

## Sierra Summit Delegates Choose Clean Energy as Club's Top Priority

By John Byrne Barry

*Foreword by Tom Valtin, Senior Editor of The Planet (National Sierra Club). September 12, 2005 - Whew! We here at Club headquarters are all energized (if a bit ragged) following the 4-day Sierra Summit (the first in its history). In addition to a productive direction-setting process and dozens of lively, informative sessions on all manner of environmental and Club issues, we were treated to barnburner addresses by Al*



**Steve Baru, Kansas Chapter Council Delegate, played the key role in organizing the Summit's Kansas representatives.**

*Gore, RFK, Jr., and Arianna Huffington. All this plus an exhibit hall crammed with green products, services, and programs. And as one chapter chair mentioned to me on Sunday afternoon, the opportunity to meet face-to-face—either fortuitously or by arrangement—with so many other Club people was invaluable. The investment was substantial, but it will reap huge dividends*

**See Summit on page 6**

## Wind Power: Hope For Kansas

By Dr. Brent Blackwelder - President, Friends of the Earth

*Brent Blackwelder, President of Friends of the Earth, came to Kansas the week of August 22, 2005 (at the invitation of Charles Benjamin, Chapter lobbyist and attorney), to learn about various issues associated with wind generated electric-*



*ity in Kansas. Charles arranged for and accompanied Brent on a tour of actual and potential Kansas wind farm sites and meetings with various Kansans who have a variety of perspectives on wind energy. Brent's Kansas tour started at the Montezuma wind farm site, southwest of Dodge City, where Brent toured the site and met with Montezuma Mayor Chester Wiswell; Tom Hogan, Gray County Planning & Zoning director; and Ronnie Jantz, a farmer and newly elected Gray County Commissioner. Brent also viewed the proposed wind farm site at Spearville, northeast of Dodge City,*

**See Wind on page 6**



### inside

<i>The End of Cheap Oil .....</i>	<i>pg 3</i>
<i>Topeka Group Is Organized.....</i>	<i>pg 4</i>
<i>Devil's Backbone Wilderness Area .....</i>	<i>pg 4</i>
<i>Lawrence Home Energy &amp; Conservation Fair.....</i>	<i>pg 5</i>
<i>Elitists Unite! .....</i>	<i>pg 15</i>

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## The End of Cheap Oil

By David Bacon, Prairie Writers Circle

At the end of the 18th century, Thomas Malthus predicted population growth would outpace food production, resulting in widespread starvation. But within 50 years the industrial revolution was in full swing in England, powered by coal-fired steam engines. In 1866, in Clarion County, Pa., the first oil wells started production and the industrial age truly began.



Malthus' dreary view seemed overblown.

The astounding differences in daily life between Malthus' time and ours all result from the availability and use of cheap energy. The pace of technological advancement is so rapid that the average citizen can't keep up. This wizardry -- coupled with the mid-20th century "green revolution" in food production -- leads many people, unfortunately including many political leaders, to assume that we can invent, exploit and develop our way out of almost any problem.

If we can, it is time to start.

Continued prosperity in the developed countries and any hope of significant advancement in undeveloped countries depend on availability of inexpensive energy. In the United States, about 40 percent of energy comes from oil. And we're running out. Not out of oil per se. There's lots of oil in Canadian tar sands and Colorado shale. We're running out of oil we can pump from the ground and market for under \$60 a barrel. Most people alive today will see the end of cheap oil.

Consider the production and distribution of food without that oil. The tractors that till the soil and harvest the crops across the modern world run on oil. The energy that transforms raw farm products into neatly wrapped items on supermarket shelves derives, in part, from oil. The trucks that transport the raw and finished products run on oil.

**See Cheap Oil on page 9**

### contents

<i>Sierra Summit Delegates Choose Energy.....1 as Club's Top Priority</i>	1
<i>Wind Power: Hope for Kansas.....1</i>	1
<i>The End of Cheap Oil.....3</i>	3
<i>Topeka Group Is Organized .....4</i>	4
<i>Devil's Backbone Wilderness Area.....4</i>	4
<i>Wakarusa Weeding.....5</i>	5
<i>Lawrence 5th Annual Home Energy .....5 Conservation Fair and Homes Tour</i>	5
<i>The Passage to Fort Fernandina Louisiana .9</i>	9
<i>Come Help the Birds at Baker Wetlands ...10</i>	10
<i>4th Annual Community Forum on .....10 Kansas Environmental Issues</i>	10
<i>Johnson County Takes a Leadership Role...12</i>	12
<i>Elitists Unite!.....15</i>	15
<i>Chapter and Group Leaders .....16</i>	16
<i>General Meetings .....17</i>	17
<i>Outings .....18</i>	18
<i>Committee Meetings .....19</i>	19
<i>Calendar .....20</i>	20

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# Topeka Group Is Organized

By Paul Post, Topeka Group Chair

On Saturday, August 27, 2005, the Executive Committee of the Kansas Chapter voted to recognize the newly revived Topeka organization as a group under the Kansas Chapter. The organization will presently be known as the Topeka Group, but that name may change if the membership determines that a name which recognizes the geographical area which includes Sierra Club members eligible to join the group might be more appropriate. Another naming possibility is to include reference Topeka as the capital city of Kansas. The group will be consider an appropriate name along with new bylaws at future meetings and will report back to the ExCom at its November meeting the final decision on group name, and will submit bylaws for approval by the ExCom.

Topeka once had an active group, but interest waned over the years. However, Sierra Club members in the Topeka area began to think about reactivating the group in the fall of 2004. A membership "mixer" was held at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library during that month, with Chapter Chair Bill Griffith in attendance to encourage further thought and planning on the concept. Another organizational meeting was held at the home of members Paul Post and Kay Kelly in February 2005, again under the leadership of Bill Griffith. Twelve Topeka area Sierra Club members attended. They agreed to attempt restart the Topeka organization, and to hold monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. Interim officers were elected: Paul Post as group chair; Judy Williams as vice chair; Bill Cutler, treasurer; Jack Smith, outings chair; and JoAnn Van Meter as conservation chair.

Since February, the group has been meeting monthly and increased attendance at each meeting. In March, Charles Benjamin spoke on pending legislative issues. Ken Riead was the April speaker, and presented a program on "The Replete Home," which focused on the construction of energy efficient houses. The May meeting was billed as "Recycling Roundup" and featured Kim Nettleton, Director of Shawnee County Recycling; Jim Tuscherer, owner of the Home Recycling Service; and Bob Smoker, a master gardener and expert on garden composting. The June program was given by Laura Calwell, Kansas Riverkeeper with Friends of the Kaw. Her topic was "The Kansas River: The Good, the Bad and The Ugly." July's program was presented by Mike Goodwin, president of the Kansas Trails Council, who spoke on hiking, biking, and horse trails in northeast Kansas. The speaker

# Upcoming Outing Preview: Devil's Backbone Wilderness Area

By Dave Patton THB Outings Chair

Early settlers in Missouri seemed to have a preoccupation with the Devil. This in part was due to the extremely rugged Karst geology of the Missouri Ozarks region. Former State Geologist, Tom Beveridge in his book *Geologic Wonders and*



*Curiosities of Missouri* states that the Devil's name is attached to at least 80 natural features in Missouri. Devil's Backbone, a name used to describe a particularly narrow ridge line, is used twenty four times alone.

Devil's Backbone Wilderness Area located about 95 miles southeast of Springfield is one of my favorites. At 6500 acres Devil's Backbone is next to the smallest of the eight designated Wilderness Areas in Missouri, but it is certainly worthy of the Wilderness Area designation. Named for it's most prominent feature the Devil's Backbone Ridge the wilderness area contains about 13 miles of hiking trails, one of which goes right up and over the Devil's Backbone ridge line, and plenty of spectacular scenery. One of the most spectacular views is from the top of the ridge. Feeling like you are standing on the edge of a knife blade you can look off either side of the mountain as far as you can and see no signs of civilization. No roads, no farms, no power lines, nothing but the spectacular mountain terrain of the Ozarks.

Thomas Hart Benton Group usually includes a short overnight backpacking trip to the Devil's Backbone Wilderness



Oct/Nov 2005

**See Topeka on page 14**

**See Wilderness on page 14**

# Wakarusa Weeding


By Daniel Poull

Each Wednesday evening, you can stop by the park in Lawrence to see your fellow Sierra Club members pulling weeds! The Wakarusa Chapter was recently given the opportunity to make an immediate and valuable environmental impact on the community of Lawrence. The Pesticide-Free Parks organization has begun a program to reduce the amount of toxic chemicals needed to maintain local parks. With each weed pulled and each planting bed maintained, there is less need for the city parks department to spray herbicides in the parks where we walk, play, and breathe.

On July 13th, a representative of the Wakarusa Sierra Club met with the Pesticide-Free Parks organizers and signed up to be responsible for two large planting beds in Buford Watson Park. On July 13th, we began weeding and cleaning up around



the park and we have been enjoying serving our community each Wednesday since then.

This is a wonderful and humble activity that gives us the chance to talk and work, and afterward, to share a cool drink together. Since we began, we have branched out to work in other areas of the park besides our original assignment. Stop by any Wednesday evening at 7:00 and make an environmental impact. Pull a weed! 

# Lawrence 5th Annual Home Energy Conservation Fair & Sustainable Homes Tour

Make Plans to attend Lawrence's 5th Annual Home Energy Conservation Fair and Sustainable Homes Tour on October 9th at the




Douglas County Fairgrounds, Building 21. Exhibits at the fair will include alternative fuel vehicles and those of energy-minded engineers, architects, heating, cooling and insulation experts, builders and remodelers.

Featured speakers will include Bill Hanlon, author of "Building Outside the Box" and Rep. Tom Sloan to address energy-related legislative issues.

The Fair is sponsored by the City of Lawrence Recycling and Resource Conservation Advisory Board. It will take place in conjunction with the Douglas County Sustainable Homes Tour, co-sponsored by the Heartland Renewable Energy Society. Buses for the Douglas County tour of sustainable homes will leave from the fairgrounds at 2 pm. Homes and structures featured on this year's tour include a thermal mass concrete/foam high efficiency home, a straw-bale art studio with radiant floor heating and other affordable and highly efficient homes.

Sponsors of this year's Fair and Tour include Hughes Consulting Engineering, J. Stephen Lane, Architect, and the Heartland Renewable Energy Society.

For more information call the Waste Reduction & Recycling Division at 832-3030 or visit [www.LawrenceRecycles.org](http://www.LawrenceRecycles.org). 

## Lawrence 5th Annual Home Energy Conservation Fair & Sustainable Homes Tour

October 9th

Open 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Home Energy Conservation Fair at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, Building 21.

Sustainable Homes Tour busses leave the Fairgrounds at 2:00



p.m. to visit sustainable



Oct/Nov 2005

## Summit, continued from page 1

for the Club, he predicted. All in all, a great four days! The Planet, Web staff, and numerous others—staff and volunteer alike—fanned out to cover as much of the Summit as we possibly could in person, and these dispatches can be found at <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierrasummit>.

After six months of chapter and group meetings leading up to the Summit and eight hours of deliberation once there, 700 delegates chose “Building a New Energy Future” as the Club’s top priority over the next five years. Nearly two-thirds of delegates voted it the most important priority.

Also ranking high were “Building Vibrant, Healthy Communities” (52 percent), “Defending Federal Lands/Public Waters” (49 percent), and “Protecting People and the Planet from Pollution” (46 percent).

The deliberative sessions, spanning eight hours over two days, marked the first time this many Club delegates have gathered in one place to discuss and vote on priorities. Delegates, seated ten to a table, recorded their votes on wireless handheld “option-finder” keypads that looked like oversized garage door openers.



**Frank Drinkwine was one of the Kansas Chapter's delegates from Kansas City.**

Ken Langton, chair of the Grand Canyon Chapter (Arizona), said the direction setting was

“one of the Club’s finest hours—the most impressive display of democratic, large-scale, collective decision-making I have been involved in all my adult years in this country.”

Delegates didn’t just vote on conservation priorities, but on the Club’s effectiveness in pursuing them. For example, 64 percent of delegates felt that Building a New Energy Future should be a top priority, but they rated our effectiveness in pursuing this goal at 3.2 (out of 10). By contrast, while 49 percent ranked Defending Federal Lands/Public Waters as a top priority, it garnered a 5.5 effectiveness rating.

Delegates also voted on how the Club should best invest its resources to reach these goals. The results: (1) seeking new allies and building coalitions, (2) creating media visibility, and (3) bringing people together.

Finally, delegates chose the top three ways to impact environmental decision-makers. They were: (1) influence voters’ electoral decisions, (2) focus on state policy-makers, and (3) influence local decision-makers about specific places.



Oct/Nov 2005

## Wind, continued from page 1

whose development has been stalled due to lack of a utility customer for the wind generated electricity. Brent and Charles then traveled to eastern Kansas where Brent toured the Beaumont wind farm site in the Flint Hills of southern Butler County, currently under construction, and other proposed Flint Hills locations for wind farm sites in Chase, Morris and Wabaunsee counties. Brent met



**Brent Blackwelder**

with Joe King, former head of the Kansas Energy Office; State Representative Tom Sloan; Jennifer States of JW Prairie Wind Power; Congressman Dennis Moore; Jim Ploger, current head of the Kansas Energy Office; Lee Allison, energy adviser to Governor Sebelius; Alan Pollom, Director of the Kansas Nature Conservancy; Secretary of Wildlife and Parks (and former Kansas Governor) Mike Hayden;

**See Wind on page 7**

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## Wind, continued from page 6

Dan Nagengast, head of the Kansas Rural Center; and Dr. Kelly Kindscher of the Kansas Biological Survey, a specialist on Kansas prairie eco-systems. Brent and Charles also met with Kansas Sierra Club renewable energy activists Brooks Albery, Craig Volland, and Bill Griffith. The resulting trip notes and op-ed, in this issue of the Planet Kansas, are Brent's responses to the opportunities and challenges of wind generated electricity in Kansas.

**Friends of the Earth** has been a major advocate of wind power as a key element in the solution to our nation's energy problems. I just completed a tour of existing and proposed wind power sites across Kansas to look at the controversy surrounding this issue. My conclusion is that a great opportunity is being missed by the State of Kansas because the discussion of wind power has been focused primarily on wind power development in the Flint Hills region and not on wind power in the western portion of the state where wind potential is amazing and where good siting policy can avoid most of the concerns.

The need for action to develop wind power is all the more urgent for economic and environmental reasons. Fortunately, Kansas is the Saudi Arabia of wind, ranking as one of the top three states in wind power potential and this means that the economic and environmental benefits could be tremendous. But these advantages to the citizens of Kansas will happen only if Kansas acts to support wind power development through state legislative and regulatory policy.

The economic benefits of developing wind power for Kansans can be seen at the Montezuma wind site in Gray County which I toured. The 112 megawatt wind farm is providing benefits to the local schools and the county to the tune of more than \$300,000 per year, plus farmers receive income from the wind mills on their land. Wind energy offers a promising, tangible way of rejuvenating rural Kansas.

The environmental and health benefits of wind power are substantial. Burning coal to generate electricity is causing a serious mercury poisoning problem across America, with more than 45 states issuing fish advisories warning against consuming freshwater fish.

One in six women are carrying enough mercury in their body to impair the brains of the fetus. Coal fired power plants are the most significant source of mercury in our environment and today there is a push to build over 120 new coal plants in our country. This push for new coal must be countered by developing our vast wind resources instead.

The world's over reliance on fossil fuel energy has created

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a pressing problem of climate change. Perhaps the most important prediction from global warming models is that catastrophic weather events such as tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, and the like will increase either in intensity or frequency. Of

particular significance is an MIT study this year, indicating that hurricanes have doubled in intensity over the last 30 years, with a prominent spike since 1995.

People of religious faith should be especially concerned about the impacts of these weather disasters on the poor in the US and around the world who lack the means to recover and make a new life. Governments are hard pressed to pay damage bills that in the case of Hurricane Katrina may top \$30 billion.

Given that wind can supply an array of economic and environmental benefits, is there a way out of the wind power logjam in Kansas? Because Kansas has plenty of sites in Kansas where there is no conflict with important wildlife and natural areas and where people really want wind de-

velopment, the solution is straightforward. The basic approach is to take the map show-



**Dustin Carlson, Montezuma site manager, describes the turbine at its bottom to Charles Benjamin and Brent Blackwelder.**



**See Wind on page 8**

Oct/Nov 2005

## Wind, continued from page 7

ing the wind potential areas for the state, then overlay a map of areas identified by the Nature Conservancy and by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks that should be off limits, and proceed to develop those windy areas where no controversy exists.

But even when the siting issue is dealt with, there are obstacles in the way because major utilities want to construct more coal power plants in Kansas and they don't want to build or upgrade transmission lines in Western Kansas just for wind power. As a result, Kansas will bear the brunt of the growing state energy deficit, sending over two billion of its citizens' energy dollars out of state to powerful coal interests. Here's what has happened. Until 1997 Kansas was a net energy exporter as a result of its significant supplies of oil and gas. Now these fossil fuel reserves are severely depleted and every year Kansas is going further into deficit on energy spending. This deficit can be reduced by developing the wind industry. The deficit will only grow worse by following the major utilities' plans to build more coal plants.


Kansas needs visionary leaders who will tap the wind resources and not allow the lack of transmission lines to be an obstacle. Imagine if a new oil or gas field were discovered in Western Kansas. Everything conceivable would be done to exploit the reserves and get them to the consumers. Why can't this same can-do spirit be applied in the case of wind? Kansas lags behind other states in passing legislative and regulatory policies that support wind power development. Kansas leaders need to step up to the vision of wind power as a significant economic development opportunity that has the potential to pour billions of dollars into the Kansas coffers over the next several decades.

This potential remains largely untapped because many false arguments about wind power are being promulgated.

1. Opponents argue that wind power is intermittent: yes, but

Kansas is very windy most of the time in the west, and with a lot of interconnections the impacts of intermittent wind is easily accounted for in the power grid.

2. Opponents say that wind mills are noisy: I have visited wind farms in a number of places and the mild whir from wind mills is not audible half a farm field away.
3. Opponents say that wind mills are ugly: I see them as elegant and far more friendly to view than the numerous cell towers that infect the landscape.
4. Opponents say that wind mills kill birds: the latest studies show bird losses are only one or two per turbine per year, many fewer than from cell towers, tall buildings, and domestic house cats. New wind mill designs can minimize bird kills. Destruction of habitat is far and away the biggest cause of bird losses. When wind mills are placed in cropped farm fields, this loss can be reduced or avoided.
5. Opponents say that wind power is subsidized: yes, there is some subsidy but it is minor compared to the billions that have poured into the oil, gas, coal, and nuclear power industries over the last half century and that will continue to flow to these power sources from the newly passed Energy Bill of 2005. A subsidy of wind power would be unnecessary if the true costs of burning coal (climate change, regional particle and tropospheric ozone pollution, mercury contamination) were incorporated into electricity rates.

If the great wind resources of Kansas are tapped in an environmentally sensitive manner, Kansas could gain the reputation as the leader in producing clean energy for United States and in rejuvenating its rural communities. Such an initiative needs to take place at all levels—towns, counties, and state—with small community wind sites as well as major wind farms that can produce electricity. 

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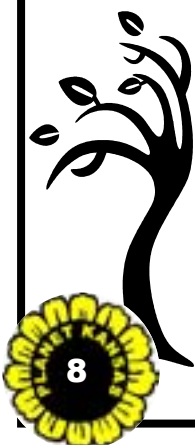
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# The Passage to Fort Fernandina Louisiana

By William Cather

I am leading groups down the Arkansas River for fun. We will follow the French and Indian expeditions of 1719-1780 from the area now known as Wichita, Kansas, to the area now known as Traders Bend on Kaw Lake, Oklahoma. The later was known as Fort Fernandina, Louisiana, in 1719 when it was first settled by French from New Orleans and Illinois.

Come along whether you are interested in fur trade or not. We will do the trip on five (5) weekends and spend Saturday night on a sand bar on a full moon night under primitive conditions. It will take five (5) of these weekend trips to complete the expedition and arrive at our destination. It will be possible to do a Saturday only trip and not camp out overnight.

Rent a canoe or kayak from me or bring your own; and a tent, PFD, food and water for the expedition. You must reserve a boat in advance if you rent one of mine. If you bring furs perhaps we can sell them to descendants of the Mountain men who sometimes rendezvous at Traders Bend. We hope to see eagles, deer, turkey, beaver and have a campfire with Tall Tales told by anyone who has one.

Next trips:

1. The September Trip, September 17 and 18, has been detoured to Lake Toronto 18 miles east of Eureka, Kansas, on U.S. Highway 54. Meet there Friday evening. This will coincide with the Kansas Canoe and Kayak Association (K.C.K.A.) Annual Meeting which is hosted by Kansas Canoe and Kayak Association President, Jim Johnson, (316) 264-0530.
2. The October trip has been detoured to the North Fork of the White River, October 15 and 16. This will coincide with the K.C.K.A. Rendezvous.
3. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday at the Goat Ranch for the trip scheduled November 15 and 16.
4. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday at the Goat Ranch for the trip scheduled December 17 and 18.
5. There is no trip January or February. Instead we will do an eagle watch at the Goat Ranch.
6. There is no trip in March date uncertain.

To contact Bill Cather, call (316) 522-4741



## Cheap Oil, continued from page 3

How much of what the average American uses daily, particularly perishable foodstuffs, has to be inexpensively transported over significant distance? I live in Colorado and I can buy a 5-pound bag of Florida oranges for less than \$5. Absent the current distribution system, it is not unreasonable to think that I would never have tasted a fresh orange had I lived all my life here.

How much of what is readily available today will be priced out of reach if transportation costs double? Triple? Quadruple?

There are alternative energy sources, but none that can now serve transportation needs. Oil and oil-based fuels are so useful because of their easy portability and relative safety. It is not difficult to convert engines to use natural gas, but it has to be liquified. Liquified natural gas in large quantity is dangerous to store, and the expense of refitting fuel stations nationwide to sell it would add significantly to its cost. What's more, natural gas will become more scarce and costly, perhaps within two decades after oil.

Hydrogen is often proposed as a safe, non-polluting alternative, but making it in usable form takes more energy than the hydrogen can provide as fuel. This means an inexpensive, environmentally acceptable and widely available energy source will be required to produce the hydrogen. No such energy source now exists. Developing one and building a hydrogen economy will be a huge task. Coal and nuclear power are sometimes suggested, but nuclear plants are expensive and the environmental problems of coal use and nuclear waste storage are daunting.

Representatives of the oil industry and the Department of Energy say there's no immediate problem, that discovery of new oil fields, coupled with improved recovery from existing fields, will provide the time we need to find solutions. But independent petroleum geologists point out that really huge fields, because of their size, are easy to find and no new ones have been found for over a decade. The world burns oil faster than new oil is discovered -- four times faster, according to some reports.

Recovery from existing fields is improving, but it's still expensive, and money matters. The end of cheap oil, followed by the end of cheap natural gas, threatens to cripple strong economies and devastate weak ones.

This is a looming crisis and we must work harder to figure a way out. Otherwise, the Rev. Malthus and his unhappy vision may yet prove right.

*David Bacon, a physician and retired Army colonel living in Denver, has had a long interest in the world's energy picture. He wrote this for the Land Institute's Prairie Writers Circle, Salina, Kan.*



Oct/Nov 2005

# Come Help the Birds at Baker Wetlands

Here are the basic facts: The Wakarusa Group invites you to help build a chimney swift roost at the Baker Wetlands on Saturday, 5 November at 9 am. You should wear work clothes suitable for doing light carpentry. We will provide tools, snacks and drinks. We'll meet at the 31st entrance. The T's #1 bus can drop you off at 28th and Haskell at about 8:45 am, or the #7 bus can drop you off at 27th and Louisiana a little before 9. Using either bus should give you time to walk to the 31st entrance, where we will meet. Please contact Mike Campbell at (785)542-3885 or shamsoup@yahoo.com for more information.

But what are chimney swifts and why should we build them a roost? Well, the natural order of things includes the iron rule that a Kansas summer must include certain icons. Some we may not like. Say, chiggers or oppressive heat. Others, however, are as indispensable as ice cream on apple pie. These include bullfrogs calling at night, coneflowers blooming by the roadside, and chimney swifts circling overhead in the mid-day heat.

Chimney swifts, also known as flying cigars, are grey birds about as long as your hand. You often first notice them when you hear their call; a light chatter made up of the same syllable repeated a dozen times or so. Looking up, you may see a loner or a large group swooping back and forth with an irregular fluttering of their long wings that stretch to twice the length of their body. These wings and their torpedo-shaped torsos enable swifts to stay aloft for long stretches of time with minimal effort. They spend that time snagging flying insects. However, these skilled aerialists turn into awkward fumbler when they land.

Their underdeveloped feet prevent swifts from roosting like other birds. Swifts can only cling to the sides of vertical surfaces. For most of their existence, that has meant they built their nests and rested at night in hollow trees. A couple of centuries ago, a group of people arrived who delighted in filling the landscape with perfect swift habitat in the form of tall, hollow tubes of brick or stone. Swifts thrived inside these chimneys, one of the few species to benefit from the spread of the pioneers.

Unfortunately, most people now cap their chimneys, leaving the swifts homeless. We will help right the balance by building a sort of pseudo-chimney at the Wetlands. The wood chimney will stand about 10 feet tall. You can see pictures of a variety of swift roosts at:

<http://www.chimneyswifts.org/page5.html> and a live webcam placed inside a roost at <http://www.chimneyswifts.org/page2.html>.

Please make plans to join us at the wetlands. No special skills required. And, if you cannot be there, but would still like to help,

we'll gratefully accept donations to be used to help defray the approximately \$300 it will cost to purchase of materials. You can mail donations to the Wakarusa Group of the Sierra Club, PO Box 1722, Lawrence, KS 66044.



The Prairie Village Environmental Committee and the Kansas Natural Resources Council (KNRC) invite you to attend the

## 4th Annual Community Forum on Kansas Environmental Issues

Thursday, Oct. 6th  
Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Rd.  
Prairie Village, Kansas  
Sierra Club - Kanza Group is a sponsor

5:30 p.m. Exhibits by Kansas Natural Resource Organizations

6:00 p.m. Community Supper

**7:00 p.m. Guest Speaker: Lee Allison, PhD**  
**"Wind, Prairie and Kansas Energy"**

**Dr. Allison is Science and Energy Policy Advisor to Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius. He chairs the Kansas Energy Council, the primary energy policy and planning arm for the state. At the request of Gov. Sebelius he organized a task force to resolve the dispute over wind energy in the Tallgrass Prairie areas of the Flint Hills.**

**Currently there is great interest in renewable energy sources. Kansas is one of a few states rich in wind power. Come learn what's happening with this important Kansas natural resource.**

**A \$10.00 donation is requested for the supper and program. To make a reservation...  
Call Kathy Riordan at 913-383-7882 or  
Emailing Margaret Thomas at MGT84roe@aol.com**



Oct/Nov 2005

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Oct/Nov 2005

# Johnson County Takes a Leadership Role

Johnson County began experiencing rapid growth during the 1980's. It continues until today. Throughout this period citizens and leaders have cultivated quality education, development, good parks and job growth.

In the late 1990's the County Board of Commissioners seeing the rapid growth in the county and correctly anticipating more for some time to come formed a citizens committee to look at current issues, anticipate future needs and to develop a template for quality county growth and development.

Throughout 1996 and the first half of 1997, citizens appointed by the Johnson County Board of Commissioners met regularly to chart the future of the County. The resultant work was the "Citizens' Visioning Committee Report". (Read the entire report on-line on the County's website at: <http://bocc.jocogov.org/process/key.htm> )

Much of the report concerned the population growth of the County; planning and zoning response and the effect on the environment. Among the numerous recommendations, the Committee suggested that the "County should encourage environmental stewardship of our land and natural resources through role modeling, environmental advocacy and public education."

It also encouraged the County to "take a leadership role in state and metropolitan environmental initiatives." It specifically called out for Johnson County to be a model in "... environmental education for the metropolitan area."

## County Response

The County government in response to the expectations of its citizen has set high standards for services and facilities. County departments and employees are on the front line providing services and addressing growth and environmental issues on a daily basis. The latest instance is a now-under-construction county office building under the supervision of the County Facilities Department. The new building is located on the northwest corner of 119th Street and Ridgeview in Olathe. However, this example of modern cutting edge architecture and engineering did not emerge out of a vacuum.

A comprehensive performance-based design product was the center of the RFP process. It focused on value and innovation, team structure and roles. The process was designed to primarily consider the qualifications of submitters. From thirteen initial responders, three finalists were selected. Those teams were then invited to develop a preliminary design proposal based on the same stipulated sum; thus eliciting the

best design innovations and demonstrating their abilities to provide the County with the most "bang for the buck".

After selection, proposal refinement and negotiations were undertaken with the selected team. That process yielded an even better

product for the same cost including such attributes as:

- More useable building space at 127,000 square feet
- Environmentally responsible structure with LEED Gold designation\*
- Flexible high performance office environment
- LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – a US Green Building Council standard for measuring and certifying energy efficient and sustainable building design.

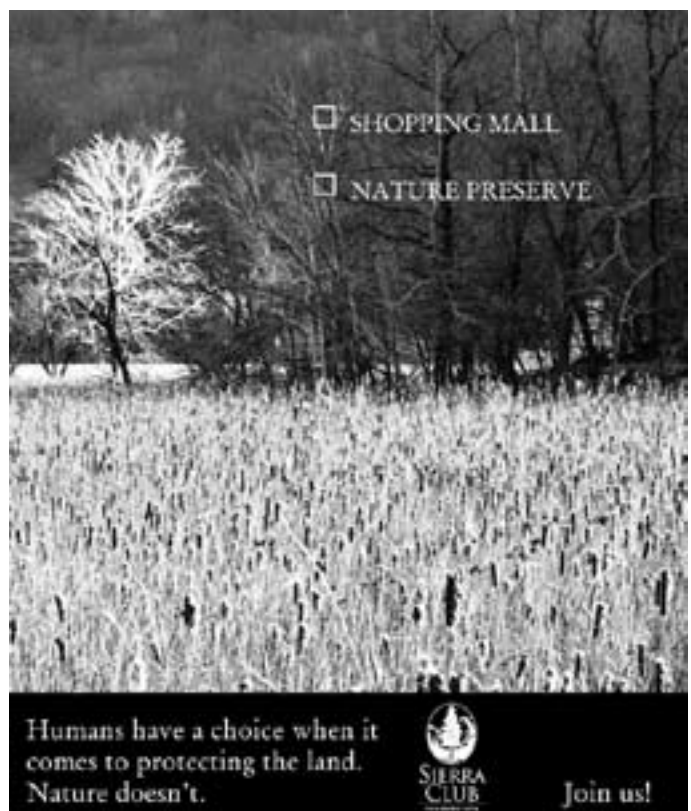
According to a fact sheet published by one group advocating the new requirements, green buildings approved under the LEED system would cost up to 2 percent more to build but would provide an "average cost savings of 39 percent for energy and 25 percent for water."

## Use of Technology

The building is the target and recipient of various modern technologies designed to be environmentally friendly and provide sustainability/long-term durability and low maintenance for the structure. These attributes include:

- Solar orientation of the building to maximize both summer and winter conditions, principally daylight penetration.
- High performance glass to optimize natural light while reducing heat gain/loss
- Light shelves and clerestories to allow utmost natural light into the interior of the building
- Use of recycled building products
- High efficiency lighting, occupancy sensors and automatic dimming capabilities in response to variations in natural light

**See Leadership on page 13**



Oct/Nov 2005

**Leadership, continued from page 12**

- High efficiency HVAC equipment reducing energy use by 40%
- Exceptionally high indoor air quality
- Underfloor wiring, communications and low pressure air for better heating
- Individual temperature and ventilation controls for every employee
- Use of “local” materials and products; thereby reducing transportation cost
- Advanced plumbing reducing water use by 30%

**Results**

The process provided a comprehensive road map that lead to the RFP preparation and the resulting D-B proposals. The total project budget is \$30 million. The County designated \$22.7 million as the stipulated sum for design and construction. The remainder is for furniture, fixtures, design and engineering.

In addition to the stipulated sum to bring the project in “on budget”, there were numerous other tangible results that came out of the procurement-design-build process. These benefits include:

- Three outstanding final proposals with three sets of cost data greatly benefiting the County in the final negotiations
- More square footage than originally programmed
- LEED Gold certification requirements exceeded
- Concept of the building acting as an instrument of public

- education about environmental stewardship
- Significant costs avoided by collaboration of the integrated D-B team. These included approaches such as site preparation cost savings through collaboration between the project designers and the excavation contractor and steel fabrication savings through similar communication and close teamwork.
- Best value option of demountable office partitions allowing future flexibility
- Reduced operating and maintenance costs
- Significantly higher value than called for in the original base proposal
- Maximized use of taxpayer dollars
- All parties satisfied with the outcome of the process

**Conclusion**

The innovative and creative concept-development and implementation utilized by Johnson County for its new building successfully demonstrated the value of the design-build process in the public sector. The extensive use of sustainable building techniques, products and energy reduction methods coupled with the D-B process have already brought the County several awards even before the structure is completed.

In addition to maximizing taxpayer dollars the concept of the building acting as an instrument of environmental stewardship and education was foremost in the minds of the planners. Providing a model for action in addition to

**See Leadership on page 14**



America needs a smart energy policy that increases our energy security and protects the environment. There is a better way. Congress should pass legislation that cuts our country's dependence on oil, increases our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power, protects our public lands, and modernizes the electricity grid to prevent future blackouts.

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**Explore, enjoy and protect the planet**

## **Wilderness, continued from page 4**

Area each winter. Of course not everyone, including my wife Kathy, likes to backpack. This year we decided to try something a bit different. We're going to car camp and day hike at Devil's Backbone. If you don't mind hiking a few miles, this might be a great opportunity to experience one of Missouri's Wilderness Areas.

We're going to stay at the North Fork primitive campground adjacent to the North Fork River. The North Fork River, one of Missouri's most scenic rivers, forms the western boundary of the Devil's Backbone Wilderness Area. With the campground as our base of operations, we'll dayhike in the Wilderness Area. The plan is to hike an 8-1/2 mile loop, which will include lunch on top of the Devil's Backbone. The trail also swings alongside the North Fork River. We'll want to spend some time relaxing and enjoying the scenery at the river as well.

When Kathy and I decided to do this trip we thought we would like to try to catch the fall foliage in the Ozarks while we were at it. We started looking at a calendar and one particular date jumped out at us. What could be better than to spend Halloween weekend at Devil's Backbone Wilderness? Hope to see you there... if you're not too scared. 


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## **Topeka, continued from page 4**

for August was Mike Watkins, a field biologist with the Army Corps of Engineer, who spoke on Eagles in Kansas.

The group's first outing was on August 26, with an astronomy field trip to the Far Point Observatory near Eskridge, Kansas. Twelve members attended. The observatory is one of twenty in the world that participates in the near earth asteroid study, designed to identify and catalog asteroids that cross Earth's orbit.

The long-term goals of the group include membership development, assistance to the Chapter on legislative issues, and continuing to provide programs of interest to Sierra Club members in the area.

Meetings continue to be held at the library on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Sierra Club members and guests are always welcome. Future speakers include Bob Gress, director of the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, whose program will be "Faces of the Great Plains" and will feature wildlife photography of animals native to the region. A December holiday dinner is also in the works. Interested members should contact Paul Post at 785 354 1972 or email him at paulpost@paulpost.com. 



Oct/Nov 2005

## **Leadership, continued from page 13**

advocating the benefits of environmental stewardship was a complementary goal.

This is a complex building project, incorporating new technologies, sustainability and energy economies. Value maximization has been and will continue to be attained through installed energy efficiency, and sustainable construction materials and methods. Demonstrating and disseminating the transferability of the methods and materials is the next and equally important phase of this building's existence.

To track construction, estimated to be completed the first quarter of 2006, go to the web cam internet site at: [http://facilities.jocogov.org/webcam\\_Sunset.htm](http://facilities.jocogov.org/webcam_Sunset.htm)

### **Other Initiatives**

While the construction of the new office building is the centerpiece of County construction activities there are a number of other environmental initiatives. These activities, while less spectacular, do pre-date the new building's construction and have been on-going for sometime

The County Facilities Department is currently involved in the following environmentally friendly/energy-saving activities:

- Retrofitting over 750,000 square feet of County owned buildings with more efficient lighting—saving over \$250,000 annually in electric costs
- Installing a demonstration wind turbine at the new office building
- Facilitating and assisting the acquisition of alternative fuel vehicles for the County fleet through a \$430,000 grant
- Sponsoring seasonal energy saving advice on the County's website at <http://facilities.jocogov.org/energytips.htm>

Other County agencies also have their own programs that help preserve our environment and are considered to be "green" in nature. See the following departments' website addresses for more information.

Environmental Department: <http://jced.jocogov.org/>

Extension Office: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/johnson/welcome.htm>

Planning and Development Department: <http://planning.jocogov.org/>

Parks and Recreation Department Plans: [http://jcpd.com/pages/map\\_2020.cfm](http://jcpd.com/pages/map_2020.cfm)

Transportation Department/"The JO": <http://www.thejo.com/>

For more information, contact:

Tim Maupin, Energy Manager

Johnson County

111 S Cherry St Ste 1100

Olathe, KS 66061

913-715-1166, [tim.maupin@jocogov.org](mailto:tim.maupin@jocogov.org) 

# Elitists Unite!

By Craig Volland

I never thought I'd be defending the habits of America's rich and well to do, but a recent New York Times op-ed (July 22, 2005) got my dander up. A cook book author, Julie Powell, equates promotion of locally grown organic foods with economic elitism. She states, "What makes the snobbery of the organic movement more insidious is that it equates privilege not only to good taste, but also with good ethics." Then she makes the breathtaking leap to, "Is the woman who buys her children's food at the place where they take her food stamps therefore a bad mother?"

For years I've been a big promoter of the kind of food she's talking about, and I've occasionally parried the same jab around KC as well. Organic food is too expensive! You are insensitive to the plight of the poor, you heirloom veggie-slicing snob! Well I shamelessly invite all the affluent people reading this to get on the locally produced organic and free range bandwagon. Don your designer overalls and visit a real farmer!

All marketing in America is based on the premise, "buy my product and you will be a better, healthier person." OK, some advertising is also based on, "buy my product and you'll have great sex with a beautiful woman or a hunk." Change doesn't happen in America until the upper classes figure out it's the trendy and chic thing to do. Then they spend their hard earned gains (or inherited wealth, if you prefer) on a product and it takes off.

The fact is nobody, rich or poor, would have the opportunity to buy delicious, fresh produce and humanely raised meats if some people weren't willing to make the extra effort to understand and buy these quality products. I know many of the local farmers who are trying to farm the right way... with care for their land and compassion for their animals. It isn't easy to compete against the corporations cutting all the corners. Local, sustainable farmers need all the help they can get.

Secondly these critics fail to understand how our industrial agriculture system works, or makes the appearance of working. The stuff you get at the grocery store may be much lower in price, but it's certainly not cheap. Every major input to industrial agriculture... the labor, the land, the energy, the water, the animal feed and the chemicals... are heavily subsidized by taxpayers.

Labor is subsidized when the biggest producers, from corn and wheat to sugar, milk and apples, get direct federal payments of \$15 to \$20 billion per year. This encourages so much grain production that it has to be dumped on the world market at 10 to 28% below cost. This artificially cheap grain is then milled, mixed with rendered, dead animals, and shipped to huge animal confinements. Factory meat shows up in the grocery store complete with hormones and, often, a contingent of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Farm land is subsidized because it is assessed for property taxes at a much lower rate than residential and commercial property.


The vast quantity of gasoline and diesel fuel needed for industrial agriculture and the shipment of product over thousands of miles to market is subsidized by our \$500 billion defense budget. I've seen estimates that gasoline would be \$10 per gallon if the true costs were added in. As for water, a recent study by the Environmental Working Group found that the irrigation system in California's Central Valley Project is subsidized to the tune of \$416 million/year. The Central Valley is where you get those nice round tomatoes you could use for tennis practice. This is the largest of hundreds of such projects supported by the federal government. Then there's the Everglades project which has, for decades, enabled the growing of sugar cane and vegetables in Florida at a fearful environmental cost.

Synthetic pesticides are subsidized because they are made from petroleum and because the USEPA must maintain a large staff to assess their safety. In 1999 a Friends of the Earth study revealed that 29 states exempted agricultural chemicals from some \$674 million in sales taxes, including \$36 million in Kansas and \$27 million in Missouri. Finally the USDA spends billions every year on research and in giving farmers advice to keep this dysfunctional system going.

Small, organic farmers can tap into only a small part of this smorgasbord of taxpayers' largess.

It is a tragedy that many poor people cannot afford organic produce. But it's profoundly unfair to pin any part of the plight of America's poor on the sustainable agriculture movement. The solution is to shift some of the more egregious subsidies enjoyed by big food producers over to low income consumers via food stamp and nutrition programs, so they can afford better food.

Frankly I don't care who buys local organic produce and free range meats. If our farmers don't survive, then I'll have to grow my own, and I'm getting too old for that. Critics, like Julie Powell, should ponder this. Otherwise everybody, including America's poor, will be doomed to mass produced, synthetic, factory food shipped in from thousands of miles away, or increasingly even from China. Nothing against the Chinese, they are doing some organic, too. But it's absurd to be shipping food half way around the world in the age of global warming. We can grow our own, thank you.

Craig Volland is Chair of the Kansas Chapter Agriculture and CAFO Committees. <http://www.foodcircles.missouri.edu> This is edited from a longer version of this article that appeared recently in eKC on kactive.com. 



# Chapter & Group Leaders

*Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter*

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Oct/Nov 2005



# 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, followed by our General Meeting at 7:30. 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](http://www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzadirections.htm),

Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, [info@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org)

## **Kanza Group**

**Nov 8, 7:00 pm**

### **Share Your Adventures**

**7:00 pm** - Come early, and we will have snacks and good conversation at 7:00 pm followed by our general meeting

**7:30 pm** - Share Your Adventures is Kanza Group's annual invitation to members to bring their special slide shows of your recent vacations. This is always a favorite of wonderful adventures around the world. Call Craig Wolfe if you are bringing slides. Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W. 79th Street. Directions map at: [www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzadirections.htm](http://www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzadirections.htm). Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, [info@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org)

## **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.

## **Southwind Group**

**Oct 14. 6:30 pm.**

### **Ken Lockwood with the Eagle Valley Raptor Center**

Come meet the Lockwood's and experience a raptor first hand.

6:30 pm Social Hour. 7:30 pm Program. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, [bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org)

## **Southwind Group**

**Nov 11, 6:30 pm.**

### **Ken McCloskey, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

Come learn about the Arkansas River Access Project proposed from Rice County to the Oklahoma border. 6:30 pm Social Hour. 7:30 pm Program.. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, [bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org)

## **Topeka Group.**

### **General Information**

The Topeka Group has regular monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday each month (except December) at 7:00 p.m. at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library (unless otherwise noted). The library is at 1515 SW 10th Street.

## **Topeka Group.**

**Oct 25. 7:00 pm**

### **Jackson Street drainage project**

Mark Green , a project engineer with the Topeka Water Pollution Control Department, will present a program on the Jackson Street drainage project which was completed in 2004 in downtown Topeka and which is designed to control storm water runoff through the use of native plants and grasses in the waterway. Mark is also responsible for the design of various wetlands projects in Topeka.. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, [paulpost@paulpost.com](mailto:paulpost@paulpost.com)

## **Topeka Group**

**November Meeting - To Be Announced**

## **Wakarusa Group**

**(Lawrence)**

### **General Information**

The Wakarusa Group is limiting its general meetings in order to concentrate on holding special events. Please contact Mike Campbell at (785)542-3885 or [shamsoup@yahoo.com](mailto:shamsoup@yahoo.com) for more information. To get the most up-to-date announcements on our events, please add your name to our e-mail list. You can add your name to the list by contacting Carey Maynard Moody at [careymm@sunflower.com](mailto:careymm@sunflower.com).



*Oct/Nov 2005*

# Sierra Club Outings

**General public is welcome to participate**

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.



## [4] Oct 1-2. TBA. Backpacking 101 Lab

Easy beginner backpacking trip. Hike Settles Ford Conservation Area near Butler Missouri and camp overnight on adjoining private property.. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org

## [2] Oct 8. 11:00 am. Gyp Hills Hike

Meet at the Kirkbride Ranch for a day hike or an over-nighter. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

## [4] Oct 8-9. TBA. Katy Trail

Experience the magic of the fall colors, as we bicycle the Katy trail. Approximately 25 miles each day, spending the night at a local B&B. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

## [4] Oct 15-16. TBA. Beginner Backpack

Come explore one of the most remote areas in the Upper Current River Country.. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileenm@missouri.sierraclub.org

## [4] Oct 15-16. KCKA Fall Rendezvous

The north fork of White River and/or Bryant Creek. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

## [1] Oct 22. 8:00 am. Hiking the Konza Prairie

Topeka Outings Chair Jack Smith will lead us on a day hike to the Konza Prairie near Manhattan to explore hiking trails. This will be a joint effort with the Flint Hills Group We will meet at the Topeka and Shawnee County Library parking lot to caravan/car pool, or email Jack at JKJMSmith@aol.com for directions. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

## [2] Oct 22. 9:00 am. Arkansas River Clean Up and Float Trip

9:00 am. to Noon - Clean Up. Noon to 1:00 pm Lunch; 1:00 pm Float. Southwind. Yvonne Cather (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org



Oct/Nov 2005

## [1] Oct 22. Dusk. Star Party

Join us at Powell Observatory in Louisburg, Kansas for a program entitled "It Came from Outer Space" and view the heavens through the observatory telescope.. Kanza. Ellen Brenneman, (816) 274-

8062 work, 816-213-2415 mobile, ebrenn1@yahoo.com

## [4] Oct 22. TBA. James A. Reed Wildlife Area Day Hike

Take in Fall colors and maybe migrating water fowl on a day hike southeast of Kansas City. Kanza. Anne McDonald, (913) 384-6645, anne.mcdonald@kansas.sierraclub.org

## [4] Oct 23. TBA. Hidden Valley Natural Area Day Hike

We'll enjoy cooler weather and colorful leaves on this 2 hour hike at Hidden Valley Natural Area. Kanza. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org

## [4] Oct 29 -30. TBA. Car Camping Devil's Backbone

If you're not too scared, spend Halloween weekend with us at Devil's Backbone Wilderness Area. Kanza. Kathy Patton, 816 461 6091, kathy.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

## [4] Nov 4-6. TBA. Bell Mountain Wilderness

3 day Backpack. Enjoy the crisp fall air, and the impressive views as we hike to Bell Mountain to Lindsey Mountain.. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

## [2] Nov 12-13 . Arkansas River Full Moon Float

Call Bill Cather for time and meeting place. Section of the river to be floated will be determined by he water flow.. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

## [1] Nov 12. TBA. Trail Maintenance

Have fun with us keeping the Perry Lake Trail clear for trail users. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

## [4] Nov 18-20. TBA. Backpacking at Paddy Creek Wilderness

***more outings next page***

# Committee Meetings

## Kanza Group (Kansas City)

### Executive Committee

**Oct 27, Dec 8 - 7:00 pm,**

Contact: Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443,  
info@kansas.sierraclub.org

### Joint Action Committee

**Oct 27, Dec 8 - 7:00 pm,**

Conservation, legislative, political and  
population. Contact: Elaine Giessel,  
(913) 888-8517,  
elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

## Southwind Group (Wichita)

### Executive Committee

**Oct 2, Nov 6 - 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) 842-6517,  
careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org.

## Topeka Section, Organizing Meetings, (time and location TBA)

Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

## Kansas Chapter: (State), Executive Committee, Nov 12 (location TBA)

Bill Griffith, (913) 772-8960, bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org

## *more outings*

Want two nights of sleeping in the woods over a weekend? Join us  
backpacking by moon light to our first camp site. Kanza. Bryan  
Ohrman, (816) 214-7875, bohrman@247expresscourier.com

### [4] Nov 26. TBA. Eagle Watch

An excellent opportunity to see numerous species of waterfowl and  
eagles. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.patton@missouri.  
sierraclub.org

### [1] Dec 2. 7:00 pm. Holiday dinner at China Inn

Holiday dinner at China Inn, 2010 N. Central (off N. Topeka Blvd.),  
7:00 p.m. On Friday, December 2. (No host dinner/cash bar) Come  
and celebrate the holidays and the Topeka Group's first year of success.  
Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

### [1] Dec 3. TBA. Indian Creek Day Hike

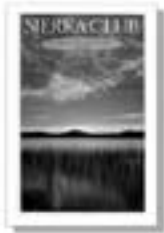
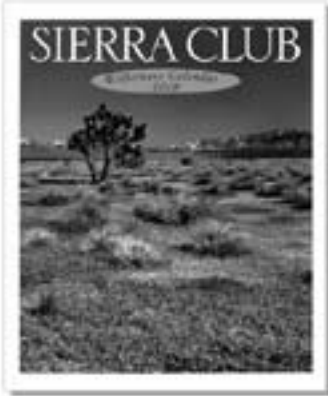
A leaf off day hike through the woods along Indian Creek in southern  
Johnson County Kansas. Kanza. Anne McDonald, (913) 384-6645,  
anne.mcdonald@kansas.sierraclub.org

### [1] Dec 9-11. TBA. Backpacking by Moonlight

Join us in backpacking by moon light to our first camp site Friday  
night. Kanza. Bryan Ohrman, (816) 214-7875, bohrman@247ex  
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# 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 17, Outings page 18, and Committee Meetings page 19. For the latest update on events, go to [www.kansas.sierraclub.org/EventsSearch.htm](http://www.kansas.sierraclub.org/EventsSearch.htm).

- Out Oct 1-2. TBA. Backpacking 101 Lab. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, [bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- CM Oct 2. 6:00 pm. Southwind Group's ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, [bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Oct 8. 11:00 am. Gyp Hills Hike. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, [bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Oct 8-9. TBA. Katy Trail. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, [paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org](mailto:paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org)
- GM Oct 14. 6:30 pm. Ken Lockwood with the Eagle Valley Raptor Center. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, [bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Oct 15-16. KCKA Fall Rendezvous. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, [bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Oct 15-16. TBA. Beginner Backpack. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, [eileenm@missouri.sierraclub.org](mailto:eileenm@missouri.sierraclub.org)
- CM Oct 20. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, [info@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- CM Oct 20. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, [elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Oct 22. 8:00 am. Hiking the Konza Prairie. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, [paulpost@paulpost.com](mailto:paulpost@paulpost.com)
- Out Oct 22. 9:00 am. Arkansas River Clean Up and Float Trip. Southwind. Yvonne Cather (316) 522-4741, [yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Oct 22. Dusk. Star Party. Kanza. Ellen Brenneman, (816) 274-8062 work, 816-213-2415 mobile, [ebrenn1@yahoo.com](mailto:ebrenn1@yahoo.com)
- Out Oct 22. TBA. James A. Reed Wildlife Area Day Hike. Kanza. Anne McDonald, (913) 384-6645, [anne.mcdonald@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:anne.mcdonald@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- GM Oct 25. 7:00 pm. Jackson Street drainage project. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, [paulpost@paulpost.com](mailto:paulpost@paulpost.com)
- Out Oct 29 -30. TBA. Car Camping Devil's Backbone. Kanza. Kathy Patton, 816 461 6091, [kathy.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org](mailto:kathy.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org)
- Out Oct 23. TBA. Hidden Valley Natural Area Day Hike. Kanza. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, [dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org](mailto:dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org)
- Out Nov 4-6. TBA. Bell Mountain Wilderness. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, [paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org](mailto:paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org)
- CM Nov 6. 6:00 pm. Southwind Group's ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, [bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- GM Nov 8. 7:30 PM. Share Your Adventures. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, [info@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- GM Nov 11. 6:30 pm. Ken McCloskey, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, [bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- CM Nov 12. 9:30 am. Kansas Chapter ExCom. Chapter. Bill Griffith, 913-772-8960, [bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Nov 12-13. Arkansas River Full Moon Float. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, [bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Nov 12. TBA. Trail Maintenance. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, [steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Nov 18-20. TBA. Backpacking at Paddy Creek Wilderness. Kanza. Bryan Ohrman, (816) 214-7875, [bohrman@247expresscourier.com](mailto:bohrman@247expresscourier.com)
- Out Nov 26. TBA. Eagle Watch. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, [dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org](mailto:dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org)
- Out Dec 2. 7:00 pm. Holiday dinner at China Inn. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, [paulpost@paulpost.com](mailto:paulpost@paulpost.com)
- Out Dec 3. TBA. Indian Creek Day Hike. Kanza. Anne McDonald, (913) 384-6645, [anne.mcdonald@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:anne.mcdonald@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Dec 9-11. TBA. Backpacking by Moonlight. Kanza. Bryan Ohrman, (816) 214-7875, [bohrman@247expresscourier.com](mailto:bohrman@247expresscourier.com)



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