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Voice of the Kansas Sierra Club

Kansas Chapter Releases Wind Study Kansas Wind Power Works Well for Brutal KC Summer

Wind farms in central and western Kansas would have substantially helped to meet high electricity loads during Kansas City's hot summer of 2003, according to a new study. Wind speeds, on average, were strong during July and August of 2003 when area utilities experienced record electricity demand. Had they been in place at the time, wind farms with state-of-the-art turbines would have produced power at a level well above average at three sites studied.

The study was performed by analyzing newly available "tall tower" wind data measured at a height commensurate with the big turbines now being used in wind farms in the plains states. The study was done in response to concerns expressed by Kansas utilities that wind power would not be available when they needed it the most, which is during summer heat waves.

The study was performed by Spectrum Technologists, a consultant to the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club and modeled the output of a 1.5 megawatt General Electric Wind turbine at sites in Kearny, Logan and Ellsworth Counties in Kansas. One particularly interesting result was that winds were, on average, stronger on the hottest days in July and August of 2003 than on other days. Only on a few days would the turbines have

performed poorly during the afternoon and evening time when loads become excessive on hot days.

"This study indicates that wind power could greatly reduce the need for high-cost natural gas and purchased power now used to meet high loads on hot days," said Brooks Albery, spokesman for the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra club. "That means wind power would have a high market value and save money for rate payers."


Also natural gas is conserved for critical uses such as home heating. A summary of the report and the full report can be obtained on the Kansas Chapter Website at <http://kansas.sierraclub.org/wind/WindStudy.htm>. 



Photo by Jim Griggs - www.selective-focus.com



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Freedom From Oil For All: Reflecting on the Meaning of Independence Day

By Dr. Corey Lee Lewis

As the celebrations from this year's Independence Day fade away like wisps of firework smoke on the wind, I would like to pause and take a moment to reflect on the current state of American Independence. This summer my young family and I embarked on that age-old American tradition: the summer road trip, or family vacation. We covered almost six-thousand miles, crossed 12 states, camped in countless national and state parks, and visited a number of close friends and family members. Like many Americans, these family trips were an annual pilgrimage when I was growing up, a journey of discovery and exploration, a time to celebrate and learn to love our land. This year, however, I was forced to stop and re-assess "American Independence," and came to several sobering conclusions.



1. Americans are no longer Energy Independent: As we drove down the western slope of the Rockies, an area I had traveled through many times before, I was shocked by the number of new natural gas wells and drilling rigs. Hundreds of new drilling platforms dotted the once rugged and wild landscape. I was aware that the Bush administration had recently opened up millions of acres of pristine public lands to multi-national energy companies. However, even the reports of local opposition, environmental appeals and illegal contract disbursements hadn't prepared me for the devastation I was witnessing in person. In his first four years of office, Bush increased the number of gas wells from about 24,000 to over 42,000, authorizing 5,747 new wells in 2004 alone. Even if all of the new wells could produce at their most optimistic levels however, (and didn't pollute residents' water, ruin rangeland and destroy wildlife populations) they would provide less than 5 years of our nation's natural gas needs.

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Southwind's Annual Picnic and Walk With Wildlife

By Tom Kneil

On June 9 at the Chisholm Creek Park shelter some 25 Southwind Sier-rans gathered for the annual picnic that is held in lieu of a June program. To accompany the barbequed beef and chicken, those attending brought a variety of dishes and no one left hungry. Margaret and Paul Miller were recognized as having recently being featured in the Wichita Eagle in a story about Westar Energy's conservation rate. Among other conserving practices, the Millers are able to stay on the conservation rate by using fans throughout their house rather than air conditioning ... AND they turn the fans off when they leave a room! Margaret and Paul are best known as the longtime leaders in the citizen recycling efforts in Wichita and indeed, the citizen-operated recycling center is named in their honor. Margaret was also very instrumental in the establishment of CURB, the Consumer's Utility Rate Board that represents consumers in rate cases brought before the Kansas Corporation Commission.

The following day, the Great Plains Nature Center held its annual "Walk With Wildlife" at Chisholm Creek Park from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Some 15 or so "stations" were set up along a loop trail through the park for visitors to walk by and learn about various Kansas native species. Each station was attended by volunteers who answered questions about the reptiles, mammals, birds, insects, amphibians and other animals represented. Don and Ellie Skokan, Karin Cowdrey, Stuart Bolt and Tom Kneil represented the Southwind Group as they talked to visitors about the baby skunk (descen- ted), the baby raccoon and the mink that

were at their station. After the event the Nature Center staff announced that over 2300 visitors attended the event. This is at least the seventh or eighth year that the Southwind Group has participated in this event. 



At the Southwind's annual picnic, Margaret Miller talks with the members about solid waste and energy conservation.



On left side of rope, Don Skokan (left), Ellie Skokan (center) and Tom Kneil (right) receive information about the baby skunk, baby raccoon, and mink at their station from staff of the Great Plains Nature Center (right side of rope).



Flint Hills Group Celebrates 10th Anniversary

On Thursday, August 31st the Flint Hills Group will celebrate their 10th anniversary with a special evening program. Ann Zimmerman, the Salina-based musician and environmental activist will provide musical entertainment to begin the evening. Sierra Club advocate, Charles Benjamin will speak about "Global Warming: The Kansas Connection." The program will take place at the Manhattan Public Library Auditorium, 629 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan. Festivities commence at 7 pm. Please join us. For more information contact Scott Smith at wizard13@cox.net.



Ann Zimmerman - Singer,
Songwriter, Activist

Cool Cities Can Help Save Planet

Yvonne Cather, Kansas Chapter Vice Chair

(Reprint from the Wichita Eagle, June 29, 2006)

Nothing threatens the future of our planet, the security of our nation or the health of our air, water and wildlands more than the way we produce and consume energy. And as pollution from fossil fuels -- such as oil, coal and natural gas -- causes global temperatures to rise, our scientists agree that we face a serious, long-term threat to our health, safety and environment.

But global warming is no longer merely the stuff of textbooks and science papers. Time magazine recently dedicated a cover story to the issue, and thousands of people across America are flocking to movie theaters to see "An Inconvenient Truth," a new film by former Vice President Al Gore showing the very real risks that severe climate change poses to our communities.

Audiences can take away many messages from Gore's film, but one is certain: Continuing down the same path is no longer an option -- and America has hard, urgent choices to make about how to move past fossil fuels. As daunting as that might seem, there are already reasons for hope in ordinary cities and towns across America.

Beginning with Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, more than 200 mayors representing 42 million Americans recently signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement pledging to reduce global warming pollution, proving that individual cities can make a huge difference.

In the next few weeks, the Sierra Club will make formal requests to Mayor Carlos Mayans, the Wichita City Council and the Sedgewick County Commission to join this visionary effort. The time has come for Wichita to join communities around the country that are taking steps as varied as they are inspiring.

The city of Charlotte, N.C., is converting its municipal fleet to hybrid cars. Salt Lake City is upgrading its traffic lights with more efficient bulbs, saving 500 tons of heat-trapping gas, and more than \$50,000 a year on the city's energy bill. In Twin

Falls, Idaho, local officials are making the city's 11 schools more energy efficient and saving \$3.5 million in the process.

No one city is going to be able to stop global warming on its own, but together all of these cities -- along with businesses, universities and other institutions that are investing in smart energy solutions -- will create a groundswell that federal leaders cannot ignore for long. We've all heard of trickle-down economics; this kind of change will trickle up.

So once the lights go back on in the movie theaters and the popcorn has been cleaned up, we must recognize that the truth is only "inconvenient" if we refuse to rise to the occasion. Let's celebrate the mayors of "Cool Cities" who are literally re-energizing our nation, proving that we can solve global warming one community at a time.

Now, it's Wichita's turn.



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Wichita's Showing of "An Inconvenient Truth"

By Tom Kneil, Yvonne Cather, and Stuart Bolt

The Kansas Chapter contacted Jerry Fike, manager of the Premiere Palace theater scheduled to show Al Gore's film, "An Inconvenient Truth" in Wichita. Mr. Fike was eager to work with the club and after some discussion it was decided that the Kansas Chapter and the Premiere Palace would co-sponsor a special screening of the movie. This special screening was held the day before opening night and was held in the 300 seat theater. It was, also, decided to get the biggest impact with the public that the Kansas Chapter would offer free admission to those that reserved tickets. The Premiere Palace gave a special

of their hybrid vehicles in the parking lot prior to the film. In all there were six vehicles, but no Prius was available and the Honda Civic was supplied by a Southwind Group ExCom member. There was considerable interest in the vehicles with many questions asked about them.


On June 29th, the night of the special screening, the Kansas Chapter was ready with a special table for people to check in. On the table there was a donation jar and nearly \$1000 was collected, almost covering the theater charges. In addition, those attending pledged another \$2000+ to be paid in 2006 and 2007 to go toward efforts to combat global warming. Special guests of the screening were one City Councilman, two former City Councilpersons and two State Representatives. There were area Democratic leaders as well as members from Physicians for Social Responsibility. Yvonne Cather, Vice Chair of the Kansas Chapter, took advantage of the movie to introduce those present to the Cool Cities initiative.



The public inspects hybrid cars supplied by the local Toyota and Honda Dealers before the movie started.

Interestingly, after an editorial piece by Randy Scholfield ran in the Wichita Eagle, a few days later, with praise for the film, attendance spiked and the theater sold out again. Don't underestimate the power of the press!

Similar special screenings were held in Kansas City and Lawrence. All were a success. The Kansas Chapter wishes to thank all of those that were involved in making these events such a huge success.

The Southwind Group is looking into another film project with the Premiere Palace theater in presenting "Who Killed the Electric Car?" which is due to be available this summer. 

price, to the club, on admission for this event and helped to pay for a mailing to the entire membership in the south half of the state plus other environmental groups. In addition, Sierra Club volunteers contacted several other organizations by email advertising the special screening. By the week before the showing, over 300 reservations were received and the movie was sold out. There was such a huge interest in attending this movie that the Premiere Palace offered a second showing of the movie that night at a reduced cost.

The Kansas Chapter received another 50 reservations for this second showing.

In addition, the local Toyota and Honda dealers were invited to show some



Volunteers checked in those with reservations for the special screen of "An Inconvenient Truth".



What's Going On With Rising Energy Prices?

By John Kurmann, KCPeak Coordinator

Just seven years ago, U.S. gasoline prices were not much over \$1 a gallon. As of this writing, the national average price for regular unleaded is pushing \$3 a gallon according to the AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report (www.fuelgauge.com). While some claim this is due to gouging by oil companies, does that explanation make sense? Are there other, deeper factors at work?

At KCPeak, the KCPeak Oil & Natural Gas Awareness Campaign (www.kcpeak.org), we're convinced the evidence indicates that most of the responsibility for rising gasoline (and other transportation fuel) prices over the last 7 years is attributable to the fact that supply and demand in the global oil market are running neck-and-neck. Consumption growth has been running strong in industrializing countries such as China and India, and has continued in the U.S., while supply growth has been struggling to keep up.

A growing number of industry experts are warning this isn't a temporary phenomenon, either, but an early sign of the inevitable peaking of global oil production, referred to colloquially as "peak oil." If true, this means civilization will soon be producing more oil worldwide than ever before—and more than it ever will again, leading to a growing imbalance between supply and demand and much higher prices as production declines.

We face a similar challenge with natural gas supplies, particularly here in North America where production in both the United States and our biggest foreign supplier, Canada, has peaked in the last several years. One of the consequences of peaking production has been the renewed push to build

coal-fired power plants to meet projections of rising electricity demand in the future. Utilities have realized they cannot keep building natural gas-fired plants if there will be no increase in natural gas supplies to fuel them, so they've returned to the old energy source they know well how to exploit: dirty, high-carbon coal. Another consequence has been renewed interest in nuclear fission plants to generate electricity. The Sierra Club has been in the forefront of efforts to make the case that we must meet our future energy needs through conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy supplies.

Because corporations are turning to coal and other dirtier and higher-carbon energy sources to prevent supply shortfalls, peaking oil & gas production could also greatly complicate efforts to avert catastrophic climate disruption—yet the wisest actions we could take to deal with peaking would also help stop global warming (www.stopglobalwarming.org). At KCPeak, we're convinced that it's vitally important we address these challenges together, in their common context.

While peaking oil & natural gas production poses enormous—and potential calamitous—challenges, it also offers us a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a better world. By forcing us to recognize that the future will not be like the past, only more so, it gives us the chance to choose the kind of future we want. The sooner we seize the opportunity to build a relocalized, renewable energy future, the greater our chances of averting social and economic collapse and a climate catastrophe.

Please join the Thomas Hart Benton Group of the Sierra Club (missouri.sierraclub.org/thb/) and KCPeak at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 12th in the Missouri Department of Conservation's Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Avenue, KCMO, for an exploration of these crucial issues. We'll show *The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream* (www.endofsuburbia.com) and a panel discussion/Q&A will follow.

For more information about the event, contact John Kurmann at willowjohn@gmail.com or by phone at 816-452-6707. If you'd like to learn more about peak oil & natural gas before the event, please visit the KCPeak Resources section (www.kcpeak.org/resources). If you don't have web access, here are three valuable books on the subject:

James Howard Kunstler's *The Long Emergency: Surviving the End of Oil, Climate Change, and Other Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-First Century*

Richard Heinberg's *The Party's Over: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies* and *Powerdown: Options and Actions for a Post-Carbon World*



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Independence Day, continued from page 3

As we drove on, we passed mile after mile of coal trains, belching black smoke and hauling loads of sooty coal from once-pristine western lands and continually collapsing south-eastern mines to power a hungry country. Although coal is the dirtiest and least efficient of fossil fuels, under the Bush administration our reliance on coal has increased as well as the legal amount of sulfur dioxide and other hazardous pollutants coal-fired power plants are allowed to pump into the air.

And yet, as I drove, I had to admit that my oil addicted automobile, like that of my fellow interstate travelers made up the bulk of the problem; transportation accounts for 67% of our nation's oil consumption. Our addiction to foreign oil has become so obvious that even an oil heir like G.W. Bush, whose energy policies have consistently increased our reliance on foreign oil and decreased the efficiency of our automobile fleet, has been forced to publicly admit "addiction." We currently rely on petroleum imports to meet 60% of our net energy needs, and are the #1 importer of fossil fuels worldwide. In other words, we are the least energy independent nation in the world. It seemed clear, I was beginning to realize, we need freedom from oil for all.

2. Americans are no longer Economically Independent: As my fellow Americans zipped past in new SUV's and sports cars, I thought of my own oil addicted automobile, the American family car, that icon of independence, dragging my country down. I reluctantly recalled that we carry the most personal debt of any nation in the world, as well as the highest national debt: A world record \$477 billion. Many experts estimate that as much as 80% of this debt is due to military spending, the vast majority of which has been used since the 1970's to secure foreign oil supplies.

The most frightening part about this national addiction, however, is that our drug of choice is rapidly running out, making foreign oil more expensive and military intervention less successful than in the past. Domestic oil production peaked in 1971, and natural gas in 2003, while coal is projected to peak before 2020. More significantly however, Global oil production is predicted to peak between 2007-2015. Experts agree that a shortfall of only 10-15% in oil supplies would be enough to cripple the American economy and launch us into a massive depression, political chaos, civil strife and potential war. Again, I thought,

true independence would mean freedom from oil for all.

3. Americans are no longer Politically Independent.

Soon, as we drove west, we

were being passed by Haliburton trucks and semi-trailers, hauling diesel to the drilling platforms. After having just visited my brother, a former soldier, I couldn't help but think of the hundreds of thousands of dollars that Haliburton stole, and the meals that never made it to our soldiers, while their former CEO prevented an investigation from the Whitehouse. I recalled seeing the fist-sized wound in my brother's thigh, caused by Gulf War Syndrome from the first Gulf War, and the horrific truth that over 20,000 soldiers have already died from the disease. And today, there are over 150,00 American soldiers fighting for oil in the Gulf again; more than 2,500 have died, and over 18,000 have been wounded, while an estimated 300,000 innocent Iraqi civilians have lost their lives.

But its hard to see clearly when you're zooming along as fast as the average American, watching over 2,000 advertisements per day, buying 50% of your food from 10 multi-national corporations and getting 80% of your news from 4 corporate media giants. While the Bush administration holds the world record for the most corporate donations given to a government in history, the energy industry made up a significant share of those: over \$48 million in 2000, plus another \$60 million by 2004. True political independence, then, I started to realize, also included freedom from oil for all.

4. Americans are no longer Environmentally Independent: As we traveled through the American West, we were greeted by flashing signs warning of "Extreme Fire Danger" and reminding citizens that "Fireworks are Prohibited." The West, like much of the globe is gripped in the clutches of a decade long drought, caused, we now know, by global climactic warming and the burning of fossil fuels. The highest recorded temperatures in world history have all

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taken place in the last decade, while 2,000 years worth of data from the Volstok Ice Core have confirmed we are in the midst of a human-exacerbated cycle of global warming. While polar ice and glaciers melt, threatening the life ways of arctic people, sea levels are rising, flooding coastal cities and islands, and massive areas of agricultural land are being desertified each year. Recent research has confirmed that such climactic shifts are responsible for the increasing severity and frequency of tropical storms like Hurricane Katrina.

The U.S. produces over 25% of the world's carbon-based pollution, and yet, the Bush administration still refuses to follow 163 other nations in signing the Kyoto treaty to reduce emissions of global warming gases. Experts agree that these nations may soon hold the U.S. government and U.S.-based corporations legally and financially responsible for their part in causing global warming and the catastrophic financial losses that accompany it. This time I found myself thinking that life itself, in addition to liberty, might just depend on freedom from oil for all.

While I embarked on this trip hoping to celebrate my

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country's independence, I returned home with the reluctant realization that we are more dependent—less free—than ever. But that's not the American way. We weren't brought up to be pawns in a corporate machine, to be dependent on our own addictions.

So, this year I am declaring independence from oil. This year the truck stays in the driveway, and I'm joining all the other patriots on bicycles. This year I'm only shopping locally and organically, joining my fellow farmers in the local food revival. This year I'm installing those solar panels and the Pelton-wheel in the stream out back to generate electricity, and just a few more times this year the lights are going off and the candles are coming out. This year I'm going to turn off my T.V., read and learn more, talk with my friends and neighbors, and re-start

the American Revolution. This year I'm going to prepare, so that next July 4th, we can begin to celebrate true American Independence, and freedom from oil for all.

Dr. Lewis grew up in Topeka Kansas and received his B.A. and M.A. from Kansas State University. He remains madly in love with the Flint Hills. He currently teaches Environmental Writing at Humboldt State University and is a long time Sierra Club member and a former employee of the club.



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Southwind Spreads the Word

Stuart Bolt

So far this summer, the Southwind Group, has had a booth at the Old Town Farmers' Market twice, May 27th and June 24th. It has been a great opportunity for activists to educate the public about the movie, "An Inconvenient Truth", and the new conservation initiative, Cool Cities. In addition, it has been a chance to introduce the public to Sierra Club's line of teas and coffees. The teas and coffees are both organic and fair trade.

The Southwind Group will be at the Old Town Farmers' market two more times, August 26th and September 30th from 7:00 a.m. to noon. Come by and talk to us about environmental issues or buy some tea, coffee, a t-shirt or a 2007 calendar. If you can't make it to the Old Town Farmer's Market and would like to purchase some tea or coffee, you can go to our website, www.kansas.sierraclub.org/southwind/, go to the fundraising page and download an order form.



Kathryn Buck and Yvonne Cather eagerly wait for people to stop at the Southwind's booth at the Old Town Farmers' Market.

Topeka Group Current Events

By Paul Post

The Topeka Group continues to meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Topeka and Shawnee County Library. The group also sponsors an optional "no host" dinner at 5:30 p.m. prior to each meeting.

Our "Adopt-A-Highway" sponsorship continues, with our latest cleanup our assigned stretch of I-70 west of Topeka occurring on Saturday, July 22. 10 Sierra Club members arrived at 6:00 a.m. for a mandatory "safety briefing" by Outings Chair Jack Smith, and then proceeded to don orange safety vests, grab trash bags, and "head out on the highway." We finished up by 10:00 a.m., piling a number of filled bags around our newly installed sign showing that the Group has adopted this stretch of highway.

Thirteen Topeka Group members participated in an outing to Lawrence to Liberty Hall on July 1 to see Al Gore's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth."

Phil Morse is our newly appointed Political Chair/Cool Cities Chair. He has formed a committee to assist

Topeka to implement the Cool Cities Program in Topeka. Former Mayor James McClinton signed the Topeka Cool Cities proclamation in December 2004, making Topeka the first city in Kansas to join the Cool Cities Program.

Phil has updated Topeka's information on the national Cool Cities web site, and has scheduled a meeting with Topeka Mayor Bill Bunton and City Manager Norton Bonaparte for August 4 to discuss the next steps in Topeka's Cool Cities involvement.



The sign provides great advertising for the work of the Topeka Group.



Aug / Sept 2006

Thank You to our Sponsors of the Kanza Silent Auction Success

John Verbanic
First Affirmative Financial Network - Jim
Horlacher
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



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*, Chapter 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
Stuart Bolt****, Treasurer, Fundraising Co-Chair, (316) 685-3492,
stuartbolt@earthlink.net
Frank Drinkwine*, Co-Conservation Chair, Southern Plains Rep, (913)
385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
Craig Lubow*, Co-Conservation Chair, Air Quality Co-Chair,
Population, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
Scott Smith*, Transportation Co-Chair, (785) 539-1973,
wizard13@cox.net
Steven Baru*, Membership Co-Chair, Council Delegate,
(913) 814-0583, wildlife1@aol.com
Elaine Giessel*, Environmental Justice Chair, Environmental
Education Chair, SPRCC Rep, (913) 888-8517,
elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org
Larry Ross*, Outings Chair, Transportation Co-Chair,
(316) 685-5681, lross12@msn.com
Craig Wolfe***, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Communications
Chair, Membership Co-Chair, (913) 299-4443,
info@kansas.sierraclub.org
Michael Campbell*, Sprawl Co-Chair, (785) 542-3885,
mike.campbell@kansas.sierraclub.org
Joe Spease*, ExCom Member, (913) 492-2862,
jspease@kansasunbound.org
Tom Thompson****, Political Co-Chair, (913) 236-9161,
tomnthompson@sbcglobal.net
Bill Cather****, Legal Chair, Compliance Officer, (316) 522-4741, bill.
cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Craig Volland****, CAFO Chair, Trade Chair, Agriculture Chair,
Water Quality C-Chair, (913) 788-7336,
volland@kansas.sierraclub.org
Cherie Birkbeck***, Flint Hills Group Rep, (785) 632-3446,
cheriebirkbeck@hotmail.com,

Flint Hills Group (Manhattan Area)

Scott Smith*, Group Chair, Treasurer, (785) 539-1973,
wizard13@cox.net
Larry Erickson, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, Environmental
Education, (785) 539-4424, lerick@ksu.edu
Elise de Wit, Outings Chair, Chapter/Group Rep Alt, (785) 587-8090,
Cherie Birkbeck, Chapter/Group Rep, (785) 632-3446,
cheriebirkbeck@hotmail.com
Carol Barta, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, (785) 222-3368,
snowsage54@hotmail.com



Aug / Sept 2006

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,

(Kanza con't)

(913) 385-0385,
frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
Steve Hassler*, Secretary, (913) 707-3296,
steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org
Craig Wolfe*, Treasurer, Communitons Chair, Program Chair, Auction
Chair, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
Tom Thompson*, Political Chair, Chapter/Group Rep Alt, (913) 236-
9161, tomnthompson@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 Baru*, 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, sarita888@hotmail.com
Bob Wilshire****, Outings Chair, (913) 384-6645, rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

Southwind Group (Wichita)

Bill Cather*, Chair, Chapter/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, Group
Webmaster, (316) 685-3492, stuartbolt@earthlink.net
Elizabeth Bishop*, Sprawl Chair, (316) 684-0988,
elizdar@earthlink.net
Ben Huie*, Water Quality Chair, (316) 721-5972, bthuie@netscape.net
Dave Kirkbride*, Outings Co-Chair, Newsletter Chair, (316) 945-0728,
dave.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
Phil Morse****, Political Chair, (785) 273-3613, p.morse@sbcglobal.net

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, frank.norman@appliedeco.
com

General Meetings

General public is welcome to attend

Flint Hills Group (Manhattan)

General Information

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

Flint Hills Group August 31. 7:00 pm

Flint Hills Group 10th Anniversary Celebration

Ann Zimmerman will provide musical entertainment and Charles Benjamin will speak about "Global Warming the Kansas Connection." Scott Smith, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net

Kanza Group September 12. 7:00 pm

The Sierra Club and YOU

Old and new members alike are urged to join us at our fall kick-off POT LUCK supper, to meet group leaders and socialize. Discover what's hot right now in the local Sierra Club: outings, hikes, conservation issues, politics. 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 August 22. 7:00 pm.

Water Issues In Kansas

Ken Grotewil, Director of the Kansas Water Office, will talk about policies his office implements with agricultural, commercial, and residential water usage and conservation. General Meeting held at the Topeka & Shawnee County Library, 1515 SW 10th Avenue. Members and guests can join us before the program at Annie's Place located in Gage Center Shopping Center for a "no-host" dinner at 5:30.. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

Topeka Group September 26. 7:00 pm

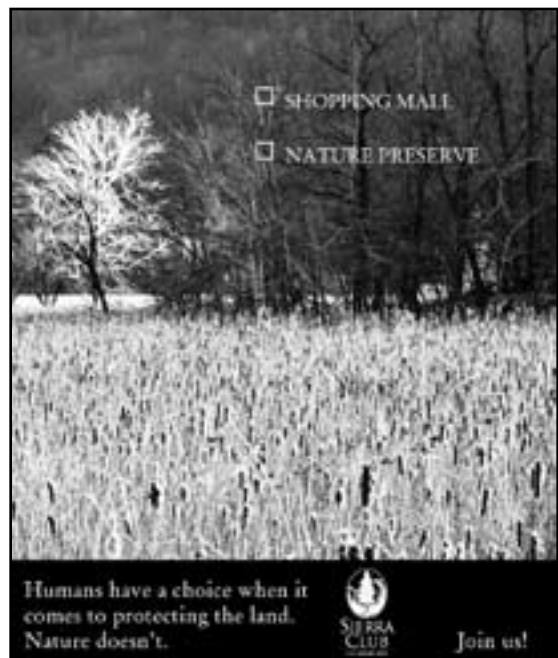
Snakes Turtles and Amphibians in Kansas

Joe Collins, herpetologist with Kansas University, will discuss field studies in Kansas indicating impacts and changes to amphibians over the years. He will also discuss a study in Custer South Dakota Wetlands on amphibians. General Meeting are held at the Topeka & Shawnee County Library, 1515 SW 10th Avenue. Members and guests can join us before the program at Annie's Place located in Gage Center Shopping Center for a "no-host" dinner at 5:30.. 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.



Aug / Sept 2006

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.



[1] Call. Canoeing, Kaw River, KS

All day canoe floats up above Lawrence on the Kaw River. For specific information check our web site. Kanza. Jim Fox, canoeist3@msn.com

[4] Call. Maintenance, Hidden Valley Park, Kansas City, MO

Get on our list if you are interested in being contacted to help lop the invasive honeysuckle at Hidden Valley in our ongoing efforts. Kanza. Bob Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, bsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org

[2] Aug 12-13. 9:00 am. 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) 522-4749, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

[4] Aug 26. Day hiking the Indian Creek Trail, Kansas City, MO

Come learn about water quality issues as we walk along the creek starting near 103rd & State Line. Lunch afterwards at Jasper's deli. \$5 donation requested. . Kanza. Bob Dennis, earthling@planetkc.com

[2] Aug 26. 7:00 am-12:00pm. Old Town Farmer's Market Tabling

Fundraising and information. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 685-3492, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

[4] Sep 1-4. THB Annual Lemonade Stand Fundraiser at Santa Caligon Days, Independence, MO

Volunteer to work on a crew and learn the fine art of lemon squeezin'. It's really a lot of fun! All proceeds go towards the THB group's annual operating budget. . Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileenm@missouri.sierraclub.org

[2] Sep 9-10. 9:00 am. 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) 522-4749, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org



Aug / Sept 2006

[4] Sep 9. Day hiking the Indian Creek Trail, Kansas City, MO

Come learn about water quality issues as we

walk along the creek starting near 103rd & State Line. Lunch afterwards at Jasper's deli. \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Bob Dennis, earthling@planetkc.com

[2] Sep 16. 3:30 pm Tour, 5:30 pm Dinner. Eagle Valley Raptor Tour

Meet at Eagle Valley Raptor Rescue Facility. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4749, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

[4] Sep 23. Beginner Backpacking Class, Blue Springs, MO

Learn backpacking basics in this 5 hour information and hands on class. We'll cover equipment, a section on low budget options, places to go and more.. Kanza. Paul or Melody Gross 816-228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

[2] Sep 30. 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

[4] Sep 30. Beginner Backpacking Trip, Settle's Ford CA, MO

Easy beginner backpack trip. Hike Settles Ford Conservation Area near Butler Missouri and camp overnight on adjoining private property. \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org

[4] Oct 6. Visit to Kansas City's Cross Roads Art District, Kansas City, MO

Explore many of the art galleries and the street life in Kansas City's newly transformed pedestrian friendly Crossroads Art District.. Kanza. Claus Wawrzinek, (816) 561-7863, clausw@worldnet.att.net

[4] Oct 6-8. Annual Ozark Chapter Camp out, Lake of the Ozarks State Park, MO

Join the fun at this state wide Ozark Chapter get together.. Kanza. Keet Kopecky, (816) 966-9544, kkopecy@kc.rr.com

[2] Oct 7-8. 11:00 am. Hike the Gyp Hills

Meet at the Kirkbride Ranch Southwest of Medicine Lodge.

Committee Meetings

Kanza Group (Kansas City)

Executive Committee

Aug 24, Sep 28 - 7:00 pm,

Contact: Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517,
elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

Joint Action Committee

Aug 24, Sep 28 - 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

Aug 6, Sep 3 - 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, Sep 9 (time & location TBA)

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

Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, dave.kirkbride@knea.org

[1] Oct 8. Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture, Kansas City, KS

Join us as we tour an organic farming operation right next to I 635 in KCK! We'll tour both the fields and the greenhouse, and also learn what a "hoop house" is. \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

[2] Oct 14-15. 9:00 am. Sierra Riverfest Series – Arkansas River

Meet at the Old Goat Ranch at Old Goat Ranch Road and 120th – South of Mulvane. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4749, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

[4] Oct 14. Photography outing at Loose Park

Learn photography techniques for outdoor photography. Bring your camera (digital or film) and different lenses and filters if you have them. Group size limited to 8. Please RSVP by Oct 12. \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Claus Wawrzinek, (816) 561-7863, clausw@worldnet.att.net

[4] Oct 15. Day Hike at Parkville Nature Sanctuary, Parkville, MO

Join us at 3 pm, for a day hike at Parkville Nature Sanctuary, followed by a visit to one of Parkville's nearby eateries. \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Ellen Brenneman, (816) 213-2415 mobile, ebrenn1@yahoo.com

[4] Oct 21 22. Day hike at James A. Reed WMA, Jackson County, MO

Take in Fall colors and maybe migrating water fowl on a day hike

southeast of Kansas City. \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Bob Dennis earthling@planetkc.com or Paul Gross, 816 228 6563 paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

[4] Nov 4 5. Backpacking Trip, Bell Mountain Wilderness, MO

Enjoy the crisp fall air, and the impressive views as we hike to Bell Mtn. From our vantage point, we'll be able to survey our Saturday's bushwhack day hike to Lindsey Mtn. \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

[1] Nov 11. Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS

Enjoy a crisp fall day helping us maintain the Perry Lake Trail between Lawrence and Topeka. Visit <http://www.perrylaketrail.net> for more information on current conditions as the time approaches. Steve Hassler, 913 707 3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

[4] Nov 25. Annual Bird watching trip, Squaw Creek NWR, MO

Join us for a day watching numerous species of waterfowl and eagles. Great for all ages. \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

[4] Dec 2. Seasonal scavenger hunt and dinner on the Plaza, Kansas City, MO

This seasonal urban adventure among the festive lights on Kansas City's Plaza will be fun for the entire family. Please bring warm clothing if necessary. We will meet at a restaurant on the Plaza after the hike to round out the evening. Please RSVP by December 1.. Kanza. Claus Wawrzinek, (816) 561-7863, clausw@worldnet.att.net



Aug / Sept 2006

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 13, Outings page 14, and Committee Meetings page 15. For the latest update on events, go to www.kansas.sierraclub.org/EventsSearch.htm.

- Out Call. Maintenance, Hidden Valley Park, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Bob Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, bsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org
- Out Call. Canoeing, Kaw River, KS. Kanza. Jim Fox, canoeist3@msn.com
- CM Aug 6. 5:00 pm. Fundraising Committee Meeting. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 685-3492, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Aug 6. 6:00 pm. Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4749, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Aug 12-13. 9:00 am. Sierra Riverfest Series – Arkansas River Float . Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4749, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
- GM Aug 22. 7:00 pm. Water Issues In Kansas. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
- CM Aug 24. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Aug 24. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Aug 26. Day hiking the Indian Creek Trail, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Bob Dennis, earthling@planetkc.com
- Out Aug 26. 7:00 am-12:00pm. Old Town Farmer's Market Tabling. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 685-3492, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
- GM Aug 31. 7:00 pm. Flint Hills Group 10th Anniversary Celebration. Flint Hills. Scott Smith, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net
- Out Sep 1-4. THB Annual Lemonade Stand Fundraiser at Santa Caligon Days, Independence, MO. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileenm@missouri.sierraclub.org
- CM Sep 3. 6:00 pm. Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4749, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Sep 3. 5:00 pm. Fundraising Committee Meeting. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 685-3492, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Sep 9. Day hiking the Indian Creek Trail, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Bob Dennis, earthling@planetkc.com
- Out Sep 9-10. 9:00 am. Sierra Riverfest Series – Arkansas River Float. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4749, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Sep 9. TBA. Kansas Chapter ExCom. Chapter. Bill Griffith, 913-772-8960, bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org
- GM Sep 12. 7:00 pm. The Sierra Club and YOU. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Sep 16. 3:30 pm Tour, 5:30 pm Dinner. Eagle Valley Raptor Tour. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4749, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Sep 23. Beginner Backpacking Class, Blue Springs, MO. Kanza. Paul or Melody Gross 816-228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org
- GM Sep 26. 7:00 pm. Snakes Turtles and Amphibians in Kansas. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
- CM Sep 28. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Sep 28. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Sep 30. Beginner Backpacking Trip, Settle's Ford CA, MO. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Sep 30. 7:00 am-12:00 pm. Old Town Farmer's Market Tabling. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 685-3492, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Oct 6. Visit to Kansas City's Cross Roads Art District, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Claus Wawrzinek, (816) 561-7863, clausw@worldnet.att.net
- Out Oct 6-8. Annual Ozark Chapter Camp out, Lake of the Ozarks State Park, MO. Kanza. Keet Kopecky, (816) 966-9544, kkopecky@kc.rr.com
- Out Oct 7-8. 11:00 am. Hike the Gyp Hills. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, dave.kirkbride@knea.org
- Out Oct 8. Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture, Kansas City, KS. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org



Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club
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Kansas City, KS 66109-4326

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Aug / Sept 2006

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