A Clear Voice for a Sustainable Kansas

From the Fundraising Committee

The Kansas Chapter announced its new initiative to protect and improve the Kansas environment through the unveiling of its “Clear Voice” brochure. The Chapter’s philosophies and strategies are described in five campaigns as it begins new efforts to raise funds to support its work. The Chapter Fundraising Committee launched this effort with a goal met to introduce the brochure at the Kanza Group Silent Auction. (see page 14)

The full brochure can be found on the Chapter Website at: www.kansas.sierraclub.org/ClearVoice.pdf.

Introduction:

Since the Sierra Club was founded by John Muir in 1892, our volunteer members have held core values of a deep sense of responsibility to protect nature and wild places, and to insure that we leave a clean, healthy, and safe planet to our children and grandchildren.

Here in Kansas, we believe that the time has come for all our citizens to become fully aware of the opportunities and challenges that now present themselves. We must take responsibility for the lasting impact that today’s choices and ways of life will have on current and future generations.

See Clear Voice on page 7
Sierra Club info

Chapter Office
Sierra Club, Kansas Chapter
c/o Craig Wolfe
9844 Georgia
Kansas City, KS 66109-4326
913-299-4443
info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Legislative Coordinator
Charles Benjamin
PO Box 1642
Lawrence, KS 66044-8642
785-841-5902, fax 5922
chasbenjamin@sbcglobal.net

National Headquarters
Sierra Club
85 Second St., 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441
415-977-5500

Kansas Chapter Communications
- Craig Wolfe, Newsletter Editor, webmaster
- Stuart Bolt, Scott Smith, Elaine Giessel, Mike Campbell

Planet Kansas Newsletter:
send articles, events, and outings to info@kansas.sierraclub.org

www.kansas.sierraclub.org 888-7-SIERRA

Chapter Members Holding National Positions
- Craig Volland - Committee on Human Rights, Environment/Responsible Trade
- Elaine Giessel - Environmental Quality Strategy Team
- Steve Baru - Regional Vice President, Chair Northern Plains Regional, Conservation Committee, Vice Chair Council of Club Leaders, Organizational Effectiveness, Governance Committee, Presidential/ Congressional, Environmental Voter Education, Steering Committee, Sierra Club Mutual Funds, Investment Committee

President George W. Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111 president@whitehouse.gov

Vice President Dick Cheney
17th St & Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC 20500
202-456-2326 vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Interior Secretary Gale Norton
1849 C St NW, Washington, DC 20240
222-208-7351 www.doi.gov/secretary/gale_norton@ios.doi.gov

Senator Pat Roberts
302 Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4774 DC fax 202-224-3514
913-451-9343 KC fax 913-451-9446
316-227-2244 Dodge City fax 316-227-2264
316-263-0416 Wichita fax 316-263-0273/TD
785-295-2745 Topeka fax 785-235-3665
http://roberts.senate.gov/
http://roberts.senate.gov/e-mail_pat.html

Senator Sam Brownback
303 Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6521 DC fax 202-225-2715
913-492-6378 KC fax 913-492-7253
785-628-6401 Hays fax 785-628-3791

Rep. Jerry Moran 1st District
1519 Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2715 DC fax 202-225-5124
620-665-6138 Hutchinson fax 620-665-6360
785-628-6401 Hays fax 785-628-3791
www.house.gov/moranks01/
www.house.gov/moranks01/hearingfromyou.htm

Rep. Jim Ryun 2nd District
330 Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6601 DC fax 202-225-7986
785-232-4500 Topeka 620-232-6100 Pittsburg

Rep. Dennis Moore 3rd District
431 Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2865 DC fax 202-225-2807
913-383-2013 Overland Park fax 913-383-2088
913-621-0832 KC fax 913-621-1533
785-842-9313 Lawrence fax 785-843-3289

Rep. Todd Tiahrt 4th District
401 Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6216 DC fax 202-225-3489
316-262-8992 Wichita fax 316-262-5309
www.house.gov/tiahrt/ www.house.gov/tiahrt/e-mail_todd.htm

Governor Kathleen Sebelius
Capitol Bldg, 2nd Floor, Topeka, KS 66612
800-748-4409 785-296-6240 fax 785-296-7973
www.ksgovernor.org governor@state.ks.us

Governor Kathleen Sebelius
Capitol Bldg, 2nd Floor, Topeka, KS 66612
800-748-4409 785-296-6240 fax 785-296-7973
www.ksgovernor.org governor@state.ks.us

NOTE: because of security measures, mail sent to DC offices may take longer than usual to arrive.

Kansas Legislature: www.kslegislature.org/cgi-bin/index.cgi
Let’s Get Serious About Hydrogen

By Charles I. Burch

Prairie Writers Circle

Since 2003 President Bush has promoted his Hydrogen Fuel Initiative, a plan to make hydrogen our main national energy fuel. He even plugged hydrogen in his last State of the Union address.

The administration deserves credit for starting this worthwhile plan, but the current funding should be increased. The $260 million earmarked for hydrogen in the 2006 budget is about 3 percent of the Department of Energy’s research and development spending and only about 1 percent of the department’s total budget.

Hydrogen has great advantages as a fuel. It is abundant, making up two-thirds of every water molecule. When it burns it produces heat and water. The process is free of the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that are the bane of fossil fuels. Hydrogen fuel cells, electrochemical devices that combine hydrogen with oxygen to produce water and electricity, have a high efficiency, much higher than gasoline or diesel engines.

But there is a catch. Hydrogen generally doesn’t occur in nature by itself, but rather in combination with other elements. Today it is usually produced from fossil fuel.

The United States produces about 9 million tons of hydrogen annually, 95 percent by a process called reforming, which reacts hydrocarbons, typically natural gas, with high temperature steam. Reforming today is the least expensive way to make hydrogen on an industrial scale.

Fortunately more environmentally friendly ways of making hydrogen are at hand. High school chemistry students make it by running an electric current through water, a process called electrolysis, which splits water molecules to release their hydrogen. If the electricity used is from hydro power, solar panels or wind, hydrogen can be made without fossil fuels.

And newer, more innovative methods of making hydrogen are in the

See Hydrogen on page 6
In Case You Wondered
Why Kansas is Behind on Wind Power

By Craig Volland

In the last issue, Energy Committee Chair, Brooks Albery, reported on how Kansas utilities opposed a bill in the Kansas House promoting community wind power. See “Big Electric Utilities Team Up to Oppose Community Wind Bill” in the April-May issue of Planet Kansas. Here’s what’s happening.

Kansas Wind Power vs Plains/Midwest States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>US Wind Potential Ranking</th>
<th>Installed Capacity (MW)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As of April 26, 2006

Source: American Wind Energy Association

Lawrence Signs On to the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement

The Bush administration’s hostility towards the environment means that local governments have had to take the initiative in protecting our air and water. The Lawrence City Commission just rose to that challenge by becoming one of the latest municipalities to sign on to the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement.

By voting to sign the Agreement during their meeting on March 7, the commissioners agreed to follow the terms of the Kyoto Accord. Specifically, the Mayor’s Agreement calls upon cities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to 7 percent below their 1990 levels by 2012. After the vote to sign the Agreement, Lawrence’s mayor “Boog” Highberger directed city staff to take the Cool Cities steps of measuring the 1990 GHG emissions and crafting a master plan to reduce those emissions.

Luckily, the task is not as impossible as it might sound. Even before signing the Agreement, the city government was taking a number of steps to save energy and money. For instance, the traffic department is gradually changing all the traffic lights from incandescent bulbs to more efficient LED’s or light emitting diodes. The city is also retrofitting several municipal buildings to make them more energy efficient, and heating part of the waste water treatment plant with captured methane.

Compelled by her participation in the Sierra Club Summit last September, Wakarusa vice-chair Carey Maynard-Moody took the lead in creating this successful campaign. She started by using information from the Sierra Club’s Cool Cities campaign, which is designed to help activists push their towns into signing the Mayor’s Agreement and follow through with a comprehensive GHG emissions reduction program. She and several volunteers gathered information from some of the other 213 cities that have taken the pledge to reduce their
A Trip to Ha Ha Tonka
By Dave Patton THB Outings Chair

In late March, my wife Kathy and I along with about 20 other outdoor minded individuals spent the weekend exploring Ha Ha Tonka State Park located in the Missouri Ozarks.

Ha Ha Tonka State Park contains some of Missouri’s best examples of Karst topography. Hundreds or millions of years ago much of the region we live in was under a vast sea. Over time sediment from decaying marine life formed the layer of limestone and dolomite seen throughout the Ozarks region. After the seas receded, groundwater turned into a weak acid as it flowed through decaying organic matter and found it’s way into cracks and crevices in the dolomite. As time went by, the flowing water dissolved the dolomite creating caves. If the roof of the cave weakened sufficiently the roof would collapse creating a sink hole. If not all of the roof collapsed the remaining portion of the roof would form a natural bridge. If the water gathered into a stream a spring was formed where it exited the cave. All these features can be found at Ha Ha Tonka State Park.

The name Ha Ha Tonka has been attributed to the Osage Indians who inhabited the area and made use of the spring. Inhabited by European settlers since the 1830’s, the natural beauty of Ha Ha Tonka has been known for some time. In 1909, Governor Herbert Hadley proposed that Ha Ha Tonka become Missouri’s first State park. It wasn’t until 1978 that the area received official State Park status. In 1903, Robert Snyder, a successful Kansas City business man visited the area and thought it would be the perfect setting for a private retreat featuring a European style castle. He purchased 5000 acres in Camden County including Ha Ha Tonka Lake and Spring. Construction on the castle began in 1905. Unfortunately, only a year later construction came to a halt after Mr. Snyder’s untimely death. A scaled back version of the castle was completed by Mr. Snyder’s sons and the property was leased as a hotel. In 1942 the entire structure along with the adjacent carriage house was gutted by fire. In the mid 1970’s vandals burnt down the 80 foot tall water tower. Stone remnants of all three structures remain today.

In the 1930’s Union Electric Light & Power (now AmerenUE, the people in charge of the Taum Sauk reservoir that recently burst wiping out Johnson Shut In’s State Park. Kind of scary that they’re in charge of Bagnell Dam too isn’t it?) built Bagnell dam and the Lake of the Ozarks. The Niangua arm of the Lake of the Ozarks envelopes Ha Ha Tonka lake.

Saturday morning, after a hearty pancake breakfast, we headed for the Park. After a brief stop at the Visitor’s Center, we got down to some serious hiking and exploring. The circuitous route we were going to hike would take the better part of the day and give us a real flavor of what Ha Ha Tonka had to offer. We started at the Spring Trail, which led us to Ha Ha Tonka Spring, one of the largest springs in the state, and the location of what was originally Ha Ha Tonka lake. Along the trail were remnants of a grist mill built in the 1830’s. After exploring the spring we continued on to the Castle Trail. This led us up to the remains of the castle with some spectacular views of the Lake of the Ozarks and Whispering Dell, a huge sink basin, created when the roof of an immense cave collapsed. We stopped at the Castle remains for a leisurely lunch, some interesting conversation and a nice rest. After we were finished exploring the Castle remains, we hiked towards the Colosseum.
Wind Power on the Ferrell Ranch

By Tom Kneil

On the Saturday following our March program in which we viewed “Kilowatt Ours” ten Southwind Sierraans and one guest toured the newest wind farm in the state. Pete Ferrell, whom some of you know through our weekend backpacking trips on his ranch in the Flint Hills, was our host. His 8,000 acre ranch is located in Butler County, just south of the town of Beaumont, outside of the “heart of the Flint Hills area” as defined by Gov. Sebelius. After meeting Pete, we drove to a spot where an old cabin had once stood and sat listening to him talk about his project and what it means for his land and the surrounding area.

There are some 100 wind turbines in the project, half of which are on Pete’s property and the other half on his neighbor’s properties. Pete is committed to the environmental integrity of his property which has been in his family for three generations. He talked with a number of wind energy developers with the intent of finding one who would listen to and agree to his conditions for protecting both habitat and the land. Pete had surveyed his land for both wildlife and wind speeds for a couple of years prior to seeking a wind developer. As a result he knew where the prairie chicken leks were and stipulated that they had to be avoided. He and the site crew that maintains the turbines continue to monitor the area for wildlife and especially for dead birds. He also demanded bonding for the decommissioning and removal of the turbines at the end of their useful life. Pete does not believe that the presence of the wind turbines has had a negative effect on the local ecosystem though he does acknowledge that some will continue to be critical, if for no other reason than the impact on the viewscape.

The turbines have been in continuous use since their completion in February with no down time due to lack of wind. In fact, they are generating more energy than the substation can handle and so some turbines have to be shut down at times. The energy is shipped to Missouri.

Pete has had many requests for tours and expects to construct a small visitor’s center on the spot where we sat. He invited us to return. It was an enlightening couple of hours with a gracious and very articulate host who responded eagerly to our many questions.

Southwinders sit and relax near wind turbines in the background.

Hydrogen, continued from page 3

laboratory. Researchers at the University of Hawaii are improving the efficiency of using sunlight directly to split water. Another idea is to mimic the ability of plants and single-cell organisms to produce hydrogen in their metabolic processes.

We face an energy crunch. We must wean ourselves from fossil fuels. Domestic production of oil peaked in 1970. We now depend on imported oil, much of it from politically unstable parts of the world such as the Middle East. We need an all-out effort to develop more efficient ways to produce hydrogen without fossil fuel and to make it a practical way to run our economy.

This will take money. Private sector research should be encouraged through federal tax credits for relevant hydrogen research and million-dollar prizes for scientists who make breakthrough discoveries.

The billions of dollars needed to fund this program could come from a “carbon tax,” a tax on all fuels based on the amount of carbon they release into the atmosphere. And because this tax would make traditional fossil fuels more expensive to use, it would be a powerful incentive to move away from them.

If, for example, such a tax yielded just 10 cents a gallon on crude oil, that alone would raise about $30 billion a year.

Combined with energy conservation, development of hydrogen as a practical fuel on a national scale could end our need to import foreign oil, and eliminate the greenhouse gas emissions and pollution caused by burning fossil fuels. We can do it, but the job won’t be easy. It will take brilliant scientists, billions of dollars and a serious commitment from government and industry.

Charles Burch was a senior staff scientist at Conoco before retiring in 2002. Now living in Grand Junction, Colo., he wrote this for the Land Institute’s Prairie Writers Circle, Salina, Kan.
Climate, continued from page 4

greenhouse gas emissions.

Armed with all her data, Carey recruited several helpers and made a presentation to the city’s Recycling and Resource Conservation Advisory Board. After careful deliberation, that Board recommended that the Mayor, with city commission approval, sign the Agreement.

When the item appeared on the March 7, 2006 Lawrence City Commission agenda, Carey alerted local Sierra Club members via email, encouraging their participation at the meeting. Carey and six Sierra Club volunteers, plus several local environmental activists, sat through a three hour city council meeting, no mean feat. They were there to lobby the commissioners on the benefits of reducing pollution and saving money by cutting energy use. In her presentation, Carey reminded the commission that Lawrence was blessed to have a stone’s throw from where they were gathered in City Hall.

As part of being a Cool City, Carey urged the commission to support this production of local hydro power through the purchase of GreenTags. Following Carey’s presentation, two of the six volunteers, Chris Scafe and Neal Malicky, gave heartfelt testimonies during the public comment period. Celeste Fish, a K.U. environmental studies major, also spoke, concluding with a Ghandi quote, “be the change you want to see”.

Without any discussion, the commissioners unanimously agreed, to sign on that very night.

Now that Lawrence has signed the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement, it’s up to all of its citizens to monitor the city and make sure it lives up to its promise. Cutting energy use requires a long-term commitment of making wise choices in transportation, facilities operations, and clean, renewable energy support. In the meantime, we hope those of you who live in Lawrence will write the commissioners and thank them for their courageous step. You can send the commissioners e-mails at:

Mike Amyx -- mikeamyx515@hotmail.com
Sue Hack -- suehack@sunflower.com
Boog Hightberger -- boog@lawrence.ixks.com
Mike Rundle -- mike@mikerundle.org
David Schauner -- dschauner@sunflower.com

or send them each a snail mail at:

City Hall,
PO Box 708
Lawrence, KS 66044

Clear Voice, continued from page 1

For the Sierra Club in Kansas to play a vital role in this movement of the heart and mind, we must establish a fully-funded program of new environmental, education, and conservation initiatives.

Too often in Kansas, our efforts have been an exercise in stopping something bad. With new opportunities looking Kansas squarely in the eye, we have a rare window to move our state to become the leader in new energy technologies vital to the nation’s ability to achieve energy independence and cut our dangerous reliance on foreign sources of oil.

However, we must still be vigilant and continue the fight to protect our sacred resources of water, air, and habitat. We will not forget the miracle of nature’s balance. We will remind Kansans what many have forgotten - that mankind is indeed the steward of the Planet. With careless leadership, we will squander our resources and plunder what is essential for our children’s quality of life. With responsible leadership, we can wisely use our Planet’s gifts and leave behind our most precious legacies - a sustainable Planet for generations.

These can be the times of changes to come - changes that will lead us into a safe, clean, and renewable future. We have only but to see the future clearly, to understand our choices, and to choose wisely. The Sierra Club in Kansas stands ready to play a key role in this exciting transition, but we need your help. We need your leadership.

If we are to accomplish our goals, our Sierra Club volunteers must:

1. Have support staff who are experts in outreach to the public and to policy makers through effective media and organizational campaigns.
2. Build strong alliances and coalitions with old and new partners.
3. Insure that environmental quality benefits all our citizens, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or economic standing.

We stand ready. The Sierra Club in Kansas has chosen five areas of focus, or campaigns, around which we will create our new environmental, education, and conservation initiatives.

See Clear Voice on page 18

Ha Ha Tonka, continued from page 5

Trail. The Colosseum Trail took us under a 70 foot natural bridge and through the enormous sink hole for which the trail was named. After climbing back out of the Colosseum, we caught a connector trail that took us back along the same general path we had hiked in. Only we were much higher up and were afforded many spectacular views down into Whispering Dells and across to the remains of the Castle.

Ha Ha Tonka is certainly a park worth exploring. I think we’ll try to make a visit to Ha Ha Tonka an annual event. If you’d like to join us on a future trip, watch for a listing next Spring in our Outings Brochure.

Ha Ha Tonka, continued from page 5
Volunteers: The Faces of the Sierra Club!

Elaine Giessel, Kanza Group Chair and Volunteer Coordinator

At least twenty Kanza Group volunteers helped educate Kansas City area residents again this spring, by volunteering to promote Sierra Club programs at various events. Pitching our message in the public arena gives us credibility and builds our base; both are critical to our success. Thanks to everyone who has helped put a face on Kansas Sierra Club conservation efforts!

We were well-prepared this year with “peak oil” information compiled by Wayne Sangster, with our new “No Sweat” Guide created by Craig Volland, and with a cool construct-it-yourself pinwheel designed by Brooks Albery and printed with kid-friendly conservation messages. By the end of April, we also had our exciting new “Clear Voice” conservation campaign brochure in hand, thanks primarily to the excellent work of Frank Drinkwine and Craig Wolfe.

The tabling season began April 1, when Brooks Albery, Tom Thompson, Steve Hassler and I tabled at the annual Farmers Exhibition 2006, organized by Craig Volland, hosted by the KC Food Circle and co-sponsored by Sierra Club. The following weekend, our outreach efforts continued, courtesy of Wayne Sangster, who soloed again at the annual Earth Fair hosted by the Prairie Village Environmental Committee and the Shawnee Mission East Environmental Club.

In mid-April, Tom Thompson, Sarita Singh, Craig Lubow, Steve and Jennifer Hassler and son Greg, and I tabled at two different Wild Oats Market locations for their Earth Day celebration.

At noon on the Friday before Earth Day, Brooks Albery, Jim Horlacher, Steve Hassler and I passed out literature and the last of our handheld fans at the annual Sprint Headquarter’s 2006 Earth Day Celebration. Hundreds of office workers meet with representatives of the environmental community over the lunch hour.

The next day was the 36th anniversary of Earth Day. A team of Kanza volunteers spent over four hours talking to the public about our energy campaign at the Kansas City area EarthFest, organized by Bridging the Gap and held this year in Shawnee Mission Park. Close to 2600 visitors were counted at the event. We had a simple solar energy demonstration created by Richard Voss and a team of pinwheel assembly assistants, including Greg Hassler, Rachel Voss and I. A special thanks to Brooks Albery, Tom Thompson, Steve Hassler and Wayne Sangster, who manned the main table. A number of Sierrans dropped by to chat.

Volunteers from the Kanza Executive Committee, notably Craig Wolfe, our Auction Chair, Frank Drinkwine, Tom Thompson, and Mike Miller, were busy early the following Saturday, setting up and then running the Group’s annual Earth Day celebration and silent auction. Last year’s Auction Chair Mary Thompson helped lay out donated items and bid sheets. Margaret Drinkwine volunteered as bar tender for the evening, and the Voss/Giessel family’s “Red Shoe” catering operation prepared and served the refreshments and kept the kitchen functioning.

The following Friday found Tom Thompson and me back out in the field, tabling at the Cinco de Mayo Celebration in Rosedale Park, Kansas City, KS. We did a tag team operation - while I helped kids construct pinwheels, Tom pitched renewable energy to the adults. Tom set up again at the park on Saturday morning, where Steve and Greg Hassler and I met him later.

See Volunteers on page 9
Wichita River Festival
By Yvonne Cather

“Keep Your SPLASH in the River Clean” was this year’s motto for Southwind Group’s entry in the 35th Annual Wichita River Festival parade. Southwind’s float utilized the river festival’s theme “Big Splash” and integrated a super hero theme into the choreography of the participants and built a spectacular float featuring a flowing river. It was announced to 85,000 parade attendees, with the Batman Theme playing in the background, that Sierra Club – Southwind Group floats in with a BIG SPLASH covering Wichita and the surrounding area promoting their mission: TO ENJOY & TO EXPLORE & TO PROTECT the wild places of our Earth. Super hero, Captain Sierra Club (played by Charles Benjamin”) is leading the float with his weapon called AThe Big Splash@ soaking B splashing and zapping the pollution in our river. Captain Sierra Club’s helpers were wearing green t-shirts and masks and were walking along with their super powered splash guns ready to protect the river from the polluters which were dressed in black t-shirts and masks carrying trash ready to pollute. Creating ASierra Club’s River Splash@ was Janica White riding the waves in her kayak.

A special thanks to Lyle Kaufmann for the loan of his trailer, for the afternoon shift. This is 3-day event, but we just didn’t have enough volunteer energy left to table on Sunday.

By tabling at a variety of events, we have managed to reach a wide diversity of individuals. My thanks to the many volunteers who helped spread the word on the benefits of renewable energy to thousands of Metro area residents this spring! I apologize if I have missed anyone.

We will be tabling again this summer, including at the annual June ’teenth celebration in Wyandotte County and at local water festivals. We can always use more volunteers – on the job training is provided! It’s fun meeting with the public and sharing your passion. If you are interested in helping, please contact Elaine Giessel at elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org.

Earth Day Celebration
By Bill Cather

On Earth Day, Southwind did a trail maintenance project at the Satterthwaite Wildlife Refuge near Udall, Kansas. Wildflowers were identified and lunch was provided by Frank Akerman. A few hot dogs were burned for the good of the group. Southwind then visited the Bartlett Arboretum in Belle Plaine, Kansas to identify a few domesticated flowers, trees and to absorb some music and art. Thanks to the participants that attended the celebration, Neil Marcus, Karin Cowdrey, Bobbie Hulbert, Frank Akerman, Aiko Allen, Bobbie Keltner, Yvonne Cather and Bill Cather.

Wildflower Walk
By Bill Cather

Wichita State University Field State near Viola, Kansas hosted Southwind members for a rainy day plant identification walk on the bank of the Ninnescah River. Professor Don Disler and Art Youngman answered questions and named plants for the group. Bobbie Keltner was surprised that the area had lost an estimated 42 inches of top soil. Before settlement, the land had 56 inches of top soil. I guess we have about 14 inches left. Thanks to Carolyn and Roger Benefiel, Bobbie Keltner, Bobbie Hulbert, Bill Cather and Yvonne Cather whom braved the rain and joined us for this walk.
Arkansas River
Clean Up

By Yvonne Cather

Southwind Group organizes volunteers to clean up a section of the Arkansas River twice a year in cooperation with the City of Wichita’s “Arkansas River Advisory Committee.” On May 6, volunteers from fifteen organizations joined in the community-wide effort to remove litter and debris from along the banks of the Arkansas River. As a result, ninety five bags of trash were collected totaling 1.72 tons!

Southwind Group also provided kayak and canoe rentals free for the clean up participants courtesy of Bill Cather. Our River is Our Responsibility so Southwind and all of the other organizations braved the rain to clean the river in preparation of Wichita’s 35th Annual River Festival. Photos are courtesy of Libby Albers, Environmental Specialist for the City of Wichita Department of Environmental Services. Thanks to all of the participants that joined Sierra Club for their section of the river, Kathryn Buck, Rick Baird, Jason, Heather and Ava Stone, Julia Gardner, Taylor Gardner, Montana Gardner, Teresa Cook, Bill Cather and Yvonne Cather.
Forever Wild 2006

By Bill Cather

Sierra Club Southwind Group joined the Great Plains Earth Institute, Bartlett Arboretum, Dyck Arboretum, Peace and Social Justice Center, Works of Heart, Arkansas River Coalition, Kansas Canoe and Kayak Association, Grandmas Farm, Environmental and Human Health, Eagle Valley Raptor Center, Trees for Life, Green Acres Health Food Store, Backwoods, and Natural of Course Health Food Store, as well as, several book stores locally in bringing Walkin’ Jim Stoltz’s program “Forever Wild 2006” to Wichita on March 24. About 270 people attended the performance. Walkin’ Jim has walked most of Yellow Stone to the Yukon and camped virtually everywhere in between covering over 25,000 miles of America’s back country. He shared his intimate love of nature and its beauty to advocate for its continued protection.

Local talent and great artists Robin Macy, Kentucky White and Darren Wilcox also performed. Robin is the owner of the majestic Bartlett Arboretum in Belle Plaine, Kansas and is restoring it with loving care. She is mixing nature, music and art at the Arboretum. Keep up with Robin by visiting her website at www.bartlettarboretum.com.

Many thanks to Yvonne Cather and Dan Bolt for their many hours of volunteer work and organization at bringing this event to Wichita!

Upper left, Miles the Barn Owl’s accompanied by Rachel Bournival from the Eagle Valley Raptor Center. Lower left, left to right, are Robin Macy, Darren Wilcox, and Kentucky White. Right is Walkin’ Jim Stoltz.
Topeka Group’s Earth Day Outing A Success

By Paul Post, Topeka Group Chair

Earth Day was celebrated in style by 20 members of the Topeka Group, who showed up at 7:00 a.m. on a sunny Saturday for a clean up effort on I-70 west of Topeka. The group has agreed to remove trash on two miles of highway right-of-way three times a year under the Kansas Department of Transportation’s “Adopt A Highway” program. Signs recognizing the group’s “adoption” of the stretch of highway between Wanamaker and Urish Roads will be installed in the near future. Topeka Outings Chair, Jack Smith, shown here retrieving a discarded speed limit sign, called the first effort an outstanding success. “The Topeka Group is small compared to some of the other groups in the Kansas Chapter, but our members are a committed bunch. We had 20 folks out here at sunrise ready to don safety vests and pick up highway trash. It was an outstanding first effort.”

Jack has scheduled the next cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday, July 22.
**Southwind Group’s Annual Picnic**

Date: Friday, June 9, 2006

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Chisolm Creek Park, Wichita – South Shelter

Enter Chisolm Creek Park at the Oliver entrance just north of 29th St. N. The south shelter is the first shelter area along the road.

Come enjoy a nice evening with your fellow Sierrans. Bring your favorite side dish. We will supply the main course.

Contact: Stuart Bolt at (316) 685-3492 or stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org for information.
By Craig Wolfe, Auction Chair

The Kanza Group (Kansas City) held its major fundraising event on April 29 and broke all previous fundraising records for a single event with its effort. The event, held at the Four Colonies Clubhouse, adopted the theme “Energizing Kansans for Energy Independence” to draw attention to the yet unrealized potential for wind energy in Kansas. Kansas has an enormous opportunity to become a leading state in the production of wind energy (see page 4). Global warming was another focus of the event.

Kanza leaders, along with the state Chapter Fundraising Committee, chose this event to create and unveil the Chapter’s new “Clear Voice” brochure (see cover story), which outlines the Chapter’s conservation campaigns and will be a cornerstone of statewide fundraising activities.

But the real story is about the volunteers who worked, and sometimes slaved, to make the Silent Auction a record breaker. All nighters were not out of the question. I won’t attempt to name them all, but the volunteers’ efforts have made it possible for the Kanza Group to expand its conservation efforts. And, of course, a super thank you to the companies and individuals whose contributions insured our success (see following pages).

Rather than tell you any more about the event, I will let the photos tell the story.
Thank You to our Sponsors of the Kanza Silent Auction Success

John Verbanic  
First Affirmative Financial Network - Jim Hirlacher  
Kimberly Reene  
Baru Financial Services - Steve Baru  
Jin-Yuan Price

Steve & Jennifer Hassler  
Craig Volland & Anne Allegre  
Steve & Kerry Herndon  
Stefan Feltens  
Mike & Pam Miller  
Gene Schillie

Thank You to the Following Business and Individuals whose Donations Helped Create our Silent Auction Success

American Jazz Museum, 1616 East 18th Street  
Applebees, 6800 Johnson Drive  
Aronson Massage, Quivira Sports-79th & Quivira  
Backwoods, 11940 W 119  
Bill Blessing  
Carlsen Center, 12345 College Blvd.  
Ernie Miller Nature Center, 909 North Highway 7  
Family Tree Nursery, 8424 Farley  
First Watch, 2800 West 53rd Street  
Friends of the Kaw, www.kansasriver.com  
Gear for Sports, 9700 Commerce Pkwy  
Glenwood Arts Theatres, 9575 Metcalf  
Great Harvest Bread, 5495 W 95  
Green Bag Company, www.greenbag.info  
Green Tea Restaurant & Bar, 5400 West 95th Street  
Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery, 18807 158 St  
Insulating Professional, 711 East 98th Street  
Italian Delight, 6522 Martway  
Its Only Natural, 407 W Gregoray  
J. Alexanders, 11471 Metcalf  
J. Wilbur Co., 1700 Central  
Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture, www.kccua.org  
Kansas Sampler, 9548 Antioch  
Kokopelli Nursery, 9160 K-7 Hwy  
Longview Gardens, 11801 E Bannister  
Marquee Artisan Wines, 8650 College Boulevard  
Midland Radio, 5900 Parretta Drive  
Natural Lawn of America, 7019 Martindale Rd  
Natures Niche, Space 2090 Independence Ctr  
New Belgium Beer, www.newbelgium.com  
OTALPED LLC  
Performance Plus Homes, 5165 West 195th  
Pie Lady Coffeehouse, 13408 Santa Fe Tr Dr  
Recycle Plus Rugs - Ed and Lee Rowe, Scott Gregory, CPA, 222 West Gregory Blvd - Suite 234  
Southwest Jewels, 5305 Johnson Dr  
Starbucks, www.starbucks.com  
Straw, Sticks & Bricks, 115 West 18th Street  
Strawberry Hill Povitica, 8609 Quivira  
Suburban Lawn & Garden, 10501 Roe Tom & Mary Thompson, Unicorn Theatre, 3828 Main  
Voortman Cookies, www.voortmancookies.com  
White Buffalo Trading Company, 5727 Johnson Drive  
Whole Foods, 7401 W 91st St  
Wild Birds Unlimited, 7347 Quivira Road  
Wild Oats, 5101 Johnson Drive
Free Newsletter Subscription for Sierra Club Members!!!
Learn how socially and environmentally responsible investing makes our world better!

For your FREE, one year subscription to our quarterly newsletter please mail, phone, or email your request to:

First Affirmative Financial Network
5960 Dearborn, #107
Mission, KS 66202
1-800-341-0528
Email: TreeHuggerJim@aol.com

Jim Horlacher® MBA, AIF®
Comprehensive Financial Planner
and Accredited Investment Fiduciary™

First Affirmative Financial Network LLC is an independent Registered Investment Advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
Now for Sale!

The Sierra Club now offers artisan blended and certified organic, fair trade coffees from Latin America and the South Pacific; and certified organic, fair trade regular teas and herbal tea.

Go to: www.kansas.sierraclub.org/southwind/fundraising
For pricing and order form. We will ship any where in the state.

Al Gore’s Movie, “An Inconvenient Truth”, Comes To Kansas City June 16

By Paul Post, Topeka Group Chair

“I’m Al Gore. I used to the the next president of the United States.” So begins the new film by Davis Guggenheim, which according to a news release by the Sundance Film Festival is an elegant multimedia lecture where Gore indisputably correlates CO2 emissions with exponentially rising temperatures, already responsible for dramatic climactic shifts like ice cap melting, drought, and rising sea levels. Interwoven with this riveting public address are intimate moments revealing the poetic, searching side of Gore as he struggles to define his purpose in the aftermath of the 2000 election. The film was accorded three standing ovations after showings at Sundance.

The film’s website, www.climatecrisis.net, states that “An Inconvenient Truth” offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man’s fervent crusade to halt global warming’s deadly progress in its tracks by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it. That man is former Vice President Al Gore, who, in the wake of defeat in the 2000 election, re set the course of his life to focus on a last ditch, all out effort to help save the planet from irrevocable change. In this eye opening and poignant portrait of Gore and his “traveling global warming show,” Gore also proves himself to be one of the most misunderstood characters in modern American public life. Here he is seen as never before in the media—funny, engaging, open and downright on fire about getting the surprisingly stirring truth about what he calls our “planetary emergency” out to ordinary citizens before it’s too late. Gore has criss-crossed the country, flying coach at his own expense, to spread the message.

The film is set to open in select theaters on May 24. According to www.climatecrisis.net, the film will be shown at the AMC Studio 30 in Olathe and the Tivoli Theater in Westport starting June 16. A representative of the theater could not verify this opening date, but stated that the film was definitely on the schedule. The theater's web site, www.tivolikc.com has the movie on its list of upcoming films but likewise does not include the opening date. The theater spokesperson said that the website will be updated in late May to include the June calendar, which should then include show dates and times.

The Topeka Group has plans in the works to see the film sometime after the opening date. A trip to Kansas City will undoubtedly be in the works, since Topeka members are doubtful that the film would ever see be shown in the local area. All Topeka theaters are owned by the same chain, which has not been known to market controversial films in the past. Nevertheless, the Topeka Group intends to make a formal request to the theater chain asking that the film to shown there.
Clear Voice, continued from page 7

Smart Energy Solutions

Nothing threatens the Planet’s future, our security, or the health of our air, water, and wildlands more than how we produce and consume energy. For the first time, National Sierra Club has made the push for **Smart Energy Solutions** their highest priority over the next decade. Continuing down the same old energy path is no longer an option. We must begin now to make smart choices about the ways we produce and consume energy.

**Vision:** Kansas has become a leader in renewable energy production and plays an important role in moving the nation past its dependency on fossil fuels.

**Action:** The Smart Energy Solutions Campaign will promote the following initiatives:

- Advocate for energy conservation and efficiency through direct education of the public, business, and civic leaders. We will motivate people through their desire for better health and financial security to consume less energy at home, at work, and in their transportation choices.
- Promote clean, renewable energy alternatives through public education to increase demand for wind, solar, hydrogen, and biofuels, all using sustainable production methods.
- Create and support legislation that achieves energy conservation and efficiency including Renewable Portfolio Standards and Community Wind.
- Promote energy independence by focusing on the economic and job growth benefits of reducing energy imports and increasing clean renewable energy production and exports.
- Promote healthy and safe communities by focusing attention on the health benefits of clean air and water and healthier food that result when we extract and burn less coal, gas, oil, and radioactive fuels. Property values will increase as communities become more desirable.
- Eliminate the “environmental prejudice” in the siting of energy facilities.

Stop Global Warming

The damage done by global warming is now indisputable and spreading. Melting polar ice caps, intensified Atlantic storms, drought, and coral reef bleaching all warn us we are borrowing heavily from the future. We will focus our efforts on activating the large majority of Kansans who know the time has come to act.

**Vision:** Kansans are well on their way towards reducing fossil fuel consumption. Kansas is an example of how to reduce GHGs (greenhouse gases) exhausted into the atmosphere.

**Action:** The Stop Global Warming Campaign will work “hand-in-glove” with the Smart Energy Solutions Campaign and will include the following initiatives:

- Promote energy conservation and efficiency for our homes, and commercial and industrial buildings. Less fossil fuel burned means less GHGs. **The cleanest energy is the energy we never consume!**
- Stop the construction of new coal-fired power plants – one of the largest sources of GHGs. Effective conservation and efficiency programs mean these new plants are not needed.
- Increase vehicle fuel efficiency and reduce overall transportation miles driven. Develop vehicles with greater fuel-efficiency that run on clean, renewable fuels. Purchase local food and products. All will help reduce GHGs, increase demand for renewable fuels, reduce the need for imported oil, and leave the air cleaner for everyone.
- Promote clean and renewable energy sources, showing the link to economic growth.

Protect Water Resources

Water resources and issues take many shapes in Kansas. From the quality of surface water, to protection of river and wetland habitat, to sustaining subsurface rivers and aquifers, Sierra Club has its hands full protecting our water resources. It’s time we begin to value water as if every drop counts.

**Vision:** Kansans recognize the vital role water plays in their social, economic, and environmental security; and have insured the protection of water resources for future generations.

**Action:** The Protect Water Resources Campaign will promote the following initiatives:

- Enforce the Clean Water Act and protect all waters in Kansas, whether navigable or non-navigable.
- Conserve and protect surface and ground water from depletion by agriculture, utilities, and industry.
- Create and support legislation that achieves energy conservation and efficiency including Renewable Portfolio Standards and Community Wind.
- Promote clean and renewable energy alternatives through public education to increase demand for wind, solar, hydrogen, and biofuels, all using sustainable production methods.
- Promote energy independence by focusing on the economic and job growth benefits of reducing energy imports and increasing clean renewable energy production and exports.
- Promote healthy and safe communities by focusing attention on the health benefits of clean air and water and healthier food that result when we extract and burn less coal, gas, oil, and radioactive fuels. Property values will increase as communities become more desirable.
- Eliminate the “environmental prejudice” in the siting of energy facilities.
• Prevent and remove pollution sources such as non-point sources, landfills, manufacturing, concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), and sewage overflow, which threaten surface water and groundwater resources.
• Increase the safety of our waters for recreation for our children and grandchildren to play in.
• Promote conservation at home, at the office, and in public buildings, including the use of low-flow fixtures, sensible irrigation, native landscaping, and xeriscaping.
• Reduce mercury pollution in water by stopping the construction of coal-fired power plants. This will reduce the mercury contamination of fish, which has made eating fish from some Kansas waters hazardous.

**Kansas Wild Legacy**

Public lands and special wild places are a treasure for all citizens to enjoy and hold dear. Sierra Club will oppose threats to these treasures created by suburban sprawl, abusive recreation, commercial development, and overgrazing.

**Vision:** Kansans appreciate and cherish their wild and natural places as valuable habitat to protect and respectfully enjoy.

**Action:** The Kansas Wild Legacy Campaign will promote the following initiatives:

- Protect wildlife and habitat by preserving existing and creating new wildlife refuges, wetlands, nature preserves, parks, and other protected sanctuaries.
- Support the positions outlined in our Flint Hills Position Statement and the Joint Environmental Group Statement on Power Plant Siting.
- Support plans that encourage urban revitalization rather than suburban sprawl and greenfield developments.
- Promote the economic value of natural beauty. *Nature is the ultimate infrastructure that sustains everything we do.* Recognize its value now for the enjoyment by all in the future.

**Safe & Healthy Communities**

Healthy communities can only exist when clean water, clean air, and freedom from toxic chemicals are available to all citizens, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or economic standing. The Sierra Club will work to ensure that all Kansas communities share these values as fundamental rights.

**Vision:** Kansas communities are free from poisoned air and water, benefit from renewable energy, have safe local food sources, and are healthy places to raise our children.

**Action:** The Safe and Healthy Communities Campaign will promote the following initiatives:

- Advocate for the enforcement of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts and challenge major pollution sources, such as power plants, refineries, and chemical plants, to install the best available pollution controls when they build new or expand existing facilities. We can no longer assume that the EPA and other government agencies will be vigilant about levels of harmful toxins in the air or water.
- Stop coal-fired power plants. There is nothing clean about coal. Coal-fired power plants are the country’s largest unregulated source of mercury pollution. Mercury exposure can result in birth defects, brain damage, and learning problems. The environmental scars from coal mining are permanent.
- Support “Smart Growth,” urban revitalization, mass transit systems, locally grown food, and locally manufactured products. This will reduce vehicle miles traveled per capita and cut energy usage, pollution, and global warming emissions. These approaches also mean vital services will remain within reach for all urban residents.
- Promote the health benefits of thriving natural environments, in particular the addition of natural environments in urban centers where the citizens cannot otherwise access places of natural beauty and biodiversity due to social and economic circumstances.
- Support solid and toxic waste reduction and recycling programs. Require rigorous criteria for landfill sitings.
- Oppose the establishment or expansion of CAFOs. These operations pollute air and water resources and harm the economies of the local communities they invade.

**Your leadership is needed**

If you believe in these Campaigns, and if you believe that Sierra Club in Kansas will provide the needed energy and commitment to move Kansans toward a better and more sustainable future, now is the time to act. In whatever way you can, commit your energy and resources. Get behind the Sierra Club’s efforts. **Today is the time to make a difference.**

You can download a PDF of the Clear Voice brochure at: www.kansas.sierraclub.org/ClearVoice.pdf. To receive a copy of the brochure, send a note to info@kansas.sierraclub.org.
# Chapter & Group Leaders

Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter

## Chapter Executive Committee

### Officers, Committee Chairs

- **Elected ExCom member; **Appointed ExCom member, 
- **Group Representative to Chapter, **Officer / Committee Chair

### Bill Griffith*
- *Chair, Council Delegate, Political Co-Chair, (913) 772-8960, bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org*

### Yvonne Cather****
- *Vice-Chair, Legislative Chair, Southwind Chapter/Group Rep, Fundraising Co-Chair, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org*

### Tom Kneil***
- *Secretary, (316) 744-1016, thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org*

### Mike Miller*
- *Membership Chair, Transportation, (913) 362-2600, mrmiller1@mindspring.com*

### Craig Lubow*
- *Calendars, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org*

### Elizabeth Bishop*
- *Webmaster, Newsletter Chair, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kcna.org*

### Craig Wolfe***
- *CAFO Chair, Trade Chair, Agriculture Chair, Water Quality C-Chair, (913) 788-7336, voland@kansas.sierraclub.org*

### Brooks Albey****
- *Energy Chair, (913) 851-3704, brooksalbery_sr@yahoo.com*

### Steve Hassler*
- *Secretary, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org*

### Craig Wolfe*
- *Treasurer, Fundraising Co-Chair, (316) 685-3492, stuartbolt@earthlink.net*

### Bill Cather****
- *Chair, Membership Co-Chair, (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org*

### Larry Ross*
- *Vice Chair, Outings Co-Chair, (316) 685-5681, lross12@msn.com*

### Tom Kneil*
- *Secretary, Chapter/Group Alt, Air Quality, Global Warming, (316) 744-1016, tomthompson@sbcglobal.net*

### Stuart Bolt*,
- *Treasurer, Fundraising Co-Chair, Membership Chair, (316) 685-3492, stuartbolt@earthlink.net*

### Elizabeth Bishop*
- *Sprawl Chair, (316) 684-0988, elizdar@earthlink.net*

### Ben Hui*,
- *Water Quality Chair, (316) 721-5972, bhuie@netscape.net*

### Dave Kirkbride*,
- *Outings Co-Chair, Newsletter Chair, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kcna.org*

### Barbara Keltner****,
- *Conservation Chair, CAFO Chair, Trade Chair, (316) 722-5621, williamhkeltner@yahoo.com*

### Yvonne Cather****
- *Legislative Chair, Fundraising Co-Chair, Chapter/Group Rep, Energy Chair, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org*

### Topeka Group

- **Paul Post, Chair, (785) 354-1972 (day), paulpost@paulpost.com**
- **Judy Williams, Vice Chair, (785) 272-3215**
- **Bill Cutler, Treasurer, (785) 379-9756, spudspa@yahoo.com**
- **Jack Smith, Outings Chair, (785) 273-3138**
- **Jo Ann Van Meter, Conservation Chair, (785) 234-3023, worrybeads@aol.com**
- **Patsy Samson, Membership Chair, (785) 267-5368, PatsySamson@aging.state.ks.us**

### Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)

- **Michael Campbell*, Chair, (785) 542-3885, mike.campbell@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Carey Maynard-Moody*, Vice-Chair, Political Chair, Sprawl/Transportation, (785) 842-6517, careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Frank J. Norman*, Treasurer, (913) 887-6775, fnorman@appliedeco.com**

---

**Flint Hills Group (Manhattan Area)**

- **Scott Smith*, Group Chair, Treasurer, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net**

**Kanza Group (Kansas City)**

- **Elaine Giessel*, Group Chair, Education/Outreach, Volunteer Chair, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Frank Drinkwine*, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Steve Hassler*, Secretary, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Craig Wolfe*, Treasurer, Communications Chair, Program Chair, Auction Chair, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Tom Thompson*, Political Chair, Chapter/Group Rep Alt, (913) 236-9161,**

**Kanza cont**

- **tomthompson@sbcglobal.net**
- **Joe Spease*, Legislative Chair, Fundraising, (913) 492-2862, jspease@kansasunbound.org**
- **Mike Miller*, Membership Chair, Transportation, (913) 362-2600, mrmiller1@mindspring.com**
- **Steven Bara*, Publicity Chair, Communications Chair, (913) 814-0583, wildlife1@aol.com**
- **James Horlacher*, Hospitality Chair, Corporate Accountability, Chapter/Group Alt, (913) 649-1611, jim.horlacher@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Craig Lubow*, Calendars, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Sarita Singh*, ExCom Member, (913) 541-9185, sarita88@hotmail.com**
- **Bob Wilshire****, Outings Chair, (913) 384-6645, rwilshire@kc.rr.com**

**Southwind Group (Wichita)**

- **Bill Cather*, Chair, Group Rep. (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Larry Ross*, Vice Chair, Outings Co-Chair, (316) 685-5681, lross12@msn.com**
- **Tom Kneil*, Secretary, Chapter/Group Alt, Air Quality, Global Warming, (316) 744-1016, thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Stuart Bolt*, Treasurer, Fundraising Co-Chair, Membership Chair, (316) 685-3492, stuartbolt@earthlink.net**
- **Elizabeth Bishop*, Sprawl Chair, (316) 684-0988, elizdar@earthlink.net**
- **Ben Hui*, Water Quality Chair, (316) 721-5972, bhuie@netscape.net**
- **Dave Kirkbride*, Outings Co-Chair, Newsletter Chair, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kcna.org**
- **Barbara Keltner****, Conservation Chair, CAFO Chair, Trade Chair, (316) 722-5621, williamhkeltner@yahoo.com**
- **Yvonne Cather****, Legislative Chair, Fundraising Co-Chair, Chapter/Group Rep, Energy Chair, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org**

---

*Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter*
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
July 11, 7:00 pm
The New Hydrogen Fuel: Salvation or Seduction
7:00 pm: Come early and share some snacks, and enjoy meeting your Kanza Group leaders and members.
7:30 pm: Joe Spease, Kanza ExCom Member and President of Pristine Power, will present a review of this sometimes controversial fuel. Hydrogen's promises are great, but nagging disagreements on what energy will be used to produce it and how distribution will be carried out make Hydrogen an interesting discussion. It is a fairly safe bet, however, that Hydrogen will be in our future energy mix. Joe's presentation will describe the positive side of the arguments.
Our meetings are at the Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W. 79th Street. Park on north side. Directions at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzadirections.htm. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group
June, July, and August
No Southwind General Meetings
The Southwind Group will be taking the summer off for its General Meetings. Watch the Website and Planet Kansas for our fall schedule. Yvonne Cather (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Topeka Group
June 27, 7:00 pm.
Wind Energy for Economic Development
Jim Ploger, Director of the Kansas Energy Office, will be our speaker, and will be discussing wind energy development plans for Kansas, and how alternative energy can be a boon to economic development.
Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

Topeka Group
July 25, 7:00 pm.
Wild Animals in Kansas
Dennis Dinwiddie, Director of the Stone Nature Center in Topeka, will be on hand to introduce us to some of the furry and feathered creatures who call Kansas home. The birds, mammals, and reptiles who will accompany him will be the stars of the show.
Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

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 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.
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.

**Sierra Club Outings**

**General public is welcome to participate**

Tour the Liberty Memorial guided by an architect who worked on the recent restoration. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Blake Elliot, (816) 363-4082, kansascityblake@aol.com

[2] **Jun 9. 7:00-9:00 pm. Southwind Group Annual Picnic**
Picnic at Chisolm Creek Park located on Oliver between 29th Street North and Highway 96. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 685-3492, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Rekindle your relationship with your two wheeled friend, as we ride and camp along the Katy trail. Approx. 25 miles each day, spending the night at a local campground. Sign up early as we will limit registration to 12 participants. $10 donation requested. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

[2] **Jun 10. 10:00 am. Geoffrey Peggs Memorial Hike**
Hike & Trail Maintenance Meet at Udall Restaurant Bring work clothes and gloves. Southwind. Jack Peggs, (316) 640-4955

[2] **Jun 11. 9:00 am. Float the Arkansas River**
Sierra Riverfest Series – Arkansas River Float Meet at the Old Goat Ranch at Old Goat Ranch Road and 120th – South of Mulvane. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kill Creek has as many as 200 plant species on a 20-acre remnant that has never been plowed. See how many you can identify. $5 donation requested (Fathers free). Kanza. Mike Miller, (913) 362-2600, mrmiller1@mindspring.com

[1] **Jun 17. 7:00 pm. Movie night: Al Gore’s An Inconvenient Truth**

Members will meet at the parking lot of the Topeka and Shawnee County Library to carpool to the Tivoli Theater in Westport (Kansas City). Exact departure time will be announced by email. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

[1] **Jul 22. 6:30 am. Adopt a Highway” Cleanup**
We will be cleaning up our assigned stretch of I-70, between Wanamaker and Urish Road. Topeka. Jack Smith (785) 273-3138, jkjmsmith@aol.com

Join us at 8 p.m. at Powell Observatory in Louisburg, KS www.askc.org for a public program and weather permitting, we’ll observe the night sky through the biggest telescope in six states. Please bring $3 donation for the observatory. Kanza. Ellen Brenneman, (816) 213-2415 mobile, ebrenn1@yahoo.com

[2] **Jun 24. 7:00 am – 12:00 pm. Old Town Farmer’s Market Tabling**
Fundraising and information. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 685-3492, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

[2] **Jun 30. 8:30 pm. Gazing at the Moon and Gas Giants**
Diana Challis will give a presentation at the Lake Afton observatory on the Moon and Gas Giants. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

[2] **Jul 8-9. 9:00 am. Sierra Riverfest Series – Arkansas River Float**
Float the Arkansas River. Meet at the Old Goat Ranch at Old Goat Ranch Road and 120th – South of Mulvane. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
### Committee Meetings

**Kanza Group**  
(Kansas City)  
**Executive Committee**  
Jun 22, Jul 27 - 7:00 pm,  
Contact: Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Joint Action Committee**  
Jun 22, Jul 27 - 7:00 pm,  
Conservation, legislative, political and population. Contact: Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Southwind Group**  
(Wichita)  
**Executive and Fundraising Committee**  
Jun 4, Jul 2 - 6:00 pm  
2935 S. Seneca, Wichita. Bill Cather  
(316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Conservation Committee**  
Date 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 Group**, ExCom meets quarterly, date and time announced by email  
Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

**Kansas Chapter**: (State), Executive Committee, Jul 15 (time & location TBA)  
Bill Griffith, (913) 772-8960, bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org

---

**Make a gesture that lasts a lifetime.**

A Sierra Club Life Membership is a gesture on behalf of all life - from our oceans to our forests, and from the tiniest insect to the largest sequoia. As a Sierra Club Life Member, you’ll be helping to support programs and campaigns that protect endangered species and preserve threatened wilderness areas (and all the life that they support) - not only for today, but for decades to come.

**Make a really grand gesture.**

Become a Sierra Club Life Member.
## 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun 3</td>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Call Leader. Liberty Memorial, Kansas City, MO. Kanza.</td>
<td>Blake Elliot, (816) 363-4082, <a href="mailto:kansascityblake@aol.com">kansascityblake@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 4</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind.</td>
<td>Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, <a href="mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org">bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 4</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Fundraising Committee Meeting. Southwind.</td>
<td>Stuart Bolt, (316) 685-3492, <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 9</td>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Southwind Group Annual Picnic.</td>
<td>Stuart Bolt, (316) 685-3492, <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 10</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind.</td>
<td>Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, <a href="mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org">bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 10</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Fundraising Committee Meeting. Southwind.</td>
<td>Stuart Bolt, (316) 685-3492, <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 10</td>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Southwind Group Annual Picnic.</td>
<td>Stuart Bolt, (316) 685-3492, <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 11</td>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Float the Arkansas River. Southwind.</td>
<td>Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, <a href="mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org">bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 17</td>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Movie night: Al Gore’s An Inconvenient Truth.</td>
<td>Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, <a href="mailto:paulpost@paulpost.com">paulpost@paulpost.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 17</td>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Tallgrass Prairie Walk, Olathe, KS. Kanza.</td>
<td>Mike Miller, (913) 362-2600, <a href="mailto:mrmiller1@mindspring.com">mrmiller1@mindspring.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 22</td>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza.</td>
<td>Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, <a href="mailto:elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org">elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 22</td>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Adopt a Highway” Cleanup. Topeka.</td>
<td>Jack Smith (785) 273-3138, <a href="mailto:jkjmsmith@aol.com">jkjmsmith@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 22</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza.</td>
<td>Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, <a href="mailto:frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org">frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 24</td>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Star Party, Louisburg, KS. Kanza.</td>
<td>Ellen Brenneman, (816) 213-2415 mobile, <a href="mailto:ebrenn1@yahoo.com">ebrenn1@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 24</td>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Old Town Farmer’s Market Tabling.</td>
<td>Stuart Bolt, (316) 685-3492, <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 27</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind.</td>
<td>Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, <a href="mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org">bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind.</td>
<td>Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, <a href="mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org">bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Fundraising Committee Meeting. Southwind.</td>
<td>Stuart Bolt, (316) 685-3492, <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 8-9</td>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Sierra Riverfest Series – Arkansas River Float.</td>
<td>Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, <a href="mailto:bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org">bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 11</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza.</td>
<td>Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, <a href="mailto:frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org">frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 15</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza.</td>
<td>Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, <a href="mailto:elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org">elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club

9844 Georgia
Kansas City, KS 66109-4326

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Deadline for the next issue is July 1