The Real Threat to the Flint Hills
By Duane Schrag

Gov. Sam Brownback’s announcement in May that he was doubling the area in the Flint Hills that is off-limits to wind development was quickly hailed as progress toward protecting the tallgrass prairie.

The Nature Conservancy praised “this thoughtful and balanced announcement.” The Tallgrass Ranchers thanked the governor for “saving the tallgrass prairie from industrial development.” The Kansas City Star’s editorial page declared it a “win-win” for the state – good for the Flint Hills, good for renewable energy, the latter in part because the governor promised at the same time this would not preclude new transmission lines through the Flint Hills.

Without putting too fine a point on it, the Governor’s announcement does indeed keep wind development in the Flint Hills at bay but wind farms aren’t what has been destroying the Flint Hills ecosystem. The most immediate – and ongoing – threat is from intensive ranching practices, in particular, widespread annual burning and intensive stocking rates. Industrial (cattle) development continues unabated.

Governor Cans Efficiency Kansas Program, Diverts $22 Million to Big Ag Projects
By Craig Volland

The Efficiency Kansas program was to be a revolving loan program available to most Kansans to weatherize and upgrade their homes to save energy and increase comfort. The program was also open to tenants and landlords and sought to train more home energy auditors to meet the increased need. The audits would be subsidized such that the cost to the homeowner would only be $100, and the loan payments would be offset by lower utility bills.

Banks and utility companies were to receive funds from the state at 0% interest, and lenders would receive a $250 rebate for administrative costs. The whole thing was to be financed by some $38 million in stimulus funds awarded in April, 2009 by the US Department of Energy. A real win-win proposition all around!

Governor Parkinson launched the program on November 17, 2009. Training for auditors was initiated in January of

See Real Threat on page 8

See Governor Diverts $2$ on page 10
# 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

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Oct - Nov 2011
Playing the Odds with Climate Change

By Craig Wolfe, Communications Chair

Insurance companies are all about playing the odds. They do it for a living. They have all the stats to back them up. And then, we shell out big bucks to them because we understand the consequences of not having insurance are simply too great. The odds are:

- 1 in 4 that you will be in a car accident in your lifetime
- 1 in 100 of dying in a car accident if you drive 50 years
- 1 in 12 having a house fire
- 1 in 1000 of having your house burn down.

So, what are the odds that we will have climate change? The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said the likelihood was 90 percent to 99 percent that emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, spewed from tailpipes and smokestacks, were the dominant cause of the observed warming of the last 50 years. In the panel’s parlance, this level of certainty is labeled “very likely.”

If we, as individuals, are willing to insure against the relatively long odds of car accidents and fires, how can we possibly ignore an impending world-wide disaster? Given the almost certainty that we are causing it, and that it is happening now as is witnessed by retreating glaciers, polar ice at historic measured lows, ocean temperatures rising, and dramatic weather events - what are we doing to insure that we are minimizing our own impacts on our Planet?

Well, we simply are not doing anything of any consequence. Sadly, the evidence thus far is that our species is simply too stupid. We are sitting on the tracks, oblivious, with our backs to the rapidly approaching freight train. The U.S. is a hopeless mess at this time. I don’t think any explanation is needed. If we think the Planet is going to make a decent fight to reduce the impacts of climate change without the U.S. leading the charge, I believe we are dreaming.

I think our only hope (and a slim one) is for the believers amongst us to find whatever resources are available to us, and leverage those resources to the max to educate and litigate our way to a clean, renewable, energy future. If we have a budget under our control, we had better make sure those dollars are spent extremely carefully. We cannot afford to support even good efforts, unless those efforts are the very best efforts and most effective efforts.

We are all in the same green and blue boat. We are hearing what surely sounds like a huge waterfall around the next bend. We had all better row in the most correct and coordinated manner to get to the safety of the shore. No time to lose. No effort to waste. If we are working on something to fight climate change, it had better be a one great and brilliant idea.
Bloomberg Pledges $50 Million to Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign

On July 21 the Sierra Club announced an exciting partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies. From a boat overlooking a coal-fired plant in Alexandria, Virginia, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg pledged a $50 million commitment over four years to the Beyond Coal Campaign that will fuel the Sierra Club’s effort to clean the air, end the coal era, and accelerate the transition to cleaner, cost-effective energy sources.

And it is a good thing we have his support. In the U.S., coal is the leading cause of greenhouse-gas emissions, and coal’s pollution contributes to four out of the five leading causes of mortality -- heart disease, cancer, stroke, and respiratory illness. Coal emits almost half of all U.S. mercury pollution, which causes developmental problems in babies and young children, as well as being a major contributor to asthma attacks. Coal pollution causes $100 billion in health costs annually.

“If we are going to get serious about reducing our carbon footprint in the United States, we have to get serious about coal. Ending coal power production is the right thing to do, because, while it may seem to be an inexpensive energy source, the impact on our environment and the impact on public health is significant,” said Bloomberg during the announcement. “Coal is a self-inflicted public health risk, polluting the air we breathe, adding mercury to our water, and the leading cause of climate disruption.”

This $50 million grant will fill a significant portion of the campaign’s projected $150 million four-year budget and will catalyze the efforts of the Beyond Coal campaign -- It will effectively retire one-third of the nation’s aging coal fleet by 2020, replacing it with clean energy.

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune thanked Bloomberg for the grant, calling it a “game changer” in the fight against coal. He also praised Bloomberg’s vision and understanding of how protecting public health, developing innovative energy sources, and addressing climate change are all inextricably linked.

“This partnership will help the Sierra Club to work with communities nationwide as they tell one coal plant after another that inflicting asthma and other diseases on their children is unacceptable,” said Brune. “Coal relentlessly dirties our water, air, and lungs and fixing the problem cannot be left to Washington.”

The Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal campaign started as a three-person campaign in 2002 and has quickly grown into a powerhouse effort that is changing the way America produces energy.

**Successes to date include:**

- Stopped 153 new coal-fired power plants from being built, preserving market space for clean energy.
- Slated nearly 10% of the current coal fleet for retirement.
- Slowed new mountaintop removal mining permits to a trickle.
- Claimed victory at 16 colleges and universities, where Sierra Student Coalition members have won fights to shut down coal plants on their campuses.
- Mobilized hundreds of thousands in support of strong clean air and water protections.
- Struck the biggest clean air agreement in the history of the Southeast with the Tennessee Valley Authority coal retirement settlement.

Mary Anne Hitt, Director of the Beyond Coal Campaign, was also in attendance and led the charge to keep our momentum and use this generous grant to continue moving forward.

“We’re already winning in cities across the country. Community by community, people are standing up and saying no to coal, saying that they are ready for the clean energy economy,” said Hitt. “Now we’re ready to take this campaign to a whole new level.”

For more information about the Beyond Coal campaign, visit www.beyondcoal.org
Kanza Group to Celebrate Winter Solstice!

The Kanza Group will observe the northern hemisphere’s annual tilt from darkness to light in a unique fashion this year—with a Winter Solstice Celebration.

The Kanza Group’s general meeting on Tuesday, December 13th, will be a potluck dinner, featuring live music by the Celtic band Dogtree. Sierra Club members and guests are invited to share their favorite dishes and bring their youngsters to this unique celebration of the season.

Elaine Giessel will also conduct a short program on winter wildlife, featuring some of her favorite furry friends from the Ernie Miller Nature Center.

Put on your dancing shoes, bring the kids, cook up a treat, and join the fun!

Tuesday, December 13th, at the 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

For more information—and to help plan the event—please contact Bob Sommer, Kanza Group Chair, at rsommer@kc.rr.com or call 816-898-1100.

P.S. Yes, we know, the Winter Solstice is technically the following week—but it’s close enough for tree huggers to have some music and fun!
Kanza Stream Team
Stoops to a Higher Level

By Elaine Geissel

Yes, you read that right! Participating in a recent workshop on identification of aquatic macroinvertebrates, members of the Kanza Stream Team found themselves literally on their knees, picking up small organisms from a net with tweezers and eyedroppers.

The workshop was sponsored by the Kanza Group and the Blue River Watershed Association (BRWA). BRWA received grant funds from the Johnson County Stormwater Management Advisory Council last year to create stream monitoring teams throughout the County. The Kanza Stream Team has been doing chemical tests on Little Cedar Creek in Ernie Miller Park for about a year.

The Team is now looking at the next level of testing. By studying the various macroinvertebrates in the creek, one can determine the over-all level of water quality. These little animals without backbones are important local water quality indicators because their habitats are relatively small, restricted areas of a stream, they are near the bottom of the food chain and they have different degrees of sensitivity to pollution.

Kate Delehunt of BRWA presented the workshop to about 20 individuals at Ernie Miller Nature Center the morning of Saturday, August 27. John Flavin, Elliot Skinner, Ed Rowe, Richard Voss, Elaine Geissel and Andrea Johnson of the Kanza Stream Team joined the other participants in sampling with a “kick net” in the creek and a “D-net” in a nearby pond.

Despite some pollution problems in the creek, a variety of intriguing little critters were captured and some even identified. Most were weird looking aquatic insect larvae, but there were also a couple of cute cross-eyed planarians. Planaria are small, primitive, non-parasitic flatworms with triangular heads. They are best known for the amazing ability to regenerate their entire bodies from fragments of their former selves. Leeches, a type of segmented worm, were discovered, too, but they are not nearly as engaging, as worms go.

The Kanza Stream Team will continue to monitor Little Cedar Creek throughout the fall and winter months. Test results to date indicate that deicing salts running off paved areas in the upper reaches of the watershed may be impacting water quality in the creek seasonally, but the data are still preliminary.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Kanza Stream Team, contact Elaine Geissel at ecos@everestkc.net or call 913-888-8517.
Climate Change: Global and Local Evidence and Implications

Tenth Annual Community Forum on Kansas Environmental Issues, October 6

The 10th Annual Community Forum on Kansas Environmental Issues will be held Thursday, October 6, 2011, in Friendship Hall at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road. This is Kanza’s General Meeting. The evening’s agenda is:

- 5:30 pm - Appetizers & Exhibits by Local Environmental Organizations
- 6:00 pm - Supper of Locally Grown Foods Catered by Blue Bird Bistro
- 7:00 pm - Guest Speaker: John Harrington, PhD, KS State University

The address by John Harrington provides evidence of ongoing global climate change and matches scientific processes with the observations of change. Maps and graphs illustrate the distinction between natural and human-induced drivers of climate change. The presentation asks: what evidence of climate change do we see in Kansas? Knowledge of ongoing climate change at local and global scales is then used to frame a discussion of implications: What can we expect in the near future? How can we use this knowledge to either adapt to the changes or take actions to mitigate the human-induced drivers of climate change?

Advance reservations for the 6:00 dinner are necessary and need to be made by October 1st. A $20 dinner donation is requested. Send check payable to KNRC/Community Forum, 7301 Mission Rd., suite 248, Prairie Village, KS 66208. Receipt of your check confirms your reservation.

No reservation is needed for the 7:00 pm speaker, John Harrington, PhD, KS State University. Please arrive for the speaker at 6:45 pm.

Questions: Mary Helen Korbelik (913) 362-6463 or Kathy Riordan kfriordan@kc.rr.com

Friends of the Kaw Host the Wild and Scenic Film Festival

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

The film festival will start at 7:00pm (doors open at about 6:30) on Friday, October 14th. Liberty Hall is at 646 Massachusetts St., Lawrence, KS 66044. Tickets can be purchased in advance for a suggested donation of $10 at the Free State Brewery (just north of Liberty Hall) or by clicking on DONATE at www.kansasriver.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for a suggested donation of $12 (cash only.) Each person attending will have the opportunity to enter a drawing for great door prizes. All proceeds will benefit Friends of the Kaw, sponsor of the Kansas Riverkeeper, and attendees will additionally learn more about our mission and non-profit organization. Friends of the Kaw is also offering an Introductory Membership Special that evening for $15 (normally $35) for new members only - a great way to help protect our water quality. For more information check out our web site at www.kansasriver.org or contact the Kansas Riverkeeper at 913 963 3460.

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Real Threat, continued from Cover

And that part about new transmission lines? Depending on how it is done, that could rival annual burning for harm to prairie chickens, one of the key species that indicate the overall health of the prairie. More on transmission lines shortly.

The Flint Hills are without question priceless, the largest remaining example of an ecoregion that has virtually been eliminated from Earth in the past 150 years. And a tiny example it is: widely accepted estimates are that 97 percent of the tallgrass prairie that once existed is now gone. Forever. Fighting to preserve what is left is surely the right thing to do.

But it’s important that preservation efforts address core problems. What we’re seeing now are widespread efforts to protect intensive ranching practices that continue to destroy Flint Hills ecosystems, all the while framing these plans as conservation and preservation efforts.

The most prominent project is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s plan to buy up to 1 million acres of conservation easements in the Flint Hills. These conservation easements, which would be in perpetuity, would pay the landowner roughly one-third the market value of the property in exchange for the promise that the land would never be developed – ploughed, converted to subdivisions, or become the site for wind farms, new homes or commercial buildings.

All good. (The perpetuity thing may be problematic. As Woody Allen once observed, eternity is really long, especially near the end. And anyone who thinks agreements just stay in place over the long haul should study the saga of the Barnes art collection in Philadelphia. Albert C. Barnes hired the best lawyers he could find to create an ironclad legal framework that made absolutely, positively sure the collection would never, ever be moved or broken up. He died in 1951. The collection is being moved this year. But we admire the intent.)

Except these conservation agreements specifically do not require conservation practices on the part of the landowner. There are no restrictions on burn frequency or stocking rates, for example. Nothing prevents the owner from allowing the property to become choked with junipers or other woody species.

In fact, the Wildlife Service’s environmental assessment (in the section that enumerates the threats to the Flint Hills) says that “the key to protecting the tallgrass prairie lies primarily in sustaining the current land use pattern of livestock ranching and the use of prescribed fire.” The document repeatedly stresses the need for prescribed burning, never acknowledging its potential for harm.

That’s a little like lecturing the survivors of Hurricane Katrina on the perils of drought. We need water to live, but too much isn’t any better than too little. Prairies are so-called “fire climax” environments – their ecosystems depend on periodic fires – but too much fire will destroy them just as surely as too little.

The casual reader would be forgiven for thinking that the problem facing the Flint Hills today is, if anything, too little burning. “Conservation easements within the Flint Hills Tallgrass Legacy Conservation Area would help reduce habitat fragmentation resulting from a lack of fire and encroachment by woody species,” the assessment says. “...The conservation of large unfragmented blocks of tallgrass prairie would allow the continued use of prescribed fire to maintain healthy habitat.”

But that stands the problem on its head: the annual prescribed fires so widely used today are fundamentally altering the habitat, sharply reducing its capacity to support prairie chicken populations. Healthy habitats are the whole point of spending hundreds of millions of dollars to buy conservation easements, and the burn practices in place today are destroying them.

The Wildlife Service knows this. When it drew up conservation plans for other refuges in the region, it heeded the advice of its wildlife biologists and set out requirements for rotation or patch burning of prairie, specifically because the dense nesting cover required by many upland species never materializes when burned every year.

Consider the prairie chicken, whose numbers are a tiny fraction of what they once were. The hen nests on the ground, and therefore needs enough cover to sit on the ground for six

See Real Threat on page 9
Legislative Director Position

The Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club will be hiring for the Legislative Director and Lobbyist for the 2012 Session. To request information and position criteria, send an email to info@kansas.sierraclub.org
Our Take on the Governor’s New Flint Hills Policy

By Craig Volland

Elsewhere in this issue, Duane Schrag argues that Governor Brownback’s new policy banning wind farms gives a false impression that now the Flint Hills will be preserved. Duane is right. The Governor’s policy merely preserves the region for industrial-scale cattle ranching.

The wind farm issue has always been somewhat of a red herring that diverts attention from the excessive burning and stocking practices that are the real cause of the decline in grassland bird populations. There were never more than 7 or 8 proposals for wind farms in the Flint Hills, which encompasses some 4.5 million acres. Only two have been built or are under construction.

The Kansas Chapter developed a policy that agreed with former Governor Sebelius’s ban of wind farms in the Heart of the Flint Hills covering the most scenic and unfragmented areas. However, we thought the rest should remain open to wind farms as long as developers mitigated their impact by obtaining conservation easements that controlled destructive ranching practices. We also felt that at least some landowners and host counties in the Flint Hills should reap the economic benefits from leasing fees and taxes (or payments in lieu of). If a particular county decided they didn’t want utility scale wind farms, that was fine with us.

During last year’s public meetings on the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that some 70% of the Flint Hills was investor owned. So now we have the bizarre situation where, over the next decade or so, up to $400 million in public money will be paid primarily to Texas billionaires and corporate cattle barons for conservation easements that do not address burning and stocking practices. Thus the Flint Hills will not be preserved.

We do agree with the Governor on one thing. He stated that his policy would not preclude the construction of new transmission lines. Almost everyone agrees that we should expand the wind industry in western Kansas. But that may not be possible without getting the power to the big demand centers to the east.

Since the Flint Hills run almost the entire width of the state, it is likely that at least one new transmission line will have to pass through the region.

Duane is also right that transmission lines fragment the tall grass prairie. So care should be taken to run the new line as much as possible along existing highway or transmission rights of way in the Flint Hills, even if it costs a lot more.

We also believe that if the Governor is not going to allow landowners to harvest the wind, then he should help them harvest the tourists in an ecologically sound way. To that end, we’d like to see more hiking trails, scenic overlooks and fitting and tasteful accommodations.

Governor Diverts $$, continued from Cover

2010. The program ultimately attracted some 138 implementing participants from all over the state including auditors, contractors, banks, credit unions, cities, electric coops, and the major utility companies, BPU, Westar and Midwest Energy. The program began to pick up speed after the big utilities joined. Then on July 20, 2011 these folks received a letter from the Kansas Energy Office, a Division of the Kansas Corporation Commission, which was supposed to be managing the program. This letter began as follows:

“In November 2009, the Kansas Energy Office announced the launch of Efficiency Kansas. Today, Efficiency Kansas continues to be one of the most innovative energy efficiency loan programs in the country. The program saw the creation of a residential energy-efficiency industry consisting of energy auditors, contractors, banks and utilities working together to make Kansas homes comfortable, affordable and safe. We thank each of you for your hard work and support during the creation and implementation of the program.”

The hammer falls. Then they said that the KCC and Department of Commerce “were directed” to reallocate funding to some renewable energy projects, and that the program would run out of funds “in the next several weeks.” The reason given was that the remaining funds in the DOE grant could not otherwise be expended by the March 31, 2012 deadline. Program managers claimed they would try to keep the EK program going with alternate sources of funds, but BPU and Westar immediately ceased their participation.

What happened! Christine Metz of the Lawrence Journal World ran a series of articles on this fiasco. Some $22 million was diverted to three biofuel-related projects:

- $12 million for methane production from cattle feedlot manure;
- $4.56 million for biomass harvesting and transportation equipment, and
- $5 million to convert all of QuikTrip’s 38 retail gas stations in Wichita so they can dispense high ethanol–gasoline blends for “flex-fuel” vehicles.

Many questions. If the KCC and Department of Commerce “were directed” to do this, then it must have been the Governor’s doing. The biggest question is why did they have to divert all the funds now? Why not leave enough to fund the program through March 31, 2012. Another big question is... how can they claim to keep a revolving loan program going over the next 10 to 20 years when there will be so few funds in the kitty to revolve? Finally, why did they pull the rug out from under the program participants with no warning and without giving them a chance to help work out a better solution?

The Kansas Chapter has filed a Freedom of Information Request with the Department of Energy and an Open Records Request with the Kansas Corporation Commission. A lot of people have been hurt by what appears to be an arbitrary and
Real Threat, continued from page 9

A study by the Sutton Avian Research Center in Oklahoma used radio collars to track the movements of 463 prairie chickens over 9 years. Only 17 of the birds were found to have crossed power lines through the area; no bird crossed the power lines more than four times in a year.

Barriers, whether power lines, roads, or subdivision, restrict the movement of prairie chicken populations. This reduces the genetic diversity they need to survive. Case in point: In 1967, with only 1,070 Attwater's prairie chickens remaining, the grouse was declared an endangered species (before the Endangered Species Act of 1973). A refuge was created for the birds in 1972. By 1993, only 37 birds remained in the refuge.

Another study found that prairie chickens typically do not nest within 860 yards of improved roads, 400 yards of power lines, or nearly a mile of buildings.

Yet the Wildlife Service definition of intact doesn’t take into account roads. We did an analysis that did take into account roads and power lines. If a 400-yard buffer on either side of county roads and power lines is assumed to be non-grassland, and a similar 700-yard buffer is applied to state highways and interstates, the intact acreage of the Flint Hills falls to 1.1 million acres.

The assessment notes that it is thought that a single lek – areas where prairie chickens choose partners – requires 15,000 acres. Using our definition above of intact grassland, there are only 5 tracts of at least 15,000 acres in the entire Flint Hills.

The Wildlife Service is right on one point: habitat loss is indeed killing the Flint Hills ecosystem. Fragmentation is a major culprit. Ranching practices are another. Huge chunks of the remaining grassland are being burned every year. And banning new wind farms isn’t going to do a thing about that.

Duane lives in Abilene and frequently helps the Chapter with research and data analysis. He was formerly a reporter at the Salina Journal and before that editor of the Chanute Tribune. He currently works for the Land Institute near Salina.

Governor Diverts $$, continued from page 10

irrational decision. We plan to issue more information on this debacle as it becomes available.

New Development: As this article was going to press the Quik Trip ethanol project recipient decided they didn’t want their $5 million grant, so $3.5 million was added to the biomethane project and $1.5 million was given back to Efficiency Kansas. It will be used to process about 150 applications that had been left hanging. More on this in the next issue of Planet Kansas.
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

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**WATERSPHERE PLUMBING**

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Richard Mabion is the Director of the J. Gordon Community Development Corporation, a non-profit, which is the recipient of a grant from the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club to promote energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) in Wyandotte County. The first grant of $5000 was awarded in 2009. It was increased to $9000 in 2010. The Chapter also directly purchases CFLs and weatherization materials for the program at a cost of several thousand dollars per year.

The original idea was to promote EE&C to community groups in the county and to direct qualifying citizens to the federal low income weatherization program. But we soon found that people were stuck on a long waiting list. Taking matters into his own hands (literally) Richard started directly helping people with simple things they could do to save energy and lower their electricity bills.

Since May of last year Richard has replaced incandescent light bulbs in 25 homes with highly efficient compact fluorescents (CFLs). He also does “show and tell” to community groups on simple window and door treatments like thresholds, caulking and plastic window covers that people could install themselves to “dodge the draft.” We are hoping to obtain additional funds soon to allow Richard to hire a part-time handy person to install these items for the elderly and others who are not do-it-yourselfers.

Richard has presented to dozens of community groups all over the county. He soon found that middle class folks were interested as well. He was starting to help promote the Energy Kansas revolving loan program, but the Governor suddenly jerked away the funding. See more on this sorry state of affairs elsewhere in this newsletter.

Given the trials of relying on government funding, the Chapter thinks an independent, grass roots approach to energy conservation may be the way to go. The CFLs and weatherization treatments don’t amount to large numbers, but they help get Richard in the door to talk to people about the bigger picture… about climate change, pollution from burning fossil fuels and clean energy. The Chapter is also looking at enabling a similar program in Wichita.
Foul Play in the Fowl Industry

Eating as Though the Earth Matters

By Judy Carman

In the last issue, we took a look at the devastating impact of overfishing and pollution on the aquatic habitats in which the world’s fish live. One of the biggest contributors to the pollution was agricultural runoff, including manure and a toxic stew of chemicals. In this issue, let’s look at the poultry industry and the pollution that streams out of it in ever-expanding ripples of poison.

Here are a few shocking facts to ponder.

• In the U.S. alone, 30 million birds are killed every day. Approximately one third of those are turkeys. That amounts to 10 billion birds a year according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service. In the process of raising and killing this many birds (and remember, this is just in the U.S.) the air, land, and waters of this precious earth are polluted, and it is we human beings who cause it. On their own, as free birds, turkeys, ducks, and chickens live in balance and do not pollute their ecosystems. But because we crowd them into warehouses in order to satisfy the appetites of our ever increasing human population (expected to soon reach 7 billion), monstrous streams of excess nitrogen, phosphorus, parasites, viruses, bacteria, antibiotics, chemicals, etc. produced by these factories pollute our air, water, and soil.

• An Ohio State University Poultry Manure Management bulletin calculates that 100 chickens produce 20-34 pounds of wet manure per day, while 100 turkeys will produce 108 to 132 pounds per day. I multiplied the number of birds killed per year by those figures and came up with a rough estimate of nearly 5 billion pounds of wet manure produced per year in the U.S. alone.

• A poultry slaughterhouse can use as much as 2 million gallons of water each day, according to a Washington Post article entitled “Poultry Poses Growing Potomac Hazard.” And certainly the water that spews out from such a plant after being used to wash down the blood, feces, and body parts of thousands of birds can’t be water that we want to flow anywhere.

• In a 2008 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article regarding chicken feed, 2.2 million pounds of the antibiotic arsenic compound roxarsone are used each year in the grain that is fed to chickens. About 95 percent of that poison comes out in chicken excrement. Unbelievably, a great deal of that poison poop is used as fertilizer. And whether it is used to grow crops or left in giant lagoons at the mercy of heavy rains (causing the lagoons to overflow into nearby streams), the arsenic can and does leach into water sources.

• It is now well known that a microbe by the name of Pfisteria piscicida is found in both poultry and hog manure. This microbe enters water sources and can actually eat holes in fish such as menhaden which just happens to be a fish that is used in feed for farm animals. Imagine a cow eating a fish, and you get the picture of just how far human ingenuity can go when ethics are left by the wayside.

• In broiler chicken buildings as well as factories full of turkeys and ducks, birds are crowded so tightly they can barely move. In egg producing buildings, hens are packed into cages so tiny that they cannot spread their wings or move about normally. They have all been taken from their mothers and are left without the comfort of her sheltering wings and her guidance. Morality aside, this kind of confinement is a magnet for disease. Urine, feces, decaying feathers, dead birds, etc. all combine to create an air space so toxic that workers and birds alike cannot escape respiratory and other health problems. It is no surprise then that every year, millions of these animals die before going to slaughter. According to Karen Davis, President of United Poultry Concerns and author of Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry, a building containing 1,000,000 chickens will lose about 250 chickens per day. Approximately 9% of all turkeys raised in confinement die before slaughter. It’s worth considering what kind of pollution is caused by this huge number of decaying bodies. United Poultry Concerns’ website, upc-online.org, is an excellent resource for more information if you wish to dig more deeply.

Of course, this is just a quick look at what goes on in the poultry industry. As with all giant industries that are fueled by greed and devoid of ethical guidelines, the ripples of damage radiate out to affect the entire earth. For example, the amount of grain fed to these unfortunate beings could be used to feed starving people instead. And we are all by now familiar with the United Nations report aimed at livestock as one of the biggest causes of our environmental problems.

Many of us have witnessed on TV and the internet some of the undercover videos that have been released to the press resulting in trials for animal cruelty against workers in chicken and turkey factories. Poultry animals are not covered by the federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. And, as with all animals raised for food, they are also not covered by the Animal Welfare Act. Nevertheless, the torture of these animals was so horrifying and garnered so much public sympathy that the courts have gotten involved. Perhaps, it is a leap to consider the cruelty itself an environmental problem, but if we wish to think holistically about our planetary dilemma, surely such sadism on the part of some human beings toward defenseless animals is polluting the earth on a spiritual level. Karen Davis refers to it as the “slaughter culture,” a world in which slaughterhouse workers are ravaged by drug addiction, physical injuries, spouse
battering, and multiple emotional problems.

Is “free-range” an answer to this compelling problem? According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the only thing necessary to label a bird “free-range” is that they have the possibility of going outdoors. One single door in an enormous building could satisfy that requirement. The other conditions in these “free range” buildings can be identical to factory farms and still be labeled “free range.” In fact these giant warehouses are so crowded that the chance of a bird ever making it to that door or even seeing it in his or her short lifetime is extremely remote. And just because they are labeled “free-range,” they are still not protected by law. So the same cruelties and the same transport and slaughter methods can be perpetrated on them as upon the factory farmed poultry. In addition, just as their kin in the factories, they produce the same sources of pollution that are devastating their and our environment through no fault of their own.

As the holidays approach, we will be inundated with ads, recipes, children’s paper turkey cutouts, and media hype regarding the traditional turkey dinner. That is a turkey that is loaded with cholesterol, bacteria, viruses, and stress hormones (filling his or her body at slaughter). The bird on the table could have been very ill prior to slaughter from breathing ammonia, excrement, and chemical filled air. As environmentalists, it’s difficult to know all that we know about “where things come from” and continue on with such traditions. They may seem warm and loving to the casual observer, but we know the ugly trail of greed and destruction that brought that one dead bird onto the family table.

We have an opportunity during the holidays to think deeply about what our eating habits are doing to our precious planet. In the spirit of gratitude for this miraculous earth that so desperately needs our care, we can create new traditions—traditions that honor the earth and all the beings who live here with us. Simply by eliminating all animal products from our meals and eating a plant-based diet, we thereby show our refusal to support the destructive livestock industry. By doing so we take a stand every single day, three times a day, for justice, for healing, and for literally saving the earth, the animals, and ourselves.

While researching for my book, The Missing Peace, I came across a story about a chicken who was living with her human family as a companion, not as a future meal. This little chicken actually rescued two people and a toddler from an attacking dog, by flying at the dog and confusing him until her people were safely inside their house. So while you are saving animals by giving up the eating of them, it might happen that one day an animal may return the favor by saving you.

**Gratitude Food for the Holidays**

These recipes are two of Alicia Silverstone’s favorites found at gentlethanksgiving.org.

**Old Fashioned Sweet Potatoes**
- 4 lb sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 5 TB Earth Balance butter
- 2/3 C maple syrup
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- Pinch of ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional)

Preheat oven to 375°F. Place potatoes in 13 x 9 x 2-inch glass baking dish. Combine butter, sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and salt in small saucepan over medium heat. Bring to boil and stir until sugar dissolves. Pour this mixture over sweet potatoes and toss to coat. Cover dish well with foil.

Bake 50 minutes. Uncover and continue to bake until potatoes are tender and syrup thickens a bit (basting occasionally) about 20 minutes. Raise oven temperature to 500°F. Top sweet potatoes with pecans and bake until nuts begin to brown, about 3 minutes.

**Cornbread Muffins**
- 1 1/2 cups whole wheat pastry flour
- 1 tbsp double acting, non aluminum, baking powder
- 1 cup brown rice syrup or maple syrup
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1 ¼ cup soymilk
- 1 ½ cup yellow cornmeal

Preheat oven to 400. Mix liquid ingredients, then mix dry in a separate bowl. Mix dry & liquid together. With a tissue, place a little oil on the pan. Bake 20 minutes.

Submitted by Judy Carman, M.A., Author of Peace to All Beings: Veggie Soup for the Chicken’s Soul, Co-author of The Missing Peace: The Hidden Power of our Kinship with Animals and owner of a truck and a car powered by used veggie oil. circleofcompassion.org, peacetoallbeings.com.
Chapter & Group Leaders

Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter

Flint Hills Group (Manhattan Area)

Carol Barta*, Chair, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, (785) 410-8606, snowsage54@hotmail.com
Scott Smith*, Treasurer, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net
Larry Erikson*, Conservation Chair, (785) 246-3229, gjanderson1963@gmail.com
Virginia Hagin*, Outings Chair, (757) 508-7565, virginia.hagin@us.army.mil

Kanza Group (Kansas City)

Bob Sommer*, Chair, Political Chair, (816) 898-1100, rsommer@kc.rr.com
Craig Lubow*, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, Global Warming Co-Chair, (913) 299-6620, craigelubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
Ed Rowe*, Secretary, Chapter Group Rep, (913) 642-1371, rowed@prodigy.net
Frank Drinkwine*, Fundraising Chair, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)

Dave Kirkbride*, Chair, Chapter/Group Delegate, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Stuart Bolt*, Vice Chair, Fund Raising Chair, Environmental Justice Chair, (316) 682-4722, stuart bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
Tom Kneil*, Secretary, Alternate Chapter Delegate, Global Warming Chair, (316) 744-1016, Thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org
Yvonne Cather, Treasurer, Energy Chair, Program Co-Chair, (316) 379-9756, spudspa@yahoo.com
Bruce Fuelling*, Co-Conservation Chair, Outings Chair, Sprawl Chair, (316) 682-0340, bsfuelling@cox.net
Deborah Gaftvert*, Membership Chair, Program Co-Chair, Publicity Chair, (316) 733-5102, dsgaftvert@cox.net
Karim Cowdrey*, ExCom Member, (316) 687-6447, Ron Morris*, ExCom Member, (316) 777-4130, ronny.morris@cox.net

Topeka Group

Gary Anderson*, Chair, Program Chair, (785) 246-3229, gjanderson1963@gmail.com
Jim Tuchschere*, Vice Chair, (785) 272-5633, jim.tuch@earthlink.net
Bill Cutler*, Treasurer, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 379-9756, spuds@co.gov
Leonard Biggs*, ExCom Member, (620) 437-7319, dipaul@madtel.net
Anita Frank*, Conservation Chair, (785) 273-5305, afrank16@cox.net
Nancy Kirk**, ExCom Member, (785) 324-8806, na.kirk@sbcglobal.net
Paul Post*, Membership Chair, Outings Chair, (785) 354-1972, paul.post@paulpost.com
Phil Morse****, Political Chair, Energy Chair, (785) 273-3613, phil.morse@sbcglobal.net

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)

Lynart Pettengill, ExCom Member, (785) 331-0625, lynartpettengill@yahoo.com
Carolyn Binns*, Treasurer, (785) 841-3238, carolyn@sunflower.com
Steve Lopes*, Secretary, (785) 842-7137, slopes888@aol.com
Susannah Neal*, ExCom Member, (785) 760-6633, susannahneal@sunflower.com
Melissa Rogers*, Environmental Education Chair, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 666-1028, mrogers816@gmail.com
George Brenner****, Conservation Chair, Water Quality Chair, (785) 393-3828, gbrenner@sunflower.com
General Meetings

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
October 6, 7:00 pm.
Climate Change: Global and Local Evidence and Implications.
Kanza is diverting it General Meeting to this important event.
5:30 pm - Appetizers & Exhibits by Local Environmental Organizations. A $20 dinner donation is requested. (see below)
6:00 pm - Supper of Locally Grown Foods Catered by Blue Bird Bistro. Advance reservations for dinner are necessary and need to be made by October 1st. A $20 dinner donation is requested. Send check payable to KNRC/Community Forum, 7301 Mission Rd., suite 248, Prairie Village, KS 66208.
7:00 pm - Guest Speaker John Harrington, PhD, KS State University, will provide evidence of on-going global climate change and matches scientific processes with the observations of change. Maps and graphs illustrate the distinction between natural and human-induced drivers of climate change. The presentation asks: what evidence of climate change do we see in Kansas? No reservation or donation required.
Where - Friendship Hall at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road.
Contact - Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
November 8, 6:30 pm.
Share Your Adventures
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 - Share Your Adventures is Kanza Group’s annual invitation to members to bring their special slide shows of your recent vacations. This is always a favorite of wonderful adventures around the world. Slides should show nature or be about an environmental issue. Limit slides to your best 60. Contact Craig Wolfe if you are bringing slides.
Where - Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W. 79th St. 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

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
December 13, 6:30 pm.
Winter Solstice Celebration
6:30 pm - Potluck dinner. Live music by the Celtic band Dogtree. Winter wildlife program by Elaine Giessel. Families with children welcome!
Where - Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W. 79th St. 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

Topeka Group
October 25, 6:00 pm.
Topeka Zoological Park
6:00 pm - “Coffee, Food and Conversation”
7:00 pm - Zoo staff will update us with info about our Zoo plus our Annual Chili Fundraiser. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3223; gjanderson1963@gmail.com
Where - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, 4775 SW 21st Street.
Contact - Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

Topeka Group
December 9, 6:00 pm.
Annual Holiday Party
6:00 pm - Bosco’s Restaurant, 435 S. Kansas (first floor dining room). Join you fellow Topeka Group members for an evening of fine dining and conversations (dinner and beverages are no-host)
Contact - Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

Southwind Group (Wichita)
October 14, 6:30 pm.
Dangers of Hydraulic Fracturing
6:30 pm - Food & Conversation will be abbreviated in order to allow time for the showing of Gasland:
7:00 pm - Showing of the movie Gasland. The discussion will be led by former Sierra Club lobbyist Chris Cardinal
Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th N at Woodlawn.
Contact - Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)
November 11, 6:30 p.m.
Rain Drains
6:30 pm - Food & Conversation
7:30 pm - Rain Drains will be presented by the Sedgwick County Extension Service.
Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th N at Woodlawn.
Contact - Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Topeka Group
November 11, 6:30 p.m.
Rain Drains
6:30 pm - Food & Conversation
7:30 pm - Rain Drains will be presented by the Sedgwick County Extension Service.
Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th N at Woodlawn.
Contact - Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)
General Information
Contact Jason Hering, (785) 341-4911, jasonforjustice@gmail.com
General public is welcome to participate

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

[2] Oct 1. 9:00 am. Take A Hike
Take a hike with the Southwind Group and the Great Plains Nature Center. The hike will start at 9:00 a.m. and end about 11:00 a.m. Register to win door prizes donated by the American Hiking Society as you hike the Chisholm Creek Park, 6232 East 29th Street North (near 29th & Woodlawn). The hike is for all ages. No pets allowed on the trails. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com

This 5-hour class, will offer hands on demonstrations of pack loading, tent pitching, water treatment, cat holes, repair basics. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

Join us for a 10-mile hike along the north shore of Clinton Lake west of Lawrence. Bring lunch and water. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

[1] Oct 1-2. 9 am-4 pm. Topeka Group’s booth at the Topeka Energy Star Expo
Topeka’s Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development, along with the Kansas Energy Office, is hosting Topeka’s fourth annual Energy Star Awareness Expo, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct 1 and 2 at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, 420 S.E. 6th Street in Topeka. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

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, partially cleared, but more work needs to be done. Leveling, improving a stream ford, and always brush cutting. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (913) 384-6645, rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

[4] Oct 8-9. 1:00 pm. Giant Trail Hike & Cookout with camping as an option
at 1199 Old Goat Ranch Road, Mulvane, Kansas. Breakfast will be served Sunday morning for those camping over. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, BillC@CatherGriffithLaw.com

Bypass the crowds and explore a quiet Ozark stream on a laid-back canoe/kayak float trip. We'll catch the sunset and see the stars Saturday night from our sandbar campsite. Kanza. Ben Thiel, ben_thiel@hotmail.com

[2] Oct 10. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town
Drinks, Food and Conversation at the Caffé Moderne. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

We'll spend three nights on the trail in the rugged backcountry of Arkansas. Early fall foliage, scenic vistas, crisp mornings, and perhaps the calls of owls or coyotes will reward our efforts. Group size limited to 10 persons. Please register by October 1. No smoking. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

Meet at the Kirkbride Ranch at 10:30 am on Saturday. Specific directions will be sent in response to RSVPs. A $5.00 donation will be requested. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

We'll meet at the Tall Grass Prairie National Preserve for a backcountry hike on Saturday morning. We'll explore the historic barn and ranch house. Afterwards we'll head into Cottonwood Falls to tour the Chase County Courthouse, and enjoy an early dinner at the Emma Chase Cafe. We'll stay overnight at the scenic Camp Wood YMCA – bring your tent or stay in a comfortable cabin – and have a horseback trail ride on Sunday morning! This is a great weekend for kids and camping newbie's! Overnight camping and riding fees apply at Camp Wood. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com
## Committee Meetings

### Kanza Group  
(Leavenworth City)

**Executive Committee**  
Oct 27, Dec 1 - 7:00 pm,  
Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211, rsommer@kc.rr.com

**Joint Action Committee**  
Oct 27, Dec 1 - 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 2, Nov 6 - 6:00 pm  
Equity Bank Building  
Dave Kirkbride, (316) 655-8299, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Conservation Committee**  
TBA - 6:30 pm  
Bruce Fuelling, (316) 682-0340, bfuelling@cox.net

### Wakarusa Group  
(Lawrence)

**Executive Committee Planning**  
Contact Jason Hering, (785) 341-4911, jasonforjustice@gmail.com

**Conservation Committee**  
Contact George Brenner, (785) 393-3828, GBrenner@sunflower.com

### Topeka Group, Oct 1, Nov 10.  
Topeka Shawnee County Public Library  
Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229, ganderson1963@gmail.com

**Kansas Chapter:** (State), Executive Committee, Oct 15  
Yvonne Cather, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

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**[1]** Oct 29. 7:30-10:30 am. Topeka Group’s  
Adopt -a-Highway cleanup on I-70  
Meet at the Hyatt Place parking lot at 6th and Wanamaker for a brief safety meeting, and then proceed with the cleanup. Wear sturdy boots and bring a hat and work gloves. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

**[4]** Nov 4-6. Beginning Backpack Trip, Part 3 - Bell Mountain Wilderness, Potosi, MO  
Apply what you learned in the backpacking classes. The trip will focus on applying the knowledge you have acquired. We will be applying map and compass skills. Kanza. John Haynes 913-248-1259, jhaynes5018@everestkc.net or Paul Gross, 816-228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

**[1]** Nov 5. Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS  
Join us on the 20th anniversary of our first trail maintenance trip to Perry Lake! Bring lunch, water, work gloves, and if you have them, bow saws and/or loppers. Anniversary cake optional. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, hassler@planetkc.com

**[2]** Nov 14. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town  
Drinks, Food and Conversation at the Café Moderne. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

**[2]** Nov 19. Hike & Campfire with Great Plains Nature Center  
A collaborative effort between Southwind and the Great Plains Nature Center will take place on Saturday, November 19th, when a hike and campfire program will be offered at 6:00 pm. Join us for a staff-led hike through Chisholm Creek Park, followed by s’mores and stories around the campfire. More on this in the next edition of Planet Kansas. Be sure to mark the dates on your calendar and make plans to hit the trails and enjoy nature with us! Southwind. Patty Marlett, patty@gpnc.org or (316) 683-5499, ext. 310.

**[4]** Dec 9-11. Devil’s Backbone Wilderness Backpack, Willow Springs, MO  
Join us as we explore the area near and around the North Fork River, Crooked Spring, and Amber Spring. Kanza. John Haynes, (913) 248-1259, jhaynes5018@everestkc.net

**[1]** Dec 17. Shawnee Mission Park, Lenexa, KS  
Join us for a 6-mile afternoon hike along the south shore of the lake at Shawnee Mission Park. The trail will be very rocky in places. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

**[1]** Jan 1. New years Day Hike, Lake JACOMO, Blue Springs, MO  
Hike some ravines & woodlands trails. Bring lunch, and we’ll provide the hot cocoa. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

**[4]** Jan 21. Snow shoe Hike and Trail Maintenance, Lake JACOMO, Blue Springs, MO  
Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com
Calendar of Events

Summary of all Kansas Chapter Events

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

Out Oct 1. Clinton Lake Day Hike. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com
Out Oct 1-2. 9 am-4 pm. Topeka Group’s booth at the Topeka Energy Star Expo. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
Out Oct 1. 9:00 am. Take A Hike. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
Out Oct 1. Beginning Backpack Class Series, Part 2, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com
CM Oct 2. 6:00 pm. Southwing ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Oct 2-9. 100 pm. Giant Trail Hike & Cookout with camping as an option. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, BillC@CatherGriffithLaw.com
Out Oct 10. 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
CM Oct 11. 7:00 pm. ExCom Meeting. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3223; ganderson1963@gmail.com
Out Oct 13-16. Beginning Backpack Trip, Part 3 - Bell Mountain Wilderness, Potosi, MO. Kanza. John Haynes 913-248-1259, jhaynes5018@everestkc.net or Paul Gross, 816-228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com
Out Nov 4-6. Beginning Backpack Trip, Part 3 - Bell Mountain Wilderness, Potosi, MO. Kanza. John Haynes 913-248-1259, jhaynes5018@everestkc.net or Paul Gross, 816-228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com
Out Nov 5. Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, hassler@planetkc.com
CM Nov 5. 9:00 am. Conservation and Joint Action Committee Meeting. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM Nov 6. 6:00 pm. Southwing ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Nov 6. 8:00 pm. Share Your Adventures. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM Nov 10. 7:00 pm. ExCom Meeting. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3223; ganderson1963@gmail.com
GM Nov 11. 6:30 pm.. Rain Drains. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Nov 14. 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
CM Dec 1. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM Dec 1. 7:00 pm. Kansas ExCom meeting. Kanza. Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211, rsommer@kc.rr.com