Beyond Coal Kansas Makes Push to Stop Coal

We are now approaching the end game for public comment for the Sunflower Electric's proposed 895 MW coal plant near Holcomb, KS. Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign and our GPACE ally are making a big push to get our forces participating in public hearings and making testimony. By the time the Planet Kansas reaches you, Sierra Club leaders and members will have participated in several Beyond Coal rallies and provided testimony at these hearings held on August 2nd in Overland Park at Blue Valley Northwest High School, August 4th in Salina at the Highway Patrol Training Center Auditorium, and August 5th in Garden City at the Garden City Community College Joyce Auditorium.

For those unable to participate in public hearings, testimony can be submitted at the KDHE website until August 15th (unless the testimony deadline is extended) by going to www.kdheks.gov/bar/sunflower/sunflower.html

The reasons for stopping Coal in Kansas deal with economics, energy and health. From an economics perspective, the Holcomb expansion is an economic gamble of some $3.4 Billion with high costs, high risks, with little to gain. Sunflower Electric is already in debt to taxpayers from their existing coal plant and is proposing 895 Megawatts of new coal generated electricity. Sunflower's first coal plant, which caused a staggering debt for their coop and high rates for ratepayers, cost a small fraction when compared to the proposed Holcomb plant's cost.

Holcomb will burn 4,712,500 tons of Wyoming coal per year sending upwards of $100 Million to Wyoming mines and the railroads. This may be good for Wyoming mines and Colorado coops, but will amount to a new and risky liability for Kansans.

Over 120 coal plant proposals have been canceled or put on hold. As of July, not a single coal plant has broken ground in the past 20 months.

All coal plants are dirty, but this one would be especially dirty. The proposed sulfur dioxide emissions levels are far...
America needs a smart energy policy that increases our energy security and protects the environment. There is a better way. Congress should pass legislation that cuts our country's dependence on oil, increases our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power, protects our public lands, and modernizes the electricity grid to prevent future blackouts.

Join the Sierra Club today and add your voice to protect the planet.
We Are All Related

By Virginia Rhys Anson

Mitakuye Oyasin! We are all related! Interwoven within our earth, within our universe—suns, planets, animals, plants, humans—we are all related. As their cry stresses, the Lakota realize that all are created by a great, mysterious God who gifted Earth's creatures with Mother Earth. She cares for us. She nourishes us. She is our mother. We are all related.

The elm, scarred by the nibbles of foraging deer. The lumber company felling acres of rainforest trees. The blue jay chirping its assumed supremacy over its winged cousins. The smooth-faced boulder embedded in the side of a hill. The poacher removing the tusks from a freshly slain elephant. The wolf pack howling in chorus beneath Sister Moon. We are all related.

Yet who am I in this relationship? Surely I cannot be related. I am a human being. I am not like other animals and surely not like the pebble that lies in the riverbed. I am far too intelligent to be one of them. I am far too superior.

Yet who am I but a creature which exists for only a fraction of the years that the elm sees, which has only a fraction of the eye sight of the sparrow hawk, which possesses a minute fraction of the agility of the squirrel?

Who am I but a creature with the intelligence to destroy my Mother Earth? Who am I that I should be allowed to exist in the same environment with creatures that have evolved in harmony with Mother Earth?

Yet I am a cousin to the blue jay. I am a sister to the squirrel. I am related to all of the creatures and plants and rocks as surely as I am related to my human siblings. Mother Earth is my mother as surely as the woman who gave me human birth. The Spirit that created Mother Earth, the spirit of the Great Creator, pulses through my being as fully as does the bloodline of my parents and siblings. The living spirit of Nature flows through me as truly as the Earth, the dolphin, and the pebble house our Creator's spirit. We are all related.

Our planet Earth is not merely an object of dirt and rock orbiting around the sun. She is Mother Earth. She is a living being with a spirit. Just as my human mother gave me life and the milk of her breast to sustain me, so my Mother Earth gives me life and the
Sierra Club – Kansas Chapter Supports an Applied Leadership Project - Kansas Environmental Leadership Program (KELP) Class 10

By Judy Willingham, Director, Kansas Environmental Leadership Program

A grant from the Sierra Club – Kansas Chapter enabled the 2010 KELP class to design and complete a demonstration rain garden and promote a rain barrel program that helps the City of Chapman. Chapman is still recovering from the devastating tornado that damaged about half the town on June 11, 2008. New buildings and landscapes present an opportunity to incorporate designs that benefit the environment.

As part of the KELP experience, several participants work as a team to identify an issue, than develop an Applied Leadership Project (ALP) to address those concerns. In this case, the entire class decided to pool their talents and resources to help people in Chapman, KS deal with storm water. Storm runoff picks up contaminants from the ground surface and carries them to streams and rivers. Contaminates (such as sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, and petroleum products) contribute to pollution of surface waters. The goals of this project were to reduce the amount of storm water runoff and to conserve water.

Two concepts were key to this ALP to reduce runoff and to better use natural rainfall: rain barrels and rain gardens.

Rain barrels catch rain discharging from roof down spouts, hold the water, and allow its use for irrigation. This reduces the amount of treated water being applied to lawns and gardens. In addition, there is a modest reduction in storm runoff. Each 55 gallon plastic rain barrel is altered so that the down spout can be directed through insect screening into a funnel set in the lid. A valve mounted at the barrel’s base is fitted with hose connections so that the water flowing by gravity, can be directed to irrigation needs. The completed barrels were available to Chapman citizens for $15. 100 barrels were distributed. Each barrel had a sticker acknowledging the Sierra Club – Kansas Chapter, and the other project supporters.

The other means to reduce storm runoff is by planting a rain garden where water from down spouts and paved areas can be directed. A rain garden is placed in a depression and incorporates native plants and grasses. These plants add beauty to the landscape and slow storm water velocity. The depression collects water, which soaks into the soil where it is filtered, reducing runoff. A demonstration rain garden was installed by the new tornado shelter in the City’s Shamrock Park, and collects the roof discharge from the building. A sign by the rain garden illustrates how the garden functions and describes its purpose. The sign acknowledges the Sierra Club – Kansas Chapter as a funder.

The KELP class team adopted the slogan “Recovery… one drop at a time” for their project. They worked with a wide variety of organizations and organized volunteers to help accomplish their goals. In addition to the Sierra Club – Kansas Chapter, sponsoring organizations were: Kaw River Restoration Nursery, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Water Office, Kansas State University, Dickinson County Environmental Services, Londeen’s Hardware, and Chapman High School. Kansas Wesleyan students volunteered to help prepare the rain garden site and to assemble rain barrels. The ongoing maintenance of the rain garden is a project of the Dickinson County Gardener’s Guild.

A work day was held on April 17, 2010. KELP members, coordinators, volunteers and students spent the day preparing the rain garden site and assembling rain barrels. Londeen’s Hardware supplied the necessary parts at a discount.

On May 1, 2010, 100 rain barrels were distributed to people in Chapman. Each person also received written materials about using the barrels. That same day, the rain garden was planted with 568 native plants (rushes, coneflowers, poppies, black-eyed susans, day lilies and more), some provided at cost and others donated by Kaw River Restoration Nursery. A member of the KELP class who is a professional forester designed the planting and arranged for the plants. Another class member
was responsible for the graphic design for the sign. The sign frame was welded and installed by a third class member.

The garden will require regular care for the first couple of years, but by the third year, the roots will be well established and maintenance needs drop. Area residents have been observing the garden grow. Several have expressed interest in putting a rain garden on their property.

KELP is a blend of water resource education and community leadership skills, and is for adults interested in local environmental affairs. Begun in 1998-9 with a pilot class, Class 10 is currently underway, bringing the number of people who have participated in KELP to over 225. Each year several Applied Leadership Projects (ALPs) are conceived, designed, and carried out through KELP. KELP teaches citizens about water issues and hones leadership skills, developing local leaders who can help their communities make wise environmental decisions.

Each annual KELP class consists of five sessions held at different locations throughout Kansas. This is the 2011 schedule:

- January 5 - 7 in Hays
- March 9 – 11 in Topeka
- May 18 – 20 in Garden City
- August 17 – 19 in Southeast Kansas
- October 5 – 7 in Wichita or Hutchinson

Applications and can be submitted online from the website: http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/kelp/ Please direct any questions to Judy Willingham, (785) 532-5813 or email kelp@ksu.edu

Friends of the Kaw Hosts Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Friends of the Kaw is again hosting the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival on Thursday, October 14th at Liberty Hall in Lawrence, KS. We invite Kansas Sierra Club members to attend and enjoy the environmentally motivated independent films. This film festival is produced by the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRLC) and sponsored by Patagonia. The Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival sits apart from the hundreds of festivals around the world by leaving you feeling INSPIRED and MOTIVATED to go out and make a difference in your community and the world.

At the festival, you’ll LEARN new ideas from a selection of inspiring environmental films with hard-hitting topics including bioengineering, water issues, wilderness preservation, citizen activism, and more. You’ll EXPERIENCE the adrenalin of kayaking the wildest rivers, climbing the highest peaks, and trekking across the globe with adventure films from around the world. You’ll EXPLORE the issues and movements with leading environmental activists and professionals, filmmakers, and celebrities.

The film festival will start at 7:30 pm (doors open at about 6:30) on Thursday, October 14th. Liberty Hall is at 646 Massachusetts St., Lawrence, KS 66044. Tickets are $10 in advance and $12 at the door and each person attending will have the opportunity to enter a drawing for a great door prizes. All proceeds will benefit Friends of the Kaw, sponsor of the Kansas Riverkeeper, and attendees will additionally learn more about our mission and non-profit organization. For more information, ticket outlets and special promotions check out our web site at www.kansasriver.org.
Energy Solutions Tour in Kansas City on October 2

By Craig Wolfe

The Heartland Renewable Energy Society’s (HRES) tour of homes and businesses will showcase renewable energy and energy efficiency features. It is again being sponsored this year by the Sierra Club.

The Energy Solutions Tour on October 2nd will have a morning bus tour with four stops, which will be repeated in the afternoon. Buses will leave at 8:30 am in the morning and 2:30 pm in the afternoon. Between the two tours, exhibitors on the front lines of the Green Revolution will be available to the public to discuss their businesses and services. A guest speaker will discuss the importance of renewable energy and why we must begin now to change our energy future. Earth friendly food will also be available for purchase. At press time, the location has yet to be determined.

You can see in the above ad some of the many energy building features that will be displayed on the Energy Solutions Tour. In addition to the Bus Tour, HRES will create the Energy Solutions Tour Magazine, which will contain a Who’s Who Energy Solutions Resource Guide, listing participating businesses in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainability. Key articles on sustainability will be included in the magazine on important and helpful topics that are must. Educational descriptions and details of each Tour Stop will, of course, provide important facts and figures on each home and business on our Energy Solutions Tour. Over 10,000 copies of the Energy Solutions Tour Magazine will be distributed for 12 months by our partners, sponsors, exhibitors, and HRES members.

Long-time Sierra Club activist and volunteer Craig Wolfe is the current President of the Heartland Renewable Energy Society and Chair of the Energy Solutions Tour. Wolfe was a builder of passive solar / super insulated housing in the 1980’s, and one of his early homes is on the Tour. “The 80’s started out as an exciting decade that ended in disappointment,” says Wolfe. “We thought that this new energy ship was never going to sink, but the Reagan administration pulled the plug on all energy incentives. We would be in a completely different energy world today if the priorities of the early 80’s had remained in place.”

Advance tickets to the Energy Solutions Tour will be available online. You can find all the late-breaking information about the Energy Solutions Tour by going to the HRES website at www.KCSolar.org.
Beyond Coal, continued from page 1

greater than levels being achieved by many coal-fired plants today. Exposure to sulfur dioxide can lead to adverse respiratory effects.

Numerous other coal-fired boilers are currently achieving nitrogen oxide emissions levels much lower than Sunflower’s proposed plant. Nitrogen oxides are a precursor to ozone, which even at very low levels is harmful to human health.

Unnecessarily high levels of volatile organic compounds will be emitted from this coal plant. Volatile organic compounds, like nitrogen oxides, are a precursor to ozone pollution. Ozone pollution has been unusually high in rural Western Kansas. Adding new, unnecessary sources of ozone precursors could exacerbate the problem.

Mercury emissions levels in this permit are greater than what’s being achieved at many other coal plants. Mercury is a highly toxic pollutant that is especially harmful to pregnant women and children.

Carbon emissions will be massive. The coal plant is also not the most efficient design. While even the cleanest coal plant is still dirty and dangerous, the proposed Sunflower plant will be particularly dirty. Sunflower is not even proposing the most efficient, cleanest form of pulverized coal combustion plant, which would be the more efficient ultra-supercritical power plant. Further, while the settlement agreement only calls for a supercritical power plant, the Governor’s office supplied media and legislators with a factsheet that falsely described Holcomb II as an “ultra-supercritical coal generating unit.” This is not what’s reflected in the permit application. Dismissal of the ultra-supercritical coal plant also contradicts claims that this unit will be a “state-of-the-art” baseload unit.

Sunflower’s engineering contractor, Black & Veatch, determined an ultra-supercritical coal plant was the most efficient, cleanest, and least cost option when it studied the issue for Florida Power & Light in 2007.

The operation of Sunflower’s new coal plant, along with the transport of almost five million tons per year of coal from Wyoming, will result in the emission of 240 million tons of carbon dioxide over the 50 year life of the project.

Impacts of Coal on Human Health and the Environment. From start to finish, coal is a dirty business. A new study from Physicians for Social Responsibility reveals how damaging. Their findings say, “Coal combustion emissions damage the respiratory, cardiovascular, and nervous systems and contribute to four of the five leading causes of death in the U.S.”

How does coal affect human health? Human health and the environment are closely interconnected. Pollution of our air and water increases risk to human health. Exposure to the coal mining process increases risk of heart disease, cancer, stroke, heart attacks, and asthma.

Mining. Coal mining is responsible for more than 30% of U.S. CO2 pollution. (1) Release of CO2 into atmosphere increases global warming pollution and adverse affects on health worldwide. Mountain-top removal mining buries streams and pollutes waterways leaking iron, aluminum, cadmium, copper, and other metal sulfide minerals into surrounding water system and contaminating drinking water.

Transportation. Railroad engines and trucks together release over 600,000 tons of nitrogen oxide and 50,000 tons of particulate matter into the air every year in the process of hauling coal. (2) Coal trains and trucks release coal dust into the air, exposing nearby communities to dust inhalation. (3) Washing. Slurry is the liquid sludge waste from washing the coal. Slurry is stored in container ponds that can leak or break. A slurry pond break can cause death, environmental disaster, and poisoned drinking water.

Combustion. Coal combustion releases sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, mercury, many other substances hazardous to human health. Disposing of Post-Combustion Waste. There are 584 coal ash dump sites in the U.S., and toxic residues have migrated into water supplies and threatened human health at dozens of these sites. (4)


Related, continued from page 3

water and minerals that I need to sustain life. I do not claim dominance over our planet Earth. How can I be greater than a being on whom I depend for my very existence?

Does it seem farfetched to say that human beings are related to the earthworm? Worms are such small, insignificant animals, only good for fishing and fertilizing gardens. Such is the dilemma of human thought. However, no creature is insignificant. Each is given a role to fulfill within its particular ecosystem. Each shares a portion of the spirit of its Creator. We are all related.

Perhaps imagining this spirit as water will make the concept clearer. The Great Creator can be compared to an enormous rain barrel filled with water (Its spirit). This water (spirit) can be subdivided by opening the spout of the rain barrel and filling smaller containers (the bodies of trees, animals, and rocks). Each being holds water (spirit) from the Great

See Related on page 11
It’s time to send legislators to Topeka who care about our environment!

Support the Kansas Chapter’s Political Action Committee!

Make your check to the Kansas Sierra Club PAC and mail it to the PAC Treasurer:

Gary Anderson
5240 Decatur Rd.
Meriden, KS 66512

Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter PAC are not tax-deductible and will be used to support state, county, and municipal candidates.

The Kansas Legislature recently tried to bar the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating carbon emissions in Kansas. Only a line-item veto by the Governor prevented this disaster.

Cattle, farm, and oil industries want free rein to make Kansas an open sewer for their waste and by-products — and they have the money and lobbyists to make it happen!

Every seat in the Kansas House of Representatives and the Governor’s office are up for election this year.
Energy Fair and Sustainable Homes Tour Offers Lawrence a Look at Energy Efficiency & Conservation Techniques


**Admission is FREE!**

The City of Lawrence Waste Reduction and Recycling Division will host the Fair on Saturday, September 11th from 10 am to 4 pm, at the Community Building, located at 115 W. 11th Street. Homes Tour buses will leave from the Community Building promptly at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm.

Throughout the day you will have opportunities to view energy conservation exhibits and to consult with experts on how their products and services can lower your utility bills and increase energy efficiency. Exhibitors will include area builders, architects, insulators, heating and cooling experts, government agencies, non-profits, and alternatively fueled vehicle representatives.

Expert speakers and on-site demonstrations will cover topics such as home weatherization, energy efficient remodeling, and home construction techniques.

The Lawrence Heartland Renewable Energy Society’s Sustainable Homes Tour will feature area homes that incorporate energy conservation design and products. Peak inside some of the area’s most energy-wise homes, and see how you can save money while helping the environment.

The tour will showcase renewable energy building design, materials, construction methods, and energy saving appliances. Tour tickets will be sold on site at the Fair and buses will leave from the Community Building.

**Walk, Bike or Ride the Bus to the Energy Fair Downtown!**

The Lawrence Transit System will offer free rides on the T all day Saturday, September 11th, providing the experience and benefits of public transportation on all fixed routes. To get help planning a route or for more information, call (785) 864-4644 (Monday-Friday, 8 am – 5 pm) or visit www.lawrencetransit.org.

For more information on the Fair and a complete list of sponsors and exhibitors, please visit our website at www.LawrenceRecycles.org.
Eating as Though the Earth Matters

By Judy Carman

As environmentalists and people committed to healing the earth, what do we see when we look at our plates at mealtime? How do we measure the environmental impact of the food we eat? Since eating is something we do at least three times every day, wouldn’t it be lovely if we could make a big difference for the earth simply by choosing foods that cause the least possible harm to our planet? Consider these findings.

1. World Bank researchers reported in a 2009, Worldwatch Institute Magazine, that livestock and their byproducts create 51% of the annual greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

2. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization released their report Livestock’s Long Shadow showing that 70% of the Amazon rainforests have been cut down for grazing and one third of our planet’s agricultural land is dedicated to raising animal feed.

3. Christopher Weber and Scott Matthews wrote in the Environmental Science and Technology Journal that adopting a vegan diet (no meat, dairy, or eggs) is equivalent to driving 8,000 miles less per year, while switching to a local diet that includes meat and dairy would save only 1,000 miles per year.

4. “…the human appetite for animal meat is a driving force behind virtually every major category of environmental damage now threatening the human future—deforestation, erosion, fresh water scarcity, air and water pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss, social injustice, the destabilization of communities, and the spread of disease.” Worldwatch Institute Magazine.

5. According to Kathy Freston, New York Times bestselling author, if everyone in the U.S. went vegetarian for only one day, it would save in that one day: 100 billion gallons of water; 1.5 billion pounds of crops grown for livestock, 70 million gallons of gasoline; 3 million acres of land, and 33 tons of antibiotics. It would also prevent: the emissions of 1.2 million tons of CO2; 3 million tons of soil erosion; the release of 4.5 million tons of animal excrement and of nearly 70% of the Amazon rainforests have been cut down for grazing and one third of our planet’s agricultural land.

Looking for great recipes to try? Check out the recipes and accompanying photos at Lawrence, KS, chef’s shiftvegan.blogspot.com. Compassionatecooks.com is also a great resource for information and recipes.

Submitted by: Judy Carman, author of Peace to All Beings: Veggie Soup for the Chicken’s Soul and The Missing Peace: The Hidden Power of our Kinship with Animals and owner of a truck powered by used veggie oil.

You’ll find a multitude of delicious Earth- and animal-friendly vegan recipes and in cookbooks in your local bookstore. Here are a few great recipe websites: chooseveg.com, compassionatecooks.com, theppk.com, globalvegankitchen.com, veganchef.com and vegcooking.com. For a vegetarian starter kit, go to tryveg.com, goveg.com, pcrm.org, mercyforanimals.org, or veganoutreach.org.

Earth and Animal Friendly Recipes

HARVEST STUFFED ACORN SQUASH (Serves 8)

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 acorn squash, halved lengthwise; seeds and membrane removed (see note)
- 1 cup organic brown rice
- 1/2 cup wild rice
- 4 cups vegetable broth or water
- 1/4 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 TBSP olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon sea salt
- 4 cups vegetable broth or water
- 1/2 cup wild rice
- 1/2 cup organic brown rice
- 1/2 cup cranberries
- 1/2 cup dried apricots, diced
- 1/2 cup dried apricots, diced
- 1/2 cup cranberries
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 2-1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup pecans, coarsely chopped (you may use any nut of your preference)
- 1/2 cup pecans, coarsely chopped (you may use any nut of your preference)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 375° F.
2. Cook both varieties of rice together in broth or water with 1/4 teaspoon of salt (omit salt if broth is already salted).
3. Meanwhile, place squash halves, cut side down, into a large shallow baking dish or cookie sheet (you may need two). Bake for 30 minutes.
4. In a skillet, sauté onion in olive oil until it becomes transpar-
ent. Add the celery and sauté a couple of minutes. Remove from heat. Using a large mixing bowl, blend this mixture together with the cooked rice, cranberries, nuts, apricots, and remaining seasonings.

5. When done, remove the partially baked squash from the oven. Spoon out some of the cooked squash and mix it with the rest of the ingredients. Be sure to scrape only a little; you want to leave squash in the shells, too.

6. Press the rice mixture into each squash cavity, mounding rice as much as possible. (Depending on how large the squash are, you may end up with some leftover rice mixture, which makes a great side dish by itself.)

7. Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 30 minutes or until squash flesh is thoroughly tender.

Note: Don’t discard the nutritious squash seeds. Instead, rinse the seeds and remove the membrane. Pat dry. Spray a baking sheet with olive oil and spread the seeds evenly on the sheet. Spray seeds lightly with olive oil or with mix with Earth Balance and sprinkle with sea salt or any other favorite seasoning (optional). Bake the seeds in a 375°F oven for about 15 minutes, or until they’re golden brown. Enjoy immediately as a warm snack, or store them in an airtight container for up to one week.


CRANBERRY PEAR CRISP
By Beverly Lynn Bennett

INGREDIENTS:
For The Filling:
4 cups sliced pears
1-1/2 cups cranberries
2 tablespoons oat flour
1/3 cup Sukanat
1 tablespoon ginger, freshly grated
1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

For The Fruit Crisp Topping:
3/4 cup rolled oats
1/3 cup oat flour or barley flour
1/4 cup Sukanat
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
1/3 cup chopped walnuts
1/4 cup non-hydrogenated margarine

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. In a large bowl, combine all filling ingredients and set aside.

2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place all dry ingredients for the topping in a small bowl and stir to combine. Using your fingers, work the margarine into the dry ingredients until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

3. Add fruit filling to an 8-inch baking pan or shallow casserole dish. Sprinkle the crisp topping evenly over the filling.

4. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to cool for a few minutes before serving.


Related, continued from page 7

Creator. It is the Great Creator's spirit flowing through each being that gives and maintains its life. Therefore, each being is related because it has a part of the spirit of God, the Great Spirit, flowing through it.

This spirit flowing through each creature, each plant, each human, each entity in nature, wishes to exist in harmony within the Great Creator. Just as water seeks equilibrium, so does this spirit. Humanity is the only species with the intelligence to disrupt this harmony.

So who am I in this relationship of God's creation? My transition from a humanity-dominant nature-view to an inter-connected nature-view came quite easily. For this, I credit my parents who taught me to love and respect nature, my study of Native American spirituality, and my subsequent immersion into Franciscan spirituality.

I have come to believe, as do St. Francis of Assisi and many Native American tribes, that each entity in the universe holds a portion of God's spirit and that this spirit relates us one to the other. This relatedness allows for communication between the spirits. Some people believe that they can sense a tree reaching out to connect with them. Gardeners talk to their plants and credit the beauty of their plants to this communiqué.

I actually feel this intercourse with Nature—a telepathy perhaps—more than I understand it. The spirit of a bee or a maple or a relative long since departed becomes real. A true sense that they are reaching out to my spirit oozes into my awareness.

A conversion to connectedness incurs hypocritical dilemmas. Each animal or insect, housing a portion of God's spirit, is endowed with the right to life. Each life has a purpose on this Earth and within a given ecosystem. I have evolved disdain for killing any creature—fly or wasp or ant. It makes no difference. Yet mosquitoes carry West Nile Disease, a rattler's bite or a bear's attack can kill. How does one justify killing a being with the spirit of God housed within? I have not adequately resolved this quandary, but react occasionally with my survival instinct—yet respecting the offender's right to live.

Nature lives as if she senses what humans do not—that we are all very truly related. Humans are not separate beings living side-by-side with Nature. We are a part of Nature. We are one with her. We are all related with intertwining spirits created by God, the Great Spirit. We are related human to animal, plant to human, river to human, human to pebble. We are related human to human. It is ludicrous that, since all of our spirits are related, there should be animosity between peoples and there should be so little respect for our Mother Earth—our life-support system.

Humanity, do you hear me? Mitakuye Oyasin! We are all related!
# 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

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<td>Elaine Giessel</td>
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<td>Craig Volland</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Flint Hills Group (Manhattan Area)

Scott Smith*, Group Chair, Treasurer, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 685-3492, sujaha@aol.com

Carol Barta, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, (785) 410-8608, newsowse54@hotmail.com

## Kanza Group (Kansas City)

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Craig Lubow*, Vice Chair, Conservation Co-Chair, Global Warming Chair, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

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## Southwind Group (Wichita)

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

## Topeka Group

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Jim Tuchscheler*, Vice Chair, (785) 273-5102, jimtuch@earthlink.net

Bill Cutler*, Secretary, Treasurer, Chapter Group Rep Alternate, (785) 379-9756, spudspa@yahoo.com

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Jack Smith****, Service Projects Chair, (785) 273-3138, jkmsmith@kansas.sierraclub.org

## Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)

Carey Maynard-Moody*, Chair, Sprawl/Transportation, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 842-6517, careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org

Carolyn Binns*, Treasurer, (785) 841-3238, carolynbinns@sunflower.com

Steve Lopes*, Secretary, (785) 842-7137, slopes3688@aol.com

Gretchen Heasty*, Publicity Chair, (785) 350-1129, gheasty@ku.edu

Melissa Rogers*, Environmental Education Chair, (785) 326-2600, mrmiller1@mindspring.com

George Brenner****, Water Quality Chair, (785) 393-3828, gbrenner@sunflower.com
Kanza Group (Kansas City)
August 10. 6:30 pm.
Tour the Building of Tomorrow
(SPECIAL LOCATION)
6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have $1 per slice pizza from Wheat State Pizza plus other goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program. Bring your own mug for drinks and for the Ugly Mug Contest.
7:00 pm - Joe Waters, Director of Johnson County Facilities, will lead the tour the Johnson County Sunset Building, a gleaming example of sustainable design. At the time it was built, it was only the second structure in Kansas to receive a LEED TM Gold certification. This fascinating building features a demonstration garden, irrigated by roof run-off and Incorporates sustainable design practices and development strategies to reduce maintenance and operating costs and diminish negative impacts to the environment. You will be amazed by many of the exciting environmental innovations featured in this building.
Where - JoCo Sunset Building, 11811 Sunset Drive, Olathe, KS. Directions at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/SunsetDirections.htm I-35 to 119 St exit. West 1.3 mi. to Ridgeview Dr. Right (north) to Sunset Drive. Left to first building on left.
Contact - Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
September 14. 6:30 pm.
To Be Announced
6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have $1 per slice pizza, plus other goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program. Bring your own mug for drinks and for the Ugly Mug Contest.
7:00 pm - General Meeting TBA
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.
Contact - Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group
Sep 10. 6:30 pm.
To Be Announced
6:30 pm - Food & Conversation
7:30 pm - Program To Be Announced
Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th N at Woodlawn.
Contact - Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Topeka Group
August 24. 6:00 pm.
6:00 p.m. Coffee and Conversation.
7:00 pm - Nancy will present on a series of Energy issues. She is working with the Heartland Alliance for Regional Transmission in efforts to promote electric transmission lines expansion to serve our Kansas renewable energy needs. She will explain Federal, State and local issues. She is also involved in the hearings and work at the KCC on the tariff being drafted to implement the energy legislation that was passed by the 2009 Kansas legislature. She is also working on Energy Efficiency measures and legislation involving CURB and PACE and will elaborate on future developments.
Where - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church, 4775 SW 21st St
Contact - Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@ksbroadband.net

Topeka Group
September 28. 6:00 pm
Chapter’s Major Conservation Campaigns
6:00 p.m. Coffee and Conversation.
7:00 pm - Craig Volland, Chair of Air, CAFO, Agriculture and Trade will discuss Beyond Coal, Energy Conservation, Flint Hills Burning & Sustainable Agriculture.
Where - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church, 4775 SW 21st St
Contact - Jim Tuchscherer (785) 272-5633, jimtuch@earthlink.net

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)
We are always looking for members who are willing to commit time to orchestrating fun, educational events geared toward a positive environmental impact. Please contact us if interested!
Melissa Rogers. (785) 764-0826. mmrogers816@gmail.com
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 9. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town
Drinks and Conversation at the Café Moderne. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

[2] Aug 14 - 15. 4:00 pm. Family Campout
Overnight cookout/campout on the banks of the Little Arkansas River. Morning hike in sand prairie. Camping fee $8.00. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com

[1] Sep 4. Kill Creek Park Day Hike, west of Olathe, KS
Join this leisurely late summer mid-morning hike through wooded trails and connecting paved paths. We'll include the south trail and part of the north horse trail. After the hike we will have a picnic lunch. Bring food to share at the shelter where we started. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Tom Kutscher, (913) 383-9351, TomKutscher@aol.com

Pack your fly rod (or fishing pole) and spend a weekend at one of Missouri's first state parks. Enjoy fishing, day hiking, touring the Nature Center and Trout Hatcheries, and stories around the campfire. We will leave Kansas City, Saturday morning and leave Bennett Spring State Park Sunday early afternoon to return home. $5.00 donation requested. Kanza. Bryan Ohrman, (816) 215-3376, pbandj14@comcast.net

[2] Sep 13. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town
Drinks and Conversation at the Café Moderne. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Learn back packing basics in this 4–hour information filled class. We'll cover gear from head to foot and everything in between. Sign up early, as class size is limited to 25. This is part 1 of a 2 classes, followed by a beginning backpack trip. Participants must attend both classes to participate in beginning backpack trip. Cost for series is $50 per person. Kanza. Paul or Melody Gross (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

Join Southwind members at the 32nd annual Festival. Speakers on environmental topics plus music, a barn dance and good food. Tent camping available. Information and registration at www.landinstitute.org. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com

As a follow up to the Sep. 7 general meeting, Friends of the Kaw will organize this trip so we can experience the beauty of this prairie based river first hand. Laura Calwell, Kansas Riverkeeper, will guide an educational float trip on the scenic stretch of the Kaw from De Soto, KS to Cedar Creek. A sand bar seminar and lunch stop, with hot dogs and marshmallows are included. Cost $50/boat rental, including PFD's and paddles. RSVP by Sep 11th. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

[2] Oct 2. 8:00 am. Greensburg Greentown Tour
Carpool to the new green town. $10.00 fee includes 2-hour guided tour. Reservations required by Sep 3. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com

This 4-hour class, Part 2 of this series will offer hands on demonstrations covering, pack loading, tent pitching, water treatment, digging a cat hole, repair kit basics. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

Enjoy the most beautiful spots in Missouri. We will take the day to go to several Springs; Round, Alley, and the bluest, Blue Springs, Rocky Falls and possibly Big Springs. $10 donation requested. Kanza. Patty Brown, (816) 737-2804, pbbrn5@sbcglobal.net
## Committee Meetings

### Kanza Group  
(Kansas City)

- **Executive Committee**  
  Aug 26, Sep 23 - 7:00 pm,  
  Steve Baru, (913) 814-0583, steve.baru@sierraclub.org

- **Joint Action Committee**  
  Aug 26, Sep 23 - 7:00 pm,  
  Conservation, legislative, and political  
  Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

- **Energy Committee**, TBA  
  Phil Morse (785) 273-3614, p.morse@sbcglobal.net

### Southwind Group  
(Wichita)

- **Executive and Fundraising Committee**  
  Aug 1, Sep 5 - 6:00 pm  
  Equity Bank Building  
  Dave Kirkbride, (316) 655-8299, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

- **Conservation Committee**  
  Aug 17, Sep 21 - 6:30 pm  
  5825 Memphis St, Bel AireWichita.  
  Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com

### Wakarusa Group  
(Lawrence)

- **Executive Committee Planning**  
  TBA - 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, TBA.  
Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229, gjanderson1963@ksbroadband.net

**Kansas Chapter:** (State), Executive Committee, July 24  
Frank Drinkwine (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org

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**Oct 8–10. Hercules Glades Backpack, Ozark National Forest, MO**
Backpack and explore the 2nd largest wilderness area in Missouri. We’ll leave Friday evening and camp at the trailhead. Saturday we will break camp and hike to Long’s creek, set up camp, then go exploring at Long’s creek falls. Sunday’s hike out to the trailhead will be short. $10.00 donation requested. Kanza. Bryan Ohrman, (816) 215-3376, pbandj14@comcast.net

**Oct 16. Hike and Trail Building on the Eddy-Ballentine Trail, Kansas City, MO**
As a follow up to our Oct. 5 general meeting from the Kansas City Parks & Recreation Department on the logistics of building trails, Bill Eddy will lead us on his namesake trail that has been partially re-routed and extended because of land swaps with a developer. It has been laid out and partially cleared, but some more work needs to be done to make it a hospitable trail: leveling, improving a stream ford, and always brush cutting. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

**Oct 22–24. Car camp/Flint hills/moonlight hike - Tall Grass National Preserve**  
$5.00 donation requested. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

Apply what you learned in the backpacking classes. Join us for 2 nights and 2 days of backpacking 9 miles of the Paddy Creek Wilderness. The trip will focus on assisting you to apply the knowledge you have acquired in the classes you just finished. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

**Nov 5–7. Backpacking at Devil’s Den Wilderness Area, Dora, MO**
Friday we’ll hike in and set up a base camp near Amber Spring. Saturday, we’ll day hike exploring the southeastern corner of the wilderness area. Sunday, we’ll hike out and head back to KC. $10 donation requested. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, davedahiker@gmail.com

**Nov 6. Perry Lake Hiking Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS**
Help us maintain a section of one of the longest hiking trails in Kansas, located between Lawrence and Topeka. Bring lunch, work gloves, water, and if you have them, a bow saw or loppers. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, hassler@planetkc.com

**Nov 6–7. Float Trip**
Join us on this magical mystery tour. Location to be announced. Kanza. Terry DeFraties, (913) 385-7374, theerustbucket@aol.com
Calendar of 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.

CM Aug 1. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Aug 9. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Aug 10. 6:30 pm. Tour the Building of Tomorrow. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Aug 14 - 15. 4:00 pm. Family Campout. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
CM Aug 17. 6:30 pm. Conservation Committee. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
GM Aug 24. 6:00 pm. Energy issues of transmission lines, energy legislation and energy efficiency. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@ksbroadband.net
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CM Aug 26. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Sep 4. Kill Creek Park Day Hike, west of Olathe, KS. Kanza. Tom Kutscher, (913) 383-9351, TomKutscher@aol.com
CM Sep 5. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Sep 10. 6:30 pm. General Membership Meeting Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Sep 13. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Sep 14. 6:30 pm. Kanza General Meeting To Be Announced. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Sep 18. Ozark Springs Tour, Eminence, MO. Kanza. Patty Brown, (816) 737-2804, pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net
Out Sep 18. Beginning Backpack Class Series, Part 1, (How not to get lost in the woods), Independence, MO. Kanza. Paul or Melody Gross (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com
Out Sep 18–19. Fishing and Family camping at Bennett Spring State Park.. Kanza. Bryan Ohrman, (816) 215-3376, pbandj14@comcast.net
CM Sep 21. 6:30 pm. Conservation Committee. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
CM Sep 23. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Steve Baru, (913) 814-0583, steve.baru@sierraclub.org
CM Sep 23. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Sep 24-26. Prairie Festival. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
Out Sep 25. Kaw River Canoe Trip, DeSoto, KS. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net
GM Sep 28. 6:00 pm. Chapter’s major conservation campaigns. Topeka. Jim Tuchscherer (785) 272-5633, jimtuch@earthlink.net
Out Oct 2. 8:00 am. Greensburg Greentown Tour. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com