Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan Off to a Shaky Start

By Craig Volland, Chair of the Air Quality Committee

The Flint Hills burning season is over and it wasn’t pretty, at least to those who had to breathe the polluted air. Downwind locations in Kansas suffered four exceedances of the ozone air quality standard (75 ppb, 8-hour average.) on April 6 and 12. Two of these occurred at Wichita monitors and one each in Topeka and Linn County. On April 13 an exceedance occurred at a monitor just northeast of Kansas City, Missouri. According to visual satellite data collected by researchers at KSU, the timing of the exceedances corresponds to when the vast majority of grassland burning was done during the first two weeks of the month. Smoke was reported in southeastern and central Nebraska as well.

This year’s impacts are on a par with the high levels of pollution measured in the years 2003 and 2009. Weather conditions during the events were not unusual, so it appears that SMP didn’t achieve much change in ranchers’ burning practices. One final exceedance occurred on April 29 at the monitor south of Wichita in Sumner County, but that may be related to wildfires or other activities to the south of Kansas.

Exceedances are not in themselves violations of the ozone air quality standard. Individual values are averaged over a three-year period for each monitor. We anticipate that KDHE will submit a request to EPA Region 7 that the data from this year’s events be “flagged” which means they would be excluded from official calculations to determine if a violation has occurred.

We have already notified EPA that we oppose the flagging of data. By law, EPA’s first priority is to protect the public health. As we noted in previous articles on this subject, the SMP formulated under the auspices of KDHE did not address the core problem with the Flint Hill burning which is the
Sierra Club info

Chapter Office
Sierra Club, Kansas Chapter
c/o Craig Wolfe
9844 Georgia
Kansas City, KS 66109-4326
913-299-4443
info@kansas.sierraclub.org

National Headquarters
Sierra Club
85 Second St., 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441
415-977-5500

Legislative Director
Chris Cardinal,
785-200-8010
Chris@campaign.cc

Associate Regional Representative
Stephanie Cole
913-906-9332
Stephanie.Cole@sierraclub.org

Development Director
Lynate Pettengill
785-331-0625
LynatePettengill@yahoo.com

Planet Kansas Newsletter & Website:
Send articles, events, outings and updates to Craig Wolfe at info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Chapter Members Holding National Positions
• Yvonne Cather - Member of and Secretary for the Council of Club Leaders Executive Committee,

www.kansas.sierraclub.org 888-7-SIERRA

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

My Name__
Address__
City/State__Zip__
Phone__
e-mail__

☐ Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
Please charge my ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ AMEX Exp. Date____

Cardholder Name__

Card Number__

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

INDIVIDUAL

J OINT

INTRODUCTORY
☐ $25

REGULAR
☐ $39

SUPPORTING
☐ $75

CONTRIBUTING
☐ $150

LIFE
☐ $1000

SENIOR
☐ $24

STUDENT/LIMITED INCOME
☐ $24

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include $7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and $1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enlighten and mail to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet
War: The Ultimate Environmental Disaster

By Bob Sommer

“...it is indeed possible to point out the faults of someone that you support, or to criticize an agency for not living up to its promise or potential. In fact, it is not only possible but also imperative that we do so.”

— Michael Brune, Executive Director for National Sierra Club

The question of whether the Sierra Club should take a stand against the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan was asked and answered in 2002, before the invasion of Iraq. That’s when a handful of Club members in Utah, known as the Glen Canyon Four, publicly declared their opposition to the Bush Administration’s war-mongering and in doing so identified themselves as Club leaders.

Patrick Diehl, the Glen Canyon Group’s Vice Chair, presciently declared, “The present administration has declared its intention to achieve total military dominance of the world. We believe that such ambitions will produce a state of perpetual war, undoing whatever protection of the environment that conservation groups may have so far achieved.”

A few weeks earlier, in November 2002, the Sierra Club Board of Directors had issued a resolution expressing concern for “the dire environmental consequences of war” and admonishing the U.S. and other nations to “recognize that their continued dependence on oil and other fossil fuels is, itself, a significant de-stabilizing influence in international affairs.” Notably, the resolution also said that the Sierra Club “supports disarming Iraq of weapons of mass destruction.”

For its public opposition to the imminent war, the Glen Canyon Group was threatened with dissolution for “breach of leadership trust.” Diehl himself was removed from the Group’s ExCom by the Sierra Club Board of Directors. Similar flare-ups occurred elsewhere, but the Club has offered no further comment on Iraq or Afghanistan (or more recently, Libya) in the near-decade since that resolution.

The Sierra Club landed on the wrong side of history by supporting the invasion, but still, nine years and now three on-going wars later, that resolution stands as the Club’s only policy statement on America’s wars.

The May-June 2011 issue of Sierra magazine, however, appears to open the door to that issue once again, without doubt unintentionally and in a most disturbing way. The cover story, entitled “Wilderness Diplomacy,” is a bizarre photo-essay in which Afghan citizens pose...
Sunflower Coal Plant Campaign Update:
A Legal Victory…but, it’s still not over.

By Stephanie Cole, Associate Regional Representative

In a recent victory, a federal judge sided with Sierra Club and Earthjustice and ruled that the federal government violated law by providing approval and financial assistance to the controversial Sunflower coal plant without first completing the necessary environmental review.

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provided taxpayer-funded loans to Sunflower for its first coal plant, Holcomb I, in the 1980’s. Shortly after Holcomb I came online, Sunflower began to struggle financially, in large part due to having built a coal plant larger than what it needed. Sunflower’s financial struggles required the RUS to restructure its debt on extremely favorable terms to Sunflower – essentially writing off millions of dollars in taxpayer loans. These debt restructuring arrangements, or bailouts, left the RUS with substantial control over Sunflower’s business operations. To date, Sunflower still owes the federal government hundreds of millions of dollars.

Sunflower and its partner, Tri-State of Colorado, continue to attempt to add an additional coal plant in Holcomb despite the fact that there is no need for the capacity, despite the fact that after three decades Sunflower still has not repaid the hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayer loans that it owes from its first plant at Holcomb, and despite the fact that very few others in the electric power industry are trying to construct new coal plants now with demand down, low natural gas prices, and looming environmental regulations. The Court has asked for additional briefing to determine whether activities at the project should be halted until a full environmental review is conducted. That briefing will be completed in the coming months, with a decision anytime after that.

Sierra Club and Earthjustice have challenged the permit KDHE issued late last year. This case is now pending before the state Supreme Court. As always, we will keep you informed as things progress. Thank you for your continued support!

Quindaro in KCK Is Poster Child for Pollution Impacts

Quindaro is in the heart of the industrial corridor located along the Missouri and Kansas Rivers and surrounded by chemical manufacturers, electrical power plants, cement factories, wastewater treatment plants and EPA-permitted facilities that impact both the air and water quality of the community. With high poverty rates and heavy pollutant loads, the young people of Quindaro are vulnerable. Health impacts from indoor and outdoor air pollution have a disproportionately higher impact on African American children than children of other racial and ethnic groups (asthma rates are 131 per 1,000 for non-Hispanic African American children, compared to 91 per 1,000 for all groups and 81 per 1,000 for whites). Since asthma is the leading cause of hospitalization of children, and the leading cause of school absenteeism, the high rates seen in Wyandotte County, especially among African Americans, are likely to significantly impact their school performance. In short, environmental concerns today reinforce the challenges of poverty tomorrow.

Quindaro is home to the Quindaro Power Station. Quindaro Power Station is a 239-megawatt coal-fired power station located within walking distance of most of the population of Quindaro. A study commissioned by the Clean Air Task Force, and conducted by Abt Associates found that, nationwide, over 13,000 deaths and tens of thousands of cases of chronic bronchitis, acute bronchitis, asthma-related episodes and asthma-related emergency room visits, congestive heart failure, acute myocardial infarction, dysrhythmia, ischemic heart disease, chronic lung disease, pneumonia each year are attributable to fine particle pollution from coal-fired power plants.

Using the Clean Air Task Force interactive table, we extrapolated the data to find that an average of five deaths a year and 84 cases of asthma in Quindaro can be attributed to the fact that our community is home to this power plant. A full breakdown of the impact of the power station follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Likely Impact*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart attacks</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma attacks</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital admissions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic bronchitis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma ER visits</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


June - July 2011

See Quindaro on page 11
50 States United for Healthy Air – A Broad Perspective on Protecting Health

Doctors, nurses, clergy and affected citizens travel from across the country to Washington DC demanding clean air.

Washington, D.C. – Doctors, nurses, faith and tribal leaders, social justice advocates and affected citizens from all 50 states are convening in Washington, D.C. this week to meet with Obama administration officials and their elected officials on Capitol Hill to send a simple, powerful message: “All Americans have a right to breathe clean, healthy air.” This unprecedented gathering of more than 150 individuals representing dozens of faith, health, environmental, and community groups will be meeting with Representatives, Senators and other officials on a wide range of health standards being considered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Communities across the country are routinely exposed to harmful levels of toxic air pollution from industrial sources such as power plants, cement plants, and incinerators. This pollution is robbing people in these communities of their lives, their health, and their ability to raise their children in healthy homes, back yards, schools, playgrounds and parks. May is recognized as “National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month,” and the impact of dirty air on those suffering from asthma is severe and pervasive. By simply cleaning up power plants—our nation’s dirtiest polluters—the EPA estimates that 120,000 asthma attacks will be avoided each year.

Calling themselves 50 States United for Healthy Air, the group is comprised of representatives from American Nurses Association (ANA), Earthjustice, Hip Hop Caucus, Interfaith Power & Light, National Council of Churches and Physicians for Social Responsibility. They are focused on crucial health protections that are currently under attack by well-financed industry groups and their lobbyists and allies on Capitol Hill. The national health-protective standards, overseen by the EPA, include:

- A proposal in March that set the first ever federal regulations on mercury and other toxic air pollution from power plants;
- Strong, health-based protections for cement plant pollution, finalized in August 2010, saving an estimated 2,500 lives every year;
- A proposal to regulate harmful coal ash dumps and landfills;
- A rule finalized in February that limits toxic air pollution from thousands of boilers and incinerators located in communities across the country;
- A January 2010 standard that is anticipated to be final by July that would limit ozone pollution—commonly referred to as smog—in cities and towns across the country.

But several members in the House are discussing legislation that would delay or eliminate these protections. For example, Rep. Carter (R-TX) has proposed legislation (H.J. Resolution 42) that would eliminate the standard cleaning up cement plant pollution, and Rep. McKinley (R-WV) are pushing for a vote on legislation (H.R. 1391) that will prohibit the EPA from requiring toxic coal ash in a manner that will protect public health. There are also several members of Congress queuing up to swipe at the full set of national health-protective standards recently proposed or finalized.

Despite the overwhelming benefits of these health protections—tens of thousands of lives saved every year, major reductions in asthma, heart disease, respiratory ailments, cancer and other illnesses, and billions of dollars in savings for the American public—industrial polluters are influencing Congress to delay or even block these health protections from taking effect.

Toxic air pollution poisons our bodies and claims tens of thousands of lives each year. Mercury, arsenic, lead, dioxins, smog, fine particles and dozens of other pollutants are pumped out daily from power plants, cement kilns, boilers, incinerators and other industrial facilities. These pollutants can cause cancer, heart and lung disease, asthma and developmental disorders.

Lives are at stake, and the federal government has an important role to play in protecting the lives of those most at risk: the young, elderly and communities where air quality levels routinely fall below acceptable health protective standards. The EPA estimates that more than 300,000 newborns each year may have increased risk of learning disabilities associated with in utero exposure to methylmercury.

“From its earliest days, the nursing profession has understood the importance of a clean, healthy environment to human health,” remarked ANA President Karen A. Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN. “After all, it was Florence Nightingale who stood the importance of a clean, healthy environment to human health.”

“The Clean Air Act is our nation’s strongest, most successful tool in cleaning up dangerous and toxic air pollution from industrial sources,” said Earthjustice President Trip Van Noppen. “Despite decades of success protecting millions of Americans and saving taxpayer money, some members of Congress are attacking the Clean Air Act in coopera-
Kanza Silent Auction
2011: A Good Time Was Had By All!

By Elaine Giessel, Hospitality Chair

This year’s Kanza Group fundraiser was quite simply the best yet! The weather cooperated and the silent auction offered some great bargains on unique items.

With a fine watercolor painting by Jim Hamil and three wonderful vacation cabins donated for the live auction, the wonderful flute and harp music of Aeolian Effect was just icing on the cake. Given the political atmosphere nationwide, it was joyful to socialize with fellow environmentalists.

Summing it up, Kanza Chair Bob Sommer commented, “The whole evening was characterized by a general feeling of high morale.”

The Kanza Group is committed to reducing its own carbon footprint, and offering local foods is one way to do that. Refreshments included sheep cheeses donated by Green Dirt Farm in Weston, Mo.; cheddar cheese curds from Shatto’s Dairy in Osborn, Mo.; herbed goat cheeses from Heartland Creamery in Newark, Mo.; Hen House’s Good Natured Family Farm cheeses; and bison sausage and snack sticks donated by New Grass Bison of Shawnee, Kan. Assorted pastries from Strawberry Hill Povitica and homemade desserts from Kanza volunteers topped off the menu. There was truly something for everyone!

The positive vibes were perhaps most apparent around the beverage area, where our enthusiastic and knowledgeable pourers, Shelley, Janet and Jamie, served an assortment of Kansas wines from the Somerset Ridge, Stone Pillar, and Holy-Field wineries. Starbucks donated coffee and Whole Foods provided punch fixings.

Environmental awards went to two outstanding individuals. John Flavin was recognized as the “New Activist of the Year” for his efforts to start the Kanza stream monitoring team. Steve Baru received the “Rutherford B. Hayes Award,” the Kanza Group’s highest honor, for his dedication, leadership, and achievements over the years. Ed Rowe received the “Kansas Water Wizard Award” for his representing the environment on the Lower Republican Basin Advisory Committee and his personal commitment to protecting our precious water resources in Kansas.

Debra Ryder, Director of Education at the Kansas City Zoo, was the featured speaker. She described the Zoo’s new polar bear exhibit and resident bear, Nikita, as well as her experiences studying native bear habitat in northern Canada. She underscored the connection between declining bear populations and climate change. Her excellent presentation concluded with a clear message: “Stop coal-fired plants!” Debra was accompanied by an expert zoo docent who had a collection of polar bear bio-facts for attendees to examine.

This event is the most important fundraiser for the Kanza Group. The proceeds support education, outings, and important work like monitoring local water quality. Volunteers do a tremendous amount of work to make the event a success, and the celebration just keeps getting better.

Mark your calendars now and join the party at the Lenexa Conference Center on May 5, 2012. Good planets are simply too hard to find....
Kanza Chair Bob Sommer recognizes volunteer excellence to...

Debra Ryder, Director of Education for the Kansas City Zoo, discussed what lies in store for the Arctic wildlife in the face of global climate change.

Kanza Group volunteers again prepared a superb spread for Silent Auction attendees. Great food and locally produced wines kept everyone in great spirits.

Ed Rowe
Kansas Water Wizard Award

John Flavin
New Activist Award

Steve Baru
Rutherford B. Hayes Award

Frank Drinkwine and Elaine Giessel play auctioneer at the live auction portion of the Program with great vacation destinations, original art by James Hamil, and a CSA from Hen House Markets.
Kanza Group Thank You... to all of the donors of auction items, sponsors for direct donations, and business exhibitors, whose contributions have made the Kanza Grop Silent Auction successful, and, in turn, have supported our efforts to protect and enjoy our precious environment.

Art & Photography
- B. Adams, Photographer
- James R. Hamil
- Talis Bermanis Photography

Clothing & Jewelry
- Accentricities
- Goodden Jewellers

Exhibitors
- Decent Energy Inc.
- Green Cat Services LLC
- The Hayes Company
- Odyssey Painting Inc.

Food Donors
- Green Dirt Farm
- New Grass Bison Co.
- Starbucks
- Strawberry Hill Povitica
- Whole Foods

Item - Retail
- Aeolian Effect
- Backwoods
- Bob Sommer
- Einstein Brothers Bagels
- Jim “Mr. Stinky Feet” Cosgrove, Hiccup Productions Inc.
- Midland Radio
- Odyssey Painting Inc.
- Ripple Glass
- Starbucks
- Westlake Hardware
- Wild Birds Unlimited

Live Auction
- Hen House Markets
- James R. Hamil
- Jill Dewitt & Charles Wurrey
- Shockey Consulting Services LLC
- Sue Mabry

Professional Services Gift Certificates
- Aeolian Effect
- Al Pugsley
- Anthony Plumbing Heating & Cooling
- Aronson Massage
- Balanced Health & Fitness
- BodyWorks Massage Therapy
- Charlotte Weber
- Decent Energy Inc.
- Friends of the Kaw
- Jamie Wolfe Ice Skating Instruction
- Meyer Therapeutic Massage
- New Day Yoga Studio - Vlad Rangotchev
- Rostberg Chiropractic & Acupuncture
- Stitt Energy Systems
- Swickard Chiropractic Clinic of Shawnee P.A.

Restaurant Gift Certificates
- Café Augusta
- Dragon Inn Restaurant
- Family Bicycles
- First Watch
- J. Alexanders
- Salsa Grill
- Stone Pillar Vineyard & Winery

Retail Gift Certificates
- Coleman Company, Inc
- Dolpin Song
- Family Tree Nursery
- Hangers Cleaners
- Heritage Cleaners
- Prospero’s Books
- Suburban Lawn & Garden

Sponsors
- James & Rebecca Graham
- Bob Fritsch
- George & Mary Helen Korbelik
- Tim & Peg Liebert
- Bruce Durkee
- Elaine Giessel & Richard Voss
- Jeffrey Gorski
- Mike & Pam Miller
- John Neuberger
- Wayne & Lanny Sangster
- Gene & Beatrice Schillie
- Bob & Heather Sommer
- Steve & Randee Werts
- Steve & Kerry Herndon
- Craig Volland & Anne Allegre

Tickets & Certificates to Events
- American Jazz Museum
- Blue Room
- Fine Arts Theatres
- Friends of Chamber Music
- Hampton Inn & Suites - Country Club Plaza
- Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery
- Jaegerz Paintball & Laser Tag
- Kansas City Renaissance Festival
- National WWI Museum at Liberty Memorial
- Performing Arts Series at Johnson County Community College
- Unicorn Theatre

And a Special Thanks to all the Sierra Club Volunteers who spent hundreds of hours to ensure the success of our 2011 Silent Auction!!
Southwind Group Banquet and Auction Thank You...
We wish to thank the following for making our 2011 Southwind Group banquet and auction a great success. Dan Bolt, Auction Chair

Banquet Volunteers:
• Yvonne Cather
• Clyde Flaming
• Bruce Fuelling
• Deborah Gafvert
• Bill Keltner
• Dave Kirkbride
• Mary Kirkbride
• Ron Morris

Bucket Auction Donors:
• Carolyn & Roger Benefiel
• Jane Byrnes
• Emma Chase Café
• Pete Ferrell
• Deborah Gafvert
• Green Acres
• Dave & Mary Kirkbride
• Robin Macy and Bartlett Arboretum
• Markus Leather
• Ron Morris
• Ride the Flint Hills LLC
• Don & Ellie Skokan

Sponsors:
• Carolyn & Roger Benefiel
• De Ette Huffman
• Vernie Wollard
• Charles Wright III

Guest Speaker:
• Bob Gress, Great Plains Nature Center

Musicians:
• Lewis Cowdry
• Monty & Terry Harrison of Front Porch Blues

Caterer:
• Lizzie’s Delights

Facility
• Finally thanks to the staff of College Hill United Methodist Church for being so helpful and having such a great place to have a banquet.
with coffee-table books open to various photographs of America's national parks. In one picture, a group of men stand before a wood pile with a photo of the Grand Teton range. In another, a woman in a berka displays Arches National Park.

Setting aside the question of whether the article is little more than a lengthy ad for the photographer's book, you have to wonder, “What were they thinking?”—the editors of Sierra, I mean.

According to the text by Sierra's Acting Deputy Editor, Steve Hawk, the image of Grand Teton “whispers to the [Afghan] woodworker that the American soldiers patrolling his streets come from a country that abounds in natural beauty.”

Say what?! … whispers? … to the woodworker?!

The men in the photo are more likely selling firewood than crafting furniture.

And would those be the same American soldiers who probably just dismounted from rumbling Humvees, wearing K-pots and Kevlar vests, carrying M-16 combat assault rifles, and staring out from behind Oakley shades?

The naiveté of this story is breathtaking. I've had occasion to know many veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq. They'd find this piece laughable at best. But more troubling is the article's tone deafness. Intended or not, these images of Afghan citizens posing as human bookstands for a display of America’s “natural beauty” betray a patronizing attitude toward Afghans and a pronounced sense of American exceptionalism. It’s almost impossible to avoid the inference that this is how the Sierra Club finally does see our wars. The implied message is that spreading the gospel of America's wonders is one reason we've come to Afghanistan—and also, one may assume, to Iraq. That no one thought better of publishing this piece simply reinforces the ways in which such thinking is part of the deep structure of an unstated policy. We do have a policy after all, though it may not be what anyone intended.

War is both a human and an ecological disaster.

For perspective, consider just a few facts.

As the largest consumer of oil on the planet, the U.S. military has a carbon footprint unmatched in any industry or even by most countries. In fact, if it were a country, the military would rank 36th in oil consumption. A 2008 estimate put its annual carbon output at 75 million tons of CO2, none of which includes usage by our exhaustive network of contractors. Humvees average four miles per gallon, while Apache helicopters get just one mile per gallon. The U.S. Air Force burns 2.6 billion barrels of jet fuel annually. At the outset of the Iraq War, the “coalition of the willing” burned about the same amount of fuel as all of India did for the same period. According to one estimate, the Iraq War has added 155 million tons of CO2 or the equivalent to the atmosphere.

All of which makes my little efforts at composting, recycling, and pushing a push mower seem trivial, even pathetic. Offsetting this is useless. Stopping it is not.

David Brower, the Sierra Club's first Executive Director, as well as a World War II veteran who served with the storied 10th Mountain Division, understood the connection between war and the environment. “If we greens don't broaden our thinking to tackle war,” he said, “we may save some wilderness, but lose the world.”

With a new Executive Director and several newly-elected Board members, the Club should review its non-policy on these wars. America's wars are quite simply the elephant in the room. We may not be talking about them, but their imprint is everywhere, both at home and abroad. As a democratic and grassroots organization, it’s up to members to make it known to Club leadership that this issue matters. According to a Bloomberg poll, two-thirds of Americans want the U.S. out of Afghanistan now. The Sierra Club should be leading on this issue rather than playing catch-up.

Bob Sommer serves as the Kanza Group Chair and the Kansas Chapter Political Chair.
Healthy Air, continued from page 5

In addition to the risks associated with air pollution, the high concentration of industry along the Kansas River contributes to water pollution that directly impacts the residents of Quindaro. In January 2010, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued a warning to not eat bottom-feeding fish caught in the section of the Kansas River that borders Quindaro. The warning was issued because bottom-feeding fish in this area were found to have unacceptably high PCB levels. According to data collected by the Friends of the Kaw, a high proportion of African Americans and Hispanics that are residents of Quindaro eat their catch despite the fish consumption advisory. PCBs are known to affect people in a variety of ways including causing skin conditions, such as chloracne and rashes, irregular menstrual cycles, lowered immune responses and is thought to be a carcinogen. Perhaps most troubling PCBs have been tied to poor cognitive development in young people.

Quindaro, continued from page 4

“Inconscionable that some elected leaders in Congress and deep-pocketed industry groups are promoting a right to pollute over the God given right to breathe,” said Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr., President and CEO of the Hip Hop Caucus. “Low-income and communities of color suffer disproportionately from sickness and death due to toxic air pollution. The Hip Hop Caucus and our allies from all 50 states are standing together to protect the vulnerable from absolute reckless greed.”

“Air pollution from coal-fired power plants, vehicles and industrial sources contribute to heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic lower respiratory diseases. In other words, air pollution is killing Americans,” said Peter Wilk, Executive Director of Physicians for Social Responsibility. “It’s also shortening their lives, costing them days lost from school and work, sending them to the hospital, and hitting them hard in the pocketbook. As health professionals, we at PSR are greatly concerned. We know we can do better to clean up the air. Setting health-protective rules for limiting toxic air pollutants, and carrying them out consistently, will save lives and save money.”

Flint Hills, continued from Cover

timing and the high frequency and intensity of the practice, the same characteristics that are leading to the decline of grassland bird populations in the Flint Hills. The committee that formulated the SMP specifically avoided addressing the decline in grassland bird populations.

We suggest that KDHE go back to the drawing board on the SMP. For more details on the impacts of the 2011 burning season, consult the Flint Hills burning section on our website, www.kansas.sierraclub.org. Click on red Flint Hills Burning banner at top of page.
SIERRA CLUB COFFEE

The Southwind Group is now selling Sierra Club coffee. This coffee is organic, shade grown and fair trade. You have the choice of drip ground or whole bean. You also have the choice of custom blend regular or decaf, and french roast. All coffee comes in a 12 oz. container. Help Protect the environment and get your coffee too!

For information contact: stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Free Shipping until March 31, 2010

Mail to: Sierra Club Southwind Group, 4015 Hammond Dr., Wichita, KS 67218-1221

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please Print</th>
<th>checks or money orders only</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Coffee</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Custom Blend, Whole Bean</td>
<td>$11.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Custom Blend, Drip Grind</td>
<td>$11.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Custom Blend, Decaf WB</td>
<td>$12.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Custom Blend, Decaf DG</td>
<td>$12.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>French Roast, Whole Bean</td>
<td>$11.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>French Roast, Drip Grind</td>
<td>$11.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amount Enclosed: _____________

Price include sales tax.
Buddy the hiking dog and Dave Kirkbride, Southwind Chair, prepare to lead a day-hike in the Gyp Hills. The hike was one of the items donated for the Bucket Auction which was held at the Second Annual Southwind Earth Day Banquet on April 15th.
Pictured (Left to right) are Cynthia Rhodes, winner of the bucket auction hike, with her friends Lynn Lear, Brian Eggenberger with his two sons Trevor and Justin, Stephen Simpson, Coleen McSpadden, and Dennis Train. Following lunch at the Kirkbride Ranch, the group hiked 11 miles through the rugged and beautiful hills in south central Kansas.

Have you taken the ‘Challenge’ yet?

Are you “taking charge” of your energy future? Thousands of people in Lawrence have already participated in the Take Charge Challenge this year but we’re not done yet!
The Take Charge Challenge is a friendly competition between the cities of Lawrence and Manhattan, Kansas. The city that reduces its energy use the most will win an energy efficiency or renewable energy community project worth up to $100,000!

How do you participate in the Take Charge Challenge? It’s easy!

1. Schedule an Efficiency Kansas home energy audit.
2. Make the switch to compact fluorescent bulbs.
3. Enroll in Westar’s energy efficiency programs.
4. Attend a Take Charge! Challenge event.

Once you’ve changed out your light bulbs to CFLs, go to www.takechargekansas.org to register the switches and get points for Lawrence. To see all of the communities competing across Kansas, visit www.takechargekansas.org.

Follow the City of Lawrence’s progress and ways you can help us win at www.lawrenceks.org/takecharge. We’re in it to win it - help us “take charge” and you’ll save money and energy along the way.
Topeka Sierrans Tour Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment Plants

By Paul Post, Topeka Group Outings Chair

Saturday, May 14, 2011, was a perfect day for an “indoor outing” with a cold front the day before bringing in cloudy skies and cool brisk northwest winds. Seven members of the Topeka Group were treated to twin tours, one of the Topeka Water Treatment Plant and the second of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Those curious about where drinking water comes from and where it goes were able to see the processes firsthand.

The Topeka Water Plant processes an average of 40 million gallons of water a day, and has a capacity of in excess of 60 million gallons. Water is drawn from the Kansas River by two large intake structures, then pumped into large circular concrete tanks where mud and other debris settles out in a two-stage process. A chlorination process kills microbes, and after that, fluorine is added, for the purpose of retarding tooth decay. The water is then softened to provide for a slightly alkaline PH, and is then sent to two more large concrete tanks for final purification. The process occurs on a 24 hour “roller coaster” schedule, with overnight filling of water towers in Topeka to provide for a gradual drop of water levels in those structures during the day when water usage increases. Plant operators monitor the treatment systems as well as security gates and cameras around the clock.

The process is essentially reversed at the wastewater treatment plant. Sanitary sewers operate primarily by gravity, but at intervals, pump stations lift the sewage so that it can continue its trek toward the plant. Several collector stations throughout the city serve as junctions for incoming sewers, all of which eventually lead to one of the three plants in Topeka. The main plant in Oakland, which we toured, can handle up to 100 million gallons a day, but the average is about 14 million gallons. The treatment structures look somewhat similar to those we saw earlier at the water plant, with the process being in three stages: settling out of the solid waste, followed by the introduction of microbial bacteria which “eats” the sugars and other dissolved particles in the waste, and with the final stage being ultraviolet radiation of the sewage to kill any remaining pathogens. The water remaining is then

See Water Treatment on page 15

Topeka Group members, left to right, Doug George, Barbara McCandless, Priscilla George, Wendy Pullen, and Frank Weiner. Not shown are Paul Post and Harvey Chebo.
The solid waste is stored in a bunker-like structure for a short time with bacteria continuing to work on the sludge, with methane being one of the by-products. Some of this is used to heat parts of the plant. At present, the rest is flared, although there are plans to eventually clean the methane to allow it to be used to power city vehicles. The remaining de-watered sludge, after this process, can be used as fertilizer and sold by the city to farmers at a nominal price. The entire process takes less than 24 hours.

Both plants are revenue sources for the city of Topeka and do not use tax dollars to operate. At one time, all of the revenue from the water plant went back into infrastructure improvements, but over the years, the money has been transferred to general funds to help finance overall city operations, allowing the city to enjoy lower taxes. Does this have a familiar ring?
Wakarusa Trip to KU Field Station and Ecological Reserves

The Wakarusa Group sponsored a trip to the KU Field Station and Ecological Reserves on May 7th, starting with a vegetarian potluck supper at the Fitch Natural History Reservation. Bill Busby from the Kansas Biological Survey told us about the history and ecology of the area and led a hike through the McColl Nature Reserve to the Wakarusa Valley Overlook and the Rockefeller Experimental Tract, where he described the tallgrass prairie research there. The evening concluded with viewing of the moon and Saturn through a telescope.
Eating As If the Earth Matters - For the Beauty of this Place

By Judy McCoy Carman, M.A.

In mid-April, 10,000 people attended the 2011 Power Shift conference in Washington, D.C. Bill McKibben of 350.org gave a stirring speech (www.350.org/powershift-speech-transcript). According to him, 350 parts per million of CO2 in the atmosphere is the safe upper limit for human beings. Currently our CO2 level is at 391. Although it is late, McKibben says we must not give up. “We fight not just for ourselves,” he stated, “we fight for the beauty of this place. For cool trout streams and deep spruce woods. For chilly fog rising off the Pacific and deep snow blanketing the mountains…”

“We have to fight, finally, without any guarantee that we are going to win. …you might bet we were going to lose because so far that’s what happened, but that’s not a bet you’re allowed to make. The only thing that a morally awake person can do when the worst thing that’s ever happened is happening is try to change those odds.”

Reading McKibben’s speech, I was reminded of David Korten’s 2005 book--The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community. In a nutshell, Korten is imploring us to, and believes we can, “Turn” from living under the Empire cultural mindset of domination (aka--the dominator model) to living in Earth Community. Empire demands that cultures labor under a ruling elite, which grows wealthier and more powerful as it finds more ways to exploit all others. Most of the world lives under the Empire model which requires war, the ravaging of nature, and the economic and political control of people and animals in order to maintain power. Earth Community, on the other hand, is organized around the principles of cooperation, mutual benefit, and partnership, and develops from the ground up, not from the top down.

Korten’s book is a wealth of inspiration that helps us to visualize what Earth Community can look like, to take action to make it happen before it’s too late, and to help us believe we can do this.

Both McKibben’s speech and Korten’s book remind us that there is a lot we can and must do to reverse the damage and bring life on earth back into balance. But one of the most important and effective actions we can take is ignored by both men. As we go about “saving the earth” from ourselves, we are each struggling in our own ways to rid ourselves of all vestiges of the dominator model. But, as we all know, nearly all the systems—economic, educational, scientific, religious, agricultural, corporate, and political—that have influenced us from birth, have been based on that model. As we work to transform our own personal worldviews to one of Earth Community, we find we must be constantly vigilant of our own thoughts. As we stand with one foot in the new, not fully formed world of cooperation, love, and compassion and the other foot in the current world ruled by the dominator worldview, it is difficult sometimes to discern the source of our beliefs. But it is essential that we do so.

What is this action that we can take that was ignored. What is this final questioning of our own beliefs? It is animal agriculture. This foundation stone of Empire is based on the worldview that claims we have a right to force our will upon others and brutally enslave, confine, and even kill them. In our noble efforts to create Earth Community we need to face our unconscious complicity with this worldview, and put an end to the horrors and destructive forces of animal agriculture and exploitation. Einstein and Schweitzer both declared that humanity would never find peace until we ended our war against animals. Now many decades later, it is not just world peace that we are trying to achieve. It is the actual saving of the planet and life itself.

The Sierra Club has recently joined with the Worldwatch Institute, Brighter Green, and Farm Sanctuary to create PlateToPlanet.org where multiple reasons are given for adopting an earth friendly, plant-based diet. Ed Hopkins of the Sierra Club speaks in a video on the website about the manure from factory farms. These farms produce many times more manure than human beings produce in the U.S. Yet the factory farm manure is untreated and pollutes our air and water, kills fish, and produces bacteria, pathogens, highly toxic gases, and dead zones in the oceans. On PlateToPlanet.org, visitors are invited to choose from three options—pledge to a meat free day, a meat free month, or a meat free life.

There could be no clearer or extreme example of the Empire worldview than animal agriculture. It is responsible for at least 18% of CO2 emissions and is the biggest contributor to global warming of all human activity. It is also the number one source of methane. Methane gas has more than 20 times the warming impact of CO2. Animal agriculture ravages and pollutes the earth, causes human starvation and illness on a massive scale, and requires the intense suffering and deaths of billions of animals every year. This brings power and wealth to the Empire builders at the expense of nature and life in general.

In the Earth Community that we envision no women will be stoned, no children will be sold into slavery, coal and nuclear plants will be shut down, oil drilling will stop, and plastic bags will be relics of the past. But if we are to eliminate the dominator mindset toward human beings and nature, we must also eliminate it toward animals. We have known for a long time now that everything is interconnected. If we continue to dominate animals, all the pollution, toxins, killing of wildlife, desertification, clear cutting, stealing of indigenous land, human starvation, etc. that animal agriculture causes will still be staring us in the face.

See Eating on page 18
Jim Mason, author of *An Unnatural Order: Why We are Destroying the Planet and Each Other—A Manifesto for Change*, points out that the very act of capturing animals and controlling their lives signaled the beginning of the end of what appeared to be a goddess based, egalitarian, community worldview that recognized the sacredness of all life and the importance of cooperation for survival. Out of that age, a patriarchal elite class developed and began to relentlessly expand its territories and wealth with military power. Domination of animals was a central building block of ravenous Empire.

We are each, in our own way, at this most critical time, doing what we can to bring Earth Community into being. The simplest, least time consuming, most revolutionary, most culture transforming, and most un-Empireish act any of us can take right now is to stop supporting the war on animals. This means we buy only cruelty-free products and refuse to support zoos, circuses, and other forms of animal domination. This means we include them in our and their deeply interconnected Earth Community.

If we’re going to “change the odds,” and fight for “the beauty of this place” as McKibben asks us to do and accomplish the “Great Turning” as Korten inspires us to do, we must challenge, not just some, but every aspect of Empire and create an Earth Community for all living beings.

**Earth and Animal friendly recipes: With as many local, organic, and fair trade ingredients as possible.**

**Potato-Asparagus Tarts (from vegalicious.org)**

**Ingredients:**
- 6-8 frozen vegan puff pastry sheets, thawed
- 10-12 white asparagus spears
- 3 medium potatoes, sliced thinly

**For the sauce:**
- 1 cup plain soy yogurt
- 1/4 cup nutritional yeast
- 2-3 teaspoons sweet grainy mustard
- 2 teaspoons sesame oil
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder

**For the top:**
- olive oil for drizzling on top
- small bunch of fresh thyme, leaves only
- salt for sprinkling on top

**Directions:**
- First make the sauce.
- Place the soy yogurt in a small bowl.
- Add the rest of the ingredients and season to taste with additional flavorings as you wish.
- Preheat the oven to 425.
- Cut each asparagus spear in 2 or 3 pieces depending on the size of the spear and the puff pastry.
- Lay the thawed pastry sheets individually on a cookie sheet that has been prepared with baking parchment.
- Using a fork prick small holes in the center area of each pastry sheet but leave a small rim around the edge unpricked (about 1/4 inch all around).
- Spread 1 tablespoon of the sauce in the center of each puff pastry.
- Spread the sauce evenly over the area, leaving the edge uncovered.
- Lay 2-3 pieces of asparagus on the sauce of each pastry sheet.
- Using small mandolin or very good knife, slice the potatoes in very thin slices.
- Lay the potato slices on top of each pastry.
- Sprinkle the top of the potato slices with a bit of salt, drizzle a small amount of olive oil on top and then the thyme.
- Place in the preheated oven to bake for 18-20 minutes or until lightly golden brown.

**Chocolate Vegan Death Cake (from The Grit Restaurant Cookbook, by Jessica Greene & Ted Hafer)**

**Cake:**
- 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup cocoa powder
- 1 tablespoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons pure vanilla extract
- 3 cups strong brewed coffee
- 1/4 cup cider vinegar

**Icing:**
- 1 12 oz. package firm silken tofu
- 3 cups vegan chocolate chips -- (many semisweet brands contain no dairy)
- no dairy

**To prepare cake:**
- Preheat oven to 350ºF. Grease 3 9-inch round cake pans, dust with flour, and line bottom with parchment or wax paper.
- Sift together dry ingredients in a large bowl. Add oil and vanilla extract.
- With electric mixer on low speed, blend until fully combined. With mixer on medium speed, gradually blend in coffee. When mixture is smooth, add vinegar and blend on low speed just until combined.
- Divide batter evenly into prepared pans.
- Bake 20-25 minutes or just until a knife or toothpick inserted in the center of layers comes out clean. Remove
Prairie Seaweed?

Kansas Chapter to be Represented at Blue Vision Summit in D.C.

By Elaine Giessel

The national Activist Network of the Sierra Club will be sending a Kansas representative to the 3rd annual Blue Vision Summit in Washington, D.C. this May. At the meeting, the Blue Frontier Campaign will host a broad network of grassroots organizations and individuals, referred to as “Seaweed Rebels,” to disseminate information about global marine issues.

The Summit will include two days of panels and informational workshops focusing on “Lessons from the Gulf” and President Obama’s new National Ocean Policy. A third day will be devoted to meeting with elected officials on the Hill.

The Sierra Club’s Marine Action Team (MAT) recently held a contest to recruit activists from across the country, including the Heartland. The goals of the competition were to expand the MAT’s geographic coverage and leadership pool and to produce real world outcomes on specific projects or issues. Up to six winners are being sent to the Summit, all expenses paid.

Elaine Giessel, ExCom member of the Kanza Group and long-time Marine Chair of the Kansas Chapter, was selected as one of the Sierra Club’s representatives at the Summit. Originally from the Texas Gulf Coast, Giessel is a trained marine biologist and environmental educator who is committed to helping Kansans learn about the many connections between the Midwest and the vast World Ocean. She will receive training in leadership and lobbying, will meet with Sierra Club D.C. staff working on federal issues, and will lobby members of Congress and their staff members.

So, why send someone from Kansas to a Summit on marine issues? Because everything is connected.

- Fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides on Midwest fields and lawns, as well as city and farm wastes, enter the Mississippi watershed and pollute Gulf waters, creating a “Dead Zone.”
- Gasoline burned in Kansas vehicles contributes to the demand for oil exploration around the planet and is...
Chapter & Group Leaders

Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter

Flint Hills Group (Manhattan Area)
Carol Bart‡*, Chair, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, (785) 354-1973, gazettet@ksbroadband.net
Gary Anderson*, Treasurer, Chapter Group Rep Alternate, (785) 246-3229, ganderson1963@ksbroadband.net
Larry Erikson*, Conservation Chair, (785) 539-4424, lerick@ksu.edu
Virginia Hagan*, Outings Chair, (757) 508-5765, v.hagan@us.army.mil

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
Bob Sommer*, Chair, Political Chair, (816) 898-1100, rsommer@kcr.r.com
Craig Lubow*, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, Global Warming Co-Chair, (913) 299-6620, craiglubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
Ed Rowe*, Secretary, (913) 642-1371, roweed@prodigy.net
Richard Voss***, Treasurer, (913) 888-8517, richard.voss@kansas.sierraclub.org
Frank Drinkwine*, Fundraising Chair, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
Bob Fritsch*, Outings Chair, (913) 906-9728, bobfritsch@hotmail.com

Southwind Group (Wichita)
Dave Kirkbride*, Chair, Chapter Group Rep Alternate, (785) 246-3229, dskirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Dr. Kent Thomas*, Chair, Conservation Chair, (785) 272-5404, kthomas101@cox.net

Topeka Group
Gary Anderson*, Chair, Program Chair, (785) 246-3229, ganderson1963@ksbroadband.net
Jim Tuchescher*, Vice Chair, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 272-5633, jimtuch@earthlink.net
Bill Griffin***, Energy Chair, (913) 772-8960, bill.griffin@kansas.sierraclub.org
Craig Voland****, CAFO Chair, Trade Chair, Agriculture Chair, (913) 788-7336, cvoland@kansas.sierraclub.org
Bill Cutler*, Secretary, Chapter Group Rep Alternate, (785) 379-9756, spudsmap@yahoo.com
Leonard Biggs*, ExCom Member, (620) 437-7319, dipaul@madetel.net
Anita Frank*, Conservation Chair, (785) 273-5305, afrank16@cox.net
Paul Post*, Membership Chair, Outings Chair, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
Phil Morse***, Political Chair, Energy Chair, (785) 273-3613, pmorse@sbcglobal.net

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)
Lynnette Pettengill*, Chair, (785) 331-0625, LynnettePettengill@yahoo.com
Carey Maynard-Moody, Sprawl/Transportation, (785) 842-6517, careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org
Carolyn Binns*, Treasurer, (785) 841-3238, carolynbinns@sunflower.com
Steve Lopes*, Secretary, (785) 842-7137, Slopesh688@aol.com
Susannah Neal*, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 760-6633, susannah.n@kansas.sierraclub.org
Melissa Rogers*, Environmental Education Chair, (785) 764-0826, mrogers816@gmail.com
George Brenner****, Conservation Chair, Water Quality Chair, (785) 393-3828, gbrenner@sunflower.com

(Plotted on the map in the text)

June - July 2011
General Meetings

**General public is welcome to attend**

**Kanza Group (Kansas City)**

**June 14. 6:30 pm.**

**View the Movie “Gasland” at Johnson County Community College, Carlsen Center**

6:30 pm - We will view the Academy Award nominated documentary “Gasland,” showing the environmental problems created in several states by the controversial natural gas drilling method called hydraulic fracturing or “fracking.” From tap water that ignites because of methane content, to animals poisoned by contaminated water from fracking, you will see the damage being done and the threat to the environment from use of this risky drilling technique. Citizens need to know the dangers of shale gas that come from fracking. Gasland’s stunning examples of environmental horrors stand in stark contrast to claims by the gas industry that fracking is harmless.

**Where** - SPECIAL LOCATION. Johnson County Comm College, Carlsen Center, Room 211A. A map can be found at: www.kansas.sierraclub.org/JCCC-Map.pdf.

**Contact** - Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Southwind Group**

**June 10. 6:30 pm.**

**Southwind Annual Potluck Picnic**

Join us at the south shelter in Chisholm Creek Park. Bring your favorite covered dish and table service. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org Our presenter will be Richard Schoendorf with a program entitled: “How The Addition of Eleven New Themed Walking Trails In Wichita Can Change Your Exercise Habits, Your Entertainment Options and Your Knowledge Of People Who Made Incredible Contributions to Our State”.

**Where** - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th N at Woodlawn.

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

**Kanza Group (Kansas City)**

**July 19, 6:30 pm.**

**The Drive to Electrify Our Cars**

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 - Have you been wondering whether you should buy a hybrid car or wait until plug-in cars are more affordable? John Kurmann of ReEnergizeKC (ReEnergizeKC.org) will begin the meeting with an overview of gasoline-electric hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and battery-electric vehicles and the potential they offer to reduce oil consumption, carbon dioxide emissions, and air pollution. Then, Craig Volland, Air Quality Chair of the Kansas Chapter, will address the changes we need to make to our electricity grid and regulatory system to maximize the benefits of plug-in vehicles.

**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 (Wichita)**

**General Information**

Southwind Group General Meetings (Wichita) are held the second Friday of each month at The Great Plains Nature Center, 29th N at Woodlawn, Wichita. Social hour with pizza and pop at 6:30 p.m., announcements of local events 7:00 p.m., programs begin at 7:30 p.m.

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

**Topeka Group**

**June 28. 6:00 pm.**

**Farmers markets, Buying & Eating Locally, Food Co-ops.**

6:00 pm - “Coffee, Food and Conversation”

7:00 pm - We will have some speakers talking about area farmers markets, buying and eating locally and area food co-ops. Come and share your experiences and ideas and learn from others as we enter the peak of the garden season. Everyone welcome.

**Where** - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, 4775 SW 21st Street.

**Contact** - Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@hotmail.com

**Topeka.**

**July 26. 6:00 pm.**

**Annual Movie Night with Carbon Nation**

6:00 pm - “Coffee, Food and Conversation”

7:00 pm - Carbon Nation, a documentary by Peter Byck, an optimistic, solutions-based, non-preachy, non-partisan, big tent film, shows tackling climate change boosts the economy, increases national and energy security, promotes health and a clean environment. Come join us and after the film we’ll discuss it. Everyone welcome.

**Where** - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, 4775 SW 21st Street.

**Contact** - Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@hotmail.com

**Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)**

**General Information**

Contact Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com
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.

[1] Jun 4.  9:00 am.  Canoeing on the Kaw
We’ll be canoeing approximately 4 hours with Friends of the Kaw from DeSoto to Cedar Creek. Kid/family-friendly, everyone welcome. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com

Join us at this Bluegrass music mecca nestled in the Ozark mountains. We’ll camp next to Sylamore Creek at Blanchard Springs Caverns Recreation Area, tour the incredible cave and visit the Ozark Folk Center State Park. $10 donation requested. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

[2] Jun 11.  9:00 am.  Walk with Wildlife
Learn about the flora and fauna of the area by observing wildlife in Chisholm Creek Park. Southwind. Tom Kneil, (316) 744-1016, thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org

Join us for this 25-mile ride of rolling hills and rural settings, as we ride from Blue Springs to Powell Gardens. We will reward ourselves to a delicious lunch buffet at Café Thyme. Followed by a hike through the gardens with all its’ flowers and foliage. For the return trip a trailer for bikes and car rides will be available. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

In Kansas City, buildings and homes use about 48% of our energy resources. Make your home or office more efficient and more comfortable by sealing and insulating properly.

- Energy Audits
- Insulation
- Air Sealing
- Ventilation

Hayes Company
Family Owned Since 1978
816-861-8700 913-897-1978 www.thehayesco.com
### Committee Meetings

**Kanza Group**  
(Kansas City)  
**Executive Committee**  
Jun 23, Jul 28 - 7:00 pm,  
Steve Baru, (913) 814-0583,  
steve.baru@sierraclub.org  
**Joint Action Committee**  
Jun 23, Jul 28 - 7:00 pm,  
Conservation, legislative, and political  
Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620,  
craig.lubow@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, July 23  
Yvonne Cather, (316) 522-4741,  
yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org  

**Southwind Group**  
(Wichita)  
**Executive and Fundraising Committee**  
Jun 5, Jul 3 - 6:00 pm  
Equity Bank Building  
Dave Kirkbride, (316) 655-8299,  
david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org  
**Conservation Committee**  
TBA - 6:30 pm  
5825 Memphis St, Bel Aire, Wichita.  
Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033  
ellie_skokan@yahoo.com  

**Wakarusa Group**  
(Lawrence)  
**Executive Committee Planning**  
Islamic Center, 1919 Naismith.  
Lynate Pettengill, (785) 331-0625,  
Lynate@sbcglobal.net  
**Conservation Committee**  
George Brenner, (785) 393-3828,  
GBrenner@sunflower.com  

---

### Seaweed, continued from page 19

- Responsible, in part, for the recent BP disaster in the Gulf and the current pressure to drill in the Arctic.
- The oceans respond to our fossil fuel consumption by absorbing excess CO2 and becoming more acidic. If the tiny floating plants and animals at the base of the ocean food chains fail to thrive, unable to build their limestone shells in the acid seawater, entire marine ecosystems may be lost. The fisheries which feed over half the world’s population will fail.
- Wyoming coal burned in Kansas is impacting marine ecosystems in many ways: ocean waters are warming; coral reefs around the world (and the tourism dollars they provide) are dying; mercury-contamination in fish is triggering public health advisories; coastal seafood “nurseries” are drowning as glaciers melt; and sea ice in the Arctic, critical for wildlife, is disappearing.

The evidence is clear. The health of the oceans is dependent, in part, on what we do in the Heartland. Our actions can make a difference.

To contact Elaine Giessel about working on marine issues, email sealaine@yahoo.com.

Sierra Club Activist Network: [http://connect.sierraclub.org/ActivistNetwork/home](http://connect.sierraclub.org/ActivistNetwork/home)

Marine Action Team: [http://connect.sierraclub.org/Team/Marine_Action_Team](http://connect.sierraclub.org/Team/Marine_Action_Team)
Calendar of Events

Summary of all Kansas Chapter Events

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

Out Jun 4. 9:00 am. Canoeing on the Kaw. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com

CM Jun 5. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind.

CM Jun 5. 5:00 pm.. Fund Raising Committee Meeting. Southwind.

Out Jun 9–12. Blanchard Springs, Car Camping, Mountain View, AR. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

GM Jun 10. 6:30 pm. Southwind Annual Potluck Picnic. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Jun 11. 9:00 am. Walk with Wildlife. Southwind. Tom Kneil, (316) 744-1016, thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org

GM June 14. 6:30 pm. View the Movie “Gasland” at JCCC. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Jun 25 Bike Ride to Powell Gardens, Kingsville, MO. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

GM Jun 28. 6:00 pm. Farmers markets, buying & eating locally, food co-ops. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; ganderson1963@hotmail.com

CM Jul 3. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

GM July 19. 6:30. The Drive to Electrify Our Cars. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

GM Jul 26. 6:00 pm. Annual movie night with Carbon Nation. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; ganderson1963@hotmail.com

CM Jul 28. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

CM Jul 28. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211, r Sommer@kc.rr.com