How the Chanute Cement Kiln Pollution Issue Can Be Resolved

By Craig Volland

On Nov. 10, 2011 National Public Radio ran a story (http://www.npr.org/2011/11/10/142183546/epa-regulations-give-kilns-permission-to-pollute) by journalist Howard Berkes and associates about the Ash Grove cement kiln in Chanute, Kansas. They did a fine job of describing the pollution issues and the community conflict surrounding this facility that burns hazardous wastes. This article is intended to examine how these issues can be resolved to protect both the environment and public health.

The NPR story identified two areas of particular concern, emission of large amounts of mercury and a “higher than expected” level of hospitalizations of children with asthma. The KDHE & EPA are currently conducting a program of envi-

See Chanute on page 10

Keystone XL Tar Sands Oil Pipeline to be Reevaluated

By Michael Brune, National Sierra Club Executive Director

We marched. We called. We emailed. And now we can celebrate.

We have just learned that after months of public input from hundreds of thousands of people like you, the Obama Administration has decided to reevaluate the environmental review of the dirty Keystone XL tar sands oil pipeline. This is GREAT NEWS and we should all take a moment to applaud this decision.

Take a moment to send a letter thanking President Obama for listening to the American people and putting the brakes on the dirty, dangerous Keystone XL oil pipeline proposal.

What does this mean?
Another review not only means more time to build our op-

See Keystone on page 11
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Kansas Chapter Recommends Antiwar Resolution To Sierra Club Board Of Directors

By Bob Sommer

“If we greens don’t broaden our thinking to tackle war, we may save some wilderness, but lose the world.” — David Brower, the Sierra Club’s first executive director and a World War II veteran of the 10th Mountain Division

The Kansas Chapter’s Executive Committee has recommended that the Sierra Club Board of Directors adopt a resolution in support of withdrawing U.S. forces from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as downsizing the military’s expansive network of overseas bases.

The ExCom unanimously voted in favor of the resolution at its Oct. 15, 2011, meeting in Topeka. The resolution now goes to the Sierra Club Board of Directors for review.

While the actual number of military bases is unknown, historian Nick Turse estimates that the U.S. maintains over 1,100 bases worldwide, with nearly 700 bases in no fewer than 38 foreign countries.

In addition to the cost in financial and human treasure, America’s wars and military expansion have had a devastating impact on the environment. The U.S. military consumes an estimated 14 million gallons of oil every day in service of its tanks, ships, aircraft, Hummers, and bases. The military’s carbon footprint is larger than any single industry and even most countries on the planet. It is arguably the elephant in the room of environmentalism.

The Kansas Chapter’s antiwar resolution was drafted and approved prior to President Obama’s announcement that troops will be withdrawn from Iraq by the end of 2012. Notably, less than a week later, plans to increase the American military presence in the Persian Gulf to offset the Iraq withdrawal became public.

The resolution will be considered at the November meeting of the Board of Directors in San Francisco.

What can you do? The Kansas Chapter has taken the lead nationwide on this issue. Share the resolution with your Sierra Club friends around the U.S. Ask for their chapters’ support. And let the Sierra Club Board of Directors know that you support it too!

Further reading:

See Resolution on page 12
Four Companies Asking To Expand Operations. Total Extraction Would Jump 50%, From 2.2 To 3.2 Million Tons -

By Laura Calwell, Riverkeeper for Friends Of The Kaw

Public Comment Deadline: December 9, 2011

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is now accepting public comment on the future of sand and gravel dredging on the Kansas River, known locally as the Kaw. Five companies have re-applied for existing permits in Johnson, Wyandotte, Douglas, and Shawnee counties, and four of them are seeking to expand dredging operations.

“River dredging is very destructive, and the cumulative effects are not in the public interest,” said Laura Calwell, Riverkeeper for Friends of the Kaw (FOK), a grassroots nonprofit dedicated to preserving the Kaw for future generations.

“Dredging stirs up sediments and industrial pollutants that threaten our drinking water,” Calwell said. “It also creates erosion that threatens valuable farmland and wildlife habitat, not to mention taxpayer-funded infrastructure like flood control, bridges, and roads.”

“When other local sand operations have already made a reasonable and economic shift to pit mines, there’s no reason to risk the public welfare with river dredging.”

The public comment period ends December 9, 2011. Comments may be emailed to kale.e.horton@usace.army.mil. More information is available at the Friends of the Kaw website, www.kansasriver.org/stopdredging. If not renewed, all dredging permits will expire on December 31, 2012.

“More than 600,000 Kansans get their drinking water from the Kaw, so any issue that affects water quality and channel integrity matters to a lot of people,” Calwell said. “Johnson County gets a third of its water from the river. Topeka gets one hundred percent. Dredging does too much damage. It’s just too much of a risk.”

Five companies – Kaw Valley Companies, Holliday Sand & Gravel, Master’s Dredging, Penny’s, and Meier’s Ready Mix - are each separately applying for a permit. The five permits cover a total of thirteen different dredging sites (ten existing sites and three new sites.)

All companies but Penny’s are requesting not only the renewal of existing permits, but also to expand their range, increased tonnage removed, and/or to re-open areas the Corps has already closed due to “unacceptable degradation” from previous dredging.

Currently, these five companies are authorized to extract 2.2 million tons from the river. The new permits would increase that number by almost 50%, to 3.2 million tons.

“Now is the time to shut down all river dredging, not expand it so drastically,” said Calwell. “There is no evidence that the channel has recovered at the damaged locations. In fact, we know for sure that at least one location definitely has not. Also, these are the same companies who damaged the riverbed in the first place. It doesn’t make sense to let them do it all over again.”

Friends of the Kaw also expressed concerns about the public comment process. Calwell pointed out that one of USACE’s goals is to assess new environmental and scientific information on dredging. For at least the past year, it has been widely known that in January 2012, K-State researchers will release a major new study that will consider the environmental impacts of dredging. However, the timing of the USACE process means that the scientific information will not be available for members of the public to refer to in their comments.

Another goal of the comment process is to determine whether there is adequate interest to justify a public hearing on the issue.

“We were very disappointed that the USACE decided to hold the public comment process over the holidays, when people are involved in so many other family and community activities,” Calwell said. “We repeatedly requested that they delay until after the first of the year.”

Calwell is still optimistic that the public will decide to give the Kaw River the perfect holiday gift this year – the gift of getting involved, emailing a comment, and telling the USACE to kick dredging off the river for once and for all.

“Taking dredges off the Kaw will not increase the price of sand and concrete, and it will not have a negative impact on jobs and the economy,” she said. “In fact, there are real economic benefits to ending dredging – reducing the cost of drinking water treatment, reducing erosion of valuable farmland, and reducing the cost of protecting bridges and other public infrastructure from erosion.”

Friends of the Kaw (FOK) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to protect and preserve the Kansas River (known locally as the Kaw) for future generations. Founded in 1991, FOK supports protecting water quality, rehabilitating wildlife habitat, removing in-river dredges, and increasing public recreation and river access. Since 2002, FOK has helped eight communities build ten river access points or public river parks, bringing to thirteen the total number of access points on the Kaw.


For more information on dredging, go to www.kansasriver.org/stopdredging
A Herculean Effort

By Bob Wilshire

The weather was nearly perfect for our Kansas City Area Sierra Club backpacking trip to Hercules Glades Wilderness on the weekend of September 23-25. Hercules is located east of Forsyth, Missouri, in Taney County. Eight of us went which made for a good group. We drove down from Kansas City on Friday and got to the trailhead that afternoon. We hiked in about four miles and set up a base camp near Rock Spring which is about a half mile bushwhack from the shut-ins along Long’s Creek.

Saturday after breakfast we hiked down to the shut-ins and lollled around there under calm, cloudless blue skies most of the morning. It was the Ozarks defined.

After lunch in camp we hiked about six miles up and around Pilots Knob and then back to camp late in the afternoon. Upper Pilots Knob is the prominent feature of Hercules Glades. It is a hill top glade dotted with limestone outcropping and cedar trees. Unfortunately the Eastern Red Cedars are an invasive species that in my opinion do not add to the beauty of the glades. The wildflower meadows however more than make up for it. At one time these hills and glades were “bald” and had the look of the Kansas Flint Hills to them.

We saw a couple of interesting creatures along the trail; a feisty tortoise and a tarantula about as big and colorful as a sunflower. It was not creepy or scary like spiders you might encounter in your basement. It was as impressive and elegant as wildlife seen in the wild can be. Believe me this is not a compliment I often pay to a spider as big as my hand.

Back in camp Saturday evening after dinner was over a gentle pitter-pat rain began which put us to sleep in our tents.

After our hike out Sunday morning, we stopped for brunch in Forsyth, then made stops for pie in Collins and cheese in Osceola on our way home.
Dear Club Colleagues,

After 38 years with the Sierra Club, I am opening my dance card to new partners. In December, I shall stand down as Chairman to undertake a new initiative. My hope is to pull together a broad front of environmental groups, labor unions, clean-economy innovators, mainline manufacturers, civil rights organizations, and state and local officials to insist that candidates for public office in 2012 address the role of innovation, clean technology, and manufacturing in rebuilding the American economy and restoring the American middle class.

I will continue to serve as a consultant to the Sierra Club and to fund-raise on the Club’s behalf through 2012, but this shift in my professional focus marks the close of my career as a full-time Club employee with broad-spectrum responsibility. Each of my previous Club roles, including my tenure as Chairman, has been a privilege and an opportunity, largely because of the incredible staff and volunteer colleagues with whom I have had the good fortune to work. I look forward to continuing many of those relationships -- and to building new ones as my role outside the Club develops.

There are simply too many of you to thank and too much to be grateful for. So, for now, let’s just keep fighting the good fight.

Love,
Carl

---

By Ellie Skokan

Ellie Skokan of Southwind and Lorrie Beck of the Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC) considered their joint venture “Take a Hike”, a success when 75 walkers participated in the two-hour event. The October 1st hike, which promoted walking as a form of exercise, was held at Chisholm Creek Park in Wichita. A drawing for prizes provided by the American Hiking Society was held at the end of the event. The Hike coincided with the City of Wichita’s WalktoberFest, an event during the month of October to encourage exercise and information promoting the Fest was provided at the Hike. Stuart Bolt manned an informational table for Sierra Club. Trail assistance was provided by Jane Byrnes, her grandson Zach, Don Holland, Neil Marcus and Ron Morris. Southwind and GPNC have an additional joint program planned for Nov. 19.
Three Cheers For Kansas!

By Lynate Pettengill, Development Director

The Kansas Chapter secured a $5,000 Challenge Grant from National Sierra Club by raising the most money between 9/1/11 and 11/14/11 for lobbying activities. National staffer Paula Carrell said, “Kansas, among the ‘small chapters’ competing, raised far and away the most money and will receive the $5,000 ‘match’ money.”

This “small chapters” category included all chapters with 10,000 or less members. Even though we only have about 4,000 members, we were able to hold our own and then some!

We won solely because of the incredible generosity of our members. Thank you for helping Kansas secure these much needed lobbying dollars. We’ll need all the help we can get in this upcoming Legislative session!

Editors Note: The last paragraph is blatantly false!! Lynate Pettengill’s tireless work also played a critical role in Kansas winning. Thank you, Lynate and donors!!

New Members Of the Rachel Carson Society

When Bill Richter was a child growing up in southern California, his parents and grandparents took him to the desert, mountains, and the Pacific. He spent his high school and college years in Oregon, and there, too, enjoyed his time out in nature.

“I worked as a camp counselor and associate camp director at YMCA Camp Silver Creek in the Cascade foothills,” Bill said, “climbed a couple of the Cascade peaks, and participated in church work camps to repair and improve camp facilities in beautiful natural settings.”

Even with these significant early experiences in nature, when I asked Bill what contributed to his strong feelings about protecting the environment, he responded, “It was my wife Linda whose awareness of environmental issues and commitment to positive change in this, as well as in other areas, have been compelling examples.”

Linda added, “Our careers have taken us to more than 100 countries, but it has been the often threatened nature in those countries that has inspired our interest in conservation. I have been involved in sustainable tourism issues for more than 30 years.”

“Now retired,” she continued, “I enjoy sharing my love and concerns about the natural world as a zoo docent. We happily co-exist in a wooded neighborhood with our cats, a colony of raccoons, a fox, numerous deer and the occasional opossum!”

Linda and Bill recently acted on these environmental convictions by making an annuity gift to the Sierra Club, supporting the Club’s work on both the state and national level. A gift annuity is a contract under which The Sierra Club Foundation, in exchange for a gift of cash or marketable securities, guarantees to pay a fixed annual amount to a designated beneficiary for life. Minimum funding level is $10,000 and the minimum age is 65.

Bill explained, “I like to know that gifts I give today will continue to benefit the organization and its work long into the future. Life income gifts like charitable annuities and charitable remainder trusts have the added appeal of providing a lifetime income that is highly stable and quite generous compared to other available fixed-rate income options. Also, compared to leaving bequests at the time of death, these sorts of planned gifts allow us to enjoy knowing that the gift is appreciated while we are still around.”

This planned gift means that the Richters are now members of the Sierra Club Rachel Carson Society, open to members who have included the Sierra Club or Sierra Club Foundation:
- In a will or trust
- As a beneficiary of an IRA or other retirement plan
- As a beneficiary of a life insurance policy
- In a life income gift

The Sierra Club is most grateful to the Richters for their generous planned gift. And both Bill and Linda have expressed gratitude for this opportunity as well.

Bill said, “I like to give to organizations that can have a much greater positive impact on the world than I could ever have on my own. I appreciate the work that you and others do to protect the earth and recognize that our gifts are small by comparison, but that they help to support and encourage your valuable endeavors.”

Linda added, “I’m hopeful future generations will inherit a culture that emphasizes stewardship of the planet. To do that, we must do our part.”

Thank you, Bill and Linda, for your generous support of our work!

To find out more about the Rachel Carson Society, please contact Lynate Pettengill, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter Development Director, at Lynate@Kansas.SierraClub.org or (785) 331-0625.
Topeka Group Sets First Quarter Programs

The Topeka Group ExCom is excited to announce our first quarter 2012 program schedule. We’ll start off on January 24 with a presentation by Phil Holman-Hebert who owns and operates Sweetlove Farm in Jefferson County. Since 2002 he and Sally have been working on their growing farm which features a timber-framed, strawbale home. Phil has interspersed child-rearing with general contracting strawbale homes for several clients in the NE Kansas area for the last eight years. He has developed a wide array of carpentry and building skills and gained exposure to many "alternative" building systems. His inclination to share his experiences, along with his native enthusiasm and a talent for teaching, make the hosting of workshops a natural path to furthering the development of Sweetlove Farm. He will also share some of the sustainable practices utilized in the farm operations.

On February 28 we will get a report and update from our Kansas Lobbyist/Legislative Coordinator. It always an important presentation where we get to hear and ask about legislation that we are concerned about in the current session of the Kansas Legislature. It is a chance to get the status of bills and hearings while we still have time to contact our representatives and have a voice on legislative decisions.

On March 27 we will have a presentation from Bryan Welch who is a writer, farmer and publisher of Ogden Publications in Topeka which owns titles such as Mother Earth News, Natural Home & Garden, Utne Reader and others. He has written a new book, Beautiful and Abundant, which describes how we need a positive vision for humanity’s future to harness the full power of human imagination and community initiative. Learn how to make your lifestyle more sustainable, and learn how to look beyond immediate obstacles toward humanity’s destination: a world that is aesthetically beautiful, economically abundant, ethically fair and irresistibly contagious.

Topeka Group October Meeting and Fundraiser A Success

Topeka Group members and guests gathered on October 25 for our meeting and second annual Chili fundraiser. Members Anita Frank, Nancy Kirk, Arlene Fredricks, Paul Post, Bill Cutler and Leonard Biggs brought their favorite chili recipes, home-made corn bread and vegetables. The servings were delicious and we even had chili and cornbread to send home. Contributions of $150 were received which will be used to help with on-going meeting expenses. After the meal, we enjoyed a presentation by Brendan Wiley, Director of the Topeka Zoological Park. He shared interesting information about the birth and early treatment of Hope, the giraffe born with hind leg problems, and how the treatment has been so far successful. Several events have made the Topeka Zoo a real leader in the International World of Zoos.
4th Annual Energy Conference in Wichita

The 4th Annual Energy Conference will be held January 25-28, 2012, in Wichita, at the Drury Inn (formerly the Broadview Hotel) and Century II. The conference was previously held at the WSU Metroplex, so this represents a venue change, and the conference has also been expanded. It is now officially titled the “Energy & Sustainability Conference and the Kansas Historical Preservation Conference,” and it is now four days instead of two.

To learn more about the upcoming conference, go to greenwichita.org. Most of the links on this website are “Under Construction,” which they have been for a couple of years, but you can glean some information from “Upcoming Events” and from “2012 Conferences” (top right). On Wednesday and Thursday, January 25-26, the schedule is posted for the speakers and events. Some of the events (a couple of films) on Wednesday are free to the public, but it’s unclear whether Thursday’s activities are free.

I spoke to the contact person for the historic preservation part of the conference, Kathy Morgan, Senior Planner, Historic Preservation, Metropolitan Area Planning Department (MAPD), in August. I was attempting to learn what Morgan knew about weatherization programs in Wichita, and I briefly explained the new Energy Efficiency & Conservation Project that is now sponsored by the Kansas Sierra Club for the low income community in Wichita. She indicated that perhaps a weatherization session could be added to the upcoming energy conference.

There is no information available, at this time, on the greenwichita.gov website for the Friday-Saturday, January 27-28, portion of the conference. Typically, Friday was focused more on company and agency activities, and Saturday was considered the day for the general public. You can find the Friday and Saturday schedules, from 2011, on the greenwichita.gov webpage. Last year, on Saturday, there were sessions on “Do It Yourself Home Energy Audits” (Westar), “Home Repair and Window Restoration” (Kathy Morgan, MAPD), “Using A Rain Barrel and Building A Rain Garden,” and several others.

In previous years, there were opportunities available for exhibitors, and the Southwind Group of Sierra Club has participated under the Green ($50) category, and I anticipate that we will do likewise in 2012. With the expansion and relocation of the conference to downtown Wichita, there may be some changes from past years so, hopefully, this information will be put up on the webpage soon. In past years, Kay Johnson, Environmental Initiatives, City of Wichita, was the person in charge. She can be reached at KJohnson@wichita.gov, or 316-268-4251.
Chanute, continued from cover

Environmental testing at the site. USEPA Region 7 Administrator Karl Brooks stated in the NPR piece that he thought these new tests would allay the concerns in the community.

Probably not. The testing program fails to address the fundamental problem with the facility, i.e., it is equipped with pollution controls that do not adequately control toxic gases, especially mercury and hydrochloric acid gas (HCL). The facility is equipped with a relatively new fabric filter/baghouse that should provide adequate capture of particulate matter if properly operated and maintained. It also has a fairly tall smoke stack (414 feet) that should reduce deposition onto the nearby central business district of Chanute.

The trouble is, mercury and HCL are vapors at the temperature in the baghouse and will go right through the fabric filters after exiting the combustion chamber. EPA's technical support documents acknowledge that mercury is uncontrolled at this type of facility. The EPA documents also state that cement kilns burning hazardous wastes do not consistently control HCL and chlorine gas emissions. Indeed, the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory shows that the Chanute facility was emitting about a 100 tons per year of HCL from 2004 to 2007, which is within the 2003 to 2008 period where KDHE's screening study detected an excess of asthma hospitalizations. Much of the wastes burned at the site are solvents and other materials consisting of chlorinated compounds.

The meaning of the KDHE data is subject to debate, and the Ash Grove facility may or may not have something to do with the asthma cases. However, it is hard to ignore emissions of 100 tons per year of a highly reactive chemical like hydrochloric acid gas.

KDHE's current site study consists of two principal elements: (1) hourly monitoring for particulates in the air, in and near the town, and (2) a set of tests for contaminants in Village Creek that runs through the facility. By monitoring only for particulate air emissions, KDHE is mainly scrutinizing the strongest component of Ash Grove's pollution control system, not the weakest.

EPA has noted that HCL is "not consistently controlled." Even though a substantial portion of the HCL may be routinely neutralized in the kiln combustion process, it is possible, indeed likely, that there are times when it is not. Asthma attacks may be triggered by such discrete, periodic pollution episodes. The only way to prove that the large emissions of HCL are not causing the asthma problem in the community is to install a continuous HCL monitor. Readily available for such an application, this monitor would need to be used over an extended period of time to include when cement production and waste burning are occurring at full capacity.

The Village Creek testing program includes some tests of fish tissue. Fish contamination is the pathway of highest health risk for mercury. However, KDHE's program misses the mark entirely. First, the fish will be gathered within five miles of the plant. Mercury will fall that close to the plant or upstream only when it is raining. Otherwise, gaseous mercury typically travels hundreds of miles before being washed out by rain or falling as dry deposition after undergoing certain reactions in the atmosphere. Secondly, the highest concentrations by far are found in the fish at the top of the food chain like bass or walleye. It's highly unlikely that KDHE will find any bass in Village Creek.

I asked KDHE why they didn't take some fish samples from lakes in the area, and they cited their existing statewide monitoring program, noting it does not reach onto private property. The nearest large lake (Santa Fe Lake) was last sampled in 1996. A series of samples from the Mined Lake Wildlife Area did find some largemouth bass with a contamination level exceeding the threshold of concern. In general, however, there are far too few samples being obtained in SE Kansas to draw any definitive conclusions. It is not clear why KDHE doesn't just ask permission from landowners who should be anxious to know if fish in their lakes are contaminated.

Regulators may say that such testing is unnecessary because they have conducted health risk assessments (HRAs) on the chemicals they are not regularly monitoring. HRAs are very complex computer models based on a chain of assumptions that may or may not be sufficiently valid. It is also very difficult to validate these models with actual measured results. Site specific application of these models for mercury emissions are generally a waste of time since mercury emissions are regional and national-scale pollutants. A 2009 EPA report testing fresh water top-predator fish found that 48% had levels in excess of the 0.3 ppm level of health concern. This means that mercury levels in fish in most of the country have already reached the threshold of harm.

Lakes and rivers are affected by hundreds of different sources, so the only logical approach is to tightly regulate all significant sources of mercury across the board. That is in fact what EPA has been doing, with the curious exception of cement kilns that burn hazardous waste. NPR was not able to get a straight answer from USEPA as to why they are not more tightly regulating cement kilns such as the Ash Grove unit in Chanute. When I inquired of USEPA headquarters, I was told that somebody from ORCR (staff that regulate hazardous waste) would get back to me. They never did.

Ash Grove and other cement manufacturing companies that burn hazardous wastes in their kilns have at least three options to significantly reduce their mercury emissions:

1. They can place tighter limits on mercury concentrations in the hazardous wastes they accept for disposal and on the amount of waste they burn. That would have the beneficial effect of forcing waste generators to use higher quality chemical inputs to their operations or substitute materials that do not contain as much mercury.

2. They can inject special adsorbents into the flue gas upstream of the baghouse. For example activated carbon powder...
Chanute, continued from page 10

is a proven process that readily captures gaseous mercury compounds.
3. They can add on a wet scrubber downstream of the baghouse. Wet scrubbers are very effective in removing soluble toxic gases like mercuric chloride and HCL. Cement manufacturers may object that these changes will taint their product or interfere with their manufacturing process. For example, they typically recycle some of the dust captured in the baghouse or electrostatic precipitator back into the kiln process. Such an objection would merely confirm one of the main points in the NPR story, that cement kilns are designed to make cement, not burn hazardous waste. EPA technical support documents note that several cement kilns in the country, that do not burn hazardous waste, are equipped with wet scrubbers. Thus it must be a feasible alternative.

The industry may also object that these measures will raise their costs. We hear this all the time from industry. An HCL monitor wouldn't be a big deal. Capturing mercury probably would involve a significant cost. But the costs are already out there in terms of impacts on health and environment. They just aren't being incorporated into the product costs of the waste generators. It is time that they were.

Keystone, continued from cover

position, but gives the administration a chance to do it right. We are confident that a more thorough scientific review of the pipeline proposal and a truly public input process—free from oil company influence—will lead the administration to determine that the right decision is to reject Keystone XL outright.

This means that, for the foreseeable future, there will not be an oil pipeline threatening the extremely fragile Ogallala Aquifer and drinking water for millions, refineries in Texas will not be increasing their toxic pollution, and the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers in six states along 1700 miles of American heartland will remain secure. This decision sends a powerful signal to the tar sands industry that we will not lay down for the reckless expansion of tar sands oil.

This is a tremendous victory, and you were a part of it. Together we sent hundreds of thousands of emails, phone calls, tweets, and Facebook messages. Just this past weekend, over 12,000 people encircled the White House to send President Obama a clear message that Americans oppose tar sands. Our message was clear and the President listened. We thank him for that.

Please send a letter today thanking the President for his leadership and applauding his decision to reevaluate the dirty Keystone XL tar sands oil pipeline proposal.

Victories just feel good. Let’s take a moment to enjoy it, and tomorrow we will resume our united work in fighting to protect our air, water, and planet.

Thanks for all you do to protect the environment.

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Text of the resolution on the U.S. wars and military expansion, submitted by the Kansas Chapter to the Sierra Club Board of Directors:

After a decade of war in Afghanistan and nine years in Iraq, the Sierra Club believes it is time for the United States to withdraw its troops from these countries. Additionally, the Sierra Club is concerned about the expansive U.S. military presence throughout the world, which poses numerous environmental as well as geo-political dangers. Quite simply, war is an environmental disaster. The work of environmentalists in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world is undermined by the exhaustive environmental cost of military activity in natural resources and consumption of fossil fuels, as well as immeasurable contributions to greenhouse gasses. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have caused a massive economic drain in financial resources needed to move the U.S. toward a green economy and infrastructure. With the continuing expansion of military action since the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, the U.S. military has now become the largest single consumer of oil on the planet; its carbon footprint is unmatched in any single industry or even in most countries. While the Sierra Club recognizes the efforts of the U.S. military to improve its environmental standards, the only real solution is for the U.S. government to draw down its forces in Iraq and Afghanistan and to begin a process of standing down its presence throughout the world.
Environmentalism In The Realm Of Human Rights

By Craig Lubow

Several years ago, Amnesty International (AI) and Sierra Club jointly produced a video about human rights issues involved in the environmental movement. It was sparked by the murder of a leading environmentalist in one of the African countries. There have been environmentalists that have disappeared or been murdered in other countries as well.

The right to clean air, clean water, and a toxic free environment are basic rights that every human, as well as all other animals, should enjoy. Those living in poverty should not be forced to bear all the burdens of the polluters in any society. This is the issue addressed through environmental justice.

It is not uncommon for the dirtiest industries to be located in lower income and minority neighborhoods. Superfund sites are disproportionately located in low income areas. Oil companies, smelters, mining companies, and other industry often leave lands polluted, without remediation, in other countries.

The Midwest Regional Conference of Amnesty International was held in Kansas City the last weekend of October this year. Chapter vice-chair/conservation chair Craig Lubow is an organizer of the conference on the programming committee. This year we had an environmental component in which Sierra Club members Elaine Giessel and Richard Mabion were presenters. They presented a workshop entitled “Midwest Coal Plants: Environmental Equity and Corporate Accountability”. They were joined by Jason Disterhoft, an AI member.

Elaine defines environmental justice, also known as environmental equity, as “Development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental policies and laws to ensure that no group or community is made to bear a disproportionate share of the harmful effects of pollution or environmental hazards because it lacks economic or political clout.” Coal power plants tend to be located disproportionately in low-income communities and communities of color. This includes the BPU coal plants in the Kansas City area.

Amnesty is currently working on an environmental catastrophe in the Niger Delta, perpetrated by Shell Oil Company. The following is from a current Amnesty alert:

Shell Oil, which recently reported profits of $7.2 billion for July-September 2011, initially offered the Bodo community just a few thousand dollars and 50 bags of rice, beans, sugar and tomatoes as relief for the disaster.

Amnesty is launching a new report that reviews the record of the Bodo spill and adds damning new facts.

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Amnesty is launching a new report that reviews the record of the Bodo spill and adds damning new facts.

For more information on this topic, go to www.aiusa.org.
Southwind Members

We are looking for items for our upcoming auction in March. If you have good quality items that you would like to donate or know of a business that would donate items, then contact me.

We are also looking for sponsors for our upcoming banquet and auction. If you would like to sponsor or know of a business that would like to sponsor our banquet, then contact me. All sponsors will be recognized at the banquet and will get one free ad in the Planet Kansas.

Contact:
Stuart Bolt
(316) 682-4722
stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

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The Beyond Coal Campaign Hires Scott Allegrucci

The Beyond Coal Campaign has hired Scott Allegrucci to work on coal and energy issues in the region. Scott was hired as the Senior Campaign Representative for the Beyond Coal Campaign for our work in Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Scott’s experience in challenging coal fired power plants and promoting clean energy in Kansas will be a great addition to the team.

Scott comes to us from the Great Plains Alliance for Clean Energy (GPACE) where he fought the 2008 and 2009 legislative battles to stop Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association’s proposal to add two coal-burning plants at Sunflower Electric’s Holcomb Station and led GPACE’s efforts against the Tri-State and Sunflower 2010 proposal to add one plant at Holcomb.

He will be joining staff on November 28 and will immediately focus on supporting and building the Sierra Club’s efforts to transition beyond coal in Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

Would your business like to advertise in the Planet Kansas?

Contact Lynate Pettengill, Development Director
for more information.
LynatePettengill@yahoo.com
(785) 331-0625
THIRD ANNUAL
SIERRA CLUB SOUTHWIND GROUP
EARTHDAY BANQUET AND AUCTION

Robin Macy will be our guest speaker and entertainment. Though she's best known as a singer and founding member of the Dixie Chicks, Macy's calling is as the current steward of Bartlett Arboretum. She's still true to her bluegrass roots and performs regularly around Wichita and Kansas.

We will be having a Bucket Auction!
Sierra Club Items will be available for purchase!

DATE: Friday, March 30, 2012
TIME: 6:30 - 9:30 pm
LOCATION: Fellowship Hall, College Hill United Methodist Church
2930 E. 1st, Wichita, KS 67214

! Come and have a great night!

All funds collected will be used to develop the group’s outings and general meeting programs.

For information contact Stuart Bolt: stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org or (316) 682-4722.

Name: _____________________________________
Address: ____________________________________
City: __________________ State ____ Zip_________
Deadline: March 17, 2012

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Meal</th>
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<tr>
<td>_____</td>
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<td>_____</td>
<td>Vegan</td>
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Number of People Attending: ____________ X $25.00/ person
Amount Enclosed: ______________

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

Introduction

A price for carbon will discourage emission of climate-changing greenhouse gases (GHGs). There are two competing models to accomplish this: a cap-and-trade system and a carbon tax. We believe that a revenue neutral carbon tax is the most appropriate solution. This paper explains that position in brief.

What is a carbon tax, and what is cap-and-trade?

Carbon tax: A fee attached to sources of GHG emissions in order to discourage their release. It is attached as far "upstream" (i.e., the coal mine, the oil well, or the point of entry into the country) as possible, and only once. The tax increases with time.

Cap-and-trade: A cap on total GHG emissions is set, and permits to emit up to that cap are given or auctioned to companies. These permits may then be traded among companies like stocks, and the owner of the permits may emit up to the amount specified by the permits they own.

Carbon Tax Disadvantages

There is no cap on emissions: Companies can emit as much as they want, as long as they’re willing to pay for it. However, as the price increases, carbon becomes more expensive than cleaner options, and emissions will cap themselves.

Carbon Tax Advantages

Quick: a tax could be put in place tomorrow, whereas a cap-and-trade system would take up to four years to set up the necessary infrastructure. The sooner we start the more GHG emissions we can stop.

Honest and Transparent: The stable and fixed price of a carbon tax is easy to see. The stock-like price volatility of cap-and-trade allows special interests, lobbyists, and speculators to make non-productive millions at public expense. A carbon tax allows no room for double speak as when Japan claimed to be the greenest country because of the permits it bought from China, while GHG emissions in both Japan and China increased.

Less government: unlike cap-and-trade, there would be no need for regulatory oversight.

Creative solutions: companies can save by reducing the fuel they burn or the GHGs they emit. Energy efficiency reduces how much they burn, while GHG capture and storage reduces emissions and earns tax writeoffs. This creates a financial incentive to innovate, resulting in new business and further reduction of harmful emissions.

Broad support: virtually all economists and the Congressional Budget Office conclude that a carbon tax will be far more effective than cap-and-trade at reducing GHG emissions and avoiding harm to our economy. The price-stability of a carbon tax enables businesses to make reliable long-term projections about their expenses resulting in better planning. Exxon-Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson calls a carbon tax "a more direct, a more transparent and a more effective approach." Conservatives such as Arthur B. Laffer and Rep. Bob Inglis (R-4th SC) and liberals such as Al Gore and NASA scientist Dr. James Hansen all support a revenue-neutral carbon tax.

Revenue-neutral uses for funds raised

Payroll or income tax relief: each dollar collected from a carbon tax triggers an identical reduction in payroll or income taxes.

Dividend: give the same amount of money back to each citizen. This would make the tax progressive, as the poor tend to use less carbon than the rich and thus would get more back from a flat return than they spent.

Perspective: A carbon tax of $20 per ton of CO2 would raise the price of gas $0.20 a gallon.

OK... now that you have read this, if you, too, think that this concept has merit, and you want to play a part in it, please contact Craig Wolfe at 913-299-4474 or info@kansas.sierraclub.org. A CCL group has formed in Kansas City, KS and Kansas City, MO and Lawrence.
Come to the Kanza Group  
Winter Solstice Celebration  
Tuesday, December 13  
6:30 - 9:00 pm at the Overland Park Lutheran Church  
7810 W. 79th St (79th & Lowell)  

Potluck Dinner  
(bring your favorite dish)  

Live Music  
Celtic Band Dogtree  

Wildlife Program  
Elaine Giessel will bring some of her furry friends from the Ernie Miller Nature Center  

Bring the Kids to this Fun-Filled Celebration  

For more information, contact Bob Sommer, Kanza Group Chair at rsommer@kc.rr.com or call 816-898-1100. Directions at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzadirections.htm
Peace on Earth and Good Sandwiches

Eating as Though the Earth Matters

Somewhere on the planet today there is a little boy eating a tuna sandwich which was placed in his lunch box this morning by his adoring parent. If he likes that sandwich, his mom or dad may make another one for him tomorrow. They don’t know there is a sick, poisoned fish in that sandwich. According to an October 11 Sierra Club Insider email, two tuna sandwiches a week can contaminate this child with methyl mercury. In the U.S. alone, coal plants release over 48 tons of airborne mercury every year. Yet it takes only one-seventieth of a teaspoon to pollute a 20 acre lake.

Coal, agriculture, aquaculture, overfishing, desertification, oil spills, rainforest destruction, extinction of species, human and animal slavery, nuclear power, war, and all the other animals of land and sea would bring vast healing for the earth. It would bring a large part of the wilderness, and the seas. And it would bring peace on earth, wildlife, and human health.

Tolstoy said it succinctly, “As long as there are slaughterhouses, there will be battlefields.” I would add that as long as there are slaughterhouses, there will be unbridled pollution and criminal damage to the earth. No wonder. This movement is revealing that corporate, political, and criminal greed has contaminated nearly every aspect of life on this planet. The breadth of the destruction is truly unfathomable. Tackling such a giant requires tracking every footstep and challenging all the forms of destruction no matter how vast.

It requires the joining together and participation of all the justice movements, for each one is equally affected by the domination of the system. It has been said that animal rights are human rights and that there is no peace without justice. We are coming to understand that we cannot end war against people and continue the killing of billions of animals every year. Tolstoy said it succinctly, “As long as there are slaughterhouses, there will be battlefields.” I would add that as long as there are slaughterhouses, there will be unbridled pollution and criminal devastation of the earth, wildlife, and human health.

Simply ending the practice of confining, killing and eating animals of land and sea would bring vast healing for the earth, the wilderness, and the seas. And it would bring a large part of the pharmaceutical, agribusiness, and oil giants to their knees.

The “Declaration of the Occupation of New York” lists a poisoned food supply, a monopolized farming system, the torture and brutal confinement of animals, endless wars, the blocking of alternative energy initiatives and the covering up of oil spills, to name just a few of the reasons for the occupation.

And yet I see within, under, and around these huge tentacles of domination three major reasons for hope.

• **More courage**: It takes courage to face such widespread injustice. I see this courage among more people than ever before.

• **More unity**: It is becoming ever more clear that these issues are all intricately interconnected. Activists are realizing that their issues overlap, that they need each other, not only because of the overlap, but also because of the attempts by the power elite to silence all the voices of truth, to prevent videotaping of atrocities, and to attempt to prosecute non-violent protesters as “terrorists.”

• **More love**: The driving force behind greed is a deep, usually unconscious, fear. The motivating force for activists and the people who support them is an abiding love for what and whom they are trying to protect and heal. Love, whether in the microcosm of our own lives, or in the big picture, always trumps fear. As Martin Luther King, Jr. stated “True pacifism is not unrealistic submission to evil power. It is rather a courageous confrontation of evil by the power of Love.” It is the most powerful force in the universe. I see more love than ever before at work in the world.

Arthur Conan Doyle once said, “At the moment our human world is based on the suffering and destruction of millions of non-humans. To perceive this and to do something to change it in personal and public ways is to undergo a change of perception akin to a religious conversion. Nothing can ever be seen in quite the same way again because once you have admitted the terror and pain of other species you will, unless you resist conversion, be always aware of the endless permutations of suffering that support our society.” I think this sentiment can be applied equally to all the justice movements. The endless permutations are everywhere evident now, and as people wake up, one by one, the singular cause is no longer hidden.

The Occupy movement and all the other great work that activists have done is all about hope in the face of madness, and it is about faith in the power of people. That power we share does not come from corporate oppression, from money, or from the exploitation of nearly every form of life on the planet. The power that we have comes from our love and respect for this exquisitely beautiful planet that is our home, for our non-human relatives, for plants that feed and heal us and astonish us with their beauty, for the poor of the world who suffer so much, and for each other.

As the holidays draw near, as always we will enter a magical time when most of the music we hear will be about love, peace on earth, family, friends, and all good things. We will be treated to, not just visions of sugar plums (whatever those are), but also to visions of what the world would be like if we really could create peace on earth. We’ll get holiday cards bearing wishes for “Peace on Earth,” as if, at least in December of every year,
we have permission to believe that peace is possible. And in January we will be prompted to make the mandatory New Year's resolutions to become better people than we are, or shall we say—to behave in better ways. These two months make up a season of the heart more surely than any other time of year. It is a time to dream the impossible dream, to love more than ever before, to find tears in our eyes at the sight of snow and stars and puppies and the children who are trusting us to make non-toxic sandwiches and make the world safe for them.

During the holidays we can draw from and add to this charmed atmosphere of hope and love and peace. Let us, each in our own way, bring peace and healing to the soil, to seas and rivers, to the air we breathe, to forests and prairies, to fish and coral reefs, to whales and dolphins, to all animals longing for freedom, and to all people. May the wars that are ravaging animals, earth, and people come to an end and the truth be told again and again. May your holidays and your new year be bright with promise and may the vision you carry in your heart for a better world hold steady.

Vegan Recipes (with as many organic and fair-trade ingredients as possible)

Chickpea “Tuna” salad (how to make a healthy “tuna” sandwich for the lunchbox)
- 4 cups cooked or canned chickpeas (garbanzo beans)
- 2 tsp. powdered kelp
- 4 tsp. wheat-free tamari
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- ½ cup Veganaise (a vegan mayonnaise type spread)
- 2 stalks celery finely diced
- 3 Tbsp. finely diced onion
- ¼ tsp. ground dill weed or ground dill seed
- ½ tsp. paprika
1. Drain the chickpeas and put them into a large bowl. Use a potato masher and partially mash them, not to a totally blended mush, only enough so each bean is a little bit flattened.
2. Sprinkle in the kelp, add the tamari, lemon juice, and Veganaise and mix well.
3. Add the onion, celery, dill, and paprika and stir. This can be served on a bed of lettuce, with rice crackers, or as a sandwich filling with lettuce and tomatoes.
From JoAnn Farb’s cookbook Get off Gluten. If your child is gluten intolerant, this recipe is gluten free. You could either use gluten free bread for their sandwich or a rice wrap.

Sergei’s Amazing Raw Truffles (for a lunchbox dessert or holiday treats)
- 1 cup unsoaked walnuts
- ½ cup of your favorite pitted dates
- ½ cup coconut water or almond milk
- 4 Tbsp. raw carob or cocoa
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. vanilla
Blend the walnuts and dates in a food processor till the mixture is smooth. Mix in the carob/cocoa and liquid. Shape the mixture into little balls and roll the balls in carob.
From Sergei and Valya Boutenko’s Eating without Heating.

The Spiral of Becoming
Pierre Teilhard De Chardin
It is all a spiral of becoming.

Toward the end of this century
Will be taking the tiller of the world.
But you cannot go directly.
You have to go in spirals,

Touching upon every people,
Every culture, every kind of consciousness.
It is there that the noosphere,
The field of mind, will awaken,
And we will rebuild the earth.

Remain always true to yourself,
But move ever upward

Toward greater consciousness
And greater Love.

At the summit, you will find yourself
United with all those,

Who from every direction, every culture,
Have made the same ascent.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter Executive Committee</th>
<th>Officer, Committee Chairs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elected ExCom member</strong></td>
<td><strong>Appointed ExCom member</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em><strong>Group Representative to Chapter</strong></em></td>
<td>****Officer/Committee Chair</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Tom Kneil****, Secretary, (316) 681-5211, thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org

Scott Smith***, Treasurer, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net

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

Elaine Giessel*, Environmental Justice Chair, Hospitality Chair, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

Bob Sommer*, Political Chair, (913) 681-5211, rsommer@kc.rr.com

Joe Spease*, Legislative Chair, (913) 492-2862, spease4kc@everestskc.net

Craig Wolfe*, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Communications Chair, Membership Chair, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

David Kirkbride***, Outings Chair, Southwind Group Rep, (913) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Bob Fritsch**, Kanza Group Rep, (913) 906-9728, bobfritsch@hotmail.com

Bill Cutler***, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 379-9756, spudsps@ Yahoo.com

Bill Griffith****, Energy Chair, (913) 772-8960, bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org

Craig Volland****, CAFO Chair, Trade Chair, Agriculture Chair, Air Quality Chair, (785) 788-7336, volland@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kanza Group (Kansas City)

Bob Sommer*, Chair, Political Chair, (816) 899-1100, rsommer@kc.rr.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@kc.surewest.net

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

(Kanza con't)

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Elaine Giessel*, Environmental Justice Chair, Hospitality Chair, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

Chet McLaughlin*, Global Warming Co-Chair, (913) 963-7187, mclaughlin1944@gmail.com

Mike Miller*, Membership Chair, Air Quality Chair, (913) 362-2600, mmiller1@ mindspring.com

Joe Spease*, Legislative Chair, Energy Chair, (913) 492-2862, spease4kc@everestskc.net

Doug Stecklein*, ExCom Member, 913-393-9334, dougustecklein@yahoo.com

Craig Wolfe*, Auction Chair, Communications Chair, Program Chair, (913) 299-4443, info@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) 522-4741, Yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Bruce Fuelling*, Co-Conservation Chair, Outings Chair, Sprawl Chair, (316) 682-0340, bfuelling@cox.net

Deborah Gasvert*, Membership Chair, Program Co-Chair, Publicity Chair, (316) 733-5102, dgasvert@cox.net

Karlin 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, ganderson1963@gmail.com

Jim Tuchschener*, Vice Chair, (785) 272 5633, jmtuch@earthlink.net

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

Leonard Biggs*, ExCom Member, (620) 437-7319, dipaul@ modtel.net

Anita Frank*, Conservation Chair, (785) 273-5305, afrank16@cox.net

Nancy Kirk**, ExCom Member, (785) 234-8806, nak8842@sbcglobal.net

Paul Post*, Membership Chair, Outings Chair, (785) 354-1972, paulpost+paulpost.com

Phil Morse****, Political Chair, Energy Chair, (785) 273-3613, p.morse@sbcglobal.net

Flint Hills Group (Manhattan Area)

Carol Bart*, Chair, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, (785) 410-8608, snowsage54@hotmail.com

Scott Smith*, Treasurer, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net

Larry Erikson*, Conservation Chair, (785) 539-4424, lerick@ksu.edu

Virginia Hagin*, Outings Chair, (757) 508-5765, virginia.hagin@us.army.mil

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)

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Steve Lopes*, Chair, Membership Chair, (785) 354-1972, paulpost+paulpost.com

Susanah Neal*, ExCom Member, (785) 760-6633, susannahNeal@sunflower.com

Melissa Rogers*, Environmental Education Chair, Chapter Group Rep, (913) 764-0826, mmorros816@gmail.com

George Brenner****, Conservation Chair, Water Quality Chair, (785) 393-3828, gbrenner@sunflower.com

Virginia Hagin*, Outings Chair, (785) 764-0826, mmorros816@gmail.com

Virginia Hagin*, Chair, (785) 764-0826, mmorros816@gmail.com

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General Meetings

General public is welcome to attend

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
December 13, 6:30 pm.
Winter Solstice Celebration
6:30 pm - Join us for a Potluck Dinner (bring your favorite dish) with Live Music from the Celtic Band Dogtree. We will have a Wildlife Program from Elaine Giessel, who will bring some of her furry friends from the Ernie Miller Nature Center. Bring the Kids to this Fun-Filled Celebration.
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

Kansa Group (Kansas City)
January 10, 6:30 pm.
Fracking... Where Are the Regulations?
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 - Joe Spease, Legislative Chair and CFO of WindSoHy, will discuss the dangers of fracking, the gas industry’s method of natural gas extraction. Last decade, lobbyists were able to put into place a complete absence of regulations, making fracking a potential nightmare for landowners due to the toxic chemicals used with hazards to health and environment. Why did this happen? How can we fix it?
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

Southwind Group (Wichita)
January 13, 6:30 p.m.
Photo Safari in Tanzania
6:30 pm - Food & Conversation
7:30 pm - Noted wildlife and landscape photographer Jim Griggs will present his photos of his trek in Tanzania.
Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th N at Woodlawn.
Contact - Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Topeka Group
December 9, 6:00 pm.
Annual Holiday Party
6:00 pm - Join your 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
Where - Bosco’s Restaurant, 435 S. Kansas (first floor dining room).

Topeka Group
January 24, 6:00 pm.
Strawbale Home Construction
6:00 pm - Coffee, Food and Conversation.
7:00 pm - Phil Holman-Hebert will share his “alternative” building systems and Sweetlove Farm.
Where - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, 4775 SW 21st St., Topeka.
Contact - Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)
General Information
Contact Jason Hering, (785) 341-4911, jasonforjustice@gmail.com
Sierra Club Outings

General public is welcome to participate

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

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

[2] Dec 12. 5:30 pm. Drinks and Conversation at the Café Moderne
Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

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, merced@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 7. 7:30 am. Eagles at Perry Lake
We will join members of the Topeka Audubon Society for a field trip to Perry Lake to look for bald eagles. This is an annual trip sponsored by Topeka Audubon. In prior years, up to 70 eagles have been spotted. Bald eagles tend to congregate in winter months, while they are solitary or in mating pairs the rest of the year. Dress appropriately for the weather, and bring your binoculars. If you are not a birder, come anyway. You will not be disappointed. We will meet at Rees’s Fruit Farm on Highway 24 east of

Topeka - 2476 U.S. 24. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

[2] Jan 9. 5:30 pm. Drinks and Conversation at the Café Moderne
Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

We’ll snow shoe if conditions are favorable. Regardless, we’ll reclaim more sections of wooded trail on the eastern side of Lake JACOMO. Bring lunch, and we’ll provide the hot cocoa. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com
Committee Meetings

**Kanza Group**
(Kansas City)

Executive Committee
Dec 1, Jan 26 - 7:00 pm,
Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211,
rsommer@kc.rr.com

Joint Action Committee
Dec 1, Jan 26 - 7:00 pm,
Conservation, legislative, and political
Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620,
craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Southwind Group**
(Wichita)

Executive and Fundraising Committee
Dec 4, Jan 8 - 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**, TBA. Topeka Shawnee County Public Library
Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229, gjanderson1963@gmail.com

**Kansas Chapter**: (State), Executive Committee, Jan 28
Yvonne Cather, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

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**SIERRA CLUB COFFEE**

The Southwind Group is 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

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

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Price include sales tax.
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.

CM  Dec 1. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211, rsommer@kc.rr.com
CM  Dec 1. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM  Dec 4. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, d.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM  Dec 9. 6-9 pm. Annual Holiday Party. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com
GM  Dec 9. 6:00 pm. Holiday Dinner. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com
GM  Dec 9. 6:30 pm. Southwind Holiday Dinner. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, d.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out  Dec 12. 5:30 pm. Drinks and Conversation at the Café Moderne. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, d.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM  Dec 13. 6:30 pm. Winter Solstice Celebration. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out  Jan 7. 7:30 am. Eagles at Perry Lake. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
Out  Jan 9. 5:30 pm. Drinks and Conversation at the Café Moderne. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, d.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM  Jan 10. 6:30 pm. Fracking - Why Are Regulations Not In Place. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM  Jan 13. 6:30 pm. Photo Safari in Tanzania. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, d.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out  Jan 21. Snow shoe Hike and Trail Maintenance, Lake JACOMO, Blue Springs, MO. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com
GM  Jan 24. 6:00 pm. Strawbale Home Construction. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com
CM  Jan 26. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM  Jan 26. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211, rsommer@kc.rr.com
CM  Jan 28. 9:15 am. Chapter ExCom Meeting. Chapter. Yvonne Cather, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM  Feb 28. 6:00 pm. Lobbyist legislative update. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com
GM  Mar 27. 6:00 pm. Program: Bryan Welch - Sustainability. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

Deadline for the next issue is January 10

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