc.com

[1] Apr 23. 9:00 am. Baker Wetland Workday
Meet at the 31st St entrance to the wetlands to help with maintenance projects. Wear work clothes including boots, long pants, and gloves. Food and drink provided. Wakarusa. Byron Wiley (785) 841-2829, bwiley@sbcglobal.net

Join us for a short dayhike on this remote trail in southeastern Jackson County. Blue & Gray Park. www.co.jackson.mo.us/rec_tr_bg.shtml. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, 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. 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

[2] May 6. 6:00 pm. Wichita River Festival Parade
Come enjoy a nice evening with your fellow Sierrans. Show your Club spirit. Caution: Walking for several miles is required. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

[2] May 7-8. 10:00 am. Hike the Goat Ranch
Hike the Dunes and Forest at the Goat Ranch Overnight or near Patrol Cabin. Limit 9. RSVP Required. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

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
## Kanza Group

**Executive Committee**  
Apr 28, May 26 - 7:00 pm,  
Contact: Craig Wolfe, (913)299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Joint Action Committee**  
Apr 28, May 26 - 7:00 pm,  
Conservation, legislative, political and population. Contact: Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

## Southwind Group

**Executive Committee**  
Apr 3, May 1 - 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

**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, careyymm@kansas.sierraclub.org

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**Topeka Section**, Organizing Meetings, Apr 26, May 24, and Jun 28 (location TBA)  
Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

**Kansas Chapter**: (State), Executive Committee, May 14 (location TBA)  
Bill Griffith, (913) 772-8960, bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org

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### more outings

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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Meet at the Goat Ranch. RSVP Required.  
Southwind.  
Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
Ride the train or meet us there. Deutschheim State Historic Site tour, wine tasting and dinner. Hermann Maifest.  
Kanza.  
Ginger Kohler, 660-886-8870, gingerk@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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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. Overland Park Arboretum www.opkansas.org/_Vis/Arboretum/index.cfm.  
Kanza.  
Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, 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  Apr 2. Wild Edible Class along Little Blue Trace, Independence, MO. Kanza. Patty Brown, 816-737-2804
CM  Apr 3. 6:00 pm. Southwind Group's ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM  Apr 8. 7:30 pm. Tour of the Water Center. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out  Apr 9. TBA. Compass Class: Shawnee Mission Park, Johnson County Kansas. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileenm@planetkc.com
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 23. 9:00 am. Baker Wetland Workday. Wakarusa. Byron Wiley (785) 841-2829, bwiley@sbcglobal.net
Out  Apr 24. Blue & Gray Trail Dayhike, Lee’s Summit, MO. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM  Apr 26. 7:00 pm. Topeka Section Meeting. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
GM  Apr 27. 7:00 pm. Volunteer signups for club campaigns. Wakarusa. Mike Campbell (785) 542-3805, mike.campbell@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
CM  May 1. 6:00 pm. Southwind Group’s ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out  May 1. Hidden Valley Preservation, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org
Out  May 6. 6:00 pm. Wichita River Festival Parade. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out  May 7-8. 10:00 am. Hike the Goat Ranch. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.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
GM  May 10. 7:00. Johnson County Is Taking Energy Seriously. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM  May 13. Southwind May General Meeting. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM  May 14. 9:30 am. Kansas Chapter ExCom. Chapter. Bill Griffith, 913-772-8960, bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM  May 24. 7:00 pm. Topeka Section Meeting. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
CM  May 26. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM  May 26. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out  June 5. Spring Bike Ride to Powell Gardens, Kingsville, MO. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org
Out  June 18. Overland Park Arboretum, Overland Park, KS. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

KANSAS CHAPTER OF SIERRA CLUB
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