

Kansas in Global Warming Crosshairs in Future

By Craig Volland

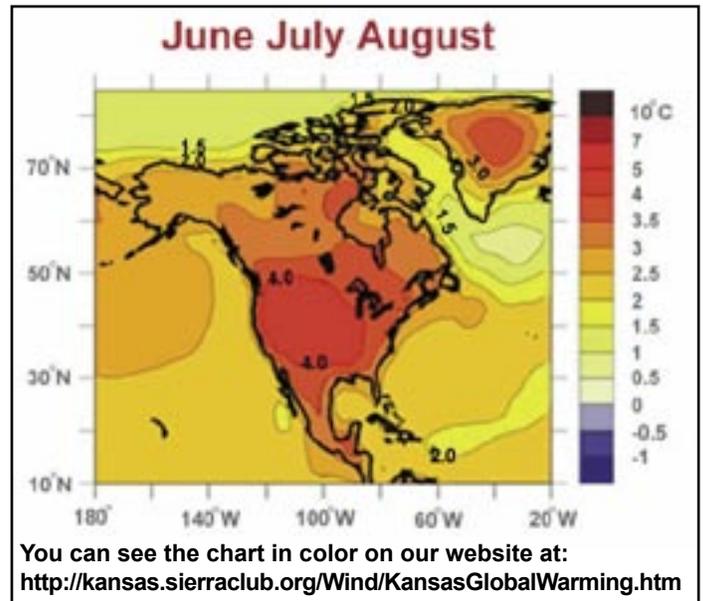
If you think Kansas summers are brutal now, look at what our grandchildren & great-grandchildren will face in the summer of 2090!

Kansas is in the cross hairs of global warming. The International Panel on Climate Change projects an increase in average summer temperatures of 4 degrees C (7.2 degrees F) or more towards the end of this century.

This graphic from the IPCC website (www.IPCC.ch) compares temperatures from June to August in the years 2080 to 2099 to what we experienced from 1980 to 1999. These projections are based on a “business as usual” increase in emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, although the scenario does assume that the world population will level off by mid-century. So it could be even worse. Business as usual, such as the construction of coal-fired power plants, is not acceptable. Future generations cannot reach back in time to save themselves. It’s clear. We must do it for them... starting now.

MORE INFO:

American Academy of Pediatrics “Global Climate Change and Children’s Health”



If unaddressed, global warming will lead to increased natural disasters, increased water-borne, vector-borne and food-borne illnesses. Children will be especially vulnerable to outbreaks associated with global warming, as they have undeveloped immune systems.

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/120/5/e1359>

Pew Center on Global Climate Change “The Heat is On: Climate Change & Heatwaves in the Midwest”

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Feb / Mar 2008

Kansas Legislature: www.kslegislature.org/cgi-bin/index.cgi

Kansas City – “America’s Green Region”?

By Elaine Giessel, Environmental Justice Chair, Kanza Group

A number of key organizations in the Kansas City area have begun work on an exciting new sustainability project. According to Tom Jacobs, Director of Environmental Programs at Mid-America Regional Council, this endeavor follows the “extraordinary level of activity in the region on issues related to sustainability and the environment.”



There can be little doubt that the efforts of the Sierra Club, on both sides of State Line, have played a large part in raising public awareness on environmental issues, particularly pertaining to choosing sustainable energy solutions.

Described as a work still in progress, the “Strategy to Become America’s Green Region” includes the vision to create and support a sustainable region that increases the vitality of our society, economy, and environment for current residents and future generations. Non-governmental organizations such as the Sierra Club are now being invited to help refine the strategy and discuss how the sustainability efforts might best be coordinated.

Initial development of the concept was accomplished in six weeks of meetings facilitated by Bob Berkebile, a local architect recognized as one of the nation’s leading authorities in the field of sustainable design. Included in the meetings were the Kansas City Area Development Council, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Civic Council, Bridging the Gap, Johnson County, Kansas City, Missouri, and Mid America Regional Council.

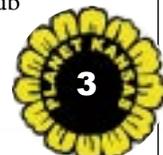
These organizations agreed to endorse the following resolution

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Holcomb Expansion Not Needed for Wind Power Transmission Lines

Transmission projects are proceeding.

By Craig Volland,

Supporters of the 1400 MW Holcomb coal plant expansion are making the claim that KDHE's denial of the permit for their project will stall the construction of transmission lines in western Kansas and stop wind projects that would depend on them. This claim is grossly misleading. Recent statements by staff of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the organization that manages the regional electrical grid used by Kansas and parts of six other states, and by ITC, a major transmission line developer from Michigan, confirm that all transmission projects planned before the KDHE decision are going forward except for the link to Colorado.

The Holcomb coal plant expansion project was to include new transmission lines to carry 700 - 800 MW of coal power west to the service area of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association headquartered in Colorado and 400 MW of coal power south to the Texas panhandle to the service area of Golden Spread Electric Coop headquartered in Amarillo. In fact only about 15% of the power produced by the Holcomb project was to be used in Kansas.

The transmission line developer, ITC, has issued letters of commitment to the SPP on several projects including a high voltage line from Spearville, Ks. north to Axtell, Nebraska with links to the midwest US market, a line from Spearville to Comanche County, Ks. and Wichita which will link with the Westar system and points east, and a line south from Comanche County to Mooreland Oklahoma and beyond to the Texas panhandle. The Spearville connections will relieve serious congestion problems currently affecting existing and planned wind farms in that area. The line to the Texas panhandle will link to the huge growth of wind farms in that area. Other developers have also expressed interest in the projects in Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle.

The Holcomb effect. With all of these transmission line projects proceeding, the Colorado link is the only transmission line which may not proceed as planned due to the denial of the air permit for the Holcomb Project. The Texas link is still going forward as noted previously. Any impact on plans for the Colorado link will have no material effect on wind farms in Kansas for the reasons that follow.

Market Considerations. The transmission lines to Texas and Colorado were designed by Sunflower and their partners primarily to carry coal-generated power not wind power. Their value to Kansas wind farms and the state economy has been greatly ex-

aggerated. Texas and Colorado have vast wind resources of their own. Texas currently has at least six times as much wind power in place or under construction than Kansas. See the latest tally at www.awea.org/projects/. The Colorado wind industry is also advancing more rapidly than in Kansas, because Colorado requires that most utilities get 20% of their power from renewable energy. Thus, if the transmission links were in place, the flow of wind-generated electricity would almost always be into, not out of Kansas. For the foreseeable future the market for Kansas wind farms is to the east, where almost all the people are.

There would be some value to the Texas and Colorado links for improving the overall reliability of wind power in the region. That's because when the wind is not blowing well in one part of the region wind farms in another part could compensate. The bigger the interconnected geographic area the better. Unfortunately this advantage would be greatly limited if the new Holcomb plants were built. Here's why.

In order to achieve economies of scale coal plants are designed to be huge facilities, generally 700 - 900 megawatts of rated capacity each. It takes at least 4 years to build them after the permit is granted. Since the load in the local service area grows slowly at 1-2% per year, these big chunks of capacity are added well ahead of when it can be fully utilized. That compares to about 100 MW for a wind farm which takes only about 1 1/2 years to build and more closely tracks actual load growth. Thus for many years Holcomb partners would have extra power to sell on the open market for power.

Since only about 30% of the total cost is variable, which is essentially the cost of buying and hauling in the coal from Wyoming, Sunflower and partners could add to their cash flow by charging anything above only 30% of their actual cost. No wind developer in their right mind would invest in a wind farm in western Kansas in the face of artificially cheap power from this 800-pound gorilla of a coal plant.

Finally, the services areas of the Holcomb partners: Sunflower, Midwest Energy, Tri-state and Golden Spread, cover about 1/2 of Kansas, 2/3 of Colorado and New Mexico, 1/3 of Wyoming, 1/4 of Nebraska, 1/4 of Texas, and the Oklahoma panhandle. So, for all practical purposes, they are the market for power in a large portion of the Great Plains. Thus if they insist on burning coal there will be a much-reduced market for wind in that area. The Holcomb coal plant expansion would hurt the wind industry of Kansas a lot more than it would help it.

Sources:

1. Duane Schrag, Salina Journal, "New power lines are still in the works," November 19, 2007
2. Jay Caspary, Dir. of Engineering, Southwest Power Pool, Comments to Dec. 3, 2007 Meeting of the Kansas Electric Transmission Authority.
3. Power point by Jay Caspary of the SPP, "Addressing Seams Issues," presented on Dec. 14, 2007 to the KETA Transmission Summit 





Eat Local
The 10th Annual
Exhibition of Farmers

The Exhibition of Farmers will consist of two events this year

March 29, 2008: Eat Local - 10th Annual Exhibition of Farmers at Shawnee Civic Centre 13817 Johnson Dr., Shawnee, KS (2 mi. east of I-435), 9 AM to 2 PM. Includes two hour workshop: Cooking Local Foods!

April 5, 2008: Eat Local - 10th Annual Exhibition of Farmers at Roger T. Sermon Community Center, Truman & Noland Rd, Independence, MO (1 1/2 mi. west of US 291), 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Includes two hour workshop: Grow Food Not Lawns!

- Meet local organic farmers who can supply high quality organic fruits and veggies and free range meats for the coming season
- Seedlings for an early start on your garden
- Pick up a free copy of the 2008 Food Circle Producers Directory



Original music by eco-troubadour, Stan Slaughter

The event is co-sponsored by the Sierra Club

For more info contact
Craig Volland, KC Food Circle
913-334-0556 or
hartwood2@mindspring.com



Consultants: Coal-Fired Power 'Imprudent' Investment

By Sarah Kessinger, Harris News Service, 01/21/08

TOPEKA - Building new coal-fired electric plants is a shaky proposition in light of today's skyrocketing construction costs and the likelihood Congress will cap emissions, say energy consultants on a speaking tour in Kansas this week.

Power industry analysts with the Cambridge, Mass., firm Synapse are spending today and Wednesday at public presentations in Overland Park and Topeka after speaking Monday night in Salina.

The firm works with state and municipal governments, utility regulators and environmental groups to develop climate action plans. Their forums are sponsored by the Climate and Energy Project of the Salina-based Land Institute, an organization promoting energy efficiency and wind power as an alternative to adding more coal plants in Kansas.

They were invited to speak as Kansas wrestles with the question of future energy needs. Sunflower Electric of Hays, a cooperative consisting of smaller, rural electric cooperatives, is battling in court and the state Legislature to gain an emissions permit to build two new coal-fired power plants near Holcomb.

Sunflower's \$3.6 billion complex was slated to bring new jobs to the state's southwest corner, but a state regulator denied its permit last fall because the plants would produce nearly a million tons of carbon dioxide per month.

Most of the plants' electricity would be transmitted to other states.

Synapse senior consultant David Schlissel said federal limits on coal plants' carbon emissions are "more than likely" in the near future.

"A proposal before Congress right now would mandate steep reductions of 50 to 80 percent in CO2 emissions," Schlissel said. "The adoption of these federal regulations will mean substantial costs for new power plants that are coal- or gas-fired. Coal, of course, is the most carbon intensive."

Synapse has developed a forecast of expected costs related to carbon emissions for power plants and other businesses.

If the regulatory cost, for instance, becomes \$20 per ton each year, companies such as Sunflower that emit 12 million tons annually will have to purchase allowances of at least \$240 million.

"The alternative is to take advantage of Kansas' abundant wind resources," said Ezra Hausman, a senior associate with Synapse.

In response, Sunflower spokesman Steve Miller said Monday they remain committed to coal.

"There are as many cost estimates as there are designs for the regulation or tax," he said.

"Obviously, the costs vary with each proposal, but we still firmly believe that coal remains the most desired fuel source in today's marketplace," he said. If a regulatory cost is imposed on coal, Miller said, a planned bio-energy center would be a "superior solution to other, more costly methods."

"As innovation continues, we believe that even the processes we'll use to make bio-energy will improve," Miller said. "That's why we strongly believe Kansans should support our efforts with Kansas State University to help make Kansas the leader in the production of bio-fuels."

Kansas is among the Midwestern states that agreed in November to cut their emissions by 80 percent by 2050. Details of how states will do it have not been developed, but Gov. Kathleen Sebelius called on legislators last week to begin developing an action plan.

The Midwestern pact is similar to those of 17 states in the West and Northeast. The Northeast coalition plans to be the first to launch a cap-and-trade system next year in which polluters will have to buy credits if they go beyond their limit of greenhouse gas emissions.

Forecasting the price associated with carbon dioxide is so important to utilities, Hausman said.

"They're building plants to last many decades into the future, so to do an analysis properly you have to take that into consideration."

Carbon regulation isn't a question of "if," Hausman added, it's "when" and "what will it look like."

"We can't tell you whether it's this year or next, but it's coming."

Many utilities are acknowledging it's a risk factor, Schlissel noted. Westar Energy last year shelved plans, at least for several years, for a new coal-fired plant because of cost uncertainties.

Likewise, the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities has dropped plans to build one.

"Utilities know it's coming, that it'll be an important risk factor. They want to plan accordingly," Schlissel said.

In addition to carbon emissions, another risk faced by Sunflower's Holcomb plant is construction costs, which are expected to continue climbing.

"Power plant construction costs have skyrocketed over the last few years," Schlissel said. "There is no reason to expect that's going to end with the current worldwide demand for resources."

Hausman also noted that Colorado's government is considering limiting the amount of coal-fired power they purchase from outside the state.

If that's the case, Sunflower may not be able to sell as much power to Colorado's Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association as planned.

"It doesn't make any sense for Kansans' continued reliance



Investment, continued from page 6

on coal,” Hausman said.

Schlissel said they know it's a lot to ask investor-owned utilities to make such substantial changes.

“From the 1950's up through the 1990's, when you needed power, you built a plant. But that paradigm doesn't work any more,” he said. “The world is facing a crisis and we have to make a change. The less expensive option is the one that accepts reality.

“Building a coal plant and hoping or pretending you won't have substantial costs for CO2 is imprudent.” 



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Sky's the limit?

Even today in 2006, over *half* of America's electricity is generated from coal-fired power plants. Consequentially, we are being exposed to soot, smog, acid rain, and dangerous toxins such as mercury, which threaten people and wildlife alike. Bush's "Clear Skies" plan will allow 520% ~~more~~ mercury pollution by 2010, not to mention delaying the enforcement of public health standards for smog and soot until the ~~end~~ of 2015. The sky isn't getting any higher, and the air we breathe isn't getting any cleaner. The sky IS the limit.

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I WANT YOU

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Your legislators are considering reversing Sec. Bremby's decision to stop the Holcomb coal plant. Let them know how YOU feel...

Q: Should new coal plants in Kansas be part of our plan to stop Global Warming?
A: NO

Q: Will Wind Power create jobs and be part of a sustainable future?
A: YES

Q: Is Kansas at a Crossroads... Heck, is mankind at a crossroads?
A: YES



7

Where's the Cheap Coal?

By Stephanie Cole

When energy issues are debated, rather than attempting to counter the well-rounded body of science that supports climate change, pro-coal people often like to boast about how cheap coal is. However, they fail to consider what the long-term vision of electricity generated from coal will look like.

Costs are often figured without considering a future CO2 tax, without considering environmental impacts and without considering increased risk to human health, all of which are associated with burning coal. If we are truly trying to protect consumers and keep rates low, should these factors not be considered? Many of the same groups that tout how cheap coal is, often times glorify CO2 reducing technologies that could in theory reduce CO2 emissions from coal-fired plants. At some point, such technologies may be demonstrated effective on a commercial scale at a significant performance level. However, these technologies still don't address coal mining practices, which aren't necessarily environmentally-friendly. Further, even if CO2 reducing technologies are mastered, the costs of such technologies would need to be considered as well. Now how cheap is coal?

Kansas has an opportunity to utilize the wind resources it has been blessed with. It's not necessary to haul coal in from Wyoming when we have home grown resources at our fingertips. The Sierra Club believes in leaving a clean and disease-free environment, as well as an economically-viable future for our children and grandchildren. The "cheap coal" argument is no longer an acceptable excuse. 

Coal Plant Permit Not Like a Driver's License

By Stephanie Cole

In his recent opinion piece, Earl Watkins, President and CEO of Sunflower Electric Power Corp. stated that KDHE created regulatory uncertainty by denying his company an air quality permit for a 1400 MW coal plant expansion. Mr. Watkins states that in the absence of established rules, the public is unable to determine if they are entitled to a permit. No one is entitled to a permit to build a coal plant! Applying for an air quality permit is not like applying for a driver's license – especially when the applicant is asking to emit 11 million tons of CO2 per year into the atmosphere. A false assumption is being made that if an applicant dots all "i's" and crosses all "t's", it is entitled to a permit. The state must retain the right to reject proposals that are unreasonably harmful. Secretary Bremby acted well within his authority when he denied Sunflower Electric a permit, and a recent poll demonstrates that he was supported by the majority of Kansans.

Mr. Watkins also stated that Secretary Bremby's decision altered long standing energy policy in Kansas which he said was reliable power at least cost. The Secretary was required to base his decision on health and environment, not cost. In any event he didn't change any so-called policy. Burning coal is no longer the least cost option. The new least cost option is a combination of wind power and extensive energy savings and conservation programs.

Mr. Watkins represents his company on the board of Western Fuels Association, which owns coal mines. This would seem to be an incentive for Sunflower to remain tied to coal – regardless of how expensive its use for generating power has become. 

What's a Legislator To Do?

By Tom Kneil

The 2008 legislative session is now underway and bills are already being considered to negate if not overturn Kansas Department of Health & Environment Secretary Bremby's decision to deny the air permit for the Holcomb expansion. Senate President Morris and House Speaker Neufeld are determined to overturn the decision one way or another and will be (are) pressuring other Republican legislators to work to that end.



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A recent poll (<http://www.climateandenergy.org>) has found that overall Kansans approve of Sec. Bremby's decision by a margin of 2 to 1 with as many as 7 in 10 in Johnson County approving it. Even in western Kansas where the plants would be built 51% of

the citizens support the decision while 40% were against it (remainder undecided.) Of course there are those who believe the poll was biased against Sunflower, but if it accurately reflects the thinking of Kansans, what will legislators do? Will they follow the wishes of the leadership in the Senate and House or will they follow the desires of their constituency as they are presumably to do in a representative government?

To me it is a moral question both from the point of acting on the wishes of the citizens of the state and in terms of the long-term protection of the health of our children and grandchildren as well as preserving the environment of the state and that of the planet. Indeed, one must consider what the consequences of inaction on the production of greenhouse gases will be and the impact on our future way of life. I believe there is a better and safer way of generating energy than burning coal. 

Remembering Nancy Jack

By Tom Kneil

The Kansas Chapter came into existence January 1, 1975 (Sierra Club BOD approval was granted October 13, 1974). Nancy Jack, already an environmental activist with a particular interest in water issues was among those who helped bring the Chapter into existence and by happenstance became its first Chair.

The Kansas Chapter had its beginnings in the early '70s as the Kansas State Group, part of the Rocky Mountain Chapter. At that time there were two unofficial groups, one in Lawrence and one in Wichita with plans for Topeka and Kansas City. As required for Chapter status a regularly issued newsletter had to be produced and Volume 1, Number 1 of the Kansas Group appeared in May of 1973. Nancy wrote three articles for that issue: a brief one asking for letters to help stop a bill in Congress, a lengthy one on the proposed nuclear plant at Burlington (Wolf Creek) and a third in response to an Army Corps of Engineers spokesperson who suggested that environmentalists were to blame for the 1973 spring flooding in the St. Louis area.

In that same premier issue it was noted that George Coggins was elected Chair of the Kansas Group at the April meeting of the Executive Committee and Nancy Jack as Conservation Chair. Who, if anyone, was Chair prior to Coggins I don't know but the second Chair of the state group was Ron Baxter who resigned in 1974. His replacement was Nancy as announced in the October, 1974 (Vol. 2, No. 5) issue of the newly named newsletter, "The Greater Prairie Chicken." It was also announced in this issue that the Kansas Group would become the Kansas Chapter, effective January 1. Thus, Nancy was the first Chair of the Kansas Chapter! Following the next election she was properly elected as Chapter Chair.

In addition to Conservation Chair and Chapter Chair Nancy served as representative to the Southern Plains Regional Conservation Committee (SPRCC) and as Chapter delegate to the Sierra Club Council. As an avid canoeist she was also very involved with the Ozark Wilderness Waterways group.

My contact with Nancy was primarily at Chapter ExCom meetings and meetings of the SPRCC when I became an alternate representative to that body. Besides her active participation in the deliberations at these meetings, the one thing that stands out in my memory is that she was an inveterate smoker in the midst of non-smokers, forcing her to excuse herself to step outside to have a cigarette. Two other things I remember about her – she always wore bluejeans, often with what I would describe as a "lumberjack" shirt and sometimes with a well-worn hat. The second was her abounding concern for the environment. Though I had lost contact with her after she moved to Missouri, I suspect that her love and concern for the natural world continued to the very end.

Ernie Miller Nature Center's First Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), Feb. 16

By Elaine Giessel

Join us February 16, 9:00 a.m. through 4 p.m. in the comfortable Wildlife Viewing Room at the Ernie Miller Nature Center located at 909 N. Kansas 7 Highway in Olathe for our first annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Stop by for 15 minutes or bring a lunch and stay all day. Participants can learn to identify which common birds spend their winters in northeast Kansas from experienced birders with the Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City.

Likely candidates for viewing (and photographing!) include northern cardinal, black-capped chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, American goldfinch, northern junco, white-throated sparrow, as well as downy, hairy and red-bellied woodpeckers. Our data will be added to the counts nationwide to help determine the trends and status of backyard bird populations across the country.

Plus, you'll be able to hike in the park and view our own live birds of prey on exhibit, including our recently acquired great horned owl! No registration is required for this FREE event. Bring your binoculars or use ours. We'll provide a checklist of birds and some activities to keep younger children busy. For more information, contact Park Naturalist Elaine Giessel at (913) 764-8580 ext. 27 or elaine.giessel@jocogov.org 

Longtime local journalist Nancy Jack passed away early the morning of December 7, 2007. She was professionally active as a journalist until the final weeks of her life. Nancy was 80 years old. 



Where Climate Protection Is Concerned, Every Day Matters

By Carey Maynard-Moody, Chair Wakarusa Group Cool Cities Committee

If reducing its green house gas (GHG) emissions is a passion of the Lawrence City Commission, then why has so little been done to develop the city's promised climate protection program? It's been two years since Mayor Boog Highberger signed the Mayoral Agreement for Climate Protection.

Since then, barriers in Lawrence to enact Sierra Club's Cool Cities campaign, a climate protection program, have been: the city's constrained budget, change of city manager, change of the city commission, hiring and firing of City staff, and the limits of the Lawrence Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB).

After signing the Mayoral Agreement the next step of the Cool Cities campaign is the preparation of a city green house gas emissions (GHG) baseline study for either the year 1990 or 2000. In Lawrence, after a staff shake-up, this task was assigned to the Public Works Department. However, because the \$1500 membership in ICLEI (International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives) was deemed too steep for the budget, no software was available to efficiently conduct this baseline study. Finally, in summer '07, Lawrence's Dept of Public Works got the Lawrence City Commission's blessing to spring for ICLEI membership. Utilizing the new ICLEI software, as time allowed, staff began to amass the data needed to calculate the city's GHG emissions. After several months, Public Works assigned the task to an intern.

On January 15, 2008, at the regular City Commission meeting, and following the lead of KCMO, the SAB recommended that Mayor Sue Hack appoint a Mayor's Climate Protection Task Force by the end of January. This step is also recommended by Sierra Club's Cool Cities campaign. At the public hearing of this issue, SAB recommended that the task force represent key stakeholders from the community at large to include: City of Lawrence, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, Westar Energy, The World Company (parent company of Lawrence Journal World), the medical field, the environmental community, the construction and building trade, USD #497, Kansas University, Haskell Indian Nations University, Hallmark (or similar community industry), environmental science, building design and/or engineering, citizen advocacy, and SAB representation. SAB recommends that the Mayor's Climate Protection Task Force

work concurrently with City staff in the collection of data for calculation of the GHG baseline, followed by the drafting of a Lawrence Climate Protection Plan to be submitted for approval of the City Commission by January 2009. The chair of the Wakarusa Group Cool Cities

Wakarusa Group Spring Service Outing in the Wetlands Events

A service project at the Haskell Baker Wetlands is planned for Saturday, April 12, 2008. Dr. Roger Boyd, Baker Wetlands coordinator, has several projects that we will work on, depending on the weather and other factors. The health of the wetlands continues to be threatened by the invasive Tartaric Bush Honeysuckle. We will tackle its removal. There are several bad spots in the Boardwalk that need to be rebuilt as well. Wood duck boxes need to be installed, and the ever-encroaching limbs on the north levee need to be pruned back. As you can see, there will be plenty to do that day.

Please save this date and join us for a great experience and service project. Further details and directions will be announced on the Wakarusa Group email notices list and posted in the next Planet Kansas.

To sign up for the email notices list send a message to Carey Maynard-Moody at careymm@sunflower.com 

Crosshairs, continued from page 1

Climate change is already occurring and will progress if we don't act to reduce and eliminate human contributions. What does this mean for Kansas? This report describes the heatwaves that are in store and associated human health risks.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Regional-Impacts-Midwest.pdf>

Stanford University "On the Causal Link between Carbon Dioxide and Air Pollution Mortality"

Carbon dioxide is not only implicated in global warming, but also has the potential to lead to increased human mortality. A Stanford scientist has identified a causal relationship between the two, which further demonstrates the urgency in eliminating these harmful emissions.

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/CO2PapGRL1207.pdf>

You can see the chart in color on our website at: <http://kansas.sierraclub.org/Wind/KansasGlobalWarming.htm> 

Committee (CCC) gave comments at the public hearing re the establishment of the Climate Protection Task Force. Included in the comments was a caution to the Commissioners to avoid the trap the ineffectual Kansas Energy Council fell into.

In March 2006 the CCC lobbied hard to prompt Lawrence's adoption of the Cool Cities campaign. Since then the CCC has been a bur in the saddle of Lawrence's Public Works Department, the Lawrence City Commission and the SAB, pressing them to fulfill the Mayoral Agreement by authorizing and implementing energy efficiency and energy conservation policies and initiatives. The ponderous pace of the city has been extremely frustrating to the committee. Holding the city's feet to the fire of global warming requires effort. If you can volunteer, even a little time, to help the Wakarusa group's CCC, please call Carey at home at 785.842.6517. Really, the more the merrier. 



Carey Maynard-Moody

Testimony Supporting Climate Protection Task Force

January 15, 2008

Good evening, Mayor Hack and Commissioners,

My name is Carey Maynard-Moody and I am chair of the Wakarusa Group KS Chapter Sierra Club. I am also coordinator of the KS Chapter Sierra Club Cool City campaign. I speak to you on behalf of these entities tonight re the matter of a mayoral appointed climate protection task force.

Some of you may have visited the Sierra Club's Cool Cities website: www.coolcities.us.

For awhile Lawrence was a feature city on the home page of this website. Then we got bumped. Other Cooler Cities usurped that honor. Why were they deemed cooler than Lawrence? Because they allocated resources necessary to get with the program of measuring GHG emissions, designing an emission cutting program and implementing it.

Most of you, as commissioners, authorized the signing of the Mayoral Agreement for Climate Protection. Mayor Highberger at that time, directed city staff to reduce the city's GHG emissions with recommendations from the Sustainability Advisory Board. My organization was encouraged by this decision on your part. We have struggled to be patient as staff worked with new appointments, with the SAB, and considered, rejected and reconsidered ICLEI membership. Two years have passed. Tonight you hear that more is needed

Green Region, continued from page 3

in support of the strategy:

"To Become America's Green Region as a mechanism to coordinate, monitor and promote sustainability activities throughout the Kansas City region, commit to cooperate in refining and implementing the strategy, and encourage others in the region to embrace and support the attainment of the strategic goals." The plan is to share the idea at the Governor's Summit in mid February.

It is important that the Sierra Club participates in the community dialogue on this promising project. Among our members are individuals with expertise and experience in virtually every environmental field. Furthermore, as a leader in the area of environmental justice, the Club can play a critical role in ensuring that the issues of equity in all three facets of "sustainability" - economic, environmental, social - are identified and addressed.

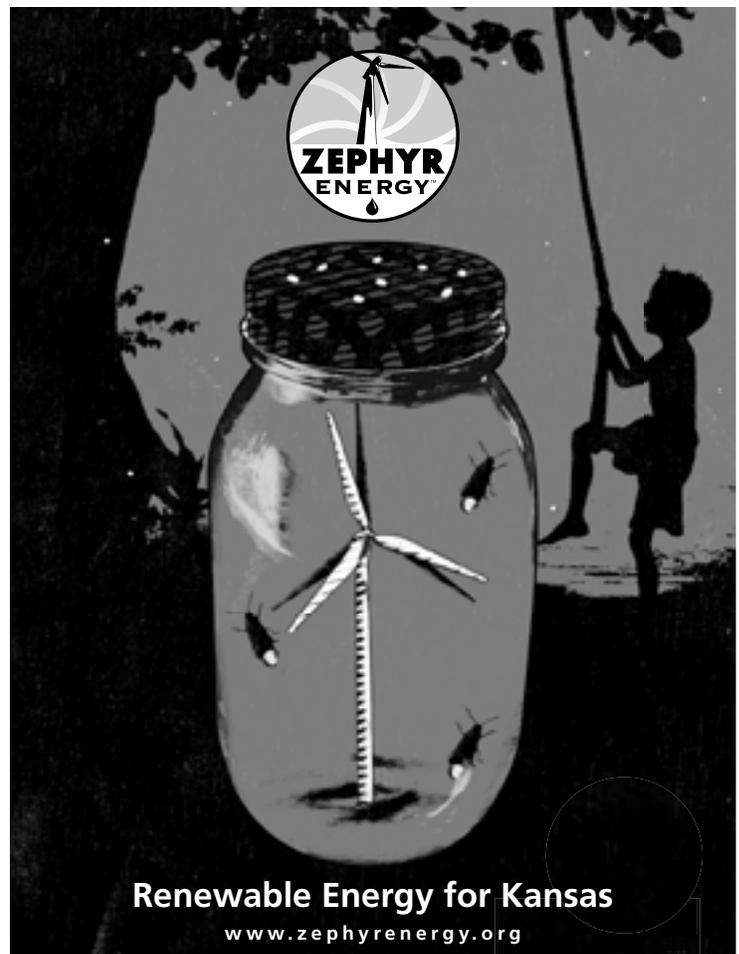
Elaine Giessel can be reached at elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org



to get a clear picture of where the city has been as an emitter of Green House Gasses, how much it wants to reduce them by, and how to achieve this reduction in emissions.

The Sierra Club supports the SAB recommendation of a Climate Protection Task Force. If you agree to establish this task force, we encourage you to be thoughtful in your appointments to it. From our observations of the Governor's appointed KS Energy Council, the primary qualification that a task force member must have is that they have the greater good at heart. Each member must be authorized and supported by their employers or boards to put this devotion to the greater good before company or institutional gains. Before making your appointments to this task force, please study why the KEC has been an abysmal failure. Please do not replicate their foot dragging because, honestly, where the issue of global warming is concerned, every day matters. We simply don't have the luxury of wasting more time before making changes necessary to protect the climate.

The Sierra Club and my Cool Cities Committee support this recommendation of a climate protection task force. We look forward to its forthcoming recommendations. We look forward to finding Lawrence back on the home page of www.coolcities.us as the featured city that is seriously taking the global warming bull by the horns and becoming part of the solution, not part of the problem. 



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, Council Delegate, (316) 522-4741,
yvonne.cather@kansasierraclub.org
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(913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansasierraclub.org
Tom Kneil****, Secretary, (316) 744-1016,
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Scott Smith*, Treasurer, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net
Frank Drinkwine*, Conservation Chair, (913) 385-0385,
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Steven Baru*, Transportation Chair, Council Delegate Alternate,
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Craig Wolfe*, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Communications Chair,
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tomnthompson@sbcglobal.net
Bob Wilshire****, Outings Chair, (913) 384-6645, rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

Southwind Group (Wichita)

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ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
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Bill Cather* Program Co-Chair, (316) 522-4741,
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Larry Ross* Outings Chair, Political Chair, Transportation Chair,
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Yvonne Cather**** Energy Chair, (316) 522-4741,
Yvonne.cather@kansasierraclub.org
Barbara Keltner**** CAFO Chair, Corporate Accountability Chair,
International Trade Chair, (316) 722-5621

Flint Hills Group (Manhattan Area)

Scott Smith*, Group Chair, Treasurer, (785) 539-1973,
wizard13@cox.net
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cheriebirkbeck@hotmail.com
Carol Barta, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, (785) 410-8608,
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Kanza Group (Kansas City)

Frank Drinkwine*, Chair, (913) 385-0385,
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richard.voss@kansasierraclub.org
Craig Lubow*, Conservation Chair, Global
Warming Chair, Calendars, (913) 299-6620, craig

Topeka Group

Paul Post, Chair, (785) 354-1972 (day), paulpost@paulpost.com
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Bill Cutler, Treasurer, (785) 379-9756, spudspa@yahoo.com
Jack Smith, Outings Chair, (785) 273-3138, JKJMSmith@aol.com
Jo Ann Van Meter, Conservation, (785) 234-3023, worrybeads@aol.com
Patsy Samson, Membership Chair, (785) 267-5368,
PatsySamson@aging.state.ks.us
Phil Morse****, Political Chair, (785) 273-3613, p.morse@sbcglobal.net

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)

Carey Maynard-Moody*, Chair, Political Chair, Sprawl/Transportation,
(785) 842-6517, careymm@kansasierraclub.org
Carolyn Binns*, Treasurer, (785) 841-3238, carolynbinns@sunflower.com
George Brenner*, Outings Chair, Cool Cities Committee member,
(785) 393-3828, gbrenner@sunflower.com
Steve Lopes, Recording secretary, (785) 842-7137, Slopes3688@aol.com
Maggie Ogden, KU student liaison, ogden_sm@yahoo.com



Feb / Mar 2008

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)

March 11. 7:00 pm.

New Developments in Hunting and Gathering Local Organic Food

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

7:30 pm. Program. Come early, and we will have snacks and good conversation followed by our program at 7:30 pm. 7:30 pm - This meeting, coordinated by the Kansas City Food Circle will focus what's happening on the local organic food scene including the 2008 Farmers Expo, local food buying clubs, CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture), and the Kanza Group's new "Let's Curb our Fuelish Diet" brochure. We can improve our diet and reduce our carbon footprint at the same time.

Where. Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W. 79th Street. 8 blocks west of Metcalf at Lowell. Park on north side. Directions at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzadirections.htm. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group, (Wichita)

February 8. 6:30 pm.

A slide show presentation by Mel Gregory of photos taken at the Great Plains Nature Center.

Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center for food and conversation at 6:30. The program will start at 7:30. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group

March 14 . 6:30 pm.

The True Cost of Food

A presentation by Jane Byrnes entitled The True Cost of Food. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Topeka Group

February 26. 7:00 pm.

Grasslands Heritage Foundation and Prairie Restoration

Frank Norman of the Grassland Heritage Foundation, will introduce us to this fine organization whose mission is "prairie education and preservation for the next generation." GHF is the owner of the Snyder Prairie north of Topeka. Frank is the coordinator for the GHF "Groundhogs," a volunteer group which conducts prairie restoration, and which includes prescribed burns, brush and invasive species removal, and tree cutting. Topeka and Shawnee County Public library, 1515 SW 10th Street Frank is a life member of the Sierra Club. A "no host" dinner will be at Annie's Place Restaurant before the meeting at 5:30.. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

Topeka Group

March 25. 7:00 pm.

Legislative Update

Tom Thompson, Kansas Chapter Legislative Coordinator, will be our speaker. Tom's duties include lobbying for the Kansas Chapter in the Kansas Legislature. He will bring us up to date on bills before the Legislature which affect the environment. The annual Legislative Update program has been popular with members of the Topeka Group. 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. 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 (785) 842-6517, careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org



Sierra Club Outings

General public is welcome to participate

Below is the combined list of all outings by the Kansas Chapter and Groups. The number in [brackets] indicates the area of the outing as shown on the map. Please contact the outing leader listed after the description by phone or e-mail before attending any of these activities. For trips requiring physical exertion, leaders need to know your ability and condition. Sierra Club policy also requires participants to sign a liability waiver or acknowledgement of risk prior to departing the trailhead.



[4] Feb-Jul. Maintenance, Hidden Valley Park, Kansas City, MO.

Get on our list if you are interested in being contacted to help lop the invasive honeysuckle at Hidden Valley in our ongoing efforts. Kanza. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, djsher@fairpoint.net

[4] Feb 9. Smith Creek Proposed Wilderness Area, Boone County, MO.

Day trip hike to a stream that has carved a beautiful bluff-lined valley through the otherwise rolling uplands of central Missouri. \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

[1] Feb 10. Perry Lake Day Hike, Perry, KS.

An extended day hike along Perry Lake Trail in a winter setting. \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

[2] Feb 11. 6:00 p.m.. Southwind at the Vagabond

Drinks and Conversation at the Vagabond, 614 West Douglas. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com

[4] Feb 16. LaBenite Park Trail Maintenance, Sugar Creek, MO.

Help us spread wood chips along this trail on the east side of the metro area to repair flood damage.. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, davedahiker@yahoo.com

[1] Feb 16. 9:00 am- 4:00 pm. Great Backyard Bird Count

Spend as much of the day as you like in the Wildlife Viewing Room at Ernie Miller Nature Center counting our resident winter birds for this annual national event.. Kanza. Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

[4] Feb 17. Eddy-Ballentine Blue River Glades Trail Maintenance, Kansas City, MO.

Help us maintain a scenic trail right here in KC that is named for the authors of Hiking Kansas City! Bring a lunch, work gloves, and outdoor hand tools.. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org



Feb / Mar 2008

[4] Feb 23. 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Kansas

City Wildlands “Long Johns & Loppers”

Ecological Restoration Workday. Kanza. Linda Lehrbaum, (816) 561-1061x116, linda@bridgingthegap.org

[4] Feb 23. Beginning Backpacking Class, Independence, MO.

Learn back packing basics in this 6-hour information and hands on class. We'll cover gear, clothing, cooking, water treatment and food. We also include a section on low budget, entry-level equipment. We will be discussing “Leave No Trace Principles”. Sign up early, as class size is limited to 25. \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Paul or Melody Gross 816-228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

[1] Mar 1. Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS.

Join us as we continue our 17-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] Mar 8. LaBenite Park Trail Maintenance, Sugar Creek, MO.

Help us spread wood chips along this trail on the east side of the metro area to repair flood damage.. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

[4] Mar 14-16. Backpacking in the Irish Wilderness, Wilderness, MO.

Spend the weekend before St. Paddy's day backpacking in this scenic wilderness area near the Eleven Point River. A great trip for beginners. \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, davedahiker@yahoo.com

[2] Mar 15. 9:00 am. Photographic Outing

A photographic outing at the Great Plains Nature Center. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com

[2] Mar 17. 5:30 pm. Southwind at the Vagabond

Drinks and Conversation at the Vagabond, 614 West Douglas. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com

Committee Meetings

Kanza Group (Kansas City)

Executive Committee

Feb 28, Mar 27 - 7:00 pm,

Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385,
frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org

Joint Action Committee

Feb 28, Mar 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

Feb 3, Mar 2 - 6:00 pm

7701 East Kellogg, Suite 880
Dave Kirkbride, (316) 655-8299,
david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Conservation Committee

Feb 19, Mar 18 - 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. Carey Maynard-Moody,
(785) 842-6517,
careymm@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

Energy Committee, Feb 14, Mar 13 - 7:15 pm, Classic Bean, Fairlawn Plaza Shopping Cntr, 2225 SW Fairlawn Plaza Dr
Phil Morse (785) 273-3614, p.morse@sbcglobal.net

Kansas Chapter: (State), Executive Committee, (time & location TBA)

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

[5] Mar 28-30. Backpacking Trip to Richland Creek Wilderness, Dickey Junction, AR.

Join us we explore the less traveled Richland Creek Wilderness. We'll try to take in Richland Falls, Twin Falls, Rose Hollow and Jack Jones Hollow. Very few trails (bushwhacking required) and several challenging water crossings. Be prepared for a 2- day adventure. Group size is limited to 10 people. \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

[5] Apr 4-6. Beginner Backpack on Pigeon Roost Trail, War Eagle, AR.

A fun 8 mile loop near Beaver Lake in NW Arkansas. Will the dogwood be in bloom? We often stop at War Eagle Mill for cornbread on Sunday. \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Anne McDonald, (913) 384-6645, pamcdonald@kc.rr.com or Renee Andriani, 913-488-4445 randri@kc.rr.com

[4] Apr 12. Little Blue Wild Edibles Hike & Garden Tour, Eastern Jackson County, MO.

Come to the northern part of the Little Blue to learn about wild edibles. If you wish, bring a native wild edible or herbal, plant, to exchange at a local home garden tour. We'll have samples to taste. Sign up by April 6. \$5 donation requested. Call Burr Oak Woods Nature Center for other wild edibles activities throughout the year.. Kanza. Patty Brown, 816-737-2804, pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net

[5] Apr 17-20. Car Camping, Mountain View, AR.

Join us for our 5th annual trip to this Bluegrass music Mecca nestled in the Ozark mountains. We'll camp next to Sylamore Creek at Blanchard Springs Caverns Recreation Area and visit the Ozark Folk Center State Park. Deadline to signup for this outing is April 10. \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Dave & Kathy Patton, (816)

461-6091, davedahiker@yahoo.com

[4] April 27. Hidden Valley Park, Kansas City, MO.

Join us on a leisurely afternoon hike to see this local wildland jewel in progress. Bring work gloves as we will pick up trash or pull honeysuckle along the way.. Kanza. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, djsher@fairpoint.net

[4] Apr 28-30. NEW! Week Day Backpacking Trip.

For those of you who work weekends, we'll do a relatively easy trip at an Ozark location. \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

[4] May 3-4. Ozark Stream Overnight Float Trip.

Destination TBA. Call or email for further details. \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Terry DeFraties, (913) 385-7374, theerustbucket@aol.com

[4] May 10. Urban Bike Safety Workshop and Ride, Crossroads District Kansas City, MO.

We will watch "Effective Cycling", a bike safety video, followed by a Q & A session. Please make sure your bike is able to ride several miles without any problems. All riders must wear a bicycle helmet. Bring a bike, and join us for this Saturday morning workshop and ride. We'll reward ourselves by riding to lunch after the class. \$5 donation requested.. Kanza. Claus Wawrzinek, (816) 517-5244, clausw@att.net or Paul Gross, 816-228-6563 wildwoodp@hotmail.com



Feb / Mar 2008

Calendar of Events

Summary of all Kansas Chapter Events

Below is a listing of all General Meetings (GM), Outings (Out), and Committee Meetings (CM) for the Kansas Chapter and Groups. For specific information, see General Meetings page 13, Outings page 14, and Committee Meetings page 15. For the latest update on events, go to www.kansas.sierraclub.org/EventsSearch.htm.

- Out Feb-Jul. Maintenance, Hidden Valley Park, Kansas City, MO.. Kanza. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, djsher@fairpoint.net
- CM Feb 3. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
- GM Feb 8. 6:30 pm. A slide show presentation by Mel Gregory of photos taken at the Great Plains Nature Center. . Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Feb 9. Smith Creek Proposed Wilderness Area, Boone County, MO.. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net
- Out Feb 10. Perry Lake Day Hike, Perry, KS.. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, rjwilshire@kc.rr.com
- Out Feb 11. 6:00 p.m.. Southwind at the Vagabond. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com
- CM Feb 14. 7:15 pm. Topeka Group Energy Committee . Topeka. Phil Morse (785) 273-3614, p.morse@sbcglobal.net
- Out Feb 16. LaBenite Park Trail Maintenance, Sugar Creek, MO.. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, davedahiker@yahoo.com
- Out Feb 16. 9:00 am- 4:00 pm. Great Backyard Bird Count. Kanza. Elaine Giessel, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Feb 17. Eddy-Ballentine Blue River Glades Trail Maintenance, Kansas City, MO.. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Feb 19. 6:30 pm. Conservation Committee Meeting. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
- Out Feb 23. Beginning Backpacking Class, Independence, MO.. Kanza. Paul or Melody Gross 816-228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com
- Out Feb 23. 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Kansas City Wildlands “Long Johns & Loppers!” . Kanza. Linda Lehrbaum, (816) 561-1061x116, linda@bridgingthegap.org
- GM Feb 26. 7:00 pm. The Grassland Heritage Foundation. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
- CM Feb 28. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Feb 28. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting.. Kanza. Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Mar 1. Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS.. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Mar 2. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Mar 8. LaBenite Park Trail Maintenance, Sugar Creek, MO.. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net
- GM Mar 11. 7:00 pm. New Developments in Hunting and Gathering Local Organic Food. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Mar 13. 7:15 pm. Topeka Group Energy Committee . Topeka. Phil Morse (785) 273-3614, p.morse@sbcglobal.net
- GM Mar 14. 6:30 pm. The True Cost of Food. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Mar 14-16. Backpacking in the Irish Wilderness, Wilderness, MO.. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, davedahiker@yahoo.com
- Out Mar 15. 9:00 am. Photographic Outing. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com
- Out Mar 17. 5:30 pm. Southwind at the Vagabond. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com
- CM Mar 18. 6:30 pm. Conservation Committee Meeting. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
- GM Mar 25. 7:00 pm. Legislative Update. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
- CM Mar 27. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
- CM Mar 27. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting.. Kanza. Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
- Out Mar 28-30. Backpacking Trip to Richland Creek Wilderness, Dickey Junction, AR.. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com



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