KCP&L Agrees to Offset Global Warming Emissions

In a ground-breaking agreement that can serve as a model for collaborative efforts to combat global warming, the Sierra Club, the Concerned Citizens of Platte County, Mo (CCPC), and Kansas City Power & Light Company reached a settlement of litigation surrounding KCP&L’s construction of the Iatan 2 coal-fired power plant near Weston, Mo. Under the agreement announced on March 20, KCP&L agrees to offset all of the global warming emissions associated with Iatan 2 through investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and unspecified changes to older power plants. The company also agreed to cut pollution from its existing plants in order to improve air quality in the Kansas City area. The agreement resolves four appeals pending between the Sierra Club, CCPC, and KCP&L.

The most significant element of the agreement is KCP&L’s commitment to offset the carbon emissions from Iatan 2. The estimated 6,000,000 tons of annual carbon dioxide emissions from the new power plant will be offset by adding 400 megawatts (MW) of wind power, 300MW of energy efficiency, and by a yet to be determined combination of wind, efficiency, or the de-rating, closure or improvements among KCP&L’s existing.

Bottom-Line Thinking Says “No to Coal”

Frank Drinkwine, Kansas Chapter Conservation Committee Chair

The recent $45 billion buyout offer accepted by TXU Corporation, a large Texas based utility, is sending a wakeup call as big as Texas throughout the utility, financial, political, and environmental communities. The epicenter of the shock waves is the agreement the buyers struck with environmentalists to pull the plug on plans to build 8 of 11 new proposed coal burning power plants in Texas. It’s no longer business as usual for utilities or their monied backers. Let’s hope this deal is the beginning of the end of the push to build new coal burning power plants. We’ve got a fighting chance if the smart money is saying NO to COAL.

They say football is a game of inches. On Wall Street the measuring sticks are marked with dollar signs. Financial
Viewpoint

Saving the Planet One Lawn at a Time

By Bob Sommer, a writer and Sierra Club member living in Overland Park

The driver pulled over and rolled down his window, laughing. “I haven’t seen one of those in years!” he exclaimed.

He pointed at my lawn mower, a Scott’s Classic reel mower, a lightweight reproduction of the clunky wood and steel beast I wearily powered through heavy rye grass in our upstate New York yard as a boy.

The driver joked about making his own kids use a mower like mine. Two boys sat in the back, worried, humorless, as he drove away.

I’m sure a few of my neighbors thought I had a screw loose when I began using my reel mower on a regular basis about five years ago. Perhaps they were just worried that my lawn would go to seed and drag the neighborhood into an economic decline. My next door neighbor always needles me about all the racket I’m making. Of course, I can hear him clearly over the gentle whirring of the blades when he greets me, and after we chat for a few minutes, the mower starts right up without a pull, and without me swearing at it, though sometimes it does need to be primed with a few gulps of Gatorade.

I’ll admit that I haven’t completely given up my power mower. When the right combination of rain and sunshine thickens the lawn and the height gets away from me, I’ll resort to it, but that amounted maybe two or three times last summer, and I went the entire previous summer with a Schmidt Classic reel mower.

I ordered this mower at Amazon.com. I suggest skipping the bagger but buying the sharpening kit. The Scotts 20-Inch Push Reel Mower #2000-20

See Lawn on page 17
Huge Combustion Waste Landfill Potential Problem at Holcomb

By Craig Volland

The Sierra Club is asking people to send in comments expressing concern about the huge new combustion waste landfill expansion that is proposed to take waste from Sunflower Electric’s 2100 MW coal plant project at Holcomb, KS. We have obtained an extension of the comment period to April 6. The landfill is owned by Holcomb Common Facilities LLC, a new corporation formed last year by Sunflower and their partners in the coal plant project.

The Sierra Club is calling for more study of this project. The Club’s analysis of the permit application and associated documents found that the company plans to amass some 540 million cubic feet of coal ash, water treatment sludge and scrubber residues only a mile from the Arkansas River and over what the KDHE has designated as a sensitive groundwater area, and what the Kansas Geological Survey describes as highly permeable sand dunes.

The new landfill design does not call for a synthetic or impermeable liner under the waste to protect groundwater over the long term. The existing landfill was operated for 20 years with the monitoring wells in the wrong location, and insufficient data is available to assess pollutant migration.

We believe that KDHE is applying a somewhat arbitrary standard that is not appropriate for a waste material that will never break down and will sit forever over a highly vulnerable ground water resource. Sierra Club’s experts have questioned what will happen after the owner is no longer required to maintain the facility ... after the vegetative cover dries up, and cracks and erosion accelerate percolation of precipitation.”

Update: Holcomb air permit permit still pending. The many hundreds of emails, letters and testimonies at hearings protesting the Holcomb coal plants seem to have slowed the process at KDHE. As of Mid-March there was no word on when a decision on the air permit would be made. Check the website for any updates.

Holcomb Combustion Waste Landfill Fact Sheet

By Craig Volland

1. The facility. This project is an expansion of the existing landfill, which serves the 360 MW Holcomb 1 coal fired power plant. The expansion will accept coal combustion waste from Sunflower Electric’s 2100 MW coal plant expansion. The footprint of the landfill will increase from 115 to 188 acres, but the capacity of the unit will increase from 4.6 million cubic yards to 20 million cubic yards. When full, the landfill will contain 540 million cubic feet of waste. It will rise some 80 feet in the air and measure more than 1/2 mile on each side.

2. Ownership. In June of 2006 the ownership of this facility was transferred from Sunflower Electrical Cooperative to a new corporation called Holcomb Common Facilities LLC, which is also the permit applicant. The landfill is located in the south 1/2 of Section 20 and north 1/2 of Section 29, Township 24 South and Range 33 West in Finney County, Kansas.

3. Waste characterization. The landfill will accommodate fly ash and bottom ash from the combustion of coal, water treatment sludge, scrubber residues and miscellaneous site wastes. Coal combustion waste in lagoons and landfills can leach toxic substances such as barium, arsenic, mercury, lead, cadmium, chromium and selenium. A recent EPA draft report indicated that cancer risk for adults and children who drink groundwater contaminated by coal combustion waste dumps is well above EPA regulatory goals. For more info contact Earth Justice Project Attorney, Lisa Evans, at 781-631-4119 or levans@earthjustice.org. KDHE’s Bureau of Waste Management has detected arsenic, chloride, cadmium, lead and mercury in groundwater down gradient from fly ash industrial landfills elsewhere in Kansas.

4. Landfill design. The design of the expansion does not include an impermeable, synthetic liner. It is called an “insitu” liner consisting merely of compacted ash. The applicant is relying on the waste materials to absorb water, “set up” like cement and reduce percolation of precipitation. Sunflower will place a soil and vegetation “cap” over the landfill as it is filled up. After the existing landfill used by Holcomb 1 had operated for some 18 years, KDHE found that groundwater under the site was moving to the northwest and away from the original groundwater monitoring wells. A fourth monitor well, somewhat down gradient from the landfill, was not drilled and tested until November of 2002. Monitoring data is insufficient to predict the performance of the expansion. The applicant is relying primarily on mathematical models and laboratory tests for the new design.

See Fact Sheet on page 8
Global Warming: Kansas at the Crossroads

That’s the theme of this year’s silent auction

Saturday • May 5 • 7-10 p.m.

Jo Co Enterprise Center,
8527 Bluejacket St. Just east of 87th & I-35.

Kansas will soon choose whether it will cave in to coal, utility interests, and the status quo, allowing several major coal plants to be built in our state, or whether Kansas will pursue its huge potential for wind power. Along with energy efficiency and advanced energy technologies, Kansas can choose wind power and lead the way to combat Global Warming.

Now, you can help us make a difference. See you on May 5th

Special Presentation
- Penguins and the Polar Perspective on Global Warming, by Jonothan Chester, a passionate traveler, author, photographer and lecturer.

Fine Wine, Great Snacks
- $20 Admission
- Environmental Awards

Great Bargains
- Silent Auction

You can help make our Silent Auction a success

We need your help on the Auction Committee to call members, ask for quality donations from merchants, and help with details of the event.

Interested?
Contact Craig Wolfe at 913-299-4474 or info@kansas.sierraclub.org
Think Now to Shave Summer Electricity Peak

Introduction by Craig Volland

Now is the time to think about how you can help reduce peak electricity demand in your community this summer. Please read the following reprint of our No Sweat Guide to Stop Global Warming. The premise of this fact sheet is that we can take a number of steps to reduce the production of waste heat in our home that makes our AC’s work much harder to keep us cool.

Replacing our incandescent lights with compact fluorescents is the most obvious step. But if your old refrigerator is making strange noises you should consider replacing it now with a new one that will be much more efficient. The new models use much smaller compressors that run longer but generate much less heat and run quiet. If you go to the Energy Star website (in Guide) you will find a complete list of frig models with their projected annual energy usage. The most efficient design is the traditional freezer on top.

Another big step would be to buy a front loading clothes washer. These marvelous machines spin at 1000 rpm and sling almost all the water out. This allows you to cut way down on dryer time or, better yet, allows you to hang your clothes on a line outside or in your garage and take advantage of that awful heat. They are much quieter and use much less water than the old reciprocating washers. Can you save energy this summer? No Sweat!

Now, a reprint of the Kansas Chapter’s...

No Sweat Guide to Stop Global Warming

Use this Guide to –

• Learn the sources of waste heat that make your air conditioner work harder.
• Learn ways to eliminate or reduce waste heat within your home.
  • Save money through energy efficiency and conservation.
  • Reduce greenhouse gases caused by burning fossil fuels.

• Help clear the air of toxic mercury and pollutants that induce asthma.

ELIMINATE WASTE HEAT IN YOUR HOME

Sources of waste heat that your air conditioner will have to work to remove are...

Incandescent Lights

Perhaps the most energy inefficient device ever invented. Bulbs give off heat (surface temp. of over 300 °F for a 60 watt bulb!) that increases temperatures in the room. In contrast, fluorescent lights use 65 to 75% less energy and give off little heat.

Older Compressors

Compressors, especially older ones, are inefficient devices and are in your home’s refrigerator and freezer. The waste heat is given off by the cooling coils underneath or on the sides of the appliance.

Heating Elements

Like incandescent bulbs, they work by creating resistance to the flow of electricity. The perpetrators are electric stoves, ovens, counter top ovens and heating plates, coffee makers, toasters, and electric clothes dryers.

Gas Fired Appliances

Gas stoves put most of the energy into your rooms not your food. And don’t forget hot water heaters and pipes.

Electronics

All electronic devices like computers, monitors and TV’s contain resistors and capacitors that give off heat. Many of these devices are left on unnecessarily when not in use.

TEN NO SWEAT ACTION STEPS (while still enjoying your summer)

1. Replace incandescent lights with fluorescent lights.

Fluorescent lights now come in all shapes & sizes, instant-on, and dimmable... and now at a very low cost. Replace the most heavily used light fixtures first. Use compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) for screw-in fixtures.

This is one of the most effective steps you can take today – help Spread the Light!

2. Turn outdoor security lights off during the day.

Use fluorescent, high intensity discharge (HID) or low pressure sodium lights.
3. **Unplug that old refrigerator or freezer.**
   Our grandchildren can’t afford for us to use the old frig to keep our beer cold. Consolidate food into one refrigerator and keep the old frig for emergencies or special occasions.

4. **In early AM, use your whole house fan to draw in outside air.**
   Then shut the house up during the day. This helps during all but the hottest days. Use ceiling fans to circulate the air allowing you to turn up the thermostat and still remain cool.

5. **Close vents and doors.**
   Cool only the rooms you need by closing cooling vents and doors of unused rooms.

6. **Do your chores at night or during the cool of the morning.**
   Wash and dry clothes, run your dish-washer, take your shower and cook meals to eat later. Better yet, dry those highly water absorbing items like towels and jeans on an outside clothesline.

7. **Wash your clothes in cold water.**

8. **Use your microwave to cook and heat food.**
   It uses 1/3 the energy of electric ovens. Better yet, eat cool foods on hot days.

9. **Turn your electronics completely off when not in use.**
   If you aren’t planning to use your computer or TV within the next hour, turn it off. Connecting your computer or TV to a power strip/surge protector makes it easy to disconnect. If you can’t wait for start up, use the sleep mode. Set your Screen Saver’s “Monitor Power” to turn off your monitor after a few minutes being idle.

10. **Make changes at work!**
    That’s right. The next time you are freezing cold in your office while it’s 95 degrees outside, talk to the owners about bumping up the thermostat to save money and the benefits of being a company with a green reputation.

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**Longer Term Action Steps**

You can accomplish a lot with the Ten No Sweat Action Steps. Your carbon footprint will be smaller and your bank account will be larger.

If you have spare cash, or you just received an inheritance, there’s more you can do.

- **Buy new, high efficiency home appliances**. Recycle the old ones!
- **Add insulation** (you may qualify for energy savings tax credits).
- **Install a whole house fan**, but cover it during the winter to keep heat in.
- **Do an energy audit and install a programmable thermostat** to reduce summer power usage during the 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. peak period.
- **Spread the Light!** Talk to others about using CFLs. Give samples to friends. Ask permission to replace incandescent bulbs in your church or office.
- **Go off the grid.** Learn more about wind turbines and solar panels. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 allows tax credits for certain home improvements.

**Websites where you can get additional information**

- [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
  Guide to energy efficient appliances & certification of compact fluorescents –CFLs.
- [www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/)
- [www.ase.org](http://www.ase.org)
  Click on “Information for: Consumers,” then “Consumer Tax Credits.”
- [www.powerisinyourhands.org](http://www.powerisinyourhands.org)
  Comprehensive energy savings info.
winners have to minimize the risk of loss and maximize the rate of return in order to score. Don’t think for one minute that this buyout is just some altruistic, let’s do good for the environment, kind of thing. No, it’s about money. You can bet the buyers – private equity firms Texas Pacific Group and Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, and investment banker Goldman Sachs—sharpened their pencils and looked closely at how smart is it to keep generating electricity the old fashioned way – by burning coal. Apparently these investment heavy hitters have realized the risk of investing in old technology has gone up and the potential reward has gone down. In other words the environmental damage created by burning coal, namely global warming, presents a clear and present financial danger.

It’s a new game. Let’s hope Kansans are tuned in to the emerging new energy paradigm. The new paradigm is pointing us toward 21st century energy solutions. Among the most important elements shaping our new energy future is (1) the falling cost of twenty-first century renewable energy technology, (2) a likely carbon cap-and-trade system and/or tax on carbon emissions that will make it more expensive to burn fossil fuels, and (3) the profit potential of energy efficiency. If nothing else, the TXU deal gives us guarded hope that financial prudence and environmental sustainability don’t have to be at the opposite ends of melting polar icecaps.

We can be hopeful but let’s not get comfortable. There remain 151 coal burning coal plants on the drawing board according to the DOE. We can hope the shock waves from this one event will create a sea change that will cause utilities and investors to back away from building those 151 remaining proposed coal plants. It won’t be easy. There’s plenty of “dirty money” floating around looking for the path of highest return and least environmental resistance. Therefore, we must do everything we can to stop every single new coal burning power plant – period. Kansans must urge Governor Sebelius, legislators, Kansas Corporation Commission, and our utilities to pull the plug on all proposed coal burning power plants. Bottom-line, there is a smarter way!

One final thought: the quickest way to stop the construction of new coal burning power plants is to cut electricity demand through energy efficiency. Fortuitously, energy efficiency creates financial benefits that are good for Wall Street and Main Street. (Check out the Kansas Chapter’s No Sweat Action Guide to Stop Global Warming in this issue for easy ways to cut electricity demand.)

Fact Sheet, continued from page 4

5. Site Characteristics. The landfill sits about one mile south of the Arkansas River and two miles to the southeast of the city of Holcomb. Groundwater currently flows in the general direction of the City. The Kansas Geological Survey designates this area as primarily eolian sand or dune sand, which is highly permeable. See www.kgs.ku.edu/general/geology/index.html. Click on FI (Finney Co.) on the Kansas map. The KDHE has designated this area as a sensitive groundwater area for the placement of industrial lagoons. See www.kdheks.gov/indust/ProposedLinerRegs.htm (5.5 MB).

6. Additional Analysis Needed. Experts retained by the Sierra Club feel that laboratory tests may underestimate the rate of percolation. The models & lab tests did not address cracking in the waste layers that will speed percolation, nor the effect of rainfall before placement of the cap. They are concerned about the degradation of the vegetative cap due to drought when the owner is no longer required to maintain it. They note that this type of waste material does not degrade over time, even far into the future, and percolation of contaminated water to groundwater will increase after monitoring has stopped.

7. Other scenarios. Sunflower Electric has bought up agricultural water rights in the area and will be diverting this water as supply for the expanded power plant. A hydro-geological study should be performed to determine what affect this change will have on the movement of groundwater under and near the site. The risk to all public and private drinking water wells in the area needs to be assessed. The applicant should likewise evaluate a scenario where all pumping ceases at this site. It is conceivable that the Holcomb power complex could be shut down earlier than anticipated if it becomes uneconomic due to increasing carbon dioxide regulation.
Kanza Group Needs Volunteers This Spring!

Elaine Giessel, Kanza Volunteer Coordinator

The Kanza Group is in need of additional volunteers for Earth Day celebrations and other spring activities. The Sierra Club has numerous opportunities to meet the public and talk about the critical work we are doing to protect the Kansas environment. We'll provide a tabling box with handouts and other materials promoting energy conservation/efficiency and renewable energy sources. New volunteers will get free on-the-job training and work with seasoned “tablers.”

It’s fun and gratifying to meet with the public and share your passion. Check out the dates and locations below to find an event near you. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please contact Elaine Giessel at: elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org.

- April 7, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm: Prairie Village Earth Fair at Shawnee Mission East High School, 7500 Mission Road, Prairie Village. Long-time Kanza volunteer Wayne Sangster could use some company this year!
- April 14, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Overland Park Stream and Trail Clean-up at the Indian Creek tributary just east of Quivira. Meet at Oak Park on 106th and Bond and get muddy!
- April 20, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm: Earth Day Celebration at Sprint Campus Town Square Courtyard, Leawood. Meet and greet Sprint employees with Sierra Club energy materials.
- April 21, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm: EarthFest at Shawnee Mission Park; see article.
- April 22, 8:00 am to 11:00 am: Earth Day Celebration at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Avenue, Leawood. Preach our message at this huge church.
- April 28, 8:00 am to noon: La Grande Bird Fiesta at Ernie Miller Park, 909 N. K-7 Hwy, Olathe, in conjunction with Outdoor Kansas Kids Day. Free family event with lots for kids to do. Kanza Group will provide information on global warming. Enjoy a spring hike in the park.
- May 5, 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm: Kanza Group Silent Auction “Global Warming - Kansas at the Crossroads” at JoCo Enterprise Center, 8527 Bluejacket St., Lenexa. This is our only annual fundraiser and we really need folks to help with the bar, the food, the decorations and the auction set-up. We’ll start setting up around noon. Volunteers get free admission!
The Problems of Mercury Poisoning From Coal Plants Related To a Cap-And-Trade Emissions Program

By Joe Spease, Legislative Chair

22 states are in the process of considering tougher mercury emissions regulations than those proposed by the EPA's Clean Air Mercury Rule. These states want to reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired plants by 90%. Why would these states take this action? Isn't the EPA protecting us adequately?

The answers to these questions explain why Kansas must also strengthen our mercury emissions regulations or face a future where pregnant women, and eventually all people, will never be able to safely eat fish from our fresh water lakes and streams. Pregnant women who eat fish with high levels of mercury contamination risk having children with damaged brain functions. Mercury poisoning is also linked to Alzheimer's disease and autism. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has already issued warnings to pregnant women in northeast Kansas not to eat fish from our fresh waters. And now, the state legislature is working to support the construction of several additional coal plants in Kansas.

Is the EPA protecting us from mercury the way they should? Their controversial Clean Air Mercury Rule aims to reduce mercury emissions by 70% by 2018. States are supposed to submit plans on how they expect to meet that 70% goal by November 17, 2006. What makes the EPA Rule controversial is that many people believe it is far too weak. Critics of the Rule point to the fact that the EPA is actually calling for a maximum 70% reduction in mercury emissions. While the idea of making the 70% a mere maximum is certainly controversial, the danger to Kansas comes from the cap-and-trade provision in the Rule. That provision allows utilities to trade emissions credits. If Kansas doesn't enact a tougher 90% reduction rule ourselves we will become a mercury hotspot and greatly increase our toxic mercury levels.

Here is a further explanation of the risk we face. Electricity in Kansas comes mainly from coal-fired plants so we are at greater risk to mercury poisoning than other states. A cap-and-trade system doesn't reduce mercury poisoning evenly around the country. The states that enact the 90% reduction rules sooner will be able to sell their credits, while those states that didn't enact tougher mercury regulations end up holding the mercury bag so to speak. Mercury would continue to rain down on us seriously damaging our well-being.

Are there solutions to reducing mercury emissions? There are. They are expensive, but they work. One of the systems capable of 90% reductions works by injecting carbon powder into the flue gas of a coal plant. The mercury in the stream of gas combines with the carbon and becomes a new powder which can be picked up by the system's electrostatic precipitator or filter bag house. The cost to remove a pound of mercury with this method is about $10,000. Plants in Kansas emit around 2,000 pounds of mercury so it is expensive. But it is less expensive than the cost of trying to remove the mercury from our fresh waters, the costs of which would start at around $1 BILLION!

We must get our legislature to require 90% reductions in our mercury emissions. If we don't we are simply poisoning ourselves and state wildlife to death.

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Email: TreeHuggerJim@aol.com

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First Affirmative Financial Network LLC is an independent Registered Investment Advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
Legislative Talk Needs Legislative Action

By Tom Thompson, Legislative Coordinator

I am writing this article when there are 2 weeks and 2 days left in the Kansas legislative session. By the time you read this, the session will likely be over. There has been a lot of talk by Kansas’ leaders this year indicating that there is a need for cleaner sources of energy. There are presentations on various forms renewable energy. Legislation has been written to encourage renewable energy and energy efficiency. Now action is needed so that some of these will have passed by the time you receive this.

Promising legislation includes SB 128 which requires electric utilities in Kansas to deliver energy and conservation promotion programs. It also sets up an energy conservation education advisory group to develop standards for these programs.

Another bill is HB 2037. This bill gives tax credits to landlords for installing certain energy efficiencies in their properties in the next 3 years. These would include ceiling insulation and putting in energy efficient heating and cooling systems. Rep. Tom Hawk of Manhattan is working to move this bill through the process.

Both of these bills have passed in one house and are now in the other for consideration. SB 128 faces opposition in the House because it is considered to be another layer of government that isn’t needed. In the Senate, HB 2037 seems bogged down in the Taxation Committee.

In January there was a disappointment. HB 2219, calling for a moratorium on coal fired power plants, was tabled and allowed to die in the House Utilities Committee. There was a lot of hard work put into the bill by Rep. Vaughn Flora from Topeka and the environmental leaders who testified on its behalf. Rep. Flora, however, has taken the energy from HB 2219 and is using it to get HB 2526 passed. This bill calls for at least 6 sites in Kansas to be set up for monitoring mercury deposition. It was felt that if having a moratorium wasn’t possible, the responsible thing to do would be to measure the Mercury coming out of coal fired power plants. This bill passed the House and is now in the Senate.

Rep. Holmes, Chairman of the House Utilities Committee, should be recognized for allowing the hearings on these and other bills having the potential of having more renewable energy and more energy efficiency in Kansas. His desire to hear different points of view has allowed many voices to be heard. Rep. Holmes has been supportive of several renewable energy and energy efficiency bills.

The next few weeks will go quickly with the regular legislative session ending on April 3rd. On Wednesday April 25th the legislature will reconvene for a veto session. This is mostly for considering bills that have been vetoed by the governor and to pass the omnibus bill. The omnibus bill is primarily the final bill for appropriating and financing the Kansas government for the next year. There are still hopeful bills and bills to worry about. The above bills are only a few of the over 20 bills that have the interest of the Sierra Club this year. I will give a more comprehensive report after the veto session.

In the meantime, if you wish to keep track of any legislation you can go to: http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-legisportal/index.do. On this site you can look up bills, get their histories or even listen to a session of the House or Senate.

If you want to help the Sierra Club with legislative issues and receive legislative updates, join the Legislative Action Tree. Send a letter or email to Craig Wolfe, 9844 Georgia, Kansas City, KS, 66109 or info@kansas.sierraclub.org.

Gardening...The Way Nature Intended

Kanza May 22 General Meeting

7:00 pm – Special Social Time
7:30 pm - Program

Please join Missouri’s Grow Native! and Kansas City 10,000 Rain Gardens expert Judy Allmon for this informative presentation on designing and caring for native landscapes, native plant selection, xeriscaping, and rain gardens.

What’s a rain garden?

A rain garden is a shallow depression, planted with native plants, designed to slow, capture, and infiltrate rain. Designed to drain water within a day, rain gardens serve as mosquito death traps, since mosquito eggs need more than 48 hours to grow into larvae. Native plants are drought-resistant, accustomed to our area’s soils, and attract butterflies and birds. Think of it as a purposeful planting, or a garden that not only looks beautiful, it does a little work, too.

Why do rain gardens matter?

The biggest cause of pollution in rivers (the source of our drinking water) is non-point source pollution. That’s runoff from streets and lawns that carry pesticides, fertilizers, and oil from the storm drains to the streams. Every drop of rain that you keep on your property helps to keep our drinking water less polluted. Every drop counts. Rain gardens can also be needed habitat for butterflies and birds. Monarch butterflies, for example, need specific plants for food as they migrate.

NEW GENERAL MEETING LOCATION:
JoCo Enterprise Center, 8527 Bluejacket St. Just east of 87th & I-35. Turn north on Bluejacket at Wendy's.  

April / May 2007
This April 14th, tens of thousands of Americans will gather all across the country at meaningful, iconic places to call for action on climate change. We will hike, bike, climb, walk, swim, kayak, canoe, or simply sit or stand with banners of our call to action:

**Step It Up Congress!**  
**Cut Carbon 80% by 2050**

See opposite page for events you can attend in Kansas!!
Step It Up, Garnett
April 14, 2007 - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Prairie Spirit Trail Bike Ride:
This event is a bike ride on a nice Rail to Trail State Park. It will begin in Garnett, KS (419 S. Oak) and we will ride to Welda (8.3 miles). Total round trip 15.6 miles. There is a trail day permit requirement of $3.00. Make sure you register for this event. Check this space for instructions should there be inclement weather.

Step It Up KC Metro
April 14, 2007 - 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm

April 14th Step-it-up Rally:
Sierra Club is working with a large coalition in the KC region to put on a big event/rally on April 14th – Step-it-up that calls for people to come out and ask congress to reduce global warming gas 80% by 2050.
Location: Southmoreland Park, 1pm – 3pm. Band: Rain Dogs; speakers –March/walk on the plaza after the event.

Sierra Club Energy Film Festival
April 12, 15, 22, 29 at 6pm.
This will be held weekly in April at Hillside Christian Church, 900 NE Vivion Rd. Free and open to the public.

Step It Up Lawrence
April 14, 2007 - 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm

Event Description:
12-2pm - Speakers’ Forum at the Gridiron Room - Burge Union Speakers include Rep. Nancy Boyda, Senator Marcy Francisco, KU Professor Don Worster, Carey Maynard-Moody and others. A rally photo will be taken following the speaker’s forum - Location TBA. Please check back for more up-to-date information.
Location:
University of Kansas - Burge Union, Gridiron Room

Step It Up Manhattan
April 14, 2007 - 10:00 am to 2:30 pm

Geography Teach-in on Global Climate Change
More and more people are concerned about our changing climate. Students and faculty from the Department of Geography will summarize the latest scientific information on climate change, what it means for Kansans, and provide suggestions regarding what you can do to help. While taking part in Open House at Kansas State University, visit the Little Theater from 10:00-11:30 or from 1:00-2:30 to learn more. A short presentation followed by a question and discussion session will be provided at 10:30 and again at 1:30.

Step It Up The Land Institute/ K-State, Salina
April 14, 2007 - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Event Description:
Rally and march through downtown Salina. Starting point: Park behind City-County Building.

Step It Up Topeka, KS
April 14, 2007 - 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Event Description:
U.S. Representative Nancy Boyda has agreed to speak. Senators Roberts and Brownback have been invited; no response yet. March around the campus carrying appropriate signs. The state Ethanol car will be there. Showing of “An Inconvenient Truth” after the speakers.
Location:
Biology Department Washburn University Dr. Lee Boyd, Chair 1700 SW College Avenue

Step It Up Wichita!
April 14

All Events at Great Plains Nature Center
6232 E 29th St N

Film Series - 6:30 pm
Apr 4, “An Inconvenient Truth”
Apr 11, “Too Hot Not to Handle”
Apr 18, “The Great Warming”
Apr 25, “Earth To America”

Youth Poster Contest.
10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Various local food vendors. Local musicians. Environmental groups.

Presentation of Governor’s Award.
12:00 noon to 2:00 pm. Keynote speaker. Various local, state, national public figures. Local news and activists
boilers. These offsets will be partially implemented by 2010 and fully implemented by 2012. The parties are also agreeing to work together on a series of regulatory and legislative initiatives to achieve an overall reduction in KCP&L’s carbon dioxide emissions of 20 percent by 2020.

In addition to offsetting its global warming emissions, residents of the Kansas City area will benefit from reduced emissions of criteria pollutants at KCP&L’s existing Iatan 1 and La Cygne plants. The agreement calls for annual reductions in nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter totaling some 9,100 tons. KCP&L had already agreed to a tight standard for mercury emissions. Finally, KCP&L has agreed to provide funding for the Kansas City, Missouri to implement its global warming reduction plan, additional monitoring of pollution in the metro area, and an upgrade to the drinking water infrastructure in Weston which is downstream of the plant.

In another important step for clean energy, KCP&L will also establish a net metering program within 6 months. Net metering allows a utility’s customers to generate small amounts of renewable energy on-site, such as from rooftop solar panels or a small wind turbine, and sell any excess energy back to the utility.

This agreement builds on the success of a 2006 agreement that Sierra Club brokered with City Water Light and Power of Springfield, IL. That agreement stipulated that the municipal utility retire one of the dirtiest coal plants in the nation, purchase 120MW of wind, invest four million dollars in energy efficiency, and significantly decrease emissions of soot, smog and mercury pollution. In addition, all of the government buildings owned by the state of Illinois are to be powered with green electricity.

The breadth of this new program clearly reflects a genuine desire on the part of KCP&L to be a leader in protecting the environment both in the community and in the nation as a whole. It’s a visionary step.

There is still much work to be done implementing this plan, and the Kansas Chapter will need to remain involved, for example in supporting regulatory approvals through the Kansas Corporation Commission. A big rate increase is already in the works from the construction of Iatan 2. We are confident though, that the increased investment for wind power and energy efficiency will make the ratepayers better off on the long run. Our thanks to all our members and allies who attended hearings, wrote emails and letters and contributed funds toward our effort to create a new energy policy in Kansas and elsewhere.
America needs a smart energy policy that increases our energy security and protects the environment. There is a better way. Congress should pass legislation that cuts our country’s dependence on oil, increases our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power, protects our public lands, and modernizes the electricity grid to prevent future blackouts.

Join the Sierra Club today and add your voice to protect the planet.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

☐ CLEAN LAKE

☐ TOXIC DUMPSITE

Humans have a choice when it comes to protecting our water. Nature doesn’t. Join us!
Sierra Club Members
Tour Johnson County
Sunset Drive “Green”
Office Building

By Anne McDonald

Last year the Kanza Group of the Sierra Club recognized The Johnson County Commission, with Annabeth Surbaugh as Chair, and the Johnson County Environmental Department for their commitment to sustainable principles. They not only talk the talk, they walk the walk. The new Sunset Drive Office Building in Olathe, KS has won a multitude of awards for its design and operation as an innovative and sustainable-focused government building. “Only the second building in the State of Kansas to receive a LEED® [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] Gold Certification from the United States Green Building Council, the Sunset Drive Facility is a high-performance office building that is designed to be very efficient to own and operate”.

Cindy Kemper, Sierra Club member and head of the Environmental Department, gave Sierra Club members from both Missouri and Kansas a tour of the facility on March 8th. The building is designed to fit the site, to take advantage of natural light and will be landscaped with local plants. The first thing that catches your eye when you enter is the large cistern which stores rainwater captured from the roof. The water flows through the bio-garden in the lobby before being released to the outdoors. The parking lot is also designed specifically to minimize run off and direct the water to earth surfaces where it can be absorbed.

Many of the materials used to construct the building are recycled. Reclaimed wood is featured both inside and outside the building; the terrazzo floor in the lobby contains recycled glass and is designed to need a minimum of cleaning chemicals; the handsome carpet is squares of recycled pop bottles. Most inside walls are flexible which allows for reconfiguration of space when needed without the need to tear down permanent walls. The wiring is in the floor rather than ceiling, which also allows more efficient modification. And the building captures so much natural light that one department on the east has had to cover a few of the windows in the morning.

The Sunset Drive Office Building houses the Appraiser’s Office, Environmental Department, Extension Office, human Services and Aging, Med-Act, Johnson County Wastewater and the Water Quality Laboratory. There are several conference rooms and an employee break room that have receptacles for recycling of glass, paper and cans.

Ms. Kemper explained that Commission is committed to principles of sustainability and environmental stewardship; however, the primary motivation for this building was saving money. Many of the departments were previously in leased space which was not large enough so the new building eliminates rental expense. And, she said, although it cost slightly more to build, the many efficiency features have produced 43% greater energy savings and the County will reach the pay back level in a relatively short time. County staff is also conducting a study on productivity – they expect to find employees like their workplace so much that they seldom take sick time. And they may be healthier anyway since they can ride a bike and shower at work as well as breathe cleaner inside air which has been purified with HEPA filters and does not contain any volatile compounds because only low emitting paints and materials were used.

The building features a Native American Proverb: “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children” and is intended to serve as an educational opportunity for the public. The building has a mission of extending its story of environmental stewardship to the community and visitors through educational signage and printed material. The County encourages visitors to tour and experience the facility while learning about sustainable practices.

Ms. Kemper encouraged Sierra Club members on the tour to urge others to contact county staff and arrange for more tours of the Sunset Drive Office Building. Members on the March 8th tour found it most enlightening and encouraging.
Topeka “Cool Cities” Efforts To Be Lauded

By Paul Post, Group Chair

Topeka was the first city in Kansas to become a Cool City, when former Mayor James McClinton issued a proclamation designed to implement this goal in December 2004. During the past year, the Topeka Group’s Political Chair, Phil Morse, has been actively working with Topeka City Manager Norton Bonaparte and Public Works Director Mike McGee to implement Topeka involvement in the Cool Cities Program.

In 2006, the Topeka City Council directed that energy audits be undertaken by the Public Works Agency. This was done in two phases. First, Phase I provided an energy audit of five city buildings: City Hall and the Topeka Performing Arts Center, the Law Enforcement Center, the Fire Department Administration Bldg, Fleet Offices, and Fire Station #3. Phase II aimed at conserving energy usage within the city’s operations. As a result of the audit and the projected savings in energy costs, the City entered into a $340,000 contract that included: installing energy efficient lighting in the five buildings (estimated yearly saving of $10,000 at a cost of $145,000); replacement five obsolete air handlers at City Hall; and new filtration units in the City Hall air conditioning system. Also as part of Phase II, the City is installing “Set Back Scheduling Thermostats” in City Hall. The estimated yearly savings derived from these thermostats is $21,860.

The Topeka Group is now set to publicly recognize the efforts of City Manager Bonaparte, Public Works Director McGee, the Topeka City Council, and city employees directly involved in this effort, at a soon to be scheduled press conference. The exact date of this recognition event has yet to be determined, but it is anticipated to occur in late March or early April. The Topeka Group will present a plaque to Manager Bonaparte commending the City of Topeka for its leadership and involvement in the Cool Cities program. The Topeka Group will also underscore the energy and tax savings which are a direct by-product of these efforts by the City of Topeka to address energy waste and heat-trapping global warming pollution. In doing so, it is the hope of the Topeka Group that the City of Topeka will continue to expand its Cool Cities efforts, and that local business leaders as well as the citizens of Topeka will be inspired and encouraged to follow Topeka’s lead in this important effort.

Lawn, continued from page 3

year without starting it up once.

The environmental benefits of giving up a gas-powered mower are significant. My reel mower keeps about 80 pounds of new carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year. According to the EPA, gasoline yard tools contribute 5 percent of the carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxides that make up urban smog. Running a gas-powered mower for one hour is about the same as driving a new car for eleven hours! And we’re so clumsy at gassing up our yard tools that we spill 17 million gallons of fuel every year—more than the Exxon Valdez dumped into Prince William Sound!

Plus, the neighborhood sounds like an airport on weekend afternoons during the summer.

I wondered if others had gotten the bug to try powering their own mowers, so I called Smitty’s Lawn & Garden Equipment in Olathe, where Jim Honeycutt told me that he gets lots of inquiries but few takers. He said most buyers are put off by the $140 price-tag on the Husqvarna model he sells.

That surprised me because I realized that, while I only spent about $100 for my mower, even a higher-priced model is still a good deal, considering the years of service and low maintenance these machines require. Mine is five years old and has only needed sharpening once (which I did myself). I used to spend $25 to $50 on preseason servicing for my power mower. Jim also pointed out that most reel mowers are pretty basic, and similar in operation, and that any name brand will offer a quality product.

It’s not harder to mow the lawn.

I can lift the mower with one hand and maneuver it easily through areas that are, to put it bluntly, a pain in the neck with my power mower. Also, walking behind it and pushing it is pleasant. It’s not very loud, doesn’t smell, and you quickly find yourself at the kind of brisk pace you’d enjoy on a hiking path. I do a lot of criss-crossing to catch stray blades.

Some yards may be too large for this type of mower. Mine is a suburban quarter acre, and we’ve added ground cover and berms to reduce the amount of grass—and the amount of chemicals we need.

A reel mower may not be right for everyone, but if everyone who could use one made the change, imagine how much cleaner our air would be and how much quieter our neighborhoods.

And we get lots of exercise too.
The Problems with Nuclear Power

By Joe Spease

Proponents of nuclear power would have you believe that the problems with their energy source are restricted to the profound problems associated with the storage of long-lived radioactive waste, the human fallibilities that have created the most serious nuclear accidents in history, and the ongoing history of near-misses and near-meltdowns in the industry. Proponents suggest that these problems are practically solved. Not only are those problems unsolved, there are others that, when all totaled, add up to more problem than solution.

The True Costs of Nuclear Power

The amount of economically viable uranium to fuel the reactors is disappearing fast. The cost to mine it is expected to double over the next 10 years. Since about 1950 the nuclear industry has received ~$75 billion in subsidies for R&D. This does not include the cost of uranium enrichment which is subsidized by the US government; nor the huge subsidy for liability insurance in the case of an accident, 98% of which is paid for by the government. The current estimated cost to decommission expired nuke plants is $33 billion, which the government is covering. These costs, plus the enormous expense in storing radioactive waste for 250,000 years, are not included in the nuclear industry’s estimate of the cost of their electricity. A 2003 study by M.I.T. estimated the cost of electricity from a light-water reactor to be $0.067 per kWh without the costs of the subsidies added in. That is more than twice the cost of wind power in Kansas.

Emission-Free Nuclear Power?

Proponents of nuclear power would have you believe that it is free of CO2 emissions. That isn’t true. Two of the plants that enrich uranium in the USA, the Paducah, Kentucky and the Portsmouth, Ohio plants rely on electricity from several 1,000 MW coal-fired plants. Those plants emit several million tons of CO2 annually. Plus 93% of chlorofluorocarbon gas emitted annually comes from these plants. CFC’s are 10,000 times more potent as global warming gases than CO2. Large quantities of fossil fuels are used in all the stages of the nuclear fuel cycle. Mining and milling uranium, construction of plants, and transportation and long-term storage of the radioactive waste all involve use of fossil fuels. Studies have concluded that nuclear plants actually are responsible for emissions amounting to about 1/3 the emissions of a natural gas plant.

One must not discount the other dangerous emissions not related to global warming that come from nuclear plants. Nuclear reactors release millions of curies of radioactive isotopes into the air and water every year. These emissions are unregulated, much like CO2. These unregulated isotopes include the noble gases krypton, xenon, and argon which, if inhaled by a person living near a reactor, are absorbed and then emit high-energy gamma radiation which can cause cancer and mutations to genes.

Storage of Waste.

Each 1000 MW nuclear reactor produces about 33 tons of hot, extremely radioactive waste each year. 80,000 tons of radioactive waste sits in cooling pools next to 103 US nuclear plants, waiting to be shipped to a storage facility yet to be found. US Senator Harry Reid, of Nevada, has stated that Yucca Mountain in his state will never be used for this purpose. We shouldn’t want it anyway. It is a volcanic mountain transected by 32 earthquake faults. The area inside the mountain thought to be the ideal spot has also been found to be leaking corrosive water that over time could compromise storage casks and cause a disaster of huge proportions. So, we still have no place for safe storage.

Terrorist Attack Threat.

Proponents of nuclear power will tell you that with proper protection measures from Homeland Security, the risk of attack on reactors, storage sites, or transportation vehicles is very low. First, we need to consider the cost of protecting these attack targets. It will certainly be in the billions of dollars. Then we need to consider the cost of just one successful attack (maybe from a small single engine plane loaded with explosives) near an urban area. You tell me, what cost would you place on making Kansas City a wasteland for at least 600 years? The Iodine 131, Strontium 90, Cesium 137, Plutonium 239, all some of the most dangerous elements known on earth, would destroy most living things. There is also the constant possibility of the theft of plutonium, only 5kg of which is needed to make a bomb. Each of the 103 reactors in this country makes 200kg per year of it.

Summary.

Because nuclear power is far more expensive than wind power, because it produces global warming gases, because it emits toxic elements, because it is a target identified by terrorist organizations, and because it could be used to make nuclear weapons, I urge you to reject nuclear power as a source of electricity for Kansas.
Sierra Club Member Awarded Conservationist of the Year

The Kansas Wildlife Federation (KWF) announced its 2006 Conservation Achievement Program Award winners. Thomas J. (TJ) Hittle, President of Hittle Landscape Architects, was awarded Conservationist of the Year. The KWF-CAP awards recognize outstanding accomplishments in Kansas conservation efforts. Nominees must be Kansas residents and have accomplished meritorious work in Kansas. The Conservationist of the Year is selected from all the nominations in twelve different categories.

Hittle, also a leader in the Kansas Canoe and Kayak Association (KCKA), is an outspoken advocate for the rivers of Kansas and an avid canoeist and kayaker. He teaches classes about canoeing and kayaking, spreading his enthusiasm and appreciation for the sport and water resources through education. He has organized floats for many years, promoting KCKA and stream resources.

Hittle Landscape Architects is a Manhattan, Kansas based Landscape Architecture collaborative offering professional services to clients in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. Hittle, a 1973 graduate of Kansas State University, has been a Landscape Architect since 1982 with over 33 years experience in the landscape industry. He is President of Hittle Landscape Architects and a full member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Hittle has been recognized as designer for numerous Regional and Statewide landscape awards.

Thomas J. (TJ) Hittle

April / May 2007
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

Yvonne Cather*, Chapter Chair, Fundraising Chair, Council Delegate, (316) 542-3885, mike.campbell@kansas.sierraclub.org
Craig Lubow*, Vice-Chair, Global Warming Chair, Air Quality Co-Chair, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
Tom Kneil****, Secretary, Water Co-Chair, (316) 744-1016, thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org
Stuart Bolt****, Treasurer, (316) 685-3492, stuartbolt@earthlink.net
Frank Drinkwine*, Conservation Chair, Council Delegate Alternate, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org

Steven Baru*, Political Chair, Transportation Co-Chair, (913) 814-0583, steve.baru@sierraclub.org
Michael Campbell*, ExCom Member, (785) 542-3885, micheal.campbell@kansas.sierraclub.org
Elaine Giessel*, Environmental Justice Chair, Environmental Education Chair, Water Co-Chair, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org
Larry Ross*, Outings Chair, (316) 685-5681, LarryRoss7133@sbcglobal.net
Scott Smith*, Finance Chair, Water Co-Chair, Transportation Co-Chair, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net
Joe Spease*, Legislative Chair, (913) 492-2862, spease4kc@everestkc.net
Cherie Birkbeck***, Flint Hills Group Rep, (785) 632-3446, cheriebirkbeck@hotmail.com
David Kirkbride***, Southwind Group Rep, (316) 945-072, dave.kirkbride@knea.org
Paul Post***, Topeka Group Rep, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
Craig Wolfe***, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Communications Chair, Membership Chair, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
Bill Cather*, Compliance Officer, (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Bill Griffith****, Energy Chair, Legal Chair, (913) 772-8960, bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org
Craig Volland****, CAFO Chair, Trade Chair, Agriculture Chair, Air Quality Co-Chair, (913) 788-7336, volland@kansas.sierraclub.org
Tom Thompson (Contractor), Legislative Coordinator, (913) 236-9161, thomstom@kansas.sierraclub.org

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, lericke@ksu.edu
Cherie Birkbeck, Chapter/Group Rep, (785) 632-3446, cheriebirkbeck@hotmail.com
Carol Barta, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, (785) 222-3368, snowsage54@hotmail.com

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
Frank Drinkwine*, Chair, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
Craig Lubow*, Vice-Chair, Conservation Chair, Media Chair, Calendars, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

Topeka Group
Paul Post, Chair, (785) 354-1972 (day), paulpost@paulpost.com
Judy Williams, Vice Chair, (785) 272-3215, judy.jasper@sbglobel.net
Bill Cutler, Treasurer, (785) 379-9756, spudsap@yahoo.com
Jack Smith, Outings Chair, (785) 273-3138, JKJMSmith@aol.com
Jo Ann Van Meter, Conservation Chair, (785) 273-3138, JKJMSmith@aol.com

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)
Michael Campbell*, Chair, (785) 542-3885, micheal.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

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

Kanza Group
May 5. 7:00 - 10:00 pm.
Silent Auction: Global Warming: Kansas At The Crossroads
Our special presentation will be Penguins and the Polar Perspective on Global Warming, by Jonathan Chester, a passionate traveler, author, photographer and lecturer. Please join us at our most important fundraiser, our Silent Auction for an evening of fine wine, great snacks, great bargains, environmental awards, and sincere fellowship as we work together to protect our environment. JoCo Enterprise Center, 8527 Blue Jacket St, just east of 87th & I-35. For directions, go to: www.kansas.sierraclub.org/KanzaDirections.htm
Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kanza Group
May 22. 7:00 pm.
Gardening… The Way Nature Intended
7:00 pm: Come early at 7:00 pm, share some snacks, and enjoy meeting your Kanza Group leaders and members.
7:30: Please join Missouri’s “Grow Native!” and Kansas City “10,000 Rain Gardens” expert Judy Allmon for this informative presentation on designing and caring for native landscapes, native plant selection, xeriscaping, and rain gardens. Yep, its time to sharpen our green thumbs (ouch!) and learn about how to make our gardens work for the environment.
NEW LOCATION: JoCo Enterprise Center, 8527 Bluejacket St. Just east of 87th & I-35. Turn north on Bluejacket at Wendy’s. For directions, go to: www.kansas.sierraclub.org/KanzaDirections.htm
Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group
Apr 13. 6:30 pm.
Wichita PROS Program
6:30 pm Pizza.
7:30 pm: Presentation by the Wichita Parks Department on their plan for expanding parks and recreation facilities in Wichita.

Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, dave.kirkbride@knea.org
Neil Marcus will present photographs from his backpacking trips. Great Plains Nature Center. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 685-2397, dave.kirkbride@knea.org

Topeka Group
Apr 24. 7:00 pm.
Transit 101
Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th St. Nancy Johnson, Community Relations Director with Topeka Transit will present a program on Topeka’s bus system and how it can help you establish a “personal climate solution” as part of your transportation decision-making process.
A “no host dinner” will be at Annie’s Place before the meeting at 5:30.. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

Topeka Group
May 23. 7:00 pm.
New Technologies in Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Products
Joe Spease, President of Pristine Power, will present a program on “New Technologies in Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Products.” Joe is a member of the Kansa Group in Kansas City. Pristine Power Inc. develops, builds and operates conventional and alternative power generation projects that offer minimal technical and financial risk, high levels of reliability and environmental advantages over other generation technologies.
A “no host” dinner will be at Annie’s Place before the meeting. 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. 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.
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.

[2] Apr 4.  6:30 pm.  Step It Up 2007 Film Festival
An Inconvenient Truth at the Great Plains Nature Center.
Southwind.  Yvonne Cather, 316-522-4741, yvonne.
cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

[2] Apr 11.  6:30 pm.  Step It Up 2007 Film Festival
Too Hot Not to Handle at the Great Plains Nature Center.
Southwind.  Yvonne Cather, 316-522-4741, yvonne.
cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Spring is a great time to be on the prairie and we can enjoy it on a hike through the Konza Prairie on Saturday as part of our car camping excursion to Tuttle Creek State Park just north of Manhattan KS. $10 donation requested.. Kanza. Anne McDonald, (913) 384-6645, anne.mcdonald@kansas.sierraclub.org

[5] Apr 14. 10:00 am.  CanoeTrip
Canoeing on the Arkansas River. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Campaign to urge Congress to pass 80% reduction in carbon by 2050. Sierra Groups and cities across Kansas have events. For the latest, go to www.kansas.sierraclub.org/StepItUp/. Chapter. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

[2] Apr 18.  6:30 pm.  Step It Up 2007 Film Festival
The Great Warming at the Great Plains Nature Center. Southwind. Yvonne Cather, 316-522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sieraclub.org

[2] Apr 20.  7:00 am.  Adopt-a-Highway spring cleanup celebrating Earth Day
Meet Outings Chair Jack Smith and fellow Topeka Group members for our spring clean-up effort for I-70 from Wanamaker to Urish Road. We will meet in the parking lot south of the Amersuites Hotel at 6021 SW 6th Street for a brief safety briefing and then began our work.. Topeka. Jack Smith (785) 273-3138, jkjmsmith@aol.com

[2] Apr 25.  6:30 pm.  Step It Up 2007 Film Festival
Earth To America at the Great Plains Nature Center.
Southwind.  Yvonne Cather, 316-522-4741, yvonne.
cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Join us for our 4th annual trip to Blanchard Springs Recreation Area and the Ozark Folk Center State Park. Deadline for signup on this trip is April 19. $10 donation requested.. Kanza. Dave & Kathy Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Bring your camera (digital or film) along with a tripod if you have one for this outing. No previous experience needed. There will be a brief introduction to outdoor photography and hike to look for photo opportunities. Please RSVP. Limit 10 participants. $5 donation requested.. Kanza. Claus Wawrzineck, (816) 517-5244, claus@missouri.sierraclub.org

### Committee Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kanza Group</th>
<th>Southwind Group</th>
<th>Wakarusa Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Committee</strong></td>
<td><strong>Executive and Fundraising Committee</strong></td>
<td><strong>Executive Committee</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 19, May 24 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Apr 1, May 6 - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>1st Sunday of month, 7:00 pm,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, <a href="mailto:frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org">frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
<td>2935 S. Seneca, Wichita.</td>
<td>Location TBA. Mike Campbell,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dave Kirkbride, (316) 685-2397, <a href="mailto:dave.kirkbride@knea.org">dave.kirkbride@knea.org</a></td>
<td>(785) 542-3885,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Joint Action Committee</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conservation Committee</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conservation Committee</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 19, May 24 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Apr 17 &amp; TBA - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Contact Carey Maynard-Moody,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation, legislative, and political</td>
<td>5825 Memphis St, Wichita.</td>
<td>(785) 842-6517,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, <a href="mailto:craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org">craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
<td>Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033</td>
<td><a href="mailto:careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org">careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
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**Topeka Group**  
ExCom meets quarterly, date and time announced by email  
Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

**Kansas Chapter:** (State), Executive Committee, May 19 (time & location TBA)  
Yvonne Cather (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

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**Join us for a fun evening in Kansas City’s cross roads art district as we walk from art gallery to art gallery.**  
Kanza. Claus Wawrzinek, (816) 517-5244, claus@missouri.sierraclub.org

We’ll float one of the most scenic rivers in the US.. Kanza. Terry DeFraties, (913) 385-7374, theerustbucket@aol.com

[4] **May 5. Compass class at Loose Park Kansas City, MO.**  
Learn the basics of using a compass. We will locate Champion Trees, Civil War markers, fountains, etc., in one of the most beautiful parks in the city. $5 donation requested.. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileenm@missouri.sierraclub.org

[2] **May 11. 6:30 pm. Wichita River Festival Parade**  
Southwind members will walk with the Southwind River Festival Float. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, dave.kirkbride@knea.org

[1] **May 18-20. Family Campout in the Flint Hills.**  
We’ll stay at the YMCA’s scenic Camp Wood in Elmdale, where your choice of accommodations range from your own tent to a well-appointed cabin. A day trip to the nearby Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve will be a great opportunity to explore and learn about the region’s fascinating history and prairie ecosystem. Sign up early so we can arrange accommodations. $10 donation requested.. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

Meet us at 2 p.m. at Lakeside Nature Center in Swope Park for a short Sunday stroll through its exhibits and grounds.. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

Come see displays of Missouri native wildlife, hike the 2 1/2 mile Fox Hollow Trail and relax afterwards at a picnic at a nearby shelter.. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileenm@missouri.sierraclub.org
Calendar of Events

Summary of all Kansas Chapter Events

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

CM Apr 1. 6:00 pm. Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, dave.kirkbride@knea.org
Out Apr 4. 6:30 pm. Step It Up 2007 Film Festival. Southwind. Yvonne Cather, 316-522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Apr 11. 6:30 pm. Step It Up 2007 Film Festival. Yvonne Cather, 316-522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Apr 13. 6:30 pm. Wichita PROS Program. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, dave.kirkbride@knea.org
Out Apr 14. 10:00 am. Canoe Trip. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Apr. 14-15. Car Camping Tuttle Creek State Park, Manhattan, KS. Kanza. Anne McDonald, (913) 384-6645, anne.mcdonald@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM Apr 17. 6:30 pm. Conservation Committee Meeting. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, eldie_sokan@yahoo.com
Out Apr 18. 6:30 pm. Step It Up 2007 Film Festival. Southwind. Yvonne Cather, 316-522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM Apr 19. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM Apr 19. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Apr 21. 7:00 am. Adopt-a-Highway spring cleanup celebrating Earth Day. Topeka. Jack Smith (785) 273-3138, jkjmsmith@aol.com
GM Apr 24. 7:00 pm. General meeting: Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th St. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
Out Apr 25. 6:30 pm. Step It Up 2007 Film Festival. Southwind. Yvonne Cather, 316-522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Apr 25-29. Car Camping, Mountain View, AR. Kanza. Dave & Kathy Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.paton@missouri.sierraclub.org
Out Apr 29. Outdoor Photography Outing at Loose Park, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Claus Wawrzinek, (816) 517-5244, claus@missouri.sierraclub.org
Out May 4. Evening Walk in the Crossroads Arts District, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Claus Wawrzinek, (816) 517-5244, claus@missouri.sierraclub.org
Out May 5-6. Canoe Trip, Buffalo National River, AR. Kanza. Terry DeFruties, (913) 385-7374, thecrustbucket@aol.com
GM May 5. 7-10 pm. Global Warming: Kansas At The Crossroads… Silent Auction. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out May 5. Compass class at Loose Park Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileenm@missouri.sierraclub.org
CM May 6. 6:00 pm. Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, dave.kirkbride@knea.org
Out May 11. 6:30 pm. Wichita River Festival Parade. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, dave.kirkbride@knea.org
Out May 18-20. Family Campout in the Flint Hills. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com
CM May 19. 9:00 am. Kansas Chapter ExCom. Chapter. Yvonne Cather, 316-522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out May 20. Sunday Stroll at Lakeside Nature Center, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM May 24. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM May 24. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org

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