President Obama Rejects Keystone XL!

Huge news! The Obama administration announced that it would deny a federal permit for the Keystone XL tar sands oil pipeline, which would run 1,700 miles across six US states bringing toxic, highly corrosive tar sands crude from Alberta, Canada, to refineries and ports in Texas.

The president stood up to Big Oil, backed by the voices of hundreds of thousands of activists just like you, who have built the movement to stop this dirty, dangerous oil project.

I want to also thank you, our grassroots activists, who have worked so hard to get us to this point. This is a huge victory and proof that while Big Oil may have more money, we have what matters: the voice of our communities. Our victory is a victory for the boreal forest, for the Sand Hills and the Ogallala

See Keystone on page 18

Kanza Group Celebrates Winter Solstice (Potluck)

By Bob Sommer, Kanza Group Chair

The Kanza Group brought the year to a close with a rousing Winter Solstice Celebration at its final general meeting of 2011. Over seventy members joined the fun, bringing potluck dishes, children, and good cheer to the event, which featured live music by the Celtic band DogTree.

At intermission, kids of every age were entranced as Elaine Geissel conducted a short program on winter wildlife, featuring some of her furry, feathery, and slithery friends from the Ernie Miller Nature Center.

Milli and Al Hogins, familiar faces at Kanza Group activities, brought their daughter and grandchildren. “They had a marvelous time,” Milli said, “dancing to the band music and listening to the

See Solstice on page 13
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
Zach Pistora,
785-865-6503
zackpistora@gmail.com

Senior Regional Representative for the Beyond Coal Campaign
Scott Allegrucci
785-764-1992
Scott.Allegrucci@sierraclub.org

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

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

Chapter Members Holding National Positions
• Yvonne Cather - Chapter-National Relationship Task Force, and Co-Lead Volunteer on the Chapter Leadership Training Team

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

GOING, GOING... GONE!

Sea turtles date back nearly 90 million years and are among the Earth’s oldest surviving species. All 6 species of sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Sierra Club has mounted a major effort to defend and preserve threatened habitats before their inhabitants are gone forever.

Help protect our animal friends, because once they’re gone, they’re gone. Join Sierra Club now.
To Choose or Not To Choose... That Is The Question

By Craig Wolfe, Communications Chair

Virtually all of you reading this consider yourselves environmentalists. Virtually all of you are concerned about our environment, know that human activity is degrading habitat, and believe that climate change is a real phenomena that we must address sooner rather than later. We are all interested in doing the right thing...at least that is what we proclaim to ourselves.

Yet, the key to our being “part of the solution or part of the problem” rests in each and every decision that we make...we as individuals, as citizens our city, our state, our nation, and our Planet. But, indeed, each of those sets of decisions starts with the individual.

So how are those decisions coming? Are we there yet? Am I there yet? The answer, I hope we all would agree, is “NO, we are definitely not there yet.” There is still plenty of room in my life to choose for the betterment of the Planet. What is keeping us from moving forward?

I believe that we simply need to turn on a switch in our minds that says, “I will do all within my power to improve my life and its impact on the Planet.” It’s a New Life Resolution.

And, it’s not like there isn’t the information out there to guide us in the right direction. Organizations like the Sierra Club can answer just about every question there is to help us lighten our footprint. We simply have to be willing to hear the right answer and act on it.

But, we can only do what is financially possible in our lives. We can't go out and buy an energy efficient car or home, just because it's the “right thing to do.” Fortunately, there are many solutions that are free or will save us money. I can’t list them all here, but I can give you some places to consider starting (please believe me that I am needing to follow my own advice!!)

My Big Two:

- One free path is to change our diets, which will likely improve our health, too. Meat production is quite costly in its impact on habitat as well as climate change. Judy Carman writes our column Eating As Though The Earth Matters (see page 14). I have asked my wife to read this issue's column in hopes that we can make further improvements to our eating habits.
- The largest consumer of energy in our lives is usually associated

See To Choose on page 18

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EPA’s Proposed Emission Standards for the Fiberglass Manufacturing Industry

Comments by Craig Volland at the January 4, 2012 KCK Hearing

On Jan 4, 2012 USEPA held a public hearing to take comment on their update of the rules governing toxic air pollutants from the Wool Fiberglass Manufacturing Industry. Two large fiberglass insulation plants are located within one mile of each other in Kansas City, Ks. and recent stack tests showed an unexpectedly large emission of the cancer-causing agent, hexavalent chromium, from one of them. The chapter prepared a fact sheet and guide to assist members of the predominantly minority community living near the plants. The chapter received valuable assistance from the Club’s National Air Toxics Task Force and our attorney, Earth Justice. Chapter Air Quality Chair, Craig Volland, testified for the chapter, and ex-com member, Richard Mabion, presented on behalf of the NAACP.

These comments are presented on behalf of the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club. More extensive written comments will be provided by representatives of the National Sierra Club.

I want to thank the USEPA for scheduling this hearing at the request of local citizens in Kansas City, Kansas, because we have two large fiberglass insulation manufacturing plants, Certainteed and Owens Corning, located within a mile of each other in the Fairfax Industrial District.

However, this hearing came about, in part, because of long running legal actions by the National Air Toxics Taskforce of the Sierra Club, who challenged, among other things, the use of particulate matter measures as a surrogate for potentially volatile heavy metal compounds. It was only because USEPA finally recognized the need to require specific measurements of certain HAP metal emissions that they discovered that Certainteed’s K2 “Oxyfuel” glass melting furnace was emitting an unexpectedly large amount of hexavalent chromium.

Hexavalent chromium is a confirmed human cancer-causing agent that can also cause asthma attacks and damage to the nose and respiratory system in sufficient concentrations. This incident serves as the poster child as to why EPA should minimize the use of surrogates in all regulated industries. It also demonstrates why EPA has the duty under the MACT review (Sec 112d6) both to “look back” at HAP reductions now achievable and to “look around” at developments in technology, processes and work practices to update the rule to obtain all appropriate emission reductions.

We agree with EPA’s assessment that the health risk from this source category is currently unacceptable. However, for the following reasons, we are not convinced that the proposed new standard provides an ample margin of safety for the health of the community.

The Owens Corning plant, which has one “Oxyfuel” glass melting furnace similar to Certainteed’s K2, also showed emissions of hexavalent chromium though in much smaller quantities. The most recent stack tests at Owens Corning’s 70 north and 70 south furnaces showed that hexavalent was 25 and 16% of total chromium emissions respectively, while their K5 “Oxyfuel” furnace was 86% hexavalent similar to the 92% found at Certainteed.

This indicates that the higher temperature Oxyfuel design is part of the problem. This is of special concern in KCK because Owens Corning has reported sizable air emissions of chromium to the Toxic Release Inventory (120 to 250 lbs. annually since 2001) apparently without checking to determine the type of chromium emitted. So it is likely that citizens near the plant have been exposed to higher hexavalent chromium emissions than was assumed in the health risk assessment conducted by EPA. Even the
New River Access on the Kansas River – Ogden, KS

By TJ Hittle / Photos by Bob Sinnett

Many years ago, the Kansas Canoe & Kayak Association (KCKA) lobbied the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks (KDWP) to do a study for the locations of potential public river accesses on the Kansas River. KDWP eventually moved forward with that study. During the study, potential public river accesses were determined appropriate every 10-15 miles running from the river’s beginning at mile 170.5 at Junction City to river mile (0.0), the mouth of the Kansas River in Kansas City, MO.

Over the years, KCKA worked with several cities and other non-profit river based groups to see the river accesses installed, one by one. These new public river accesses have included Manhattan, St. George, Wamego, Topeka, Perry, Lawrence, Eudora, Desoto, and onto into Kansas City. The one missing public river access link and one that was most critical for paddlers on the upper Kaw was near Ogden, KS. This section of the Kansas River cuts through the Flint Hills. The 16-mile section that links Ogden to Manhattan, KS is arguably the most secluded, most campable, and most scenic section on the Kansas River. Alas, the public river access was horrible!

As promised, early in 2011, the new public river access was installed by KDWP as a part of the installation of a new bridge over the Kansas River on K-18 highway, south of Ogden, KS. The only trick to this access at present is that it may be one of the most difficult to find. For a full year, there has been no signage. It is also nowhere near the new K-18 bridge, but located instead about 1 mile downstream of the bridge on the Kansas River on river left. The new river access is directly east of K-18 & Ogden, KS near some very colorful apartments, off an eastward extension of Walnut Street. It has nice concrete parking, bathrooms, a shelter, and a concrete ramp that leads directly into the river. Under most conditions, there will be some parts of the lower end of the ramp that will be silted in, due to a lack of a strong eddyline. Overall, it is a huge improvement over the old method of river access that included bushwhacking down sides of the old K-18 bridge and trespassing as you wandered through 8’ weeds and poison ivy. So get your paddles ready in 2012 and get organized to paddle the most scenic river section on the entire Kansas River.
Snowy Owl Makes Our Day

Topeka Group Outings Report

By Paul Post, Topeka Group Outings Chair

Five members of the Topeka Group and a member of the Wakarusa Group joined the Topeka Audubon Society on Saturday, January 7, for a trip to Lake Perry in hopes of spotting bald eagles. The morning was cool and clear, but with no ice on the lake, no eagles could be found. Two made a brief appearance flying overhead and then disappeared.

The trip leader, an experienced birder, suggested that we head for Clinton Lake where snowy owls had been spotted. All agreed and set a course for Clinton. Taking the road below the dam, the first thing we spotted was a snowy owl perched on the Corps of Engineers sign for Outlet Park. The owl soon caused a minor traffic jam as motorists stopped and got of their vehicles for a better look. The snowy remained perched on the sign for at least 40 minutes as cars and people continued to come and go.

According to an article in the January 14 edition of the Topeka Capital Journal, more than 70 sightings of snowy owls have occurred so far this year. The article noted that these owls are at home on the tundra of the Arctic and Sub-Arctic and Alaska. They feed on several species of lemmings and these animals have dramatic population swings that often crash. When that happens, the owls head south in search of food sources. The article described the birds as follows: “Snowy owls are large and bulky, mostly white with a few specks of dark brown or gray standing about 2 feet tall. They’re striking birds that weight about 3 1/2 pounds but look much larger due to a 5-foot wingspan. Female snowy owls, like many birds of prey, are larger than their male counterparts. Snowy owls are the largest of the North American owls. Unlike their nocturnal relatives, snowy owls are active by day. It’s no surprise as daylight is almost continuous within the Arctic Circle during the summer nesting season.”

Members attending agreed that even though the original intent of the outing – a search for eagles – was mostly a bust, the snowy owl perched at Clinton Lake was well worth the trip.
2012 Kanza Group ExCom Meets for Annual Retreat

The Kanza Group Executive Committee (ExCom) held its annual retreat at the Antioch Branch of the Johnson County Library on January 15, 2012. Election results for the ExCom were announced at the retreat. Bob Sommer will continue as Chair and Craig Lubow as Vice Chair. Richard Voss remains as Treasurer, with assistance from newly elected ExCom member Ken Schefter and Kanza Group member Mike Kozisek. Ed Rowe continues as Secretary. Also elected this year were Craig Wolfe, Frank Drinkwine, and Joe Spease. Continuing on the ExCom is Doug Stecklein. Outings Chair Bob Fritsch was appointed as a voting member to fill a vacant seat.

The ExCom takes time out each year to set its agenda. Among the priorities for the upcoming year are planning family-centered outings, enhancing programs for the monthly general meetings, and promoting the annual Silent Auction. The ExCom is considering making small grants to educators involved with climate change. The recent Winter Solstice Celebration was so well received that the ExCom decided to include it on the 2012 calendar.

Kanza Group members are encouraged to get in touch with Chair Bob Sommer and other members of the ExCom with ideas for programs and outings. They are also invited to attend regular ExCom meetings throughout the year.

Kansas Interfaith Power & Light

by Rabbi Moti Rieber

Maybe you'd be surprised to learn that every major religious denomination in the country has made strong public statements about the religious imperative to care for the earth, and more specifically, the importance from the faith perspective of addressing global climate change (GCC). If you google “Methodists + climate” or “Jews + climate” or even “evangelical Christians + climate” you will find numerous strong statements from the official bodies of these faith communities about how important it is for people of faith to address this vital and pressing issue.

Working on this issue in our own state is Kansas Interfaith Power & Light. The local affiliate of a national organization of more than 14,000 houses of worship and 100,000 individuals, Kansas IPL's mission is to build a strong coalition of faith voices in support of energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the use of renewables. Kansas IPL works with faith communities in three main areas: “greening” their spaces - making specific energy efficiency improvements in the faith community's facilities, such as upgrading lighting, HVAC systems or installing additional insulation, to help lower energy usage and cost; teaching and preaching about the faith-based underpinnings of environmental protection, the potential impacts of GCC in Kansas and around the world, and the importance of having a faith voice be part of these discussions; and advocating on the public level for policies that promote the “green energy economy.”

When the hearing on the Keystone XL “tarsands” pipeline was held in Topeka in September, the most vibrant and articulate opposition to the project was voiced by Kansas IPL. We were there with Sierra Club and GPACE on the Holcomb coal plant fight, we are there with NWF and 350.org on Keystone, and we'll be there whenever we can help to move the conversation from fossil fuels to a cleaner, greener, more sustainable energy future for us all.

For more information, contact Moti Rieber at (913) 232-2336 or rebmoti@kansasipl.org. www.kansasipl.org

Back row (l to r): Mike Kozisek, Mike Miller, Joe Spease, Richard Voss, Craig Wolfe, and Bob Sommer. Front row (l to r): Frank Drinkwine, Bob Fritsch, Elaine Giessel, Craig Lubow, Ken Schefter. Not shown: Ed Rowe and Doug Stecklein
National Club Election Coming This Spring

The annual election for the Club’s Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don’t know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club’s election website:

http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2012election/default.aspx

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If necessary, you will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.

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 or stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
Join us in Wichita, KS
hometown & headquarters of
KOCH INDUSTRIES, THE KOCH BROTHERS
& Koch funded think tank, the Kansas Policy Institute

OCCUPY KOCH TOWN

Move beyond fossil fuels and corporate corruption!

Tell the Koch Brothers
NO KEYSTONE-XL PIPELINE!!

Save the Ogalala Aquifer, our farm and ranchlands in the Heartland—NO KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE!

Let’s take a regional and national stand
‘TOGETHER’ for our environment!

President’s Day Weekend
February 17-18-19, 2012

Direct Action!! Speakers! Music!

More details, schedule of direct actions and speakers, to be announced. Some camping, inexpensive, free overnight accommodations available. Occupation/further action welcome. https://www.facebook.com/events/268783793183220/
Info/Sign-up: OccupyKochTown@gmail.com or website: http://bit.ly/xbvzk7
Eat Local & Organic!
The 14th Annual
Exhibition of Farmers

The Exhibition of Farmers will consist of two events this year

Saturday, March 31, 2012
Shawnee Civic Centre
13817 Johnson Dr., Shawnee, KS
(2 mi. east of I-435), 9 AM to 2 PM

Saturday April 7, 2012
Penn Valley Community College Gym
3201 SW Trafficway, KCMO
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

- Meet organic farmers who can supply high quality organic fruits and veggies and free range meats for the coming season
- Learn how you can make a difference with your food selections
- Organic seedlings for an early start on your garden
- Pick up a free copy of the 2012 Directory of Local Organic and Free Range Food Producers
- Free Admission & Free Parking!!

Original music by eco-troubadour, Stan Slaughter

The event is co-sponsored by the Sierra Club
For more info contact
David Lawrence
913-620-8427 or
kcfoodcircle@gmail.com
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.

Please Print checks or money orders only
Name: _____________________________________
Address: ____________________________________
City: __________________ State ____ Zip_________

Deadline: March 17, 2012

Number Meal
______ Regular
______ Vegetarian
______ Vegan

Number of People Attending: __________ X $25.00/ person
Amount Enclosed: _____________

Mail to: Sierra Club Southwind Group, 4015 Hammond Dr., Wichita, KS 67218-1221
**KC Food Circle Offers**

*Eat Local & Organic!*

**Dining Card**

You probably know where to find local, organic food for your table, but what about when you are not in the mood to cook? You can enjoy delicious local, organic fare at some of the region’s best local restaurants.

And now, with the new Kansas City area *Eat Local & Organic!* restaurant dining card, members can enjoy this amazing food at a discount! This card entitles you to a one-time 10% discount on your bill at some of the best sustainably sourced restaurants in the Kansas City Area.

Get your card and a list of participating restaurants! Go to www.kcfoodcircle.org, and click on 2012 DINING CARD on the left menu.

To join KCFC, click on KCFC Membership on the left menu.

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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.
The Winter Solstice Potluck brought in a full house. This is one event that is destined to be an annual celebration.

Kanza Group ExCom member Doug Stecklein added, “The music was superb, the food plentiful, and Elaine’s presentation on winter wildlife was as entertaining for adults as it was for kids. I am already looking forward to next year’s celebration.”

Sierra Club member Saralyn Pace described the feeling everyone seemed to share by the end of the evening: “The meeting, dinner, music and presentation were Solstice gifts to us all.”

Mark Your Calendars for May 5 Kanza Silent Auction

Come May 5 to our Silent Auction this year. This is our major fundraiser that we count on to provide our funds for the work of the Kanza Group. There are several things you can do to help our efforts.

- Conjure up a donation worth $25 or more that we can add to our Silent Auction.
- Volunteer to help organize the event.
- Of course, please come and take part in the bargains, wine & cheese and other goodies that make this event a must-attend.
- When you come, bring along another couple or two.

If you can help, call Craig Wolfe at 913-299-4474 or email at info@kansas.sierraclub.org.
Peace and Justice on our Plates

Eating as Though the Earth Matters...
Thoughts and Recipes for the Planet

By Judy Carman

Editor’s Note: Sometimes, reading about changing our diets is a little tough to take. And, we may not appreciate being told about the effects of our meat appetites on the Planet. But, we reached 7 billion not too long ago, and the world wants to copy us here in the good ol’ U.S. of A. I have printed this article and asked my wife to read it. If I really want to be part to the solution, is there more I can do with my diet to protect our Earth? The simple answer is, yes, if I choose to.

Craig Wolfe

In my December-January column, we looked at the interconnections of all the justice movements—peace, earth, social justice, and animal rights. Each movement is seeking to create peace, justice, and a world healed from the ravages of greed and fear. Synchronistically, in the same issue of Planet Kansas, Bob Summer reported that the Kansas Chapter’s Executive Committee made an October, 2011, recommendation to the national Board that Sierra Club adopt an anti-war resolution. The resolution they recommended would include withdrawing U.S. forces from Iraq and Afghanistan and also downsizing military presence overseas.

Why would an environmental group take a stand on war and peace? As Sommer points out, wars and military occupation take a huge toll on nature. Daily use of millions of gallons of oil, destruction of habitat with weaponry and military installations, fouling of water supplies, and an endless list of heart breaking atrocities add up to extreme environmental degradation.

In the same issue of Planet Kansas, Craig Lubow shared with us the connection between environmentalism and human rights. He reported that the Sierra Club joined Amnesty International to co-produce a video on the subject. Some of the worst environmental catastrophes have taken place where people are impoverished. Mining, oil, animal agriculture, fishing, and other industries often invade areas where people are few and/or have little influence to stop the destruction. Multi-national corporations, responsible for death and appalling pollution, toxic waste, and the destruction of livelihoods, do all they can to ignore the trail of tragedy that they leave in their wakes.

So while we work within our own organizations to further planetary healing, and as the Occupy movement continues to underline all these intricate interconnections, we
find ourselves working together more often than ever. This beautiful planet is both literally and symbolically our common ground.

I recently ran across yet another example of a threat to the earth that requires cooperation from all of us. In a Huffington Post online article by Tom Zeller entitled, “Biodiversity on earth plummeted, despite growth in protected habitats” (9-29-11). In it he explains that, in spite of the increase in designated protected habitat areas, species diversity is still dropping.

Since the ’60’s, 7 million square miles of land and 1 million square miles of sea have become protected areas. As you can see in the charts, both land and sea species have disappeared at an alarming rate in spite of the increase in these areas. We are looking at huge numbers of people working so hard, many as unpaid volunteers, to protect these areas, and yet it does not seem to be enough.

And of course, as we know, species diversity is not just about saving the animals for their own sakes, it is also about saving life on earth in general. In other words, this loss affects human beings as well and in every way. The delicate balance created by the interconnecting dance of species is key to our survival physically. Spiritually and emotionally, the loss of these animals in our world creates a profound underlying sense of grief for us all.

Simply put, creating these havens for animals to live undisturbed by people and giant, destructive corporations has not been enough. The enforcement has been sorely lacking, and the total amount of square miles is insufficient. But focusing only on increasing the square miles will not solve the global dilemma. Peter F. Sale, assistant director of the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health, is quoted by Zeller: “Biodiversity loss is also caused by pollution, by arrival of invasive species, by decisions to convert habitat to other uses -- farms, villages, cities -- and by various components of climate change…”

There are simply too many angles from which the diversity of life is being attacked. Habitat protection is vital but not enough. As we have discussed, wars contribute mightily to habitat destruction as does the pollution caused by the multinationals. We have now seen the birth of the 7 billionth human being. In Lawrence, Kansas, I watch as trees, grass, and animal homes and food sources are stripped from the land to make room for more condos, big box stores, and apartments.

We are truly at a crossroads like no other. Loss of species diversity sounds very scientific. We can say it without much emotion, but what lies beneath the euphemism is the fact that innocent animals are dying, beautiful plants are being ripped from the earth, and the delicate balance of life itself is in grave danger.

So we see how these animals are dying because of wars, human rights violations, corporate greed, relentless pollution, but this, after all, is a column about eating as though the earth matters. One of the most invasive of all industries on earth is the animal agriculture industry, and I include the fishing industry in that. Bison, wolves, wild horses, coyotes, prairie dogs are all legally and ruthlessly killed to “protect” land for cattle. When we eat cow meat, we contribute to the deaths of those wild animals and the damage done to the ecosystem by cows confined in spaces too small for them (CAFOs).

Approximately 60% of all grain raised in the U.S. is grown for animals who are confined in feed lots, factory farms, so-called “humane” farms, and fish farms. Much of this grain is genetically modified which, as you know, is compromising the integrity of insect populations that are essential to pollination, not to mention the beauty of flowers. When we dine on cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, and other animals, we contribute to the loss of habitat that has been taken over to raise this feed grain, to the proliferation of the GMO industry, and to the deaths of butterflies.

It is no longer news that overfishing is threatening the ecological balance of earth. Huge fishing fleets are bent on profit without ethics. It is estimated that in the U.S. alone in 2010, Americans consumed an estimated 53 billion aquatic animals. When the customer will buy, the corporations will provide. According to Sea Shepherd, of TV’s Whale Wars fame, a bluefin tuna recently sold for $173,000.00. Evidently prized by sushi lovers especially in Japan, this magnificent fish is surely doomed to extinction at prices like that. And let’s not forget, as we consider the infinite interconnections in the web of life, that land animal agriculture and aquaculture is polluting the rivers and seas with untreated and unmonitored excrement which is full of pathogens, antibiotics, and toxic medications.

Linking together an exploding human population with animal agriculture, please consider the following figures for 2010, based on USDA reports:

- 9.2 billion chickens were consumed for meat.
- 464 million chickens were raised for eggs.
and killed when they no longer produced enough eggs.

- 276 million turkeys were consumed for meat.
- 202 million cows, pigs, other mammals, ducks and geese were consumed for meat.
- 53 billion aquatic animals are estimated to have been consumed for food.

Globally, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization figures indicate that the number of land animals killed for food exceeds 65 billion. The organization does not have global estimates for aquatic animal deaths.

Let us imagine for a moment the immensity of these numbers just for land animals alone. The amount of space and feed needed to raise these animals; the amount of pollution from their contaminated excrement, blood, body parts, and diseased carcasses; the amount of water needed to sustain them and then slaughter them; the fuel needed to transport them and their remains—well, you get the picture. Can anyone argue that that is sustainable? If human beings continue to eat animals, we will be eating them and our planet.

What I love most about writing this column “Eating as Though the Earth Matters,” is that, in spite of all the dire facts, predictions, and sad news, I get to offer something amazingly simple and optimistic that each one of us can do to make a big difference for the earth, the animals, social justice, world peace, and even our own health. Without taking any extra time or costing any more money, activists all over the world can continue the great work they are doing and take an immediate stand three times a day (or more if you eat a lot of snacks). Eliminating animal products from our meals directly impacts big agribusiness and big fishing—two of the most destructive industries on earth. As I have called it before, it is the mother of all boycotts, and we have the power to do it. It is a power that comes from the heart of us all, generated not by greed or fear, but by love for life, for this miracle we call earth, for our grandkids that they may wade in crystal clear creeks and see butterflies.

In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., “True pacifism is not unrealistic submission to evil power. It is rather a courageous confrontation of evil by the power of Love.” That is our power. May we use it wisely and well for all living beings and for the earth as we go forward in solidarity with each other.

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

My son-in-law wanted a coconut cream pie for his birthday. I found this one in Veganomicon: The Ultimate Vegan Cookbook by Moskowitz and Romero, and it was a big hit.

Lost Coconut Custard Pie

Filling:

- 1 cup soy milk
- 2 tablespoons arrowroot powder or cornstarch
- ½ teaspoon agar powder
- ½ 14 oz. can coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon coconut extract
- Pinch of salt
- ¼ cup shredded, unsweetened coconut

Optional garnishes: additional shredded coconut or slices of fresh fruit (sprinkle filling with lemon juice before placing fruit)

- Prepare any crust, bake, and set aside.
- In a small bowl, whisk together ½ cup soy milk with arrowroot powder. Set aside.
- In a large heavy-bottomed saucepan, whisk together the remaining ½ cup milk with agar powder. Over medium-high heat, bring the mixture to a boil, stirring constantly. Allow it to boil for about 1 minute, then turn down the heat to medium-low. In a slow, steady stream, pour in arrowroot mixture stirring this mixture constantly.
- Pour in the coconut milk, lemon juice, and sugar. Using a wire whisk, stir constantly and cook until the mixture has thickened, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in vanilla extract, coconut extract, salt, and shredded coconut. Immediately pour into pie crust… Allow pie to cool, then chill covered in refrigerator for 2 hours.

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.
EPA's limited analysis showed that the Owens Corning plant adds about 25% to the risk calculated from the Certainteed operation.

A subsequent test at Certainteed's K2 furnace showed a much lower emission of hexavalent chromium. Nonetheless EPA did the right thing by initiating direct monitoring of the air in Vara Garland Park just south of the plant.

The health risk assessment is not conservative for other reasons as well. The EPA's model did not consider risks from other nearby sources of industrial pollution that include a medical waste incinerator, the General Motors Assembly Plant, and the Quindaro coal-fired power station. The area is also home to large numbers of diesel trucks and trains.

Some neighboring residents live on the bluffs overlooking the Fairfax Industrial District at an elevation above the tops of some smoke stacks. While EPA's model does take nearby terrain into account, it makes the exposure calculation only at the center of the census tract. This would underestimate the risk to residents living on the edge of the tract towards the stacks. Nor would the modeling adequately consider the risks to anyone working regularly just beyond the fence line of the Certainteed plant.

The model does not fully take into account the lifetime harm that can be caused when a child is exposed at an early age to toxic chemicals. EPA's own recent draft toxicological review in 2010 discusses scientific research showing that the cancer risk assessment for hexavalent chromium causes mutagenic effects. EPA should follow this and the scientifically supported approach of the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and use age-dependent adjustment factors for all carcinogens including hexavalent chromium.

Finally it's obvious from the way these hexavalent chromium emissions were only discovered after these plants have operated for many years, and from how the numbers vary, that EPA needs to collect much more data from the industry. Thus we conclude that EPA's health risk assessment is not conservative, and additional analysis is needed.

Certainteed very recently shut down their K2 glass melting furnace until 2013 because, they said, of unfavorable market conditions. Thus the currently planned 6 months of monitoring at Vara Garland Park is likely to capture no emissions at all from that furnace and to greatly underestimate the risk that will occur when K2 starts up again. EPA should extend the monitoring program to at least six months after Certainteed's K2 furnace returns to service. Considering also that the risk in KCK falls disproportionately on minorities and people who are economically disadvantaged, additional monitoring is a matter of fairness as well.

Regarding formaldehyde, an industry letter in the docket indicated that OC had changed their curing process to eliminate the emission of this toxic pollutant. However the data inputs to EPA's modeling showed OC's KC plant among the highest emitters. That is consistent with TRI data showing emission of some 60,000 pounds of formaldehyde in 2010 down from a peak 86,000 in 2005. EPA needs to confirm when OC made the change. The industry letter also indicated that CT had not yet followed suit but was planning to do so. This is important because of the aforementioned concentration of facilities in KCK and the fact that formaldehyde is one of the risk drivers.

It is crucial that EPA follow through on their intention to regulate area sources in this category because the elimination of formaldehyde emissions may allow a plant to become technically a minor source while still posing a serious risk from highly dangerous pollutants like hexavalent chromium.

There appears to be some inconsistency in the actual number for the chromium limit. On page 72792 of the narrative it's given as 0.006 pounds per 1000 tons of glass pulled while on page 72801 it's 0.06 pounds per 1000 tons of glass pulled. In the draft rule, 63.182, it says 0.00006 pounds per ton. We urge EPA to set the strongest chromium limit and to set robust limits on all other toxic air pollutants to ensure that the Kansas City community receives the required “ample” level of protection for our health.
Keystone, continued from Cover

pain at the pump? Nope. This is a fight about oil company profits. The pipeline will actually raise gas prices in the Midwest by 10 to 20 cents a gallon, hurting American families and American farmers and putting a damper on our fragile economy.

Oil companies say the pipeline wouldn't spill? Not buying it. The last pipeline that was built like this spilled over 12 times in the first year of production.

The oil lobby touts the economic boom and national security benefits from the project. The truth is the job numbers have been inflated and the tar sands oil is destined for export to Europe and Latin America from refineries in a Texas free trade zone -- i.e. no taxes collected.

More than 12,000 people showed up to circle the White House yesterday in a call to President Obama to reject the proposed TransCanada Keystone XL tar sands oil pipeline.

To Choose, continued from page 3

with our homes. Not only do we use energy to heat and cool our homes, but our habits are big culprits as well. Do you wear three layers in the winter (and a bra don't count)? Do you use fans in the summer? Can you plant trees on the west and east side to block the summer sun? Are your transformer devices always plugged in. These are called “phantom loads” and can consume as much as 11% of your electrical load.

There is certainly a long list of other habits that we can focus on. By March, the Heartland Renewable Energy Society, a group that I am involved with, will have developed its Clipboard Audit, which will guide you through your home and habits to demonstrate ways we can all make improvements. I’ll keep you posted.

In the long run, we need to look at how and where we work, who we vote for, how we travel, how active are we in being an vocal protagonist for protecting our environment and habitat. An the monster behind the door is indeed climate change. If we care at all for our children's future, we must begin to choose to make change. To Choose or Not To Choose. That is the question for our generation.
Clean energy and good jobs—if we plan for them

By Michael Brune

When I started at the Club in spring 2010, I quickly found agreement among our board, volunteers, and staff that we needed to be more solutions-oriented. Our organization has an awesome record of success over the past 120 years, but this century requires us to be as strong in creating the world we want as we are in resisting the one we fear.

Nowhere is this positive imperative clearer than in the energy crisis we’ve been experiencing. That crisis includes the largest U.S. coal mine disaster in a generation, which left 29 miners dead; the largest oil spill in American history; and a frightening nuclear meltdown in Japan. Concerns about drilling for natural gas are largely ignored by the industry as well as state and federal regulators.

But here’s some great news for a country that’s parched for it. The price of solar panels has dropped 70 percent in the past three years. Iowa now gets nearly 20 percent of its power from wind. And Colorado’s largest utility has announced that it will soon obtain 30 percent of its power from wind and solar. Clean energy is mainstream, not a pipe dream. It’s ready to grow and to lift our economy with it.

So we’ve made scaling up clean-energy solutions a top priority at the Sierra Club—whether it’s helping our members put solar panels on their rooftops or working with wind-turbine companies (and even the U.S. Chamber of Commerce) to streamline the permitting process for clean energy in towns and cities across the country.

Scott Martelle’s article in this issue of Sierra (“Kick Coal, Save Jobs, Right Now”), which describes the deal to retire the last remaining coal-fired power plant in the Pacific Northwest, provides an example of how well this approach can work. It also shows why we call our campaign Beyond Coal instead of Stop Coal. As far as we’re concerned, stopping coal is just the beginning. It’s what happens next that’s really important—and exciting. As more than 500 outdated and polluting coal plants disappear from the map, our nation will be transformed. We’re not just eliminating something bad; we’re making room for something better.

In the case of the coal plant in question, TransAlta’s facility in Centralia, Washington, the keys to success were agreeing to a gradual transition that will allow time to build a renewable-energy infrastructure and pushing for a significant financial commitment from the company to help the community develop new clean-economy jobs. The result: By 2025, the Pacific Northwest will be the first region of the country to become completely coal-free.

Clean energy and good jobs—people want both. Put the two together, as we did in Centralia, and you’re looking at one of the most effective tools for building a national movement to end America’s addiction to dirty fossil fuels. That’s because clean-energy jobs are not just good for the environment; they’re also good for America and American workers.

For starters, they pay better—13 percent more, on average, than median U.S. wages. They also offer a more secure long-term future. So we have a clear choice: We can design, engineer, build, and maintain the energy infrastructure of the future, or we can harness the power of American workers to extract and burn every last ounce of fossil fuel, regardless of the consequences.

And speaking of building things, another great feature of clean-energy jobs is that they’re more likely to be based in the manufacturing sector. That means that industrial workers, who’ve been hard-hit by this recession, can get back to the business of making things, whether it’s wind turbines, batteries for electric vehicles, or energy-efficient building materials.

Environmentalists spend so much effort leading the fight against bad things that we sometimes fail to think beyond the day when the problem actually goes away. It’s time to change that, as we did in Centralia. It’s time to plan for our future beyond coal.

Michael Brune is the executive director of the Sierra Club. You can e-mail him at michael.brune@sierraclub.org and follow him on Twitter and Facebook.
Chapter & Group Leaders

Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter

Chapter Executive Committee
Officers, Committee Chairs
*Elected ExCom member; **Appointed ExCom member, ***Group Representative to Chapter, ****Officer/Committee Chair

Yvonne Cather*, Chair, Council Delegate, (316) 539-1973, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Craig Lubow*, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, Global Warming Chair, (913) 898-1100, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
Bob Sommer*, Chair, Political Chair, (816) 898-1100, rsommer@kc.rr.com
Larry Erikson*, Conservation Chair, (913) 539-4424, lerick@ksu.edu

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
Bob Sommer*, Chair, Political Chair, (816) 898-1100, rsommer@kc.rr.com
Larry Erikson*, Conservation Chair, (913) 539-4424, lerick@ksu.edu

Flint Hills Group (Manhattan Area)
Carol Bart hi*, Chair, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, (785) 410-8608, snowsage54@hotmail.com
Scott Smith***, Treasurer, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net
Larry Erikson*, Conservation Chair, (913) 539-4424, lerick@ksu.edu

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
Bob Sommer*, Chair, Political Chair, (816) 898-1100, rsommer@kc.rr.com
Craig Lubow*, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, Global Warming Chair, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

Ed Rowe*, Secretary, (913) 642-1371, roweed@kc.surewest.net
Richard Voss****, Treasurer, (913) 888-8517, richard.voss@kansas.sierraclub.org

Frank Drinkwine*, Fundraising Chair, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
Bob Fritsch**, Outings Chair, Kanza Group Rep, (913) 906-9728, bobfritsch@hotmail.com
Elaine Giessel*, Environmental Justice Chair, Hospitality Chair, (913) 888-8517,

(Kanza con’t)
eﻻine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org
Mike Kozisek****, Assistant Treasurer, (913) 788-2957, kozisek@hotmail.com
Mike Miller*, Membership Chair, Air Quality Chair, (913) 362-2600, mrmiller1@mindspring.com
Ken Schefter*, Assistant Treasurer, Alternate Chapter Rep, (913) 870-6878, purplepenguin1@gmail.com
Joe Spease*, Legislative Chair, Energy Chair, (913) 492-2862, spease4kc@everestkc.net
Doug Stecklein*, ExCom Member, 913-393-3934, dougstecklein@yahoo.com
Craig Wolfe*, Auction Chair, Communications Chair, Program Chair, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)
Stuart Bolt*, Chair, Chapter Group Delegate, Fundraising Chair, Communications Chair, Environmental Justice Chair, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
Ron Morris*, Vice Chair, (316) 777-4130, ronnymorris@cox.net

Tom Knei*, Co-Secretary, Alternate Chapter Delegate, (316) 744-1016, thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org
Deborah Gafvert*, Co-Secretary, Membership Chair, Political Co-Chair, Program Co-Chair, Publicity Chair, (316) 733-5102, dsgafvert@cox.net
Yvonne Cather****, Treasurer, Energy Chair, Program Co-Chair, (316) 522-4741, Yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Dave Kirkbride*, Political Co-Chair, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Bruce Fuelling*, Conservation Chair, Outings Chair, (316) 682-0340, bfuelling@cox.net
Karin Cowdrey*, ExCom Member, (316) 687-6447,

Topeka Group
Gary Anderson*, Chair, Program Chair, (785) 246-3229, ganderson1963@gmail.com
Jim Tuchschacter*, Vice Chair, (785) 272 5633, jimtuch@earthlink.net
Bill Cutler*, Secretary, Treasurer, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 379-9756, spuds49@cox.net
Leonard Biggs*, ExCom Member, (620)437-7319, leonardbiggs@cox.net
Anita Frank*, Conservation Chair, (785) 273-5050, afrank16@cox.net
Nancy Kirk**, ExCom Member, (785)234-8806, nancykirk1981@msn.com
Paul Post*, Membership Chair, Outings Chair, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

 Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)
Lynne Pettengill, ExCom Member, (785) 331-0625, LynnePettengill@yahoo.com
Carolyn Binns*, Treasurer, (785) 842-3238, carolynbinns@sunflower.com
Steve Lopes*, Secretary, (785) 842-7137, slopes3688@aol.com
Susannah Neal*, ExCom Member, (785) 760-6633, susannah Neal@sunflower.com
Melissa Rogers*, Environmental Education Chair, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 764-0826, mrogers816@gmail.com
George Brenner****, Conservation Chair, Water Quality Chair, (913) 393-3828, gbrenner@sunflower.com

*(Kanza con’t)
General Meetings

General public is welcome to attend

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
February 14. 6:30 pm.
The Anthropocene - Have Human Activities Given Rise to a New Geologic Epoch?

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 - Retired physician Mike Miller present an Earth Science 101 presentation on how humans have become a major geological force. This presentation will “connect the dots” among many familiar concepts to address this issue. Mike also has a master degree in geography.

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)
March 13. 6:30 pm.
Native Medicinal Plant Research Program

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 - Kelly Kindscher, Senior Scientist/Professor at the Kansas Biological Survey/Environmental Studies, will present on their program whose goal is to identify naturally occurring medicinal compounds that can be marketed in natural remedies, health-care, food and cosmetic products, pharmaceuticals and veterinary products — thereby creating opportunities for Kansas products as well as new jobs in Kansas.

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)
February 10. 6:30 pm.
Images of America: Wichita's Riverside Park

6:30 p.m. – Food & conversation.

7:30 p.m. - Author and naturalist Jim Mason will present photos and history of Wichita's Riverside Park.
Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th St. N. & Woodlawn

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

Southwind Group (Wichita)
February 25. 1-4 pm.
Clipboard Audit

1:00 pm - The Heartland Renewable Energy Society is presenting their Clipboard Audit Presentation. You will learn where save energy and not spend a dime, where your most cost-effective dollar is to save energy, and how and why your home loses energy. You will receive a hard copy of the Clipboard Audit to guide you through every inch of your home to save energy AND dollars. You will get access to the online version of the PowerPoint with Video of the Clipboard Audit. Call 316-264-9972x24 or Dhanraj@sunfloweract.org to RSVP.


Contact - Sunflower Community Action, 1407 N Topeka, Wichita.

Southwind Group (Wichita)
March 9. 6:30 pm.
The Kansas Legislature

6:30 p.m. – Food & conversation.

7:30 p.m. – Zack Pistora, Legislative Director for the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter, will speak about environmental bills in the 2012 state legislative session.

Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th St. N. & Woodlawn

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

Topeka Group
February 28. 6:00 pm.
Lobbyist legislative update

6:00 pm - New Lobbyist/Legislative Coordinator Zack Pistora will share info on important KS legislation issues.

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

Contact - Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

Topeka Group
March 27. 6:00 pm.
Bryan Welch - Sustainability

6:00 pm - Bryan will share info about his new book on sustainability.

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

Contact - Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)
Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting
February 4. 11:45 am.
March 3. 11:45 am.
April 7. 11:45 am.

We’ll listen to a national conference call, then plan what to do locally.

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

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.

**February Outings**

About 7 miles, natural surface trail. $5 donation requested. . Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

[2] **Feb 11. 9 am. Southwind's Valentine Day Hike**
We will meet inside the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th St. N. & Woodlawn, Wichita. The hike will be around Chisolm Creek Park and will take about 3 hours. This hike requires moderate exercise. Please dress warmly, bring water, and bring gloves as we might pick up some trash(Service Outing). No pets allowed. We are asking for a donation of $5.00/person.. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Learn back packing basics in this 5–hour information filled class. We’ll cover gear from head to foot and everything in between. Class size is limited to 25. This is part 1 of 2 classes, followed by a backpack trip. Participation in both classes ensures a place in the beginning backpack trip. Cost for series is $ 50 per person. Instructors John Haynes (913) 742-0100, jhaynes5018@everestkc.net & Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

[2] **Feb 13. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne**
Caffé Moderne (in the 300 block of Mead in Old Town). Join us for food, drink, and conversation.. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Look for full page ad in this newsletter for more information about our President's Day weekend event. Details at http://goo.gl/HYBaq. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

You’ll say “this can't be Kansas!” while wandering among the limestone outcroppings along this National Recreation Trail. $10 donation requested. . Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com; John Haynes, (913) 742-0100, jhaynes5018@everestkc.net

[4] **Feb. 18. Van Meter State Park, Miami, MO**
Tour the American Indian Cultural Center and learn about the nine tribes that called Missouri home in the early 19th century. View a presentation on what Missouri Indians ate including samples of wild edibles. Bring your lunch and we will eat indoors at the cultural center which also offer a film and audio guides. After lunch hike several short trails including the 1.75 mile Earthworks Trails. $5 donation requested. . Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

This 4-hour class, will offer hands on demonstrations of pack loading, tent pitching, water treatment, cat holes, repair basics. . Kanza. Bryan Ohrman, (816) 215-3376, pbandj14@comcast.net & Bob Fritsch, BobFritsch@hotmail.com

About 10 miles, good natural surface trail. $5 donation requested. . Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

Join us as we help keep the Perry Lake Hiking Trail clear and safe for the spring hiking season. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, and a bow saw or loppers if you have them (we do have some extra if you don’t).. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, hassler@planetkc.com

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, Paul Gross (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com & Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

[2] **Mar 12. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne**
Caffé Moderne (in the 300 block of Mead in Old Town). Join us for food, drink, and conversation.. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

What better place for an Ozarks backpacker to observe St Patrick’s Day than the Irish Wilderness? Group size limited to 10 persons.
Committee Meetings

Kanza Group
(Kansas City)

Executive Committee
Feb 23, Mar 22 - 7:00 pm,
Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211,
rsommer@kc.rr.com

Joint Action Committee
Feb 23, Mar 22 - 7:00 pm,
Conservation, legislative, and political
Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620,
craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group
(Wichita)

Fundraising Committee - 5:30 pm
Executive Committee - 6:00 pm
Feb 5, Mar 4
Location TBA Equity Bank Building
Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722,
stuart.bolt@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, ganderson1963@gmail.com

Kansas Chapter: (State), Executive Committee, Time & Location TBA
Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4474, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

BYOB. $10 donation requested.. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

At the visitor center view a presentation on the life of General John J. Pershing, commanding general of the American Expeditionary forces in World War I. Tour his boyhood home and the Prairie Mound School Museum. Bring your lunch and we will eat at a picnic area near the lake and then hike on several short trails including the 1.5 mile Boardwalk Trail. On the way home we will stop and visit the Locust Creek Covered Bridge which is just 6 miles west of the park. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

Help maintain a meandering wooded section of trail. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, and a bow saw or loppers if you have them (we do have some extra if you don’t). Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

About 9-miles, natural surface trail, very rough from equestrian use. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

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

Hike the 1 mile interpretive Coakley Hollow Trail which is extremely rich with woodland wildflowers. After lunch hike the 1.5 mile Spring Trail and Natural Bridge Trail to see the spring ephemerals whose blooms last longer in the temperature of the cooler sinkholes. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

About 10 miles, natural surface trail, sometimes rough, lots of elevation change. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com
Deadline for the next issue is March 10

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** Jan 28. 9:15 am. Chapter ExCom Meeting. Chapter. Yvonne Cather, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Out** Feb 4. Day hike at Longview Lake, KC, MO. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

**GM** Feb 4. 11:45 am. Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com

**CM** Feb 5. 5:30 pm. Executive and Fundraising Committee. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

**GM** Feb 10. 6:30 pm. Images of America: Wichita’s Riverside Park. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Out** Feb 11. 9 am. Southwind’s Valentine Day Hike. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org


**Out** Feb 13. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

**GM** Feb 14. 6:30 pm. The Anthropocene - Have Human Activities Given Rise to a New Geologic Epoch?. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org


**Out** Feb 18-19. Backpack Elk River Trail, Elk City, KS. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com; John Haynes, (913) 742-0100, jhaynes5018@everestkc.net

**Out** Feb 18. Van Meter State Park, Miami, MO. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

**CM** Feb 23. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craiglubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

**CM** Feb 23. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211, rsonomer@kc.rr.com

**GM** Feb 25. 1-4 pm. Clipboard Audit. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org


**GM** Feb 28. 6:00 pm. Lobbyist legislative update. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

**Out** Mar 3. Day hike and picnic at Landisl Park, Blue Springs, MO. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

**GM** Mar 3. 11:45 am. Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com

**Out** Mar 3. Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, hassler@planetkc.com

**CM** Mar 4. 5:30 pm. Executive and Fundraising Committee. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

**GM** Mar 9. 6:30 pm. The Kansas Legislature. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Out** Mar 10-12. Beginning Backpack Trip, Part 3 - Paddy Creek Wilderness, Roby, MO. Kanza. John Haynes (913) 248-1259 jhaynes5018@everestkc.net, Paul Gross (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com & Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

**Out** Mar 12. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

**GM** Mar 13. 6:30 pm. Native Medicinal Plant Research Program. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Out** Mar 16-18. Irish Wilderness Backpack, Ozark, MO. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

**Out** Mar 17. Pershing State Historic Site, Laclede, MO. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

**CM** Mar 22. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211, rsonomer@kc.rr.com

**CM** Mar 22. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craiglubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

**GM** Mar 27. 6:00 pm. Program: Bryan Welch - Sustainability. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

**GM** Mar 30. 6:30 pm. Annual Southwind Banquet & Auction. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Out** Mar 31. Trail Maintenance Lake JACOMO, Blue Springs, MO. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com