Sunflower Coal Plant: It’s Not Over Yet

We need your help for one final push in the Kansas coal plant campaign.

By Stephanie Cole, Kansas Regional Representative

The Kansas coal plant fiasco isn’t over yet. For those of you who have been following this issue, you know very well that this has been an unpredictable roller coaster ride of twists and turns none of us saw coming. The latest surprise came right before the hearings on the draft air permit in early August. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment announced a flaw was discovered in the permit. It was determined that this error would need to be corrected and re-submitted to the KDHE. This also meant that the draft permit was not complete and that another comment period and hearing would need to be scheduled. So, you see where this is going…..get ready for the next round of hearings and comments!

Skip to the end of this article for hearing and comment information.

Another important update that our members should be

Sierra Club Endorsements
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500 people attended the hearing in Overland Park on August 2nd. We heard from many Sierra Club members who urged the KDHE to reject the permit and look to cleaner, alternative energy sources.

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Feeling Hopeful About Global Warming

By Lynate Pettengill, Chapter Development Director

I’m feeling hopeful about global warming. “Why?” you may well ask, given the summer of 2010.

This past summer we saw temperatures in Moscow for the first time at over 100 degrees and hundreds of Russian wildfires in forests and peat bogs. Pakistan’s flooding, considered its worst environmental disaster ever, resulted in over one-fifth of the country under water. China also experienced its most severe flooding in decades. In Greenland a 100 square mile chunk of ice broke off, a land mass four times the size of Manhattan island.

What’s more, we’re seeing these events at only 390 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide. What will happen when we hit the 450 ppm predicted for the year 2030 if we fail to take action? The predictions by climate scientists seem rather apocalyptic – rising sea levels which displace millions of people living on the coasts, increased drought and famine, increased conflicts due to severe food shortages, more extreme weather and natural disasters.

And yet, I’m feeling hopeful. Here’s why: I just read James Hansen’s book, Storms of My Grandchildren. One of the top climate scientists in the world, Hansen is Director of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies. His book was a tough read, to put it mildly. Hansen goes into great technical detail – a challenge for us non-scientists – and he paints a bleak picture (again, putting it mildly) of what life will be like if we don’t start significantly lowering carbon in our atmosphere right away.

Hansen also addresses promising solutions to this grave climate crisis, and herein we find hope. Hansen advocates Carbon Fee and Dividend Legislation instead of the currently popular Cap and Trade concept as the quickest, most effective way to address global warming. Fee and Dividend works like this: A flat fee is applied to all carbon in a fossil fuel, such as coal, oil and gas, at its point of entry, from the mine or well or port. And no exceptions are granted for corporations or special interests, no matter how shiny their alligator shoes (read the book, you’ll get the reference).

The fee would start out low, perhaps at $15/ton, and then gradually increase until we hit the goal of a 20% reduction in carbon by 2020. So the cost of all fossil fuels and all goods that contain fossil fuels will increase.

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Sierra Club Endorsements Section

The 2010 Midterm Elections

By Bob Sommer, Kansas Chapter Political Chair

The political climate as the midterm elections approach is dominated by reactionary extremists of every sort. Anti-environmentalism is just one ingredient in a toxic stew of frustration and rage that has turned itself on the majority party in Congress and the Obama Administration. Racism, jingoism, and an increasingly dangerous wave of nationalism make no distinctions between science and ignorance, reality and superstition.

It is in this troubling climate that we offer our endorsements for the 2010 midterm elections. The Political Committee evaluated candidates on several criteria: voting records, leadership on environmental issues, responses to the Candidate Questionnaire, and viability (i.e., Can they win? Will they campaign hard?).

The Sierra Club endorses Stephene Moore to replace her husband, Dennis Moore, for the Kansas 3rd District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Like her husband, who won the Sierra Club's endorsement in every race since he was first elected in 1999, Stephene Moore is committed to conservation and clean energy. She believes the U.S. should move toward a comprehensive effort to reduce greenhouse emissions.

Moore faces a well-funded opponent and a tough race. State Rep. Kevin Yoder (R–20) is well known to Kansans in Johnson County as a champion of the proposed coal-fired energy plant in Holcomb. Sending Yoder to Congress will spell disaster for Kansas. The Committee endorses Chris Biggs for Secretary of State.

The legislative candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club this year understand climate change, the dangers of coal, and the impact of greenhouse gases. They opposed building new coal-fired plants in Holcomb.

In the 2010 session in Topeka, the incumbents we endorsed supported establishing passenger rail service in Kansas (SB 409). They also supported the Property Assessed Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Act (HB 2729). They opposed efforts to limit the regulatory power of the EPA in Kansas (SB 572).

Candidates were directly asked if they agreed that man-made carbon emissions contributed to climate change. A response of No (and yes, we did get some) resulted in a NO by the Committee. The endorsed candidates get it.

Kansas is ranked third for wind power in the U.S. The Committee would not endorse candidates who didn't recognize the vast economic and energy potential of wind.

Importantly, the endorsed candidates also support the authority of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to protect Kansans by regulating air and water quality. We also examined candidates' views on prairie burning, CAFO regulation, transportation, and conservation.

Back in January the Political Committee set goals for this year's election. Among them were to support candidates who have the potential to win their elections, to raise public awareness of environmental issues, and to strengthen our political influence and increase political activism among our members in Kansas. We also sought to improve our fundraising efforts.

We've come a long way toward meeting these goals.

Fundraising met with welcome success this year, and we are supporting candidates throughout the state in some tough races. In Lawrence (Linda Robinson), in Wichita (Dan Manning), and in Salina (Gerrett Morris), we have solid opportunities to gain seats previously held by anti-environmentalists. In Johnson County, incumbents Gene Rardin, Cindy Neighbor, and Dolores Furtado face tough challenges. So do Nancy Bauder in Leavenworth and Julie Menghini in Pittsburg. We have maximized our financial support for these and other candidates, and we have donated to nearly every candidate we've endorsed.

One of our goals depends on you. Candidates need volunteers as much or more than they need money. You truly can “vote early and vote often” by taking these endorsements as a call to action. It's not enough this year just to vote or even donate. Pick up the phone, put on your walking shoes, help these friends of the environment go to Topeka. It is time to elect candidates who care about our environment!
Kansas Sierra Club 2010 Election Endorsements  
By Bob Sommer, Kansas Chapter Political Chair

The Political Committee of the Sierra Club’s Kansas Chapter began meeting in January to prepare for this year’s elections. The endorsement process included developing a questionnaire on which candidates would describe their views on climate change, wind energy, prairie burning, KDHE and EPA regulatory authority, transportation, conservation, and other issues. Over 300 questionnaires were sent out in Kansas, and more than 50 candidates responded. Some 30 candidates were treated as friendly incumbents and given waivers on the questionnaire.

The Committee met weekly throughout spring and summer to review the candidates’ voting records, public statements, and responses to the questionnaire. We also benefitted from the contributions of several Committee members with experience in Topeka and personal knowledge of the candidates. When appropriate, we contacted candidates to explain their views.

Endorsement is a two-stage process in the Sierra Club. The Political Committee referred its endorsement recommendations to the Kansas Chapter Executive Committee, which independently reviewed and passed on all of the candidates listed below.

These endorsements have been thoughtfully vetted to help you make the best decisions in the 2010 elections. Please consider these candidates when you vote, and share this information with your family, friends, and community groups.

And please do vote!

### Sierra Club – Kansas Chapter 2010 Candidate Endorsements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State/Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephene Moore</td>
<td>D US House of Representatives, 3rd Dist.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Holland</td>
<td>D KS Governor</td>
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<td>Chris Biggs</td>
<td>D KS Secretary of State</td>
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<td>Terrie Huntington</td>
<td>R KS Senate Dist. 7</td>
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<td>Julie Menghini</td>
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<td>Elliot Lahn</td>
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<td>Steve Wright</td>
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<td>Gene Rardin</td>
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<td>Cindy Neighbor</td>
<td>D 18 Shawnee</td>
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<td>Dolores Furtado</td>
<td>D 19 Overland Park</td>
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<td>Lisa Benlon</td>
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<td>Milack Talia</td>
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<td>Mike Slattery</td>
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<td>Elise Chapline</td>
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<td>Stan Frownfelter</td>
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<td>Linda Robinson</td>
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<td>Paul Davis</td>
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<td>Ann Mah</td>
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<td>Sean Gatewood</td>
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<td>Sean C. Amore</td>
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<td>Gail Finney</td>
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<td>Jim Ward</td>
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<td>Melody McCray Miller</td>
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<td>Dan Manning</td>
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<td>Nile Dillmore</td>
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<td>Dale Swenson</td>
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<td>Geraldine Flaharty</td>
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<td>Jane Byrnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Waugh</td>
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<td>Robert E Medford</td>
<td>D Board of Education, Dist. 9,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annabeth Surbaugh</td>
<td>Commissioner, Chair</td>
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Sierra Club Endorses Two for the Kansas Board of Education

By Bob Sommer, Kansas Chapter Political Chair

In a move that departs from tradition in Kansas, the Sierra Club has endorsed two candidates for the State Board of Education. The Political Committee weighed its concern for recent efforts by conservative education leaders to conflate rejecting the science of evolution with a rejection of climate change science in the classroom.

Janet Waugh is endorsed for District 1 (northeast Kansas). Waugh joined the State Board of Education in 1999. She previously served on the Turner School District Board of Education for 15 years, including eight years as president. Describing her positions, she says, “I will continue to encourage environmental education in our standards so all students are familiar with these issues.”

Dr. Robert E. Medford is endorsed for District 9 (southeast Kansas). Medford is an active Sierra Club member who lists as one of his top campaign issues, “Preventing ideologues from corrupting the curricula.” Medford counts a Sierra Club service trip to repair trails on Snowmass Mountain as his greatest environmental achievement.

Stephene Moore Thanks the Sierra Club for Its Endorsement

By Stephene Moore, Candidate for Congress

Thank you very much for your support. Environmental and energy issues are a growing concern for Kansas families, and for our country. As energy costs rise, the budgets of families and businesses suffer, along with the environment. In America, we have the ability to overcome the challenges we face by supporting innovation and new, clean, energy technologies.

We must support the possibility of alternative energy to create clean energy jobs, protect our environment, and to stop sending billions of dollars overseas to countries who threaten our national security. In Kansas, we are in the top three states in the nation for wind energy production potential. We must take advantage of our natural resources and become a leader in America’s clean energy economy.

Promoting clean energy innovation, new technologies, energy efficiency, and an independent energy policy are key to America’s future. Investing in domestic energy sources such as wind, solar, and advanced biofuels is essential to our national security and economic growth.

We must protect and preserve our planet for future generations. In Congress, I will work with Democrats and Republicans to do what is best for Kansans, and ensure America’s continued prosperity for future generations.

Sierra Club endorses Tom Holland for Governor of Kansas

By Chris Cardinal, Kansas Chapter Legislative Director

During his tenure as a Kansas State Representative and State Senator Tom Holland has demonstrated a common sense, moderate approach to energy and the environment. Holland had been a leader on issues like Net Metering and a Renewable Energy Standard (RES) for years before the legislature took them up.

Holland recognizes that the best way to reduce pollution and stunt climate change is by investing in the renewable energy industry, which will bring much needed jobs to Kansas. Holland has also pledged to make sure Kansas meets its goal of 20 percent renewable energy by 2020.

Holland understands that economic development need not jeopardize the health and safety of Kansans.

Help Elect Linda Robinson Canvas for Her on October 9, 1:30 p.m.

Sierra Club members canvass for candidate Linda Robinson, who’s going up against incumbent Tom Sloan. Meet at the Democratic headquarters at 9th and Centennial, just behind the Mercantile. We’ll canvass until 4:00.
Terrie Huntington
Stood Her Ground
Against Big Coal

By Chris Cardinal - Chapter Legislative Director

While serving in the Kansas House of Representatives, Terri Huntington stood tall against a formidable misinformation campaign by Republican colleagues and the coal industry. Tremendous pressure was put on Huntington to ignore the best interests of her constituents and their desire for a clean energy economy, while Holcomb supporters tried to push through the Sunflower power plants and strip the Kansas Department of Health and Environment of its ability to protect Kansans.

Huntington responded by hosting and attending forums in her district, attending meetings on emissions and particulates, and pouring over vats of research on the safety, economic, and health concerns associated with coal. She became a leader within the Republican Party in the fight against coal.

Huntington has high regard and sympathy for the former Republican governor of New Jersey, Christine Todd Whitman. As head of the Environmental Protection Agency in the Bush administration, Whitman was censored and publicly written off as she attempted to act on scientific findings about climate change and air pollution.

Advocates of clean energy policies face stiff opposition from those who favor outdated and dangerous technologies. But Huntington believes in letting scientific information - not politics - guide her decisions as a State Senator. The Sierra Club believes she deserves your vote.

Huntington is running for the Kansas State Senate in District 7.

Call for Nominations for
Chapter and Group Elections

Speaking of Elections, the Kansas Chapter and Groups Have Their Own.

Here's the perfect opportunity for you to have even more fun while Exploring, Enjoying and Protecting our planet... become an elected member of the Kansas Chapter's or your local Group's Executive Committee! Elected members serve a two year term beginning January, 2011. The Kansas Chapter and our five regional Groups are accepting nominations for this year's ballot until October 15, 2010.

The Nominee must be a current member. Nominees not selected for the ballot by the Nominating Committee can choose to seek addition to the ballot as a petition candidate. Voting will occur in December. If you are interested, please contact Frank Drinkwine by October 15, 2010 for additional information, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org or 913-385-0386.
It’s Not Over, continued from Cover

aware of are recent reports that the permitting process is being expedited to allow Sunflower to receive a permit prior to federal greenhouse gas regulations coming into play (the EPA has announced pending greenhouse gas regulations would be applicable to large emitters, like coal plants, on January 2nd, 2011). What is more troubling is that the rush to get a permit, which means a shorter comment period and a very short timeframe for KDHE to review and respond to comments, appears to be a result of political pressure. KDHE had previously announced the second comment period would be 45 days long, and then after the Associated Press reported on communications between the Governor’s office and the Secretary of KDHE, the comment period was shortened.¹ Further, the Associated Press reported on a leaked email between Sunflower Electric representatives, state legislators, and state officials in which meetings with coal plant supporters and Governor Parkinson were referenced. The Governor’s office has denied any involvement in the permitting process, but one thing is for sure – trying to rush what is arguably one of the most controversial issues KDHE has considered in the last decade is unfair.

Consider this: Last time around the permitting process for Sunflower’s two coal plant proposal took over a year, and KDHE received less than 800 comments. Now, KDHE has already received 4600 comments, and many more will surely be submitted in the next comment period, and yet they are expected to finalize the permit in less than half the time with already 5 times more comments on record. Requiring the technical staff at KDHE to review, consider, and respond to the thousands of comments on record by the end of the year will surely rush the process. The thousands of citizens who took the time to submit comments deserve to have these comments fairly considered – not rushed through in an attempt to avoid appropriate environmental regulations. Sierra Club sent a formal request to the EPA asking them to keep a close watch on the process, reinstate the 45 day comment period, and ensure that all comments are reviewed and responded to. Many of you also submitted letters to the EPA asking for their involvement to ensure the public isn’t denied a fair and open process – thank you to those who wrote letters!

We are confident that the EPA won’t let the permitting process for the Sunflower coal plant be jeopardized any more than it already has been by political and special interests. But, that doesn’t mean our job is done! We need to take this final opportunity to make our concerns heard with this project. Sierra Club recently launched a new website that is solely dedicated to the Sunflower coal plant campaign, and it has factsheets and talking points for your comments, information on our environmental concerns with the coal plant, and data on the financial risks associated with the project (website address below). In addition, you can submit a comment to KDHE directly through our website, and it only takes a few

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Hopeful, continued from page 3

Here’s where the public buy-in becomes a slam dunk. US households receive all of the fees collected on an equal per capita basis. Under the Cantwell-Collins Bill (http://www.grist.org/tags/Cantwell-Collins+climate+bill/), a family of four would receive about $1,100 annually in dividends.

If you’re living an average lifestyle, you should easily break even because your dividend check will cover your increased costs. If you really work at living a green lifestyle, you’re going to come out ahead and make some money in this nifty cooling-the-planet strategy.

Many people are pushing for Cap and Trade as the answer to our climate crisis, but Fee and Dividend presents a much better option. Instead of using my own words here, I’m going to simply reference a section from www.citizensclimatelobby.org:

**Why is Carbon Fee and Dividend better than Cap and Trade?**

Cap and Trade was used by some early signers of the Kyoto Protocol, the first international treaty to address climate change. Though most early adopters tried hard to make it work, Cap and Trade was not easy to understand, energy prices swung wildly, consumers paid the whole cost of the experiment, and it was not very effective in reducing total CO2 emissions.

Much of the reason for this was because of offset credits. Power providers could buy offset credits that allowed them to burn more fossil fuels, but the offset credits did not actually reduce total CO2 emissions. Carbon traders and offset investors made lots of money. Utilities and manufacturers had increased costs that were passed on to the consumer. No real reduction in CO2 was achieved and the consumer was stuck with the bill.

**Carbon Fee and Dividend**

On the other hand, it is easy for everyone to understand, it gives the end consumer 100 percent of the proceeds of the carbon fee to help pay for the transition to clean energy, there are no offset credits or carbon credits to manipulate, and no one technology is singled out to win or loose.

Only with inaction over several years do you become disadvantaged. With action you become more efficient and competitive. The free market picks the winning and losing technologies. Green energy and efficiency measures become cost competitive as prices rise for fossil fuels. As we transition to green technologies and green energies, CO2 emissions are reduced. Investments in green energy spur the development of innovative technologies that we export to other countries. America regains leadership in the green revolution.

I say let’s focus our energy behind Fee and Dividend. The fossil fuel lobbyists and corporations are going to employ their full resources to keep this from happening. But the good news is that most people, if they know that Fee and Dividend will help cool the planet and help them put some green back in their wallets, will be on board.

We need to get busy getting the word out to individuals and organizations. Once they hear about Fee and Dividend, they’ll see the wisdom in this solution to global warming. Together we can make our voices heard. There are a lot more citizens out there than lobbyists (at least at last count). This is a fight we can win.

I call on the Sierra Club, at both the state and national level, to make Fee and Dividend a top priority. I also challenge our organization to change its policy on civil disobedience. Instead of prohibiting this strategy, we need to encourage our members to use non-violent, civil disobedience as a way to step up to the urgency and gravity of global warming.

We don’t have any time to waste. Read Hansen’s Storms of My Grandchildren, or at least skim through it, and I think you’ll agree. The time to act is now. We can not wait for Congress – or anyone else for that matter – to lead the way. We must lead Washington to the solution. We must demand that our leaders take aggressive steps to reduce carbon in the atmosphere by implementing Fee and Dividend. Our children and our grandchildren deserve no less.

Lynate Pettengill is a volunteer activist with the Sierra Club as well as the Development Director for the Kansas Chapter. Contact Lynate at (785) 331-0625 or Lynate@sbcglobal.net.

Oct / Nov 2010
Update of Flint Hills Burning Problem
By Craig Volland, Air Quality Chair

Widespread burning of grass in the Flint Hills in April caused an exceedance of the ozone standard at the Topeka monitor, and the smoke plume was traced all the way to the east coast (including Washington DC!).

Last year USEPA Region 7 turned down KDHE’s request to “flag the data” so that recent incidences of this type would not count toward a violation of the ozone standard. The EPA’s decision was based on the fact that KDHE had not developed a Smoke Management Plan. So KDHE set up a committee to formulate a SMP to lay the groundwork for the next request by KDHE for an exemption for the Flint Hills burning when it causes unhealthy air in our state.

At the first public meeting of the SMP Advisory Committee a representative from EPA said that one basis for “flagging the data” might be that the burning is necessary to “preserve the prairie.” At these meetings we have stated that the SMP must address the scale and frequency of the burning in a manner that eliminates destruction of grassland bird habitat. If not, KDHE cannot make the claim on behalf of Flint Hills landowners that the current burning practices are necessary to “preserve the prairie.” So far, after two public meetings, KDHE’s Smoke Management Plan Committee has not adequately addressed this part of the issue. We will continue to argue that one cannot be “preserving the prairie” while at the same time engaging in practices that are destroying habitat and inhibiting the reproduction of prairie chickens and other grassland birds.

Meanwhile the comment period for the Environmental Assessment and Land Protection Plan prepared by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for their Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Plan closed on May 15. Members of our chapter met with USFWS in August for further discussion. Our concern is that the Plan contains no significant provisions to address the intensive burning and grazing that is diminishing the populations of the greater prairie chicken and other grassland birds. More detail can be found on our website at www.kansas.sierraclub.org.

Note: Two pictures in the Engagement Calendar are from Douglas County. One of the pictures is of Haskell-Baker Wetlands.
Winter Survival—Bird Style?

By Virginia Rhys Anson

Have you ever felt like giving a sparrow or a chickadee your parka on a cold winter day? Or maybe you wanted to find tiny boots to warm its feet. Such was my desire as I peered from the toasty coziness of my living room at a minus thirty degrees wintry scene of chickadees hopping gleefully from branch to branch. However, I needn’t have worried. Whereas I am absolutely frigid at temperatures below zero degrees, many species of birds can live quite comfortably in subzero temperatures.

Boots for birds? Don’t start a franchise just yet. A bird’s feet don’t feel the cold the way human feet do. Our feet and hands freeze because they are covered with soft skin. Skin is soft because about sixty percent of the human body is water which freezes in temperatures below thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit. But a bird’s feet are made mostly of bones that are covered with tough scaly skin that contains less water than ours. Bird legs, likewise, lose less body heat than human legs. Interestingly, a bird loses less body heat as temperatures decrease. When it is thirty degrees, a bird loses about three-fourths of its body heat. But when the temperature lowers to less than twenty degrees, a bird loses only about one-sixteenth of its remaining body heat.

Blood vessels play a significant role in heat retention. The vessels in a bird’s legs are arranged so that they help the bird stay warm. In a bird, the veins, which carry blood back to the heart, lie close to the arteries. Arteries carry blood away from the heart, which means that arterial blood is usually warmer than blood in the veins. If veins lie next to arteries, the arterial blood will help keep the venous blood warmer.

Birds, as one can surmise by watching them flit from limb to limb, have a high metabolism. A bird’s metabolism is about twice as high as that of a human being. Metabolism is the way in which the body uses food and oxygen to produce energy. An animal’s body temperature gives a clue as to how high that animal’s metabolism is. The higher an animal’s temperature is, the higher is its metabolism. A human being’s normal temperature is a mere 98.6 degrees. Birds, however, have the highest temperature of any animal with ranges between 104 degrees and 113 degrees. This higher temperature range shows that birds produce more body heat—thus the higher metabolism which helps them to stay warmer in the winter.

Blood vessels play a significant role in heat retention. The vessels in a bird’s legs are arranged so that they help the bird stay warm. In a bird, the veins, which carry blood back to the heart, lie close to the arteries. Arteries carry blood away from the heart, which means that arterial blood is usually warmer than blood in the veins. If veins lie next to arteries, the arterial blood will help keep the venous blood warmer.

Birds, as one can surmise by watching them flit from limb to limb, have a high metabolism. A bird’s metabolism is about twice as high as that of a human being. Metabolism is the way in which the body uses food and oxygen to produce energy. An animal’s body temperature gives a clue as to how high that animal’s metabolism is. The higher an animal’s temperature is, the higher is its metabolism. A human being’s normal temperature is a mere 98.6 degrees. Birds, however, have the highest temperature of any animal with ranges between 104 degrees and 113 degrees. This higher temperature range shows that birds produce more body heat—thus the higher metabolism which helps them to stay warmer in the winter.

Some birds increase their metabolism as the weather gets colder. The redpoll, which is a type of finch, can survive in temperatures that reach minus sixty degrees. Brrr! Snowy owls have likewise adapted quite well to arctic conditions. When the wind-chill dips to minus forty degrees, the snowy owl’s metabolism is nearly double what it was when the wind-chill was minus ten degrees. Other birds, like chickadees, will lower their body temperatures at night when the weather gets extremely cold. This helps their bodies conserve energy.

Of course, birds couldn’t have higher metabolisms if they didn’t eat plenty of food. Their bodies change this food into energy and body heat. And birds do eat plenty, as anyone with a bird feeder can attest. During the day, avian bodies change this food into fat. At night they use this fat as food which helps them keep warm.

Did you ever wonder why people who live in cold climates like to wear parkas filled with goose-down feathers? Feathers are one of the best materials for insulating against the cold. Mother Nature is a master at her craft. Much like other animals grow thicker coats of fur in the winter, birds grow extra feathers. This, of course, helps protect them from the cold. The American goldfinch has about 1000 more feathers in the winter than it does in the summer.

Birds instinctively know how to get the most protection from their tiny feathers. They fluff them. By fluffing, they nearly triple the size of their winter coats. Fluffing traps air between the feathers, and a bird’s body heat warms this air. The trapped air then acts as extra insulation, which helps the feathers keep the cold out and body heat in. For this purpose, birds have two types of feathers—contour feathers and down feathers. The contour feathers make up the top layer. They protect the smaller down feathers. In the winter, when a chickadee needs more protection, it will make the contour feathers stand up, much like the hairs on our arms do when we are cold.

The next time you find a bird feather on the ground, study it carefully. It will probably be a contour feather. You will

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see that the feather is not one solid piece. It has tiny vanes on both sides of the main shaft. These tiny vanes are called barbs. Each barb looks like it could easily break off of the shaft. However, if this would happen, the barb has hooks on it called barbules. These barbules are so small that you would need a microscope to see them. If a barb does break off, the barbules hold it in place. This way, the bird doesn’t lose a part of a feather that it needs for insulation.

Down feathers are more delicate than contour feathers. They are also waterproof. Down feathers don’t have the straight vanes or the barbules that the contour feathers have. Down barbs are fluffy and weave among each other. By doing this, they trap air, which creates a second layer of insulation below the contour feathers.

So, birds really are well equipped to survive in extremely cold weather. They don’t need those little parkas and boots after all. And, if all of their protection fails, they can always migrate or do as the Emperor penguins do. The penguins huddle together in a group of about 1000 or more and take turns standing on the outside of the group. This means that each one gets a chance to be cozy in the center.

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Winter Survival, continued from page 11

Eating As Though The Earth Matters

Fish Tales Get Serious

By Judy Carman, M.A.

We’ve all heard some pretty good fish tales about “the big one who got away,” but the lies and cover-ups going on in the fish industry these days are a much more serious matter. The world’s waters and those who live in them are on our minds a lot these days as oil spills, explosions, and multi-source pollution continue to threaten all bodies of water on the planet. And not just on our minds, but I believe most of us would agree—on our hearts as well. While I am sharing disturbing news in this article about fish farms and genetic tampering with fish, I also want to offer some very effective steps we can take to counter this trend and make a big difference.

The news is that salmon farms have just gone from bad to worse. Salmon and all fish farms are notorious for polluting the waters around them and producing sick and toxic fish. Robert J. Diaz of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and Rutger Rosenberg of the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, reported in the August, 2008, edition of the journal Science that there are over 400 dead zones in the world’s oceans. While most of these dead zones are caused primarily by runoff from industrial farms, agricultural and municipal sewage, fertilizers, and burning fossil fuel, these researchers point out that fish farms can also cause dead zone conditions. (Earthsave.org; October, 2008, article)

In a December 9, 2002, L.A. Times article (reprinted at organicconsumers.org) entitled “Salmon Farms are Factory Farms: Dioxins, pollution, and environmental carelessness,” the author Kenneth Weiss explains that fish farms have become the “feedlots of the sea,” causing havoc wherever they are found. A typical fish pen of 100 feet by 100 feet may contain as many as 90,000 fish. He reports that the fish are vaccinated for diseases, “dosed with antibiotics,” and given pesticides to rid them of sea lice. They are also fed synthetic dye so that their flesh will be pink. All this—because of the crowded, abnormal conditions in which they live which, as we know, causes disease and suffering on many levels.

Salmon farming started in Norway in the 1960s and has spread rapidly in cold water areas. In addition to the toxins fed to the fish, the fish waste and uneaten food falls to the sea floor. Not only does it lay down a toxic layer of gunk over the sea floor, but that gunk consumes oxygen and causes hypoxic (low oxygen) conditions as well. Weiss quotes Daniel Pauly, professor of fisheries at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, who stated “They’re like floating pig farms.” And like flies at pig factories, “Clouds of sea lice, incubated by captive fish on farms, swarm wild salmon as they swim past on their migration to the ocean,” Weiss points out.

Possibly the most outrageous fact is that it takes a whopping

You can begin reducing your Carbon Footprint... right in your own kitchen!!
2.4 pounds of wild fish to produce only one pound of farmed salmon, according to Rosamond L. Naylor, an agricultural economist at Stanford’s Center for Environmental Science and Policy. “We are not taking strain off wild fisheries. We are adding to it,” Naylor said. “This cannot be sustained forever.”

Well, that was the “bad.” Now here is the “worse.” According to the Center for Food Safety (truefoodnow.org) in an article posted on September 3, 2010 entitled “Public still in the dark on transgenic salmon,” there is now a very real danger of genetically modified salmon being approved by the FDA for human consumption.

The article states that the FDA announced on August 25 “that the agency will potentially approve the long-shelved AquAdvantage transgenic salmon as the first genetically engineered (GE) animal intended for human consumption. The data provided by FDA today is rather scant given that the FDA has had 10 years to review the product. The study on changes in the morphology of the new GE salmon involved only 12 fish. The limited study on possible allergic reactions involved only 6 fertile GE fish and 6 infertile fish. These small sample sizes are inadequate for a full review of the health and safety of these fish when they are raised in a commercial operation. Rather than tell the company to run new studies with adequate sample sizes, the FDA is recommending the fish not be raised in the US, but that the eggs be produced in Canada and the fish be grown in Panama and imported into the US.”

Rep. Dennis Kucinich Chairman of the House Domestic Policy Subcommittee, which has broad jurisdiction over many federal agencies, including the FDA, immediately wrote to FDA Principle Deputy Commissioner Joshua Sharfstein asking the FDA to slow down and allow time for public comment.

The genetically engineered Atlantic salmon was developed by AquaBounty Technologies. This company “combined growth hormone genes from an unrelated Pacific salmon, (Oncorhynchus tshawyt'scha) with DNA from the anti-freeze genes of an eelpout (Zoarces americanus),” according to the article. The purpose, of course as with all industrial agriculture, is to grow fast and big regardless of the consequences to the health of human beings and life in general.

The FDA currently has developed no adequate way to assess the fish as food intended for human beings. So instead of developing such a protocol, the FDA is proceeding with plans to assess the GE fish the same way they would review a new animal drug. Outrageous as it may seem, AquaBounty is being allowed to keep hidden from the public anything they consider “confidential business information.”

Erich Pica, President of Friends of the Earth US, stated, “If approved, GE fish could be the last blow to wild Atlantic salmon stocks… there are countless points where GE salmon can escape into the wild from this system.”

What we can do:

We can start by going to truefoodnow.org, sign the petition, make comments, write letters, and spread the word. But there is a great deal more we can do as guardians of this beautiful planet. We can stop eating fish and other animals altogether and thus put an absolute and final end to any contribution on our part to the destruction of the waters of the earth caused by the farming, fishing, and killing of animals. Veganism (which includes a plant based diet) is the ultimate boycott. When we take that one compassionate step, then each one of us no longer participates in the suffering or the slaughter of the animals, nor do we take part in polluting the earth and water with herbicides, pesticides, antibiotics, fertilizers, and all the other toxins produced by animal and fish agriculture. When we take that step, then each one of us can say—three times a day, at every meal, “I am making a stand right now to do what I can to heal the earth and end the insanity of human domination and exploitation.”

One of today’s most famous environmental heroes is Captain Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. He and his crew put their lives directly on the line to save whales (as seen in the Animal Planet series “Whale Wars”), Galapagos wildlife, Bluefin Tuna, sharks, and many other residents of the seas. Many people are surprised to learn that no animal products are ever served on board Sea Shepherd vessels. The organization is totally committed to teaching through example that we cannot work to save the earth while at the same time consuming animal products. In a recent article in the summer, 2010, issue of American Vegan magazine, Paul was quoted as saying “People ask us, ‘Why is it a vegan vessel?’ I tell them that to be an environmentalist, you have to be vegan.”

Earth and Animal Friendly Recipes

Instead of the recipes that usually accompany this column, I thought it would be fun this time to share with you some menus from Watson’s ship the Steve Irwin. These are excerpted from the article “Anchors Away!: Cruising the Antarctic on Sea Shepherd’s Vegan Vessel,” by Janet Allen, American Vegan, Summer, 2010.

“BREAKFAST: It’s important to always cook something warm and hearty in the morning. Some people are coming off night shifts, so breakfast is their dinner…

“Baked Beans on Toast with tomatoes and spinach…it’s a British thing!

“Avocado on Toast, French Toast or Pancakes, Biscuits and Gravy. Gravy is easy to make: Just fry up some onions, then add flour, nutritional yeast, and soy sauce.

“Tofu Scramble, Hash Browns, Fakin’ Bacon/Soysages

“Always available: toast, cereal, oatmeal, packaged muesli, nuts and seeds.

“LUNCH: Typically three main things are offered: a rotation among soups, salads, sandwiches, stews, pasta, and vegan hot dogs, with sides like garlic bread or French fries.

“AFTERNOON SNACK: Hot Tea, Baked or Sweet Treats Such as cookies, cake, or ‘bread with chocolate on the inside.’ ‘If you’ve been outside on the deck or out on the ocean,
you’re starving and cold. They always make an extra treat after you return from a mission, like hot chocolate.—LDG’

“DINNER: Theme Nights. Keep it interesting: Italian, Mexican, Thai or Indian (curries, dal, samosas). A lot of meals with quinoa because that’s packed full of nutrition.—LDG A crew favorite is veggie pizza, but the Captain absolutely hates it! So we always substitute something special for him, like his favorite: Cream of Mushroom soup.—LD &SM

“GALLEY STAPLES: Fresh bread comes out of the oven on a daily basis; fresh fruit, vegetables, and avocados for the first few weeks; heavy reliance on long-lasting veggies, onions, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, pumpkins; frozen and canned items (fruits, vegetables, coconut cream); rice, pasta, legumes*, whole grains; fake meats: These are treat items, not a major portion of the meal, since they’re really processed and high in fat.—LD; Bragg’s Amino Acids, and nutritional yeast… (“Legumes: peas, dried beans, and lentils; along with nuts and seeds, provide plant-sourced proteins.”)


Nature, My Second Home ... Nay, Perhaps My First

By Virginia Rhys Anson

The glow of the gas lantern, its globes as bright as daylight, enveloped the tent. Wall-to-wall sleeping bags carpeted the floor as a family of ten children donned pajamas for its repose under a canopy of pines. Camping—the vacation of my youth, the origin of my love of nature.

The Rocky Mountain morning brought a chill. Okay, it was downright cold. Eleven bodies remained cocooned in sleeping bags while Dad started the breakfast campfire. Soon crackles of flames kissing wood greeted our ears. Noses peaked from the top of sleeping bags, followed by heads. Inch-by-inch entire bodies emerged. Twas time to brave the cold and dress. But wait, what of child ten, barely a few months old and nowhere to be seen?

“Bob.” Mom’s attempt to stifle panic betrayed her. “Did you take Sean out with you?”

“No, Dear.” Dad read mom’s voice and joined her in the tent to search for baby, everyone cautioned to look before stepping.

A few minutes passed and Sean was found asleep, snuggled inside Mom and Dad’s sleeping bag, having wiggled his way to its foot. Mom enfolded him in her arms as laughter of relief emitted from the tent.

“Oh, the bacon.” Dad rushed back to the fire as bacon’s aroma, joined shortly by the smells of scrambling egg and toasting, homemade bread, tempted growling stomachs. It was not long and all remnants of breakfast, except for dirty dishes, disappeared.

The camping of my youth in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains east of Santa Fe, New Mexico was never a crowded affair, for no neighbors could be seen, only the magnificence of the forest. Days in the forest were created for unwrapping Mother Nature’s many secrets and surprises. The morning dew, glinting in a sunbeam, revealed an intricate spider web, minus the spider—deceptively absent. The dew drops disguised an elaborate, lacy design sparkling with the tiny, spherical prisms. A glance at the branch anchoring the apex of the web, and I spied Lady Spider, skillfully camouflaged.

Exploring nature solo refreshed my soul with God’s beauty. Maybe this was because I, the eldest of this brood of ten, relished time alone that I have essentially never known. Or, perhaps, it was that Nature became my second home and would gradually become the home of primacy for my spirit. In truth, it was the latter that fashioned my love of Nature’s solitude. I had never fathomed the concept of alone time as my eldest brother is eleven months my minor. It never occurred to me that I might want an escape from a mass of siblings. When I
eventually grew to find my way as an adult, silence and lack of commotion were disconcerting.

But I digress.

The mountain air warms quickly. The chill was soon replaced with the sun’s toasty rays as they filtered through pine-needled branches. A ray found my back and erased the lingering chill. The aroma of the campfire still mingled with the pine’s perfume. A chipmunk scammed past my foot, my eyes following him as he maneuvered through a twig covered path, shortly disappearing into his subterranean home near a tree’s root.

Exploring on, I caught a glimpse of a deer grazing in the distance. I froze so as not to spook her. She gingerly strolled among the trees, periodically rooting for a snack. Every so often, she raised her head, surveying the safety of her position and returned to her snack. Mesmerized, I was lost in her movement, entranced by her graceful wildness. Years later, deer would become my writer’s muse. But a twig’s snap or a scent and she was off, my trance broken.

As I headed toward the river that flowed behind our tent, a caterpillar—a wooly worm—diverted my attention as he inched his way up a tree trunk. I love wooly worms. Interrupting his journey, I let him crawl on my finger. He tickled a bit as my hand and eventually my arm, became his surrogate tree trunk. His wooly coat rippled as he crawled along. Not wishing to disturb him for too long, I placed him, once again, onto the trunk so he could continue his journey.

An air horn blast interrupted my serenity. An addition investigative over, I sat by the bank and removed my shoes and socks. Wading in a river is a child’s delight. Of course, the first few steps are teeth chattering. Who would dream that anything on a warm summer day could be so frigid? However, a few minutes of wading and the chill was imperceptible. The stones beneath my feet, though slippery, didn’t encourage me to lose my balance due to their varied sizes. The current of the rapids that flowed over small boulders—well, that was another issue. Being a skinny kid made it difficult to defend against their attack. So I stuck to the calm pool ahead of the rapids.

Occasionally a trout swam within view, and I watched as it lingered chill. The aroma of the campfire still mingled with the pine’s perfume. A chipmunk scampered past my foot, my eyes following him as he maneuvered through a twig covered path, shortly disappearing into his subterranean home near a tree’s root.

As I headed toward the river that flowed behind our tent, a caterpillar—a wooly worm—diverted my attention as he inched his way up a tree trunk. I love wooly worms. Interrupting his journey, I let him crawl on my finger. He tickled a bit as my hand and eventually my arm, became his surrogate tree trunk. His wooly coat rippled as he crawled along. Not wishing to disturb him for too long, I placed him, once again, onto the trunk so he could continue his journey.

As evening encroached, a cricket choir filled the night, the river supplying the orchestral element and a distance owl providing the occasional solo. The air gave a hint of an impending rain as I sat staring into the fire, captivated by its hues of gold and bronze dancing into the night. Its warmth wrapped me in a cozy embrace.

An air horn blast interrupted my serenity. An addition to our Greenbrier van, the air horn was Dad’s innovation for summoning his charges who had scattered hither and yon for their morning adventures. Carrying my shoes, I trekked barefoot to join my siblings.

“Anyone wanna’ go fishing?” Dad’s query was readily met with an off key chorus of ‘Yah, I do.’”

The array of fishing rods that Dad had so neatly lined on the picnic table quickly disappeared as those old enough to fish formed a line awaiting their worms. Some were brave and skewered their worms themselves—count me in. The more squeamish lot let Dad bate their hooks.

Soon would-be fisher boys and girls claimed their spots along the river’s bank for catches that they didn’t realize would become dinner. Rarely have that many children been so quiet for so long. The only place that would evoke even more silence would be Sunday Mass. An occasional squeal revealed the catch of another trout for the evening meal.

Dinner caught, the older children helped gut and clean the fish for dinner—well, at least those who didn’t think it was gross. As for me, I became almost a master at it—at least as much as a child can be a master fish gutter.

Mom always refused to clean fish. It was not because she was squeamish. Mom was about the least squeamish person you could meet. It was, as she said, “Because if I don’t learn how to clean fish, that is one job I’ll never have to do.” I suppose, as the mother of ten, she was entitled to refuse a job every so often.

That evening’s meal was most impressionable as we feasted on rainbow trout that we ourselves had caught. Trout baked over a campfire takes on the sweetish flavor of river trout enhanced with a hint of smoke flavor. Top that with campfire cooked American fries and baked beans with a homemade ice cream chaser, and…Well, let’s just say no king ever had such a spread.

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Oct / Nov 2010
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**General Meetings**

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**Kanza Group (Kansas City)**
**October 12. 6:30 pm.**

The Kansas Land Trust
6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program. Bring your own mug for drinks and for the Ugly Mug Contest.
7:00 pm - Jason Fizell, Executive Director of the Kansas Land Trust (KLT), will provide a primer on how land trusts work as well as the advantages of using conservation easements for private land protection. Maps, photographs, and real-like examples will be used to demonstrate: 1) who KLT works with and how; 2) where protected properties are located and which areas are priorities; 3) why these properties are protected for their conservations values; and 4) what prohibited uses and reserved rights are negotiated to do so.

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

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**Southwind Group (Wichita)**
**November 12. 6:30 pm.**

General Membership Meeting
6:30 pm - Food & Conversation
7:30 pm - Program will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center; program to be announced. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

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**Topeka Group**
**October 26. 6:00 pm.**

Candidates Forum
6:00 p.m. Coffee and Conversation. Meet and Greet.
7:00 pm - Program. Meet candidates for Shawnee County and Congressional offices.

Where - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church, 4775 SW 21st St

Contact - Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@ksbroadband.net

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**Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)**
**October 1. 7:00 pm.**

2010 Elections and 2010 Kansas Legislative Session
Chris Cardinal, Legislative Director for the Sierra Club, Kansas Chapter, discusses what to expect in this year's elections and the upcoming Legislative session. Everyone welcome, including non-Sierra Club members.

Where - ECM at KU, 1204 Oread.

Contact - Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, Lynate@sbcglobal.net

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**Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)**
**November 5. 6:00 pm.**

Potluck and Hike at Clinton Lake
Potluck followed by night hike at Clinton, E-mail Lynate@sbcglobal.net for directions to potluck and hike, or call 331-0625. Everyone welcome, including non-Sierra Club members.

Contact - Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, Lynate@sbcglobal.net

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**Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)**
**December 3. 7:00 pm.**

Medicinal Plants of Kansas
Dr. Quinn Long will present. Everyone welcome, including non-Sierra Club members. ECM at KU, 1204 Oread.

Contact - Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, Lynate@sbcglobal.net

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**Kanza Group (Kansas City)**
**November 9. 6:30 pm.**

Heifer International in Honduras: Building Sustainable Communities
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 - Heather Sommer will tell us about Heifer International, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. Heather, a teacher in the Shawnee Mission School District, visited Honduras this past summer on a Heifer International Study Tour for Educators. A slide show of Honduras’ agricultural communities will describe how the Honduran people attain a sustainable living through earth friendly practices. Come and learn how this great organization is raising people from poverty all over the world.

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

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**Southwind Group (Wichita)**
**October 8. 6:30 pm.**

Meet the Candidates
6:30 pm - Food & Conversation
7:30 pm - Great Plains Nature Center: meet & greet local candidates for public office who have been endorsed by the Sierra Club. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

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**Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)**
**December 3. 7:00 pm.**

Medicinal Plants of Kansas
Dr. Quinn Long will present. Everyone welcome, including non-Sierra Club members. ECM at KU, 1204 Oread.

Contact - Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, Lynate@sbcglobal.net
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.

[3] 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 24. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com

[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

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

[2] Oct 11. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town
Drinks and Conversation at the Caffé Moderne. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com

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


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

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

Meet at the Kirkbride Ranch at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. Specific directions will be sent in response to RSVPs. A $5.00 donation will be requested. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 322-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

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

Join us on this magical mystery tour. Location to be announced. Kanza. Terry DeFraties, (913) 385-7374, theerustbucket@aol.com

[2] Nov 8. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town
Drinks and Conversation at the Caffé Moderne. Southwind.
### Committee Meetings

**Kanza Group**  
(Kansas City)

**Executive Committee**  
Oct 25, Dec 6 - 7:00 pm,  
Steve Baru, (913) 814-0583,  
steve.baru@sierraclub.org

**Joint Action Committee**  
Oct 25, Dec 6 - 7:00 pm,  
Conservation, legislative, and political  
Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620,  
craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Southwind Group**  
(Wichita)

**Executive and Fundraising Committee**  
Oct 4, Nov 1 - 6:00 pm  
Equity Bank Building  
Dave Kirkbride, (316) 655-8299,  
david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Conservation Committee**  
Oct 19, Nov 16 - 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. Lynate Pettengill  
(785) 331-0625,  
Lynate@sbcglobal.net

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

**Kansas Chapter:** (State), Executive Committee, Oct 23, Nov 20  
Frank Drinkwine (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org

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Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

This 4-hour class we’ll show you how to plan a trip from conception to end. We’ll demonstrate cooking lightweight nutritious meals, and sampling some as well. Other subjects include: Dehydrating food, menu planning, repackaging and organizing food for the trail. Take the mystery out of trip planning. Bring a trip you want to do. Class cost $25.  
Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

[1] **Nov 26. Dog friendly day hike- George Latham trail at Clinton Lake**  
$5.00 donation requested.  
Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

We’ll backpack a 16-20 mile section of the OHT. $10 donation requested.  
Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, davedahiker@gmail

Bring gloves, we’ll provide trash bags & hot cocoa, as we clean up trash near a popular wildlife cove.  
Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

[1] **Jan 1. New Years day hike at the Prairie Center in Olathe**  
Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

[4] **Jan 8. Lake Jacomo day hike, Blue Springs, MO**  
Enjoy the crisp winter air as we hike and explore some off trail ravines and woodlands. Bring your lunch, and we’ll provide the hot chocolate. $5 donation requested.  
Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

Enjoy two winter nights in the woods at Paddy Creek Wilderness. Friday evening we will hike to our first camp by a spring feed creek. Saturday evening we will camp on a ridge overlooking a valley. Sunday we will break camp and have a short hike out. $10.00 donation requested.  
Kanza. Bryan Ohrman, (816) 215-3376, pbandj14@comcast.net

We’ll reclaim trail on a wooded section, which bridges Colbern Rd to the “Hoofed Animal Enclosure”. Bring Lunch and work gloves.  
Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

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**[Image]**
Deadline for the next issue is November 15

Calendar of Events

Summary of all Kansas Chapter Events

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

GM Oct 1. 7:00 pm. 2010 Elections and 2010 Kansas Legislative Session. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, Lynate@sbcglobal.net
Out Oct 2. 8:00 am. Greensburg Greentown Tour. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
Out Oct 2. 8:00 am. Greensburg Greentown Tour. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
CM Oct 4. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Oct 8. 6:30 pm. General Membership Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Oct 11. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
GM Oct 12. 6:30 pm. The Kansas Land Trust. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM Oct 19. 6:30 pm. Conservation Committee. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
CM Oct 25. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Steve Baru, (913) 814-0583, steve.baru@sierraclub.org
CM Oct 25. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Oct 26. 6:00 pm meet & greet. 7:00 pm Program. Candidates’ Forum. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; ganderson1963@ksbroadband.net
CM Nov 1. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Nov 5. 6:00 pm. Potluck and Hike at Clinton Lake. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, Lynate@sbcglobal.net
Out Nov 5–7. Backpacking at Devil’s Den Wilderness Area, Dora, MO. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, davedahiker@gmail.com
Out Nov 6–7. Float Trip. Kanza. Terry DeFraties, (913) 385-7374, theerustbucket@aol.com
Out Nov 6 & 7. 9:30 am. Annual Gyp Hills Hike. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Nov 6. Perry Lake Hiking Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, hassler@planetkc.com
Out Nov 8. 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 Nov 9. 6:30 pm. Heifer International in Honduras: Building Sustainable Communities. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Nov 12. 6:30 pm. General Membership Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
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Out Nov 26. Dog friendly day hike. George Latham trail at Clinton Lake. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com
GM Dec 3. 7:00 pm. Medicinal Plants of Kansas. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, Lynate@sbcglobal.net