



August/September 2007

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Voice of the Kansas Sierra Club

8th Annual Kansas Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Conference

After a record attendance of nearly 450 participants from 20 states in 2006, the 8th Annual Kansas Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Conference is shaping up to be bigger and better, educational and exciting, covering a wide range of energy topics of interest to Kansas citizens. It is scheduled for Sept. 25-26, 2007, at the Topeka Ramada Inn.

We are excited to announce Wes Jackson will be our Keynote speaker in 2007 (see <http://www.kcc.state.ks.us/energy/kreec/program.htm>). Dr. Jackson was recognized in a Special Anniversary Edition Smithsonian Magazine (November 2005) as one of 35 scientists, artists and scholars (see <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/issues/2005/november/jackson.php>).

2007 is proving to be an exciting year for renewable energy in Kansas, especially wind energy. Between December of 2006 and March of 2007, about 1,000 megawatts (MW) of potential new wind was announced by a number of the state's leading utilities.

The new Smoky Hill Wind Project, along Interstate 70 in Lincoln and Ellsworth Counties (about 20 miles west of

See Conference on page 6

Rush to Ethanol – Not All Biofuels Are Created Equal

The full report was recently released by Food & Water Watch, Network for New Energy Choices, and Institute for Energy and the Environment at Vermont Law School. To see the full report, go to: <http://kansas.sierraclub.org/Issues/EnergyFacts.htm>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rising oil prices, energy security, and global warming concerns have all contributed to the current hype over biofuels. With both prices and demand for oil likely to continue to increase, biofuels are being presented as the way to curb greenhouse gas emissions and to develop homegrown energy that reduces our dependency on foreign oil.

In this context, corn-based ethanol has emerged as a leading contender to reduce dependence on fossil fuel-based gasoline. At first glance, corn-based ethanol seems simple, even patriotic: take the sugar from corn that U.S. farmers grow, and ferment it with yeast to distill basically the same stuff found in alcoholic beverages. By products, such as distiller's grain and corn gluten, serve as livestock feed and help offset refining costs. The industry claims that ethanol blends will lower tailpipe emissions, promote energy independence, and revitalize rural America.

Farmers and investors envision a new gold rush. Ethanol

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A Message from Carl Pope

Dear Sierra Club Member,

The Bush Administration and Big Oil are trying to finish what they set out to do six years ago - open wide areas of the Arctic to oil drilling.

If drilling is allowed, the unique wild area of the Western Arctic, which provides a home to wolves, grizzly bears and the calving ground for Alaska's biggest caribou herd, could suffer irreparable damage.

This means that the wildlife of the Western Arctic needs your help right now to protect the area they call home.

Despite the overwhelming objections of scientists, native communities and Members of Congress, the Bush Administration is poised to issue a new Environmental Impact Statement that will allow them to open additional areas of the Western Arctic to oil leasing, particularly in the Teshekpuk Lake area.

We must call on Congress to stop these continued attacks on the Western Arctic. But to push Congress to act, we urgently need your support.

The Teshekpuk Lake region is home to over 45,000 caribou and provides habitat to about 60,000 molting geese each summer. But the Bush Administration has reversed protections put in place by the Reagan and Clinton Administrations and plans to allow drilling in nearly all the remaining Teshekpuk Lake area.

But together we can stop them! With your help the Sierra Club will push Congress to pass legislation that will restore full protections to the Teshekpuk Lake Area, and ensure the Western Arctic is protected from drilling. So please send a generous donation today to help us protect the Western Arctic.

The Bush Administration has already opened more than 70 million acres in the Arctic Ocean to oil and gas drilling, and drilling in Lake Teshekpuk will not solve America's energy problems. What our country needs is a cleaner, smarter Energy policy that focuses on safe renewable forms of energy - NOT more drilling in sensitive wildlife areas!

If you would like to get more involved and learn more, go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/wildlegacy/bigoil/>

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Thank you for your support,

Carl Pope
National Sierra Club Executive Director

PS: The Western Arctic region of Alaska is known throughout the world for its unique landscape and abundant wildlife. Please support our efforts to stop drilling in the Western Arctic, as well as all our work to protect wildlife and wildlands, keep our air and water clean, and beat global warming.

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Jeff Goodell Comes to Lawrence and Wakarusa to Speak on Big Coal

A year ago the All Souls (Unitarian Universalist Church) / THB Sierra Club Nature Book Club discussed the book *Big Coal* by Jeff Goodell. It was eye opening, educational, and motivating to get people to work on preventing more coal plants, or at least on getting them cleaned up, which is still an issue especially for Kansas.

Things are better now for Kansas City with the compromise that was made between KCP&L and the Sierra Club and CCPC in March. There has been so much change in attitude in the news, with the IPCC reports, Bush admitting to global warming, the success of Al Gore's movie, the recent Supreme Court decisions, and the possible success of Congressional legislation to cut carbon emissions, that the idea to build the coal industry seems archaic. Nevertheless, the resurgence of this industry that begun a few years ago still has a great deal of power, so it is an important issue that we definitely need to continue to educate people about. The good news is that the book came just in time to make an impact.

The organizers of the Wakarusa Music and Camping Festival recently brought this author to Lawrence to speak at the festival. Sarah Hill-Nelson, of the Wakarusa group of the Sierra Club, in collaboration with other area groups, including the Thomas Hart Benton group, helped to promote the event. The 2007 Wakarusa Festival, on June 7 - 10 at Clinton Lake State Park near Lawrence, Kansas, partnered with Zephyr Energy, a program of the non-profit Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and Belgium Brewing Company, to offer a Sustainability Symposium, the goal of which was to bring environmental issues into mainstream discussion. Friday evening Jeff Goodell, author of *Big Coal*, took center stage to address coal-fired energy. Saturday morning Wes Jackson of the Land Institute, Nic Thiesen of the New Belgium Brewing Company and Pete Ferrell, a fourth generation Kansas rancher whose land hosts wind turbines, all spoke, after which Simran Sethi moderated a panel discussion with all four speakers that addressed the issues of energy and related environmental impacts including climate change.

Wakarusa began as an annual event in 2004 with a goal to minimize its environmental impact through a recycling program. Then in 2006 it offset its carbon footprint with Zephyr Energy Green Tags. These support renewable energy and were available to be purchased to offset energy used to travel to the show this year. Organizers encouraged carpooling and use of event-specific shuttles.

Also for 2007 were: increased incentives for attendees to reuse their cups, used biodiesel for generators, required vendor use of compostable serveware and streamlin-

ing of the water distribution system in order to limit use of bottled water. The ultimate goal would be to have a 100% emissions-free event. As one of the largest music festivals in the country with a reputation as a premiere, grassroots event in the nationwide outdoor music scene, organizers saw this year's event as the ideal non-traditional place and time to bring the issues out of academic circles and raise awareness about environmental causes.

The Raven Bookstore sponsored the presentation and book signing event Saturday afternoon at the Lawrence library. Pat Kehde of The Raven wanted to bring Jeff Goodell to talk about his book to bring increased awareness and knowledge of the issues to a wider group of people beyond the green community in Lawrence. She also thought it was a very "timely topic because of the proposed coal plant(s) for Western Kansas". There are actually at least 3 new coal-fired power plants proposed for Kansas according to Sarah Hill-Nelson.

Thinking about what to share about this book, it contains such a wealth of information that it's tempting to want to write a condensed version. Instead I will focus mainly on the introduction and what Jeff Goodell said in person. Half of our electricity comes from coal with the average American consuming 20 pounds of it a day. We have been hooked on coal for almost 150 years. The United States has over 25% of the world's recoverable coal or 250 billion tons which could last 250 years, making us what some people call "the Saudi Arabia of coal". Since we will soon run out of other fossil fuels and nuclear power is expensive and dangerous, and unless renewable energy is more quickly developed and expanded, coal has emerged as the default fuel of choice.

The story of this "second coming of king coal" is a dirty one. Actually the whole history of coal is dirty, as we saw illustrated in our book discussion group with the old movie, "The Molly McGuires". Coal plants produce 40% of the U.S. carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, making a commitment to coal tantamount to a denial of a whole host of environmental and public health issues, including climate change.

Coal is inextricably tied up with corruption, politics and war. The term "Big Coal" is used to mean the alliance of coal mining companies, coal-burning utilities, railroads, lobbying groups, and industry supporters that make the coal industry such a political force in America. Coal industry executives knew that if Al Gore was elected, regulations on emissions would soon come. So "Big Coal" threw its money and muscle behind George W. Bush which provided the 5 electoral votes of West Virginia that he needed to take office. Bush began staffing regulatory agencies with former coal industry executives and lobbyists. *Big Coal* was a big influence on Vice President Dick Cheney's National Energy Policy Development Group, which called for 1,900 new power plants over the next 20 years, \$2 billion in "clean coal" technology subsidies and a Justice Department "review" of enforcement actions against dirty coal burners.

Since 1900, over 100,000 people have been killed in coal



mining accidents. Black lung disease, from inhaling coal dust, has killed at least another 200,000 workers. In the past 20 Years, the pollution from coal burning power plants has shortened lives of over half a million Americans. From 2003 to 2006, the American Lung Association calculates that 72,000 people died from coal plant pollution, more than from drunk driving, AIDS, murder or drug overdose! As a nurse, these statistics shocked me and made a huge impact. So why don't we hear about this on the evening news several times a week like we do these other issues, I wondered. When I asked the author why people aren't aware of the health issue with coal plants, he had some difficulty answering. He said that there is very good evidence that people living near coal plants have this higher rate of premature death from respiratory illness and heart disease but that death certificates don't pinpoint the cause to coal. Another reason is that they are not sudden dramatic deaths. But hey, death is death, so next time you're warned to try to stay away from things like unprotected sex, drugs or violence, maybe you should put coal at the top of that list. It's the addiction we are in the most denial about.

It was interesting to hear Jeff Goodell talk about his personal experience learning about Big Coal. He grew up in Silicon Valley, California and worked with computers, even wrote a book about that, but never thought about the electrical power coming from coal or that he should use electricity conservatively, the kind of cluelessness power companies have spent years encouraging, until 2001. He lost his innocence that year when the New York Times Magazine sent him to West Virginia to write about the comeback of coal. What he learned was so life changing that, being a journalist, he wrote a book about the terrifying days the Quecreek miners spent trapped underground, *Our Story*, and then this book a few years later. The stories of the people he met on his journey, such as these miners, were also interesting. He said they enjoyed the adrenaline rush of danger of the small dog hole mines, but some of them also lost their innocence about who they were working for.

Goodell structured his book, like his journey, following the life cycle of coal. The first section, "The Dig", dealt with the mining and transportation of coal. He drove to Cabin Creek, West Virginia, where in 1913, mining company thugs opened fire with Gatling guns on their own workers. He visited several coal mines and flew over the coalfields and saw the devastation of mountaintop removal, which was like "looking into hell". In Appalachia this type of mining has destroyed more than 700 miles of streams, polluted the groundwater and turned 400,000 acres of rich temperate forest into wastelands. It has destroyed communities, leaving West Virginians with the lowest median household income in the nation, and a literacy rate in the southern coalfields that's about the same as Kabul's. In Wyoming, where 40% of the nation's coal is in enormous strip mines, Goodell experienced his own adrenaline rush of throwing the switch to explode about 15 times the ammonium

See Goodell on page 11



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Conference, continued from page 1

Salina), was developed by TradeWind Energy, LLC, a Kansas developer and will be owned by Enel North America, Inc. It will feature 100 MW of wind generation to be divided among Sunflower Electric, Kansas City Board of Public Utilities, and Midwest Energy.

In June, Horizon Wind Energy announced the 99 MW Meridian Way Wind Farm will be built in Cloud County. It will feature 33 of the new Vestas 3 MW turbines with power being sold to Empire Electric of Joplin, MO.

The state's largest utility, Topeka-based Westar, announced on Feb. 26 a request for proposals (RFP) for 500 MW of renewable energy. This was followed by a joint announcement on March 20 by Kansas City Power & Light (KCPL) and the Sierra Club of a commitment of another 400 MW of wind generation. Westar hopes to have about half of the development installed by the end of 2008. KCPL already owns the Spearville Wind Energy Facility in Ford County that was put into operation in the fall of 2006.

These announcements will help assure Kansas utilities will meet a voluntary goal of 1,050 MW of wind by 2010 as announced by Governor Kathleen Sebelius during her State of the State address on January 10. This equals about 10% of nameplate electric generation capacity for the state's utilities. They also agreed to a commitment of 20% voluntary goal by 2020.

In other developments, early 2007 marked the announcement of two cellulosic ethanol plants to be built in the state. Overland Park based Black & Veatch announced the launch of Clean Energy Technologies, LLC, that will develop a plant in Kansas, along with Pearson Technologies, based in Baton Rouge, LA.

In late February, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced it has awarded one of its six cellulosic ethanol plant grants to Colwich based Abengoa Bioenergy Biomass of Kansas, LLC. The \$76 million grant will help develop a facility to thermochemically and biochemically produce 11.4 million gallons per year (MMgy) of ethanol from 700 tons per day of corn stover, wheat straw, milo stubble, switchgrass and other feed stocks.

The Facility Conservation Improvement Program (FCIP), a program of the Kansas Energy Office, is nationally recognized as the premier energy savings performance contracting program in the country, and a Best Practices by the Western Governors' Association. Over \$120 million in public building retrofits at all levels have been implemented, estimated to avoid nearly \$9 million in utility costs. These avoided costs and operational savings are used to finance the energy improvements.

Johnson County Government has completed construction of a LEED certified building. Only the second building in the State of Kansas to receive a LEED® Gold Certification from the United States Green Building Council, the Sunset Drive Facility is a high-perfor-

mance office building that is designed to be very efficient to own and operate.

Riley County Government is putting the final touches on a state-of-the-art public works complex that features latest energy efficient technologies – including ground source heat pumps, day lighting, T-3 and T-5 lighting technology, and central controls throughout the 60 acre complex. Future plans are to incorporate wind (electric generation) and solar technologies (for water heating) at the campus located north of the city. County officials anticipate the facility will qualify for a LEED® Bronze Certification.

The 2007 Conference will feature updates on many of these and other exciting events and projects occurring in the Sunflower State and in the fields of energy efficiency and energy conservation (see tentative agenda below). The Kansas Energy Council will also continue public hearings on issues being addressed by the policy development group – including cellulosic ethanol, climate change and energy efficiency.

Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available (see web site) below. Sponsors to date include:

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GOLD

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BRONZE CONTRIBUTOR

Kansas Electric Cooperatives
Empire Electric Company
Sunflower Electric Power Cooperatives
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Kansas Association of Counties

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, September 25

- 1:00 Welcome - Tom Wright, Chairman, KCC
- 1:15 Keynote - Wes Jackson, The Land Institute
- 2:00 Keynote - TBD – (Topic: Climate Change)
- 2:45 BREAK – Exhibit Area
- 3:15 Panel – Statewide Consumer Energy Education & Conservation Program
- 4:00 Legislative Panel – Members of Kansas House & Senate Utilities and Agriculture Committees
- 5:30 Reception – Sponsored by Kansas City Power & Light



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and Polsinelli Shalton Flanigan Suelthaus PC
7:00 Movie – An Inconvenient Truth

WEDNESDAY, September 26

CONCURRENT SESSION A

KANSAS WIND FARM UPDATE

8:30 Smoky Hill Wind Farm, Lincoln County
8:50 Utility Perspective
9:10 Meridian Way Wind Farm, Cloud County
9:30 Utility Perspective
9:50 Panel Question & Answer Session

KANSAS BIOFUELS UPDATE

8:30 Emporia Biodiesel Plant
8:50 Cellulosic Ethanol Plant
9:15 Grain Ethanol Update
9:40 Panel Question & Answer Session

KANSAS ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUCCESSES

8:30 Riley County Public Works Complex
8:50 Johnson County LEED Office Building
9:10 Kansas Government Energy Initiatives
9:30 Performance Contracting for Public Buildings
9:50 Panel Question & Answer Session

CONCURRENT SESSION B

SMALL WIND IN KANSAS

10:30 Behind the Meter Wind
10:50 Quinter USD Wind Project
11:10 Wind for Schools Pilot Project
11:30 Olathe USD Solar & Wind Project
11:50 Panel Question & Answer Session

POLICY UPDATE – STATE & FEDERAL

10:30 Federal Policy Updates – Renewables & Ag Energy
11:00 Climate Registry and the State of Kansas
11:30 CBED - What happened in Nebraska
11:50 Panel Question & Answer Session

TECHNOLOGY & RENEWABLES

10:30 Modeling, Analysis & Risk Assessment
11:00 Renewables & Interconnect Policy – Co-op

11:20 Renewables & Interconnect Policy – Investor Owned

11:40 Panel Question & Answer Session

CONCURRENT SESSION C

TRANSMISSION & RENEWABLES

1:30 Kansas Electric Transmission Authority
1:50 Independent Transmission
2:10 Wind Developer Perspective
2:30 Environmental Organization Perspective
2:50 Panel Question & Answer Session

USDA ENERGY LOANS & GRANTS

1:30 USDA Section 9006 Update
1:55 2008 Program
2:20 Kansas Success Stories
2:45 Panel Question & Answer Session

ENERGY POLICY

1:30 Kansas Energy Council Policy Forum

CONCURRENT SESSION D

FUTURE OF WIND IN KANSAS


3:30 State of Kansas Perspective on Wind
3:50 Westar Wind RFP Update
4:10 Kansas City Power & Light RFP Update
4:30 What a County can do for renewables
4:50 Panel Question & Answer Session

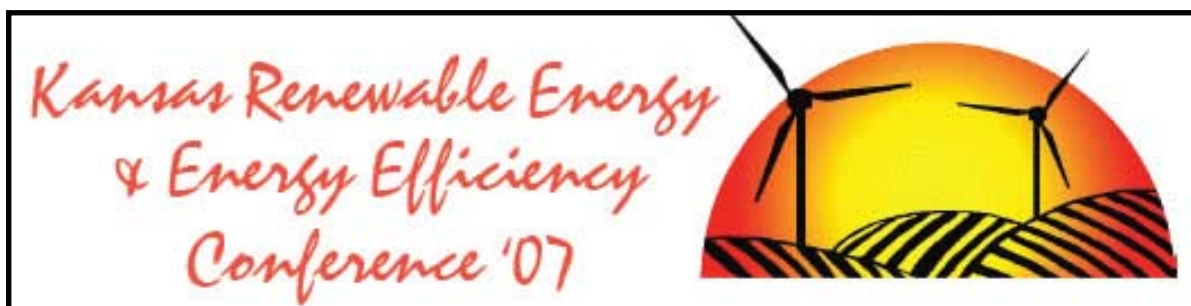
EFFICIENCY – NOW AND THE FUTURE

3:30 Future of Smart Metering
4:00 Regulatory Policy on Efficiency
4:20 KCP & L Efficiency Programs
4:50 Panel Question & Answer Session

ENERGY POLICY

3:30 Kansas Energy Council Policy Forum

For more information, updated schedules, registration, go to:
<http://www.kcc.state.ks.us/energy/kreec/> 



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production is registering record growth rates, and reached nearly five billion gallons in 2006. Dozens of new ethanol refineries are being constructed, with production capacity forecast to double as early as 2008.¹ President Bush intensified this momentum in his 2007 State of the Union address with a call to produce 35 billion gallons of alternative fuels by 2017 – a fivefold increase from the currently established goals. However, the leading raw material for ethanol in the United States—corn—is among the least efficient, most polluting, and overall least sustainable biofuel feedstocks. This report reviews the most up to date scientific evidence and concludes that corn-based ethanol is not the silver bullet everyone is seeking.

Ethanol is not the way to energy independence.

The ability of corn-based ethanol to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil is limited. Dedicating the entire U.S. corn crop to ethanol would displace only a small share of gasoline demand.

Ethanol is not the solution to global warming.

Ethanol tailpipe emissions can reduce some greenhouse gases, but can also increase levels of others. Also, large-scale corn production requires farm equipment that runs on fossil fuels, which, in turn, emit more greenhouse gases. Moreover, when fossil fuels are used to power ethanol refineries, it can lead to higher greenhouse gas emissions than the fossil fuel ethanol replaces.

Ethanol is not the solution to revitalizing rural America.

Although the rise in corn prices excites farmers, the ethanol industry's growth could further concentrate agribusiness, which drains the economic health of rural communities.

Corn—now used to produce 95 percent of U.S. ethanol—is the least sustainable biofuel feedstock of all the raw materials commonly used. Intensive corn monoculture (where one crop is continually planted for at least three years in a row²) is plagued by serious environmental effects that the ethanol boom exacerbates, among them:

- Intensive harvesting erodes soil;
- Massive use of fertilizers contributes to the eutrophication of rivers and lakes and the reduction of fish and aquatic life habitat;
- Widespread use of pesticides contaminates water and soil; and
- Extensive irrigation for corn monoculture depletes water resources.

Though the corn-based ethanol energy ratio is higher (better) than that of fossil fuel-based gasoline and diesel, it is among the lowest of all the biofuels. In addition, corn-based ethanol could increase the price of food worldwide and pose additional challenges to global food security.

Given the limitations and negative impacts of corn-based ethanol, policy makers, investors, and researchers are focusing

now on the second generation of biofuels—cellulosic ethanol, which comes from feedstocks like switchgrass, fast-growing trees, and agricultural residues. These cellulosic “energy crops” are superior to corn-based ethanol because they:

- Offer greater reduction in greenhouse gas emissions;
- Require far fewer inputs (farm equipment, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, and water), thereby causing less environmental damage;
- Feature higher energy ratios than corn-based ethanol and soy-based biodiesel;
- Have a wide range and tolerance for degraded soils, enabling them to grow on marginal lands not suitable for agricultural crops, thereby expanding the potential area for growing these plants relative to corn and soy.
- By extension, cellulosic crops have less potential to affect food supplies or the food economy; and
- Because a variety of raw materials can be used, smaller, specialized refineries will likely be built, which could in turn benefit rural economies.

However, large-scale development of cellulosic ethanol also portends harmful environmental impacts:

- Removing agricultural residues beyond what is needed to maintain and replenish soil organic matter (SOM) will exacerbate erosion;
- Converting protected lands, such as those enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, to energy crops will significantly compromise the ecological benefits of land conservation;
- Planting switchgrass has conservation value relative to corn row cropping, but is not a substitute for (in terms of wildlife protection and soil conservation) diverse, native habitats on protected lands;
- Technical processes for breaking down cellulose for ethanol refining likely would place increasing pressure on water resources, which comes in addition to great uncertainty about requirements for treatment and discharge of processing chemicals; and
- While the amounts of chemicals applied are smaller and the percentage of runoff is reduced with cellulosic crops, they are not nil. These concerns are significant when considering the scale at which cellulosic ethanol production is being proposed.

Ethanol is not the silver bullet that will solve the problems of rising oil prices, dependency on foreign oil, or greenhouse gas emissions. Biofuels, if produced sustainably, should instead be considered in the context of a comprehensive transportation model transformation based on energy efficiency and conservation, and focused on reducing fuel demand.

INTRODUCTION

As global warming concerns and oil independence considerations focus attention on world energy consumption, the race is on to find alternatives to fossil fuels. Fossil fuel-based transportation methods are responsible for a large portion of





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Make a gesture that lasts a lifetime.



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

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the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. While most people agree that we need change, they are unsure about the direction that change should take.

Although biofuels offer significant advantages when compared to petroleum-based fuels, can they be the silver bullet solution? With dozens of new ethanol plants under construction, and farmers and investors embarking on a biofuels gold rush, where will this hype lead? And who will be the winners and losers in the promised ethanol economy? Amidst the current ethanol boom, important questions persist:

Do biofuels have a “positive net energy balance”?

That is, do they provide more energy (in the form of fuel and byproducts such as livestock feed) than the fossil fuels and other energy sources used to produce them? This includes the energy required to make corn and soybean fertilizer, the diesel that fuels tractors, the coal and natural gas that power refineries, and the fuel to transport ethanol to the market. While there is some debate over the numbers, it is clear that corn-based ethanol has one of the least promising energy ratios of all biofuels.

Do biofuels ultimately reduce harmful emissions, particularly factoring in that biofuel refineries themselves emit pollutants that biofuels are designed to reduce?

These include greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), precursors of ground-level ozone including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide (CO), and nitrogen oxides (NOX) as well as toxic chemicals such as the carcinogen benzene. This important point deserves further

attention from the scientific community. As of now, research indicates that corn-based ethanol shows the lowest potential for emissions reductions and that using coal to power refineries can actually increase emissions relative to the gasoline fuel replaced.

Can biofuels actually decrease our reliance on gasoline - particularly from foreign sources, which make up two-thirds of the U.S. supply?

Namely, can enough biofuels be produced and sold to measurably reduce consumption of petroleum fuel? And what would be the consequences of producing ethanol on such a large scale? Despite hopeful projections, biofuels will not be able to meaningfully displace soaring fossil fuel demand in the future.

How will the economics of biofuels play out?

Supporters of biofuels often underline that the new biofuel economy will benefit rural America by raising commodity prices, farm incomes, and rural employment. But will family farmers benefit from the ethanol boom, or will ethanol further increase the industrialization and concentration of the agribusiness corporations that control agriculture? If so, we'll see the wealth and well-being of rural America continue to erode. Past experience teaches us that an ethanol boom could exacerbate agricultural consolidation and the imbalance between large and



See Biofuels on page 10

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Biofuels, continued from page 9

small producers.

Should the \$2.5-billion-plus-a-year taxpayer subsidies to the ethanol industry be continued?

Illinois-based agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), the nation's top ethanol producer, is a lightning rod for critics who claim that such subsidies—over \$10 billion from 1980 to 1997—are in fact corporate welfare that do not benefit family farmers.³ Even pro-ethanol U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman has said that Congress should consider ending the program when it expires in 2010.

How would large-scale ethanol production affect agriculture and food prices?

Using basically the same inputs as food production—land, seeds, and fertilizers—biofuels will likely affect food production and the price of food in the global markets. As a result of U.S. farm policies, corn prices have fallen below costs of production for much of the past decade, creating incentives for over-production and reaping benefits for multinational corporations. Expansion of ethanol could exacerbate distortions in the global and domestic marketplace. Furthermore, conversion of agricultural lands to energy crop production is already having an impact on food security and environmental protection.

What are the worldwide implications of ethanol expansion on scarce land and water resources?

Seventy percent of the world's fresh water already goes to farming.^{4,5} Fragile ecosystems are being decimated by clear cutting and overplanting of monoculture crops. Can the world afford to devote more land to fuel production? Full life-cycle analysis demonstrates that unchecked industrial ethanol expansion would result in unacceptable consequences for human health and the environment.

A deeper look into the answers to these questions will clarify the extent to which biofuels in general, and corn-based ethanol in particular, provide a viable energy alternative and help to build a more sustainable transportation model. On the downside, we already know that the proposed transition to biofuels would require the construction of hundreds of fossil fuel-burning refineries that emit many of the same pollutants biofuels are designed to reduce.

Almost completely unknown are the economic and food security repercussions, both national and global, of diverting massive amounts of corn and other agricultural products into gas tanks. Moreover, the limited availability of the world's arable land means that biofuel feedstocks may take priority over food crops. In addition, conventionally-grown crops depend heavily on pesticides and petroleum-based fertilizers. Among

other problems, fertilizer used to grow corn causes overgrowth of algae in rivers and lakes and destroys habitats of fish and other aquatic life. Expanding industrialized agricultural processes for biofuels would exacerbate this problem.

While some view ethanol as the silver bullet to address both the issues of energy independence and greenhouse gas emissions, others consider it to be only a transition fuel until more sustainable transportation technologies are available, and still others view it as a diversion from existing sustainable options for public and private transportation practices and policies. Therefore, to better stimulate debate on these issues, this report examines the state of technology and issues relevant to the discussion on the future of transportation and the role of ethanol and other biofuels.

CONCLUSION

America has a history of technological innovation. We can solve the energy and environmental crisis if we make the requisite commitments and establish focused and determined political leadership. There is no quick fix. Biofuels should be viewed not as a silver bullet, but, if produced sustainably, as an alternative in a comprehensive transition to a transportation model based on energy efficiency and conservation.

Cellulosic ethanol offers a better alternative than corn-based ethanol, but technological breakthroughs are needed for it to play a significant role. Moreover, cellulosic ethanol production is not inherently sustainable and there are potential environmental risks in its mass production. Given ethanol's shortcomings and limitations, we should be looking into other alternatives for the transportation sector. Conservation and efficiency measures are waiting to be implemented; an aggressive plan should be rapidly put in place to curb transportation greenhouse gas emissions and limit the country's dependency on foreign oil.

The biggest source of immediately available new energy is the energy that we waste every day. The opportunity costs associated with the large-scale transition to a biofuels transportation model should be weighed against the cost advantages of fuel demand reduction and conservation strategies. Ethanol can be part of the solution but, if not considered as a complement to the urgent measures needed to tackle the current U.S. energy crisis, it can be only a step back and a mere expedient to please selected constituencies.

1 According to the Renewable Fuels Association, as of June 14, 2007, there are 121 ethanol biorefineries with a total capacity of 6,332 million gallons per year and 75 sites under construction (7 of which are expansion projects; the others are new plants), resulting in a combined annual capacity of 12,578 million gallons per year. "Ethanol Biorefinery Locations: U.S. Fuel Ethanol Industry Biorefineries and Production Capacity." Renewable Fuels Association. Updated June 14, 2007. Available at <http://www.ethanolrfa.org/industry/locations/>

2 Christensen, Lee A. "Soil, Nutrient and Water Management Systems Used in U.S. Corn Production." USDA Economic Research Service. April 2002. Available at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aib774/aib774.pdf>

3 "Petroleum and Ethanol Fuels: Tax Incentives and Related GAO Work (B-286311)" U.S. Government Accountability



Office. Sept. 25, 2000. Available at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/rc00301r.pdf>

4 “Global Environment Outlook 2000.” United Nations Environment Programme. 1999. Available at: <http://www.unep.org/geo2000/english/0046.htm>

5 Leahy, Stephen. “Water: Wasteful farming leaves little for drinking.” Inter Press Service News Agency. March 22, 2006. Available at <http://ipsnews.net/print.asp?idnews=32601>

The full report was recently released by Food & Water Watch, Network for New Energy Choices, and Institute for Energy and the Environment at Vermont Law School. To see the full report, go to:

<http://kansas.sierraclub.org/Issues/EnergyFacts.htm>

Food & Water Watch

Food & Water Watch is a nonprofit consumer organization that works to ensure clean water and safe food in the United States and around the world. We challenge the corporate control and abuse of our food and water resources by empowering people to take action and by transforming the public consciousness about what we eat and drink.

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Network for New Energy Choices

The Network for New Energy Choices (NNEC) promotes safe, clean, and environmentally responsible energy options. We advocate for energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy as the solutions to our energy crisis and we work to educate the public about the way we produce, distribute and consume energy.

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Institute for Energy and the Environment at Vermont Law School

For “Ethanol Business: Dollars and Politics on the Farm” in the report

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Goodell, continued from page 5

nitrate Timothy McVeigh used to blow up the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, and blowing up 1/4 mile of prairie.

“Railroads, America’s original monopoly, know how to grease the palms of politicians”. They are very powerful and get a big part of the profits. Goodell said that he rode in a very heavy 1 1/2 mile train going 60 MPH across country, and when he asked how quickly they could stop he found out it was basically in the 1 1/2 mile length of the train. Every conductor and engineer had killed a person. There were only two people in the cab and since it was all automated it was just too easy to sleep.

The second part of the book, “The Burn”, was about the politics of coal burning power plants and the health effects of pollution. Goodell went to visit the power Plant Scherer of the Southern Company in Macon, Georgia, one of the worst polluters. He said that it produced pollution equivalent to that of 7 million SUV’s, and the people there were in denial of the problem, they didn’t care.

The final section of the book, “The Heat”, was about coal’s role in climate change. Goodell spent a month on a research vessel in the North Atlantic with scientists who were studying climate change. They pulled tubes of mud from the ocean to find out the salinity and temperatures of the past. In China, Goodell met Dan Dudak, a man who wrote acid rain legislation, the cap and trading program to decrease sulfur dioxide emissions here in the U.S. He called him a “blue collar environmentalist” because he knew the importance of industrialism in the U.S. He was working to set up a carbon trading program there. He wanted it so that the Chinese would be paid to plant to sequester carbon, to stop desertification.

Jeff Goodell grew up around people willing to tackle tough problems. In writing this book he found himself in a world of the inverse, people explaining why a problem couldn’t be solved. The coal boom seemed to be driven by overpowering fear, fear that if we don’t continue the industrialism of burning more coal, we will not only put the economic health of the nation at risk, but civilization itself. He concluded his presentation by saying that coal was a symbol and metaphor for our cultural values. By writing this book he came to realize that when we talk about energy what we are really talking about is how we live and what we value. Coal represents an old way of thinking that had no place in modern times. On the contrary, a full-blown push for clean energy could unleash a jobs bonanza that would make what happened in Silicon Valley in the 1990’s look like a bake sale.



THE 11th HOUR

Synopsis - The film The 11th Hour is the new Warner Independent film produced and narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio. It is scheduled to open on August 31.

Drought. Famine. Severe flooding. Record rainfall. Hurricanes. Acid rain. The highest average temperatures in recorded history. Catastrophe is reported on the nightly news as isolated incidents. But are these incidents isolated, or pieces of a larger global puzzle that could unlock humanity's future?

In the history of the planet, humanity's time on earth has been short but powerful. The human drive to ensure its own survival and quality of life has revolutionized industry, science, nutrition and medicine. But it has also effected unprecedented changes in the delicate balance that makes life on earth possible.

Shaped by oceans and rainforests that generate oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, govern climate, weather and temperature, the planet earth is under siege. The alchemy of natural greenhouse gases that enables life has been augmented with chemicals from tail pipes and smoke stacks. For every truckload of product produced, many more truckloads of waste are created. The oceans have been flooded with mercury, heavy metals, and toxic chemicals. The forests are disappearing, deserts are widening, the arctic sea ice is melting, the permafrost has begun to crack. The earth has grown warmer. Not since a meteor hit the planet 55 million years ago have so many forms of life gone extinct.

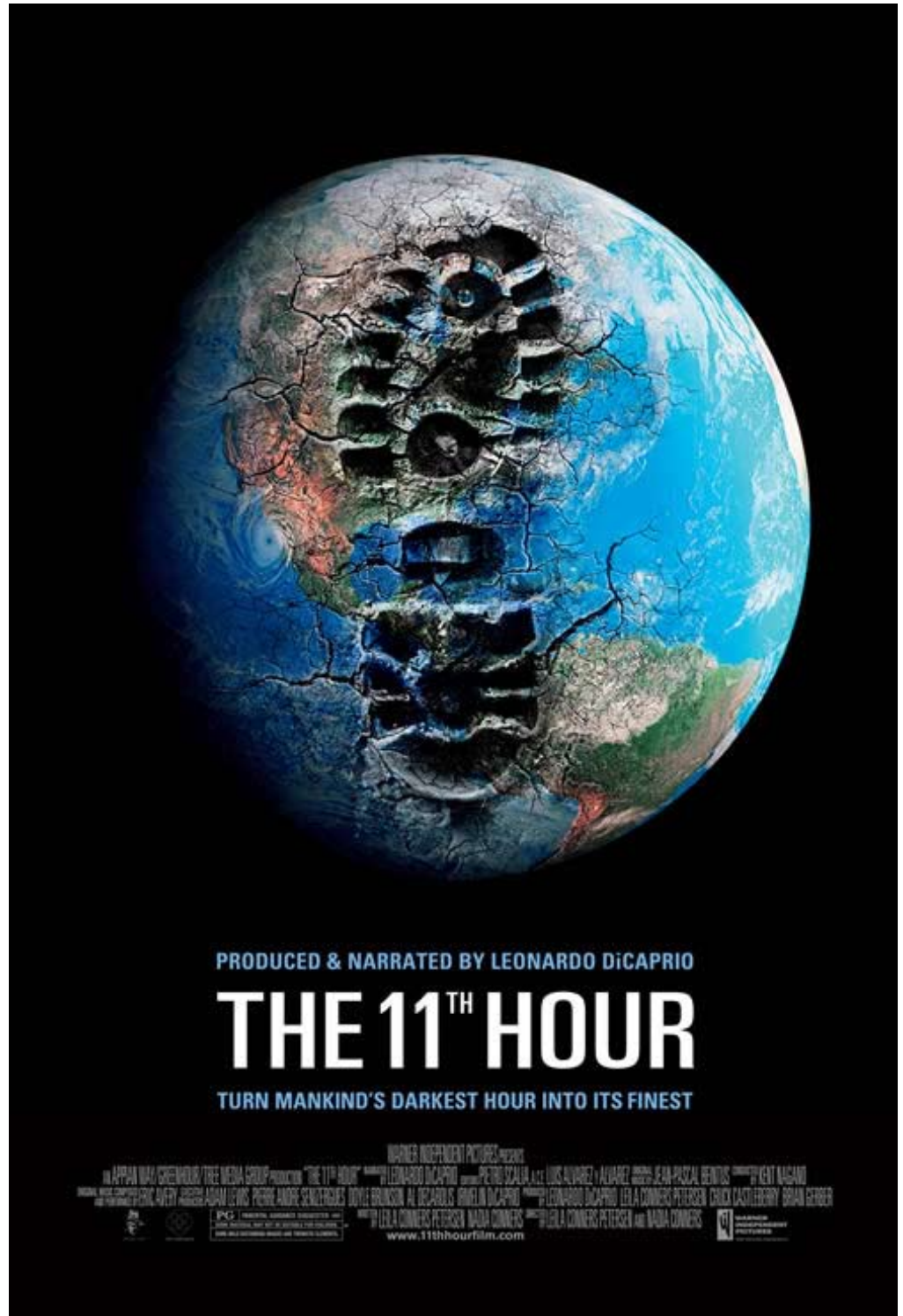


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But are these changes to the earth permanent?

Or are they puzzle pieces that, if connected, reveal a larger story that needs to be told – a human story that takes into account who we are and the state of our relationship to this planet, our only home. We are in an environmental age whether we like it or not.

Produced and narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, and written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners, The 11th Hour describes the last moment when change is possible. The film explores how humanity has arrived at this moment – how we live, how we impact the earth's ecosystems, and what we can do to change our course. The film features



**Political Committee
Members Wanted
No Experience Necessary**

The political committee of Kansas Sierra Club is in the process of forming. We are calling for members to serve on this newly created committee. The duties of the political committee include evaluating the voting records for elected officials, interviewing candidates for elected office, fund raising, making endorsement decisions and participating in political campaigns.

The first meeting of the political committee is anticipated for late summer. If your interested please contact Steve Baru, Political Committee Chair, directly at stevebaru@aol.com.

**Is Global Warming something
your organization's members
are discussing?**

**Looking for a speaker on the
Environment?**

**Contact Elaine Giessel,
Education Chair, at
elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org**



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A: NO

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A: YES

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is mankind at a crossroads?**

A: YES

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Topeka Group Praises Shawnee County's Efforts To Become A "Cool County"

By Paul Post, Topeka Group Chair

While the City of Topeka has been "cool" since 2004, Shawnee County may be cooler still with a planned Facilities Conservation Improvement Program (FCIP) of 7.5 million dollars of energy saving improvements to three county buildings. FCIP was first undertaken by the Kansas Energy Office for various state buildings which were undergoing remodeling and retrofitting. The state realized that the up-front investment in energy saving construction and equipment would pay dividends later in the form of tax savings to citizens. The Kansas Energy Office is now in the process of assisting local governmental units in their efforts to realize the same benefits.


The Shawnee County program will result in a savings through a two-phased program. Phase One will be a 4 million dollar investment in three buildings owned by the county: the courthouse, the County Annex Building on North Gage, and the Department of Corrections jail facility. It is anticipated that 100 per cent of the up-front costs will be realized through tax savings over subsequent 15 years. The retrofitting envisioned by Phase One includes replacement of older light fixtures with energy efficient florescent and compact florescent lights, the upgrading of obsolete air handling units, and added insulation to the buildings. Phase Two is a 3.5 million dollar investment which will not return all of the up-front costs, but will still result in greater energy savings to county taxpayers.

The Kansas Energy Office certified four energy audit firms for the local government part of FCIP. Shawnee County chose Chevron, one of the four certified firms, which was also the energy auditor for the City of Topeka program conducted in 2006. Chevron will act as general contractor for the project. Rich Davis, Shawnee County Facilities Manager, is the county liaison for the program. He estimates that the improvements will result in reduced carbon dioxide emissions on an annual basis equal to the removal of 292 cars from Kansas highways, or the planting of 606 acres of trees. The Topeka Group participated in a press conference with the County in August to bring this program to the public's attention. Topeka Group Cool Cities Chair Phil Morse was instrumental in bringing the program to the attention of the Topeka media, and in praising Shawnee County for its energy saving efforts. 

Joel Rutledge Joins the Kansas Chapter

The Kansas Chapter has a new paid staffer to help Sierra Club volunteers promote sustainable energy for Kansans and stop global warming! Joel Rutledge joins us as Associate Regional Representative. He will be working primarily on the Stop the Coal Rush Campaign, the Cool Cities Campaign, and other energy related issues and programs across the state. Rutledge will be helping with coordination of Sierra Club's public education efforts on statewide conservation issues such as energy efficiency, clean renewable energy, and global warming.

Joel comes to us as a lifelong environmentalist, owner/operator of Heartland Recycling in Wichita (a curbside recycling business), and former House Representative in the Kansas Legislature. He plans on combining his business, legislative, and environmental experience in working with governmental leaders, energy companies and other industries throughout the state, to stop the coal rush and reduce the production of greenhouse gasses.

"I'm extremely excited to be working with Sierra Club, and I have great hopes for the future of Kansas" says Rutledge. 



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

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Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter

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Media Chair, Calendars, (913) 299-6620,
craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

General Meetings

General public is welcome to attend

Flint Hills Group (Manhattan)

General Information

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

Kanza Group (Kansas City)

September 11. 7:00 pm.

The Birds & the Bees

7:00 pm. Come early and have snacks with friends.

7:30 pm. Program. Well, maybe mostly the birds. We feed 'em. We watch 'em. And, sadly, we are trying to save our dearly loved feathered friends from our own bad habits. Join us to see how they are doing. Are they declining too fast? What can we do to save them? 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 (Wichita)

September 14. 6:30 pm.

Why are Humans So Willing to Bite the Land that Feeds Them?

Ken Warren of the Land Institute in Salina will present: "Why are Humans So Willing to Bite the Land that Feeds Them?" Social at 6:30, Program at 7:30 at the Great Plains Nature Center.. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 655-8299, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Topeka Group

August 28. 7:00 pm.

Ideas for an Energy Efficient Home

Ideas for an Energy Efficient Home" will be the program presented by Russ Rudy, Building Programs, Manager with the Kansas Corporation Commission Energy Office. Russ founded the Kansas Energy Ratings Alliance, directed the Kansas City Homebuilders "Build Green" program,

and was formerly an environmental consultant with the Metropolitan Energy Center in Kansas City where he hosted the Home Energy "Radio Doctor" show. A "no host" dinner will be at Annie's Place Restaurant in Gage Center before the meeting at 5:30. Topeka and Shawnee County Public library, 1515 SW 10th Street. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

Topeka Group

September 25. 7:00 p.m.

Keep America Beautiful

Philicia McKee, Executive Director for the Topeka/Shawnee County Office of Keep America Beautiful. KAB is a grassroots not for profit organization that strives to promote litter reduction, recycling, and beautification through education, business partnerships and community involvement. A "no host" dinner will be at Annie's Place Restaurant before the meeting at 5:30. Topeka and Shawnee County Public library, 1515 SW 10th Street.. 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] Aug 18. 8:45 am. Conservation Outing to Harvey County

Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center Parking Lot for car pooling for an outing to tour the Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project and the “green features” of the North Newton City Hall. Dutch treat lunch at the Bread Basket Restaurant in Newton.. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com

[2] Aug 18. 8:45 am. Conservation Projects Tour
Carpool to Harvey County, tour the Wichita Aquifer Storage and Recovery project in AM, lunch in Newton , tour North Newton “green” City Hall in PM.. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com

[2] August 25. 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Southwind Ice Cream Social

Old fashioned Ice Cream Social and intertainment at the Wichita Water Center, 101 East Pawnee. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com

[4] Sep 8. Day Trip to Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, Strong City, MO

We’ll enjoy the beauty of the Flint Hills with an easy, 6 mile backcountry hike, and explore the historic barn and ranch house. We’ll finish up with a casual dinner at Hays House in nearby Council Grove before heading back to KC. \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

[4] Sep 15. Pontoon boat ride at Lake Jacomo, Blue Springs, MO

Join us for a leisurely excursion around this peaceful 970-acre lake in Blue Springs. Sign up by the week before to get reservation. Boat rental deposit/fees & \$5 donation requested. . Kanza. Patty Brown, 816-737-2804, pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net



Aug / Sept 2007

[1] Sep 28-30. TBA. Prairie Festival Outing

The Southwind Group will coordinate

an outing to the Land Institute’s Prairie Festival in Salina. Further information and departure times will be available later.. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com

[4] Sep 29-30. Swan Creek Roadless Area Car Camp and Day Hike, Garrison, MO

Seven roadless areas remain in Missouri. Under the current administration, these roadless areas have lost their protection and are now open to development and logging. We’re working to protect these areas for the enjoyment of future generations. Join us and see why Swan Creek is worth fighting for. Co leader Dayle Johnson, Outings Chair with the White River Group in Springfield, MO daylejohnson@yahoo.com. Kanza. David Anderson, (816) 678-4359, ctheis1@kc.rr.com

[4] Oct 6-7. Family Campout - Watkins Mill State Park, Lawson MO

Join us for some exploring and good old campfire fun! One of the nicest campgrounds close to KC, and a great weekend trip for beginners. Sign up early so we can arrange campsite reservations. \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

[4] Oct 13 -14. Easy Overnight Fun Hike, Adrian, MO.

Kick off the Fall Backpacking Season with an overnight trip to Jerry Burns’ Farm. So easy, even a caveman can do it! \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

[4] Oct 13. Beginner Backpacking Class, Independence, MO

Learn backpacking basics in this 5 hour information and hands on class. We’ll cover equipment, a section on low budget options,

more outings next page

Committee Meetings

Kanza Group (Kansas City)

Executive Committee

Aug 23, Sep 27 - 7:00 pm,
Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385,
frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org

Joint Action Committee

Aug 23, Sep 27 - 7:00 pm,
Conservation, legislative, and political
Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620,
craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)

Executive and Fundraising Committee

Aug 5, Sep 2 - 6:00 pm
7701 East Kellogg, Suite 880
Dave Kirkbride, (316) 655-8299,
david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Conservation Committee

Aug 21 & TBA - 6:00 pm
5825 Memphis St, Bel Aire Wichita.
Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033
ellie_skokan@yahoo.com

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, September 8 (time & location TBA)

Yvonne Cather (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

places to go and more. \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Paul or Melody Gross 816-228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

[4] Oct 20. Hike, Picnic and Visit to the Native Hoofed Animal Enclosure at Lake Jacomo, Blue Springs, MO

Bring your picnic basket. We'll enjoy a short hike in the Autumn air, followed by lunch, and a little hot chocolate, then we'll feed the Bison and Elk apples and carrots. Great for all ages. . Kanza. Patty Brown, 816-737-2804, pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net

[1] Oct 20-21. Car Camping at Tuttle Creek State Park, Manhattan, KS.

Fall is a great time to be on the prairie where we can enjoy a hike on the Konza Prairie as part of our camping excursion to Tuttle Creek State Park \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Anne McDonald, (913) 384-6645, pamcdonald@kc.rr.com

[4] Oct 27-28. Eleven Point River Overnight Float, Alton, MO

We will car camp Friday night at a National Forest campground near Greer's Crossing, NE of Alton, MO. We will float Saturday, camp along the river and float Sunday morning to our takeout. \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Terry DeFratis, (913) 385-7374, theerustbucket@aol.com

[4] Oct 27-28. Join us on this mystery Jackson County beginning backpack, Jackson County, MO

Exact location to be announced to registered participants the day before the hike. It will be fun and close to home. The group size on this easy hike is limited to 10, which includes

leader and assistant. This will be a great follow up to the beginning backpack 101 class. We'll be focusing on basic backcountry skills, with an emphasis on Leave No Trace (LNT) principles. We'll hike out by early Sunday afternoon. \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

[5] Nov 1-4. Backpacking Trip, Ozark Highlands Trail, AR

A more challenging backpacking trip on the Ozark Highlands Trail. Plans are to spend three nights on the trail in the rugged backcountry of Northwest Arkansas. \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

[1] Nov 10. Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS

Join us as we continue our 16-year tradition of maintaining the Perry Lake Trail. Bring a lunch, work gloves, and outdoor hand tools.. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

[4] Nov 17-18. Bell Mountain Wilderness Backpacking Trip, Potosi, MO

Enjoy the crisp fall air, and the impressive views as we hike to Bell Mountain. From our vantage point, we'll be able to survey Saturday's bushwhack day hike to the summit of Lindsey Mountain. \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com



Calendar of Events

Summary of all Kansas Chapter Events

Below is a listing of all General Meetings (GM), Outings (Out), and Committee Meetings (CM) for the Kansas Chapter and Groups. For specific information, see General Meetings page 17, Outings page 18, and Committee Meetings page 19. For the latest update on events, go to www.kansas.sierraclub.org/EventsSearch.htm.

- CM Aug 5. 6:00 pm. Southwind Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 655-8299, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
- GM Aug 9. 7:15 pm. Topeka Group Cool Cities. Topeka. Phil Morse (785) 273-3614, p.morse@sbcglobal.net
- Out Aug 18. 8:45 am. Conservation Projects Tour. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
- Out Aug 18. 8:45 am. Conservation Outing to Harvey County. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
- CM Aug 21. 6:30 pm. Conservation Committee Meeting. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
- CM Aug 23. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Aug 23. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out August 25. 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Southwind Ice Cream Social. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com
- GM Aug 28. 7:00 pm. Ideas for an Energy Efficient Home. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
- CM Sep 2. 6:00 pm. Southwind Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 655-8299, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Sep 8. 9:00 am. Kansas Chapter ExCom. Chapter. Yvonne Cather, 316-522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Sep 8. Day Trip to Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, Strong City, MO. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com
- GM Sep 11. 7:00 pm. The Birds & the Bees. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Sep 13. 7:15 pm. Topeka Group Cool Cities. Topeka. Phil Morse (785) 273-3614, p.morse@sbcglobal.net
- GM Sep 14. 6:30 pm. Why are Humans So Willing to Bite the Land that Feeds Them?. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 655-8299, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Sep 15. Pontoon boat ride at Lake Jacomo, Blue Springs, MO. Kanza. Patty Brown, 816-737-2804, pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net
- GM Sep 25. 7:00 pm. Keep America Beautiful. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
- CM Sep 27. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Sep 27. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Sep 28-30. TBA. Prairie Festival Outing. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com
- Out Sep 29-30. Swan Creek Roadless Area Car Camp and Day Hike, Garrison, MO. Kanza. David Anderson, (816) 678-4359, ctheis1@kc.rr.com
- Oct 6. 7 am - 10 pm. Adopt - A - Highway Cleanup. Topeka. Jack Smith (785) 273-3138, jkjmsmith@aol.com
- Out Oct 6-7. Family Campout - Watkins Mill State Park, Lawson MO. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com
- Out Oct 13. Beginner Backpacking Class, Independence, MO. Kanza. Paul or Melody Gross 816-228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com
- Out Oct 13 -14. Easy Overnight Fun Hike, Adrian, MO. . Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, rjwilshire@kc.rr.com
- Out Oct 20-21. Car Camping at Tuttle Creek State Park, Manhattan, KS. . Kanza. Anne McDonald, (913) 384-6645, pamcdonald@kc.rr.com
- Out Oct 20. Hike, Picnic and Visit to the Native Hoofed Animal Enclosure at Lake Jacomo, Blue Springs, MO. Kanza. Patty Brown, 816-737-2804, pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net



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