Occupy-Sierra Club
Joint Action

By Yvonne Cather, Co-Conservation Chair

Occupy Koch Town attracted around 40 organizations and more than 350 people from ten states (Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Nebraska, New York, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Iowa, Washington D.C., and Oregon.) We were all non-millionaires. However, we did see some millionaires, or at least pro-millionaire advocates--a dozen or so Tea Party and pro-Koch partisans--on Sunday out in front of Koch Headquarters. The Tea Party and Occupy groups did not clash but engaged in polite conversation, discussing our views and opinions with respect.

The media did not report on the issues the marchers represented, instead slanting their coverage to reflect the unfounded and unconstitutional view expressed by the Koch brothers that such a public display of citizen rights to free speech was somehow illegitimate and dangerous. Little was mentioned about the action’s success, peacefully raising public consciousness about pollution and corporate influence.

Our focus on the Koch brothers as one of the nation’s most dangerous polluters was well founded. “FIGHT TAR SANDS” was one sign repeated throughout the crowd. Tar sands oil pollutes Canada and the U.S. on its journey to its foreign destination. The Alberta pipeline system (which carries diluted bitumen, the same product planned for Keystone XL) has had approximately 16 times as many spills due to internal corrosion as the U.S. conventional oil pipeline system. Yet, the safety and spill response standards used by the U.S. to regulate pipeline transport of bitumen are designed for conventional oil. To make matters worse, pipeline failures are not detected by pipeline operators, and the heavy, sticky, highly corrosive and toxic crude oil is nearly impossible to clean up because the industry doesn’t know how to clean up bitumen

See Joint Action on page 12
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.sierraclub.org 888-7-SIERRA
**A Global Warning**

By Paul Frazier

The complete and unprecedented absence of winter this year has made it impossible for me to sleep through the night for fears of the future climate’s impact on my daughter’s life. We seem to break or equal record temperatures nearly every other day. When we get a storm, it is often extreme. Extreme weather seems to be the new norm.

The Earth does not love us. It is what it is. It is what we make it. It can be a comfortable place to live or it can be a burning caldron. I think that 99% of Earth’s population does not fully comprehend or believe the dangers ahead. Yet, in the last 40 years, our fossil-fuel lifestyle creates CO2 nearly 24/7 with virtually everything that all 6 billion of us do: From cars, planes, buildings, houses, TV’s, computers, refrigerators, heaters, air-conditioners, ... the list is endless.

Global warming is a different kind of enemy. It does not charge over the far hill with a war cry and guns blazing. It is invisible, quiet, and peaceful. For a short while, the global warming winter will be beautiful and wonderfully comfortable. CO2 and other pollutants will continue to create fabulous sunsets. But each year, it gets noticeably hotter. These climate changes will have no heart, no conscious, and no limits. Our nearest neighbor, Venus, is 800 degrees Fahrenheit.

Each year, trillions of tons of CO2 are ADDED to the atmosphere. CO2 being a largely inert gas doesn’t react with anything. It just continues to accumulate. This “cumulative effect” is why the danger builds so quickly and is so great. Each year we build on all of the previous years of pollution. We have far exceeded the earth’s natural ability to sequester and absorb the CO2 back into trees and green plants. For millions of years, trees and plants absorbed carbon into themselves and eventually into the ground. In the span of just the last 40 years, we have drilled deep into the earth and have released these millions of years of sequestered carbon into our atmosphere.

It is difficult to stand before a 10,000-year-old civilization and say that there is imminent destruction ahead, but never in the last 10,000 years, except for the last 40 years, have we had this level of impact to our environment. Some critics say that this is a part of a natural 1,000 year or 10,000 year cycle, but just how probable is it that these cycles are occurring right at this moment during this small window of time? The http://www.epa.gov/climatechange web site lists dire consequences for our children’s and grandchildren’s generations. I personally believe that the effects will be more immediate. However, this is hard to prove because the conditions that we have created today ...
Defeating Dredgers – Defending the Kansas River

By Maril Hazlett & Laura Calwell, Kansas Riverkeeper

Since 1991, Friends of the Kaw (FOK) and the Kansas Riverkeeper have fought to save the Kansas River – the longest sand bed prairie river in world - from the destructive practice of in-river dredging.

Then in late fall of 2011, dredgers caught us by surprise with a supposedly routine permit renewal of five active permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Our Riverkeeper had already battled the permit number down from a high of eighteen, and the trend appeared to be in our favor. However, the renewal applications now covered thirteen sites, including sections of river previously closed due to dredging damage. Even more shocking, the dredgers proposed to increase the tonnage removed by 50% over current levels.

And just like that, two decades of river protection came down to the outcome of the next thirty days. The Corps scheduled the public comment period right over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. They also originally scheduled it to close just before the long-anticipated release of a major dredging study carried out by researchers at Kansas State University and funded by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Did we panic? Oh sure. Facing odds like that, it’s natural to panic a little. Luckily, though, we had spent years laying the groundwork to meet challenges just like this one. To fight the proposed dredging expansion, we focused on our two major assets - people (the river community and major stakeholders) and information.

We had to create the river community. When FOK was founded, the 171-mile Kansas River (known as the Kaw) was almost completely inaccessible. Half of the Kansas population lives in the Kaw watershed, and 600,000 people depend on the river for drinking water. But few Kansans ever ventured out on the river. The Kansas River actually faces multiple threats beyond dredging. Its main uses are industrial: irrigation; water for three coal-fired power plants, including two of the nation’s filthiest; municipal wastewater; and industrial discharges. It also drains more than 50,000 square miles of acreage dedicated to industrial agriculture.

Our theory: When people got to see the Kaw up close, they would start to care about it. We increased the number of access ramps from three to fifteen and sponsored dozens of community and school educational float trips every year. River recreation has now become a major business, and the U.S. Department of Interior has named a Kansas River Water Trail as one of its Top 100 conservation priorities. Since FOK understands that the Kaw is a shared resource, over the years our Riverkeeper has also built relationships with government and business groups interested in the river.

Even though we have few resources, we have also invested in information. Our website (www.kansasriver.org) is the regional go-to resource for anything and everything about the Kansas River. It receives approximately 2,000 visitors a month. U.S. Fish and Wildlife, engineers inspecting bridges, emergency responders, and other professionals all recognize it as the only centralized publicly available data on the river.

So even though the dredging expansion took us by surprise, we still had a fallback plan. Quickly, we pulled together the necessary information – fact sheets, press releases, sample public comments, sample letters to the editor, etc. – and posted it on a Take Action Now page of our website. Then we promoted it like crazy, through several email alerts, social media, and the press.

We also got a bonus. One of the river researchers worked with us to develop a preliminary press release on the findings of the study. Researchers had documented riverbed incision in dredged reaches, probably responsible for excessive bank erosion both upstream and downstream of dredge sites. Researchers also discovered that deep dredge holes can migrate...
Open Letter to the Sierra Club and Sierra Club Kansas

By Dr. Zakk Flash, Central Oklahoma Black/Red Alliance

In February 2012, members of Oklahoma Occupations including Occupy Norman, Occupy Central Oklahoma GA, Occupy Tulsa, Occupy OSU, and Occupy Shawnee traveled north to join Occupy Wichita in an event called OCCUPY KOCH TOWN.

In this project, we teamed up with The Sierra Club to expose the Koch Brothers and their manipulation of democracy across the nation. When working with more “mainstream” groups, tensions can be high. This was the case in Wichita.

This letter was written to alleviate some of those tensions on both sides. It was subsequently endorsed by the General Assemblies of Occupy Norman and Occupy Central Oklahoma.

The members of Occupy Norman congratulate you on your efforts to build alliances with grassroots initiatives like the Occupy Movement. Many of us participated in the Occupy Koch Town rally in Wichita, Kansas and were excited to meet with both members of various regional Occupations and the speakers invited to join us. We come away from that meeting invigorated and filled with new resolve; information gathered will help us strengthen our movement in places like Norman, Oklahoma and elsewhere. We hope that our successes here will serve as an inspiration to other Occupations nationwide and to the Sierra Club itself. As we grow, we hope to maintain these valuable coalitions so that we may stand together against the threats faced by our planet.

The growing pains felt by the Occupy Movement, however, are never more apparent than when we find ourselves in alliances with traditional organizations like organized labor and mainstream environmental groups like the Sierra Club.

Occupations and traditional grassroots groups are very different sorts of organizations. While the Sierra Club has a voted-upon board of directors, statewide chartered clubs, and set agenda, the Occupy Movement seeks a more organic form of growth. We reject hierarchical leadership in favor of consensus-based direct democracy. Occupations rise without need for a charter from a central organization and local community needs are responsible for an ever-changing but vital agenda. Free of corporate influence, the Occupy Movement uses a lean operating plan to accomplish its goals.

These differences are highlighted by some of the divisions witnessed across the country. With the revelation this year that the Sierra Club had accepted over $26 million from Oklahoma’s own Chesapeake Energy, the largest driller of dangerous natural gas wells in the United States, a nervous apprehension was already in the air as our Oklahoma Occupations traveled north. Some members of the Occupy Movement who came together in Wichita felt the Sierra Club was trying to piggyback on our reputation and tie our message in with the Club’s established agenda. Their voices are echoed in the concerns of many occupiers around the country.

Patience, respect and flexibility are necessary now and in the future.

Labor unions, environmental groups, and Occupations complement each other, despite the aforementioned differences. The Sierra Club and similar groups want to tap into the...
Poetry and Nature: ‘Renewable Energy for the Soul’

by Bob Sommer, Kanza Group Chair

It’s hardly an exaggeration to say that without literature the Sierra Club would not exist. John Muir’s gifts as a writer are largely responsible for preserving the Yosemite and Sierra Nevada mountains when they were threatened by industrial exploitation in the late nineteenth century. Thus began the organized effort to preserve America’s wilderness through the founding of the Sierra Club and establishment of the National Parks System.

Muir could be pithy on the subject of writing. “No amount of word-making,” he wrote, “will ever make a single soul to know these mountains.”

Yet it was through his articles in Atlantic and Century magazines that readers did come to know America’s wilderness. These popular magazines were mostly read on the east coast. Few of his readers would ever see California’s mountains for themselves. Muir’s essays and books gained a wide readership because of their authenticity, historical and scientific accuracy, and passion. His writing might tend to be “adjectivorous,” as he said, but it was neither pretentious nor sentimental.

Muir worked hard at writing. As is true for most successful writers, the easy style of his prose was the result of much rewriting and polishing. He complained in a letter to his sister Sarah that life as a writer is “like the life of a glacier, one eternal grind.”

Perhaps, but with glacial persistence he managed to grind out ten books and hundreds of essays in lively and captivating prose that is no more of a grind to read today than when it first appeared in print.

Literature and nature have long been woven into the same fabric. The seventeenth-century poet John Dryden believed that “the imitation of nature” was the most important function of the arts, and he regarded poetry as the highest form of art.

It seems more than a coincidence that in the crowded and feverish culture of the twenty-first century, our relationship to both nature and poetry has been simultaneously fractured, if not severed altogether. Just as mankind once lived closer to the natural world, so too in past ages poets were held in high regard and poetry was considered

This letter has been endorsed by individuals too numerous to count, in addition to the General Assemblies of:

Occupy Norman
Occupy Central Oklahoma

This open letter has been republished by Infoshop.org at: http://news.infoshop.org/article.php?story=20120305000030755

Apr - May 2012
Dole Institute Debate Between Sierra Club and Gas Industry Representatives

According to officials at the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas, a March 5 debate on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, attracted one of the largest crowds they have ever had. An estimated 300 people attended. The debate featured Edward Cross, President of the Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association (KIOGA), and Joe Spease, Chairman of the Hydraulic Fracturing Committee for the Kansas Sierra Club.

The debate was moderated by two KU students who asked questions about fracking to Cross and Spease. Toward the end of the 60 minute event the audience was given the chance to ask questions.

It was obvious that the public has passionate opinions on the subject of fracking. Some in the audience were not convinced that the various scientific studies concluding that fracking is contaminating water and air are accurate. But most of the people attending expressed concern about the lack of regulations that they believe will lead to water and air pollution.

The gas industry maintains that hydraulic fracturing is safe and poses little risk to air and water. The Sierra Club believes that stricter regulations on the relatively new horizontal drilling technology for fracking are needed to protect air and water from the contamination that other states where fracking is done have experienced.

The Sierra Club is also concerned about the huge quantities of water needed for fracking. The thousands of wells the gas industry has planned for fracking in Kansas would use billions of gallons of water. Once that water is mixed with the toxic chemicals used in the fracking process and used to release gas in shale rock where it is trapped, that water is unusable for human purposes and must be injected into disposal wells, taken out of the hydrologic cycle. That is a serious risk to an agricultural state that experienced a $2 billion crop loss from drought in 2011.

The Sierra Club is committed to educating the public and our rural citizens about the risk of hydraulic fracturing. The Kansas Sierra Club website has a great deal of educational material on the subject. If you want information you can visit the site or contact us through the website. We will reply promptly to your inquiries.

This debate can be seen in its entirety on the Kansas Chapter website at http://www.kansas.sierraclub.org/Fracking/Video-DoleDebate.html
Kanza Group Members
Phone Bank for KCPT

A team from the Kanza Group recently pitched in to help Kansas City’s public television station, KCPT, with its on-air fundraising effort. Members took phone calls and mugged for the camera during breaks from a showing of “One Man’s Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey, Part 2,” the compelling story of Dick Proenneke’s life of self-sufficiency and isolation in the remote Alaskan wilderness.

Participating in the phone bank were Bob Fritsch, Elaine Giessel, Craig Lubow, Sue Pavlakis, Bob Sommer, Richard Voss, and Craig Wolfe. The group raised $2,000 for KCPT during the hour-and-a-half program.

Since their appearance on KCPT, all of the phone bankers have signed with agents, through whom they can now be reached.

On the set with Clifford and ready to take calls.

Left to right: Sue Pavlakis, Elaine Giessel, Richard Voss, Craig Lubow, Species Chapter Chair Big Bird, Craig Wolfe, Bob Fritsch, and Bob Sommer.
frivolous and dispensable, while the premium cable package … not so much.

When I stepped in as Chair of the Kanza Group, it seemed a fitting notion to lead off our general meetings by sharing a suitable poem or literary excerpt with members. A short poem, I felt, would set the tone, help us put aside the cares of the day and recharge our spirits—an invocation, if you will, a moment in which to meditate on our highest values as a community and as citizens of planet Earth. Renewable energy for the soul, so to speak.

My eclectic reading habits soon led me to stumble on poems with imagery and themes that were well-suited our meetings.

On rereading Samuel Taylor Coleridge's “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,” I realized that the passage that included these famous lines was the ideal prologue for a showing of the movie *Gasland*, which was followed by ExCom member Joe Spease's discussion of hydraulic fracturing:

> Water, water, every where,
> And all the boards did shrink;
> Water, water, every where,
> Nor any drop to drink.

I happened upon Jorie Graham’s “The Geese” after another ExCom member, Craig Wolfe, shared a personal epiphany upon watching some geese pass high overhead at the end of winter:

> For days they have been crossing. We live beneath these geese as if beneath the passage of time, or a most perfect heading.
> Sometimes I fear their relevance.

Wendell Berry's poetry was an obvious choice for a Sierra Club meeting, and I called on him a couple of times. He, too, had written of geese in flight in “What We Need Is Here,” which is short enough to share in its entirety:

> Geese appear high over us, pass, and the sky closes. Abandon, as in love or sleep, holds them to their way, clear in the ancient faith: what we need is here. And we pray, not for new earth or heaven, but to be quiet in heart, and in eye, clear. What we need is here.

A prose passage from John Ruskin's *Modern Painters* inspired us at one meeting with this stunning aphorism on the challenge of painting a waterfall: “It is like trying to paint a soul.”

At the Kanza Group's annual travel meeting, when members share photographs and stories of their trips, Walt Whitman's “Song of the Open Road” seemed fitting:

> Afoot and light-hearted, I take to the open road, Healthy, free, the world before me, The long brown path before me, leading wherever I choose.
Arkansas River Canoe Camping

Description: This outing is a joint offering of the Southwind Group (Wichita) and the Cimarron Group (OKC) of the Sierra Club. We will paddle a 25-mile stretch of the Arkansas River from below the Kaw Lake dam to a point just beyond the “Big Bend” near Sooner Lake in Oklahoma. The group will spend Saturday night camping on a sand bar and enjoying a toasty campfire.

Dates: Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22, 2012

Leaders: Les Imboden - lesnpat@yahoo.com (405-533-1532) or Kathryn Buck – justkathrynb@hotmail.com (316-789-0739)

Number of Participants: The group will be limited to 14 total.

Departure: Departure points for participants from the two groups will be determined by the leader from each group.

Directions to Meeting Point: The “trailhead” for this outing will be Sandy Park campground on the east bank of the river immediately below Kaw Lake dam. It is located directly east of Ponca City OK, just north of US 60. The shuttle will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

Transportation: The Sierra Club does not provide transportation, but carpooling is encouraged to conserve energy and to promote camaraderie. Ride sharing and caravanning will depend upon who brings their own watercraft and when they wish to depart. Cost can be shared among occupants of vehicles in a manner agreed upon among them. The leaders will assist in coordinating rideshare arrangements.

Early Departures: Being on time at the put-in is critical. Please let the leaders know if you plan to travel independently. There is camping at Sandy Park and participants are encouraged to arrive Friday night to ensure the shuttle begins on time.

Food: You will need to bring one dinner, two breakfasts and two lunches. River water is not treatable to drink, so pack everything you might need to drink for the weekend.

Paddle craft: Please inquire at sign-up if you do not have your own watercraft. Signees without their own craft will be assigned to available open seats in the order they sign up. If you have an open seat or extra craft please offer it when signing up. A limited number of craft will be available for loan. Please inquire at sign-up.

Equipment:
• Fishing license & gear (optional)
• Cover-up clothing for canoeing
• Tent & bedroll
• Raingear
• Sunscreen
• Sunglasses
• Warm clothing for the evening
• Water container
• Each participant must have a PFD on board

Unless you know the river is high in advance, you will do yourself a favor if you pack light. The flow on this stretch of the Arkansas is dictated by release from dams, and with the drought it is possible the river will be shallow. It’s a nuisance to have to drag a loaded boat over sand shoals.

Fees and Costs: There is no fee for the outing, but a donation to your home group will be appreciated.

Liability Waiver: This will be Class 1 paddling, suitable even for a beginner. Still, every outdoor activity has some element of risk. Every participant will be required to execute a waiver of liability before beginning the outing. The leaders will have forms available at the put-in.

Kansas Chapter Endorsements for the Board of Directors of National Sierra Club

The Kansas Chapter recommends a vote for:
Spencer Black
Lane Boldman
Arjun Makhijani
Dave Scott and
Chris Warshaw
in the upcoming election for the Sierra Club’s Board of Directors.
Why Agriculture Must Take the Lead Toward a Sustainable Future

Join us for this year’s silent auction
Saturday • May 5
6:30-10:30 p.m.

Lenexa Conference Center,
11184 Lackman Road (College Blvd & Lackman, Lenexa)

Special Presentation
Wes Jackson is the founder and president of The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas.
He is widely recognized as a leader in the international movement for sustainable agriculture. A recipient of numerous awards, including a MacArthur Fellowship, Jackson is the author of New Roots for Agriculture, Becoming Native to This Place, and most recently Consulting the Genius of the Place. Life magazine named Jackson one of eighteen individuals likely to be among the 100 “important Americans of the 20th century.”

Special Exhibitors:
Talk to businesses working to reduce our carbon footprint.

Great Bargains - Silent Auction

Fine Wine & Appetizers

Music by Sould (Craig Wolfe & Randy Deutch)

Admission:
$25 at door
$45 per couple at door
$20 Advance registration. Go to www.kansas.sierraclub.org/Auction/

When you consider all the crises humankind faces — disease, pollution, climate change, the end of cheap fuel — without food, none of these will matter. Can we save Earth’s rapidly disappearing (and irreplaceable!) soils and provide food security for future generations...so there can be a chance of solving all those other problems? Will we as planetary citizens heed the warnings nature is providing? Join us as we learn how to make our voices heard, change ourselves, and increase our effectiveness.

Now, you can help make a difference.
Support Sierra Club’s Work. See you on May 5th.

You can help make our Silent Auction a success

We need your help on the Auction Committee to call members, ask for quality donations from merchants, and help with details of the event.

Interested?
Contact Craig Wolfe
913-299-4474 or info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Apr - May 2012
Joint Action, continued from Cover

after a spill—its composition means that traditional clean-up techniques don’t work (for example, unlike regular oil, diluted bitumen sinks in water).

The tar sands expansion in Alberta Canada is the largest refining and most destructive project on Earth. Koch Industries is responsible for close to 25 percent of the tar sands crude oil that is imported into the United States. Flint Hills Resources Canada LP, a Koch Industries operation in Alberta supplies 250,000 barrels of tar sands oil a day to the Koch-owned Pine Bend Refinery in Minnesota which is listed as a “high priority violator” by the Environmental Protection Agency. We must stop the production of oil from tar sands because tar sands oil pipelines are not safe.

Another slogan was “CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN DEMOCRACY.” It has been revealed, over the past two years, the Koch Brothers have used their personal wealth and influence to advocate against clean energy and environmental standards, workers rights, health care reform, and public education. Occupy and Sierra Club worked collaboratively on Occupy Koch Town to raise the consciousness level on all these issues in the Koch brothers’ home town.

The Kochs seem more interested in deflecting the real intent of the rally with false, or at least disingenuous, outrage over citizens demonstrating peacefully in their hometown, exercising our freedoms as American citizens. But the Koch’s reaction was just misdirection to keep the public from focusing on their dismal environmental record and their equally dangerous efforts to undermine our freedom and democracy.

Co-Conservation Chair Yvonne Cather and Development Director Lynate Pettengill (behind “We The People” sign). Yvonne was Sierra Club’s primary organizer and catalyst for the Wichita event.

Chapter Chair Craig Wolfe played a few tunes during Saturday’s program.
are unprecedented.

I believe that we are on a suicide mission with terrifying consequences. I believe that climate change effects will soon completely eclipse all other human challenges (cancer, war, viruses, communism, starvation, ...). Nothing will equal it. I cannot imagine that an oil lobbyist would allow himself to be bought knowing that his children and grandchildren are going to be effectively burned at the stake. A continued business-as-usual lifestyle is committing our children to nearly certain doom. God save our children. God give us courage to do what we need to do to make the right choices today.

It is time for a global warning. It is time for our leaders to step up and tell people about a better road ahead. Two hundred years ago, our Declaration of Independence created a better nation. We now need a World Declaration of Survival to create a livable world. We must start the needed changes early enough to avoid a global panic, the complete breakdown of political structures, and entire countries of valuable real estate converted to desert environments. We cannot wait until our only choice is to turn the power plants off. We will need oil to facilitate the feeding of 6 billion people in the interim years.

However the change to clean energy must begin in earnest now. Solar and small turbine residential houses and house-solar-charged-electric cars are available and are being sold today. It is a little expensive, but easily afforded by citizens of means. They even have solar panels that look like shingles today. We will need all countries to pitch in so this technology can be made affordable for all peoples. I believe that it is possible. We had a huge push for solar in the 1970’s simply to rid our dependence on foreign oil. This advice was heeded and progress was made. But we have since dropped the ball.

We need a “Manhattan Project” now to find solutions to our climate change problems. Saving our children today is at least as important as building a bomb was 70 years ago. It has always been the goal of parents to give their children a better world than they had themselves. We cannot leave our children with a 14 trillion dollar debt and terrifying climate change. Many solutions will take years to implement, but many solutions are easy and can be done immediately. Simple solutions like tax credits for companies for each employee that telecommutes 4 out of 5 days a week could make a big difference.

As I believe any climate person feels, we hope that we are wrong about the severity of things. But we can’t play Russian roulette with the Earth. If we err, we absolutely must error on the side of caution. We must monitor average temperatures with extreme care. We must be willing and sign treaties to make sacrifices and shut things down if data indicates a serious problem to the planet. We must determine why much of the U.S. experienced a virtual “non-winter”, and what this means for the future. We must make the U.S. a world leader for a better world.

Please help us save our planet, ourselves, and our children.
Acid Wash: Playing with Consequences

By Lynn Benson

“Acid wash?” you say?

This is a story about an artist looking for a unique way to tell a story about the environment. And in this instance, about water.

This artist was born not far from the Atlantic and raised in the heartland, later finding her way to the Pacific coast, The Great Lakes, The Gulf of Mexico and Cape Cod. She once lived on the banks of the Cuyahoga River in Ohio, way before it gets larger and wider and empties into Lake Erie, and years after that same river famously caught fire at Cleveland, Ohio, helping to spur an avalanche of pollution control activities resulting in the Clean Water Act, Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and the creation of the federal and state Environmental Protection Agencies. She used to work on art projects on the banks of the Missouri River while the water churned nearby. That same artist now works in Kansas City with a studio near the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri rivers.

When Lynn learned about the increasing acidification of the oceans, she continued to educate herself and it captured her heart and mind. Seeking a way to carry that story into her artwork, she chose six vintage acid-washed denim garments and slowly deconstructed them, evaluating the resulting shapes and lines for design, aesthetic, and conceptual possibilities, where “acid-wash” has multiple meanings and where cultural references are at play in the titles and concepts. Over a several-year period she produced 20-plus works reflecting many aspects of our natural world...all produced with reverence for and in reference to our oceans and waterways and those processes that affect them.

The intriguing elements of garment construction and the beauty and variety of textures, colors and patterning in the denim “washes” were central in inspiring the reconstruction process. You’ll find shapes from pockets, wavy lines of undersea plants created with stitched seams turned on edges, as well as threads, pebbles and coral.

My name is Lynn Benson and my solo exhibition titled “Acid Wash: Playing with Consequences” runs through April 28th, 2012, at the Leedy-Voulkos Art Center in Kansas City’s Crossroads Arts District at 2012 Baltimore. (Thursday - Saturdays, 11:00-5:00) Once there, I hope you will seek out the list of titles for the works. Sierra Club members will be able to relate to some of these especially well.

www.Leedy-Voulkos.com
www.lynn-benson.com
contact: lynn@lynn-benson.com or 913-461-6062

Aquifer Do-si-do 18” x 24”

Cloud Stew 12” x 12”

Acid Wash #4 28” x 20”
Earth Sends Climate Warning by Busting World Heat Records

By Deborah Zabarenko, HealthNews - 25 March 12

An “unprecedented” March heat wave in much of the continental United States has set or tied more than 7,000 high temperature records, and signals a warming climate, health and weather experts said on Friday.

While natural climate variability plays a major role, it is the addition of human-spurred climate change that makes this particular hot spell extraordinary, the scientists said in a telephone and web briefing.

“This heat wave is essentially unprecedented,” said Heidi Cullen of the nonprofit science and communication organization Climate Central. “It’s hard to grasp how massive and significant this is.”

Since March 12, more than 7,000 high temperature records have been equaled or exceeded, Cullen said, citing figures from the U.S. National Climatic Data Center.

These records include daytime high temperatures and record-high low temperatures overnight, which in some cases are higher than previous record highs for the day, Cullen said.

“When low temperatures are breaking previous record highs, that’s when you see this is incredibly special,” she said.

Cullen noted that this warmth is part of a trend that is pushing the spring season earlier by an average of three days in the contiguous 48 U.S. states.

The date of first leafing - the day when buds burst open - has moved forward from March 20, where it was during the 30-year period from 1951 to 1980, to March 17, where it has been for the period from 1981 to 2010.

Juicing Pollen With Carbon Dioxide

An online report (http://climatecentral.org) accompanying the briefing shows that some states have an even earlier spring, with Montana, Washington state, Oregon, Nevada, Utah and Connecticut seeing spring arrive five days or more ahead of the previous average.

This early wake-up call for plants and animals can have disastrous health consequences, especially for children, said Dr. Aaron Bernstein of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School.

Pollen counts are breaking records around the United States, Bernstein said, noting that allergies cost the U.S. economy between $6 billion and $12 billion annually.

The early heat stimulates growth in plants and the pollen season has gotten longer by one to two weeks over the last half-century, while the higher levels of carbon dioxide in the air stimulate pollen production in highly allergenic plants like ragweed, Bernstein said.

The rates of sensitization to pollen in the United States are also on the rise, he said, which means people who never suffered from pollen-related allergies may feel them now.

“As we juice these plants with carbon dioxide, we’re going to make people have greater allergy symptoms,” Bernstein said.

“Most likely the weird weather arises from natural variation on top of a warming climate,” said Michael Oppenheimer, a geoscientist at Princeton and a veteran participant in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. “What we’re seeing now is not surprising in the greenhouse world ... It’s just the beginning of our experience with the new atmosphere.”

Oppenheimer was a lead author of the panel’s path-breaking 2007 report that analyzed research by hundreds of scientists and found there was a 90 percent probability that climate change is occurring and human activities contribute to it.

That report projected an increase in heat waves, droughts, floods, severe storms and extreme temperatures as a result of human-spurred global warming, caused in part by rising emissions of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide emitted by fossil fuel burning.
Mother Earth Wants You to Be Healthy
Eating As Though The Earth Matters

By Judy Carmen

Forty-three year old Tim VanOrden is an extreme athlete. He is the 2011 USA Master Mountain Runner of the year as well as the 2011 Master Trail Runner of the year. One of his goals for 2012 is to win the World Stair Climbing Championship at the Empire State Building. 70 year old Betty Smith has run 8 ultra-marathons in the last 4 years… five of these were 24 hours long. Both of these extraordinary athletes eat no animal products. They believe their extreme health, strength, and energy are due in part to their plant-based diet.

Scott Jurek, another ultra-marathoner, actor Woody Harrelson, Former U.S. President Bill Clinton, Twitter co-founder Biz Stone—among many others—ascribe to a plant-based diet, containing no animal products at all. For some, the original motive for doing this was based in the ethics of nonviolence, a desire not to harm animals and/or the earth. For others the motive was health. But for all of them, regardless of motive, improved health and energy has been a significant reward.

You may ask—what does this have to do with the environment? Simply this—as environmentalists we are in a marathon of our own—a race against time, if you will. It is a struggle against the power elite (the newly dubbed 1%) that requires mental, emotional, and spiritual endurance and physical stamina. In a few words, we need to guard our health if we are to persevere and succeed in reclaiming health for the environment.

The evidence is clear that a plant-based, animal-free diet is healthier for us. Books, such as Campbell’s The China Study, Esselstyn’s Prevent and Reverse Heart Disease, Greger’s Bird Flu, Lyman’s Mad Cowboy, Masson’s The Face on Your Plate, Robbins The Food Revolution: How your Diet can help Save Your Life and the World, Volpe’s The Fast Food Craze: Wreaking Havoc on Our Bodies and Our Animals, and Barnard’s Reversing Diabetes are telling us that people who eat a healthy (not junky) plant-based diet, have a much lower risk of heart disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity and many other diseases so common today.

Aside from the foods we actually put into our bodies at mealtime, there are a multitude of other health risks involved with animal agriculture. Ed Hopkins of the Sierra Club speaks in a video on PlatetoPlanet.org (a website co-sponsored by the Sierra Club) regarding the mountains of manure excreted by animal farms. He notes that there are no requirements to clean up this toxic waste as there are with human manure. These farms are polluting the water and the air wherever they are found and far downstream and down into the water table as well. Hopkins states that ammonia and hydrogen sulfide are produced by the decaying manure and the resulting toxic gases cause grave human health problems. The EPA finds that around 80 percent of ammonia emissions derive from farmed animal feces and urine.

Add to that the growing threat of human resistance to antibiotics due to the overuse of them in animals that are confined in such small areas that sickness among them is inevitable. Also we are facing the threat of salmonella and E. coli outbreaks from meat as well as vegetables, which have been polluted by runoff from confined animals. Our water is polluted with antibiotics, other pharmaceuticals, pathogenic bacteria, and heavy metals, among many other toxins. According to the Sierra Club and other sponsors of PlatetoPlanet.org, the EPA declares agriculture to be the most significant source of water pollution. Factory farm waste has contaminated more than 35,000 miles of rivers and the groundwater of 17 states. These all affect our health as well as that of wildlife and domesticated animals.

Lynn Henning, co-founder of Environmentally Concerned citizens of South Central Michigan reports that there are 168 different chemicals found in manure along with airborne E. coli. Forty-eight percent of pollution in streams and rivers comes from animal agriculture. (“Planet in Peril,” Mark Hawthorne, in March-April, 2012 Veg News).

But there is good news on the horizon. Americans eat about one-sixth of all meat eaten in the world even though we make up less than one-twentieth of the world’s population, according to Mark Bittman, author of Food Matters. However, (and this is the good news) in a recent article, Bittman reported that the USDA has found that American consumption of meat has been declining for the last 20 years. They are projecting that it will amount to 12% less in 2012 than in 2007. Bittman believes this decline is simply a result of people choosing to eat less or no meat at all. (His 1-10-12 article in the “Opinionator” online is titled “We’re Eating Less Meat. Why?”)

Although he doesn’t quite answer his question “why,” we can all surmise rather easily that it is a result of the growing body of evidence that shows us that animal agribusiness is one of the most destructive forces on earth causing disease...
and damage in ever widening circles around the world. Our own health is at risk from farming practices as well as from the animal products themselves.

People are waking up.

By boycotting animal agriculture we reap several extraordinary rewards. First we stop the influx of money from consumers that keeps this engine of destruction functioning. Second we gain glowing health from taking care to fuel our bodies with healing, life-giving plant foods. This, in turn, gives us the energy we need to carry on this noble work of healing the earth. In addition to those benefits, there is a spiritual peace that we gain from knowing we are taking direct action to end violence toward animals and farm and slaughterhouse workers, as well as to end violence toward the earth herself. My book (co-authored with Tina Volpe), The Missing Peace, is a compilation of many personal stories of people who have found peace for themselves by adopting this lifestyle.

So that's why Mother Earth wants you to be healthy and live a long life. We have a lot to do.

Whether we run trails, climb the Empire State building or just sit and watch the sun go down with a dear companion, environmentalists are the ones who teach that the earth is a precious jewel, a place of awe and wonder, so beautiful that it takes our breath away. Everything is connected. Our health is the health of animals and the earth. What we do to regain our own health heals all. Here’s to your health. Here’s to the health of water, air, and earth. Here’s to Life.

Recipes for Healing (with as many organic, fair-trade ingredients as possible). Notice I’m not including a vegan chocolate cake this time.

**Morning Smoothie**

I have a Vitamix which can pulverize carrots and break cell walls making nutrients more accessible. If you have just a basic blender, you might have to leave out the carrots or shred them first.

Cut into pieces and place in blender:
- 1 cup purified water
- 1 carrot
- 1 apple
- 1 banana
- 1 or 2 handfuls spinach or kale
- ½ cup of frozen strawberries or cherries

You might have to add a little more water. Of course, you can vary the fruit depending on preference. I usually add some vegan protein powder, maca powder, and flax seed meal. A smoothie is a great way to add in a lot of nutrients and still taste the yummy strawberries.

Madeleine's Favorite Tortilla Lunch (www.worldpeacediet.org)

Spread Veganaise on a tortilla
Add lettuce, sprouts, tomatoes, grated carrots, avocado, and cucumbers
For variations, you can add tomato sauce or hummus

And any other veggies, tofu, mushrooms, etc. that sound good to you.

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.

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Contact Lynate Pettengill, Development Director for more information.
LynatePettengill@yahoo.com
(785) 331-0625
KCK Coal Plants Emit Excessive Pollution, Group Claims

The following is a late-breaking press release by Scott Allegrucci, Senior Regional Representative from the Beyond Coal Campaign.

Sierra Club plans legal action against BPU for air permit violations that may harm public health

Kansas City, KS – Today, Sierra Club notified the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (BPU) that it intends to file suit against the utility to address excessive amounts of air pollution from the smoke stacks of its Nearman Creek and Quindaro coal-fired electricity generating plants located in Kansas City.

“The amount of pollution these plants are currently emitting into the air residents breathe exceeds a permit limit set by state and federal agencies to ensure their safe operation,” said Scott Allegrucci, Campaign Representative for Sierra Club. “This limit was established to protect public health, and BPU needs to address the violation.”

Sierra Club's notice of intent to sue charges that BPU frequently exceeds, at each power plant, the 20% opacity limit specified in BPU’s air quality permits. Sierra Club’s evidence comes from BPU’s own pollution monitors. Opacity monitors in the stacks of each power plant continuously project a beam of light across the inside of the stack to measure the darkness of the plume, and therefore the amount of particulate matter. If more than 20% of the light is absorbed or deflected by the pollution, the opacity limit has been exceeded.

“BPU is using the same type of particulate controls that it installed over 40 years ago at Quindaro,” says Craig Volland, Chair of the Kansas Sierra Club Chapter’s Air Quality Committee. “It’s time for BPU to join the modern world of pollution controls.” Unlike many other power plants in the country, BPU has not installed the latest technology at Nearman Creek and Quindaro.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), particles, especially fine particles, aggravate asthma, decrease lung function, and can lead to chronic bronchitis, irregular heartbeat, nonfatal heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease. In addition to people with existing health conditions, children and older adults are the most likely to be affected by particle pollution exposure.

“My daughter has asthma and it upsets me that BPU is emitting any more pollution than their permit allows,” said Delores Daniels, a member of the Executive Committee of the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club who lives less than two miles from the Quindaro Power Station.

Both the Nearman Creek and Quindaro power stations are located in the Missouri River valley just north of the most densely populated part of Wyandotte County, Kansas. There are no monitors in the immediate vicinity of either plant that could measure the particle concentrations at ground level where people breathe the air.
New Carbon Pollution Safeguards Will Protect Our Health, Our Children’s Future

By Mary Anne Hitt, Director of the Beyond Coal Campaign

Today, our nation is taking a historic step for our health and our children’s future. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Obama Administration have just announced new carbon pollution safeguards that will protect clean air and the planet, while also spurring innovation and creating jobs in the clean energy economy.

Carbon pollution is linked to life-threatening air pollution like the smog that triggers asthma attacks, and it is the main contributor to climate disruption – making it a serious hazard to Americans’ health and future.

EPA today established new proposed safeguards under the Clean Air Act to protect Americans from dangerous carbon pollution produced by new coal plants.

These standards will protect Americans’ health, our economy and the future of our children, from carbon’s threats. Before today, there were no limits on the amount of carbon being spewed into the air by the nation’s largest sources of carbon pollution: dirty coal-fired power plants.

Concerned about these dangers, Americans have repeatedly said no to new coal-fired power plants for the past decade, defeating 166 proposed coal plants across the nation. Now, as the Sierra Club’s executive director, Michael Brune, said today in a press statement, “These first-ever carbon pollution standards for new power plants mean that business as usual for the nation’s biggest sources of carbon pollution, dirty coal-burning utilities, is over.”

As I’ve said before, a growing body of scientific evidence shows that warming temperatures caused by industrial carbon pollution pose a number of threats to our health and families, including worsening smog pollution, which in turn triggers asthma attacks and other respiratory illnesses.

Doctors, nurses, scientists and other experts say that this increased smog pollution is especially dangerous for children because it permanently damages and reduces the function of children’s lungs – a major concern for all my fellow parents out there.

These new air quality protections are a historic step forward in allowing EPA to focus on the industries that create the lion’s share of the nation’s carbon pollution, because it is time to hold big polluters accountable for the pollutants they spew into our air.

Over 120 health organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Lung Association, American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American Public Health Association, American Thoracic Society and others are on record stating:

Climate change is a serious public health issue. As temperatures rise, more Americans will be exposed to conditions that can result in illness and death due to respiratory illness, heat- and weather-related stress and disease carried by insects. These health issues are likely to have the greatest impact on our most vulnerable communities, including children, older adults, those with serious health conditions and the most economically disadvantaged.

Clean Air Act protections like these also spur innovation and modernization in our energy sector, creating much-needed jobs, protecting public health and tackling climate disruption. Countries around the world are racing to see who will lead the clean energy future, and we cannot afford to let American fall behind. These new protections will help ensure our nation is leading the way in developing the cutting-edge clean energy technologies of the 21st century.

Every family has the right to breathe clean air, free from the toxic pollution that has taken too many lives and destroyed too many communities. We cannot accept more dirty coal while our friends and family miss days of school and work, ending up in the emergency room instead. Or while American workers remain off the job, when clean energy projects could create thousands of sustainable careers. Or while the fate of our planet hangs in the balance, as global temperatures rise.

By establishing carbon pollution protections, the EPA is moving forward to clean up and modernize the way we power our country – a move that will make for healthier kids, families and workers, while creating much-needed jobs and fighting climate disruption.
Chapter Executive Committee
Officers, Committee Chairs
*Elected ExCom member; **Appointed ExCom member,
***Group Representative to Chapter, ****Officer/Committee Chair

Craig Wolfe*, Chair, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Communications Chair, (913) 299-4443, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
Chris Cardinal*, Vice-Chair, Conservation Chair, Global Warming Chair, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Yvonne Cather*, Conservation Co-Chair, Council Delegate, (316) 945-072, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Craig Lubow*, Conservation Co-Chair, Global Warming Chair, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
Tom Kneil***, Secretary, (316) 744-1016, thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org
Scott Smith****, Treasurer, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 621-7227, daniels_dolores@yahoo.com

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

Craig Wolfe*, Chair, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Communications Chair, (913) 299-4443, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
Chris Cardinal*, Vice-Chair, Conservation Chair, Global Warming Chair, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
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Tom Kneil***, Secretary, (316) 744-1016, thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org
Scott Smith****, Treasurer, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 621-7227, daniels_dolores@yahoo.com

Flint Hills Group (Manhattan Area)
Carol Barta*, Chair, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, (785) 410-8608, snowsage54@hotmail.com
Scott Smith*, Treasurer, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net

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

Kanzan Group (Kansas City)
Bob Sommer*, Chair, Political Chair, (816) 898-1100, rsommer@kc.rr.com
Craig Lubow*, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, Global Warming Co-Chair, (913) 299-6620, 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

Kansa con’t
Rep, (913) 906-9728, bobfritsch@hotmail.com
Elaine Giessel*, Environmental Justice Chair, Hospitality Chair, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org
Mike Kozisek****, Assistant Treasurer, (913) 788-2957, kozisek@hotmail.com
Mike Miller*, Membership Chair, Air Quality Chair, (913) 362-2600, mrmillert1@mindspring.com
Ken Schefter*, Assistant Treasurer, Alternate Chapter Rep, (913) 780-6878, purpleroc1@gmail.com
Joe Spease*, Legislative Chair, Energy Chair, (913) 492-2862, spease4kc@everestkc.net
Doug Stecklein*, ExCom Member, 913-393-3934, dougstcklein@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 Kneil*, 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, Cleveland 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 Fuellinger*, Conservation Chair, (316) 682-0340, bhfuellinger@cox.net
Karin Cowdrey*, ExCom Member, (316) 687-6447, kcarol.barta@cox.net

Kanzas Groups (Group Delegate)
Nancy Kirk**, ExCom Member, (785) 234-8806, nancykirk@kansas.sierraclub.org
Anita Frank*, Conservation Chair, (785) 273-5305, afrank16@cox.net
Lynate Pettengill*, ExCom Member, (785) 246-3229, gjanderson1963@gmail.com
Slopes3688@aol.com

Kanu Group (Lawrence)
Lynate Pettengill*, ExCom Member, (785) 331-0625, lynatep@cox.net
Frank Drinkwine*, Fundraising Chair, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org

Joe Spease*, Legislative Chair, Energy Chair, (913) 492-2862, spease4kc@everestkc.net
Elaine Giessel*, Environmental Justice Chair, Hospitality Chair, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org
Mike Miller*, Membership Chair, Air Quality Chair, (913) 362-2600, mrmillert1@mindspring.com
Ken Schefter*, Assistant Treasurer, Alternate Chapter Rep, (913) 780-6878, purpleroc1@gmail.com
Joe Spease*, Legislative Chair, Energy Chair, (913) 492-2862, spease4kc@everestkc.net
Doug Stecklein*, ExCom Member, 913-393-3934, dougstcklein@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 Kneil*, 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
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Dave Kirkbride*, Political Co-Chair, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Bruce Fuellinger*, Conservation Chair, (316) 682-0340, bhfuellinger@cox.net
Karin Cowdrey*, ExCom Member, (316) 687-6447, kcarol.barta@cox.net

Topeka Group
Gary Anderson*, Chair, Program Chair, (785) 246-3229, ganderson1963@gmail.com
Jim Tuchscheler*, Vice Chair, (785) 272-5633, jimtuch@earthlink.net
Bill Cutler*, Secretary, Treasurer, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 379-9756, spudspt@yahoo.com
Leonard Biggs**, ExCom Member, (620)437-7319, dipaul@madtel.net
Anita Frank*, Conservation Chair, (785) 273-5305, afrank16@cox.net
Nancy Kirk**, ExCom Member, (785)234-8806, nak8842@sbcglobal.net
Paul Post*, Membership Chair, Outings Chair, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)
Jason Hering*, Chair, (785) 341-4911, jasonforjustice@gmail.com
Lynate Pettengill*, ExCom Member, (785) 331-0625, lynatep@cox.net
Carolyn Binns*, Treasurer, (785) 841-3238, carolynbinns@sunflower.com
Steve Lopes*, Secretary, (785) 842-7137, slopes3688@aol.com
Susannah Neal*, ExCom Member, (785) 760-6633, susannahneal@sunflower.com
George Brenner****, Conservation Chair, Water Quality Chair, (785) 393-3828, ggbrenner@sunflower.com
General public is welcome to attend

Kanzan Group (Kansas City)
April 10. 6:30 pm.
Tour and Checkup of Our Kaw River
6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.
7:00 pm - Laura Calwell, the Kansas Riverkeeper for Friends of the Kaw will highlight the findings of the Kansas River Inventory - a comprehensive inventory of the state of the river with information on structures and outflows, bank erosion, riparian condition and species distributions. Laura will finish the presentation with a community mapping exercise documenting locations on and near the Kansas River that are appreciated or of concern to the audience.
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

Kanzan Group (Kansas City)
May 5. 6:30 - 10:30 pm.
Sierra Club Silent Auction
Mark your calendars for our major fundraiser!! We will have lots of fun!! You won't want to miss...
• Special presentation by Wes Jackson, President and Founder of the Land Institute
• Great Bargains in the Silent and Live Auctions.
• Fine Wine and Appetizers
• Exhibitors on the front line of the Green Revolution
• Music by Soular (Craig Wolfe & Randy Deutch)
Where: Lenexa Conference Center at 11184 Lackman Road.
Watch for details on our postcard, emails, and Planet Kansas Ad. Save money and get advance tickets at www.Kansas.SierraClub.org/Auction/
Contact - Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansassierrachuh.org

Kanzan Group (Kansas City)
June 12. 6:30 pm.
An Update on the Latest in Solar Trends
6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.
7:00 pm - Bob Solger, Founder of the Solar Design Studio, will update us on what is new now in photovoltaic solar and what we can expect in the future. The Solar Design Studio (SDS) is an international consulting firm that provides business consulting services to solar equipment manufacturers, distributors and solar integrators who are expanding their business within the North American market.
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@kansassierrachuh.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)
April 13. 6:30 pm.
Deep Green
6:30 p.m. – Food & conversation.
7:30 p.m. - The documentary “Deep Green” by Matthew Briggs will be shown. Deep Green – is a film that takes a positive approach; instead of leaving us scared senseless concerning the condition of our environment; it provides a wealth of solutions that clearly illustrate, in the words of the film promotion, “We can fix this.”
Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th St. N. & Woodlawn,
Contact - Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)
May 11. 6:30 pm.
Heartland Connections to the World Ocean: What are the Ties Between the Interior “Square States and Our Seas”
6:30 p.m. – Food & conversation.
7:30 p.m. – Long-time Kansas Chapter ExCom member and activist Elaine Giessel will be presenter.
Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th St. N. & Woodlawn
Contact - Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Topeka Group
April 24. 6:30 pm.
Scott Allegrucci and Beyond Coal Campaign
6:00 pm - We will welcome back Scott Allegrucci, a founder of GPACE, and now a new staff member of the National Sierra Club. Scott is the Senior Regional Representative for the Beyond Coal Campaign. He will explain that program and the ways it will be moving forward here in the Midwest. Everyone welcome.
Where - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, 4775 SW 21st St., Topeka.
Contact - Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

Topeka Group
May 22. 6:30 pm.
A Real Solution: Citizens Climate Lobby
6:00 pm - Lynate Pettengill, Chapter Development Director, will present on a brilliant idea to gain a legislative agreement on climate change by Citizens Climate Lobby with their “Carbon Fee and Dividend” solution. Everyone welcome.
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
April 7. 11:45 am.
May 5. 11:45 am.
June 2. 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
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.

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

[2] Apr 9.  5:30 pm.  Southwind at Caffe Moderne
Join us for food, drink and conversation. Caffe Moderne is located in the 300 block of Mead in Oldtown. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Come bike the Prairie Spirit Trail. This “rail to trail” was a railroad line for the Katy. The trail goes from Ottawa to Iola. We will bike approx. 25 miles. This is an easy trail for biking and is suitable for either a road or mountain bike. $5 donation requested. . Kanza. John Haynes, (913) 248-1259, jhaynes5018@everestkc.net

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

This outing is a joint offering of the Southwind Group and the Cimarron Group (OKC) of the Sierra Club. We will paddle a 25-mile stretch of the Arkansas River from below Kaw Lake Dam to a point just beyond the “Big Bend” near Sonner Lake in Oklahoma. The group will spend Saturday night camping on a sand bar and enjoying toasty campfire.. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathyab@hotmail.com or Les Imboden, (405) 533-1532, lesnpat@yahoo.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

[2] May 5-6.  12:00 pm.  Old Goat Ranch Celebration
Meet at the Old Goat Ranch (Cather’s Place - 1199 Old Goat Ranch Road, Mulvane) - Hamburgers & hot dogs (veggie burgers and hot dogs) will be served at NOON. At 1:00 p.m. “Charles Benjamin Memorial” dedication of flower water garden and sharing begins. Bring a (wild or domestic) flower or plant. A memorial and celebration walk will be conducted for achievements of Ann Morris, Tom Kneil, Larry Ross and Frank Smith. Canoeing/kayaking and hiking are available afterwards. Camping overnight with entertainment under an outdoor cover. We will celebrate a successful Occupy Koch Town Rally. Bring your camping gear and favorite camp food to share as pot luck for the evening meal around 6:00 p.m. Arkansas River Coalition and Occupy folks are invited and welcome!. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, BillC@CatherGriffithLaw.com

Join us for for food, drink and conversation. Caffe Moderne is located in the 300 block of Mead in Old Town. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

### Committee Meetings

#### Kanza Group
(Kansas City)

**Executive Committee**
Apr 26, May 24 - 7:00 pm, Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211, rsommer@kc.rr.com

**Joint Action Committee**
Apr 26, May 24 - 7:00 pm, Conservation, legislative, and political Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

#### Southwind Group
(Wichita)

**Executive Committee - 6:00 pm**
Apr 1, May 6
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, gjanderson1963@gmail.com

**Kansas Chapter:** (State), Executive Committee, Apr 28 Conference Call
Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4474, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

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Join us for a quiet float without the crowds and confusion. All within 4-6 hours of KC with canoe rentals available. Watch the sunset and sit around the campfire as we camp along the river Saturday night. Kanza. Terry DeFraties, (913) 385-7374, theerustbucket@aol.com

**[4] May 19. Arrow Rock State Historic Site,**
**Arrow Rock, MO**
Tour a living-history river town where many 19th century buildings retain their original appearance. Eat lunch at the Old Tavern. After lunch hike the 1.5 mile Fleche trail and the 1.85 Lewis and Clark Historic River Landing Trail. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

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

**Kansa River Canoe Trip, Desoto, KS**
Join this 5 mile canoe trip from Desoto to Cedar Creek access ramp. $60/ canoe Rental fees for canoe, equipment, hot dog roast and guide services. Kanza. Bill Nichols, nichols4848@sbcglobal.net

**Jun 2. Day hike & picnic at Clinton Lake,**
Lawrence KS
About 10 miles, good natural surface trail. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

**Jun 23. Wakarusa River Canoe Trip, Desoto,**
KS
Join this 5 mile canoe trip from Desoto to Cedar Creek access ramp. $60/ canoe Rental fees for canoe, equipment, hot dog roast and guide services. Kanza. Bill Nichols, nichols4848@sbcglobal.net

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*Apr - May 2012*
### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>5:30 pm. Executive and Fundraising Committee. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Apr 7</td>
<td>11:45 am. Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-5556, <a href="mailto:LynatePettengill@yahoo.com">LynatePettengill@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Apr 7</td>
<td>Day hike and picnic at Hillsdale Lake, Miami Co, KS. Kanza. Michael Reed, <a href="mailto:mereed@runbox.com">mereed@runbox.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Apr 10</td>
<td>6:30 pm. Tour and Checkup of Our Kaw River. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, <a href="mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org">info@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Apr 13</td>
<td>6:30 pm. Deep Green. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Apr 14</td>
<td>Prairie Spirit Trail, Ottawa, KS. Kanza. John Haynes, (913) 248-1259, <a href="mailto:jhaynes5018@everestkc.net">jhaynes5018@everestkc.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Apr 19-22</td>
<td>Ozark Folk Festival &amp; car camp, Blanchard Springs, AR. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, <a href="mailto:randri@kc.rr.com">randri@kc.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Apr 21-22</td>
<td>Arkansas River Canoe Trip. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, <a href="mailto:justkathryn@hotmail.com">justkathryn@hotmail.com</a> or Les Imboden, (405) 533-1352, <a href="mailto:lesnpat@yahoo.com">lesnpat@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Apr 21</td>
<td>Wildflower Hikes at Lake of the Ozarks State Park &amp; Ha Ha Tonka State Park, Kaiser, MO. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, <a href="mailto:eileen4250@sbcglobal.net">eileen4250@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Apr 24</td>
<td>6:30 pm. Scott Allegrucci and Beyond Coal Campaign. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; <a href="mailto:gjanderson1963@gmail.com">gjanderson1963@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Apr 26</td>
<td>6:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211, <a href="mailto:rsommer@kc.rr.com">rsommer@kc.rr.com</a></td>
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<td>CM</td>
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<td>7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, <a href="mailto:craiglubow@kansas.sierraclub.org">craiglubow@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Apr 28</td>
<td>9:15 am. Chapter ExCom Meeting. Chapter. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, <a href="mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org">info@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>6:30 pm. Sierra Club Silent Auction. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, <a href="mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org">info@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Day hike and picnic at Wyandotte County Lake, KC KS. Kanza. Michael Reed, <a href="mailto:mereed@runbox.com">mereed@runbox.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>May 5-6</td>
<td>12:00 pm. Old Goat Ranch Celebration. Southwind. Bill Cather (316) 522-4741, <a href="mailto:BillC@CatherGriffithLaw.com">BillC@CatherGriffithLaw.com</a></td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>5:30 pm. Executive and Fundraising Committee. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>6:30 pm. Heartland Connections to the World Ocean: What are the Ties Between the Interior “Square States and Our Seas”. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
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<td>Out</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffe Moderne. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>May 19-20</td>
<td>Overnight canoe trip. Kanza. Terry DeFratties, (913) 385-7374, <a href="mailto:theerustbucket@aol.com">theerustbucket@aol.com</a></td>
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<td>Out</td>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Arrow Rock State Historic Site, Arrow Rock, MO. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, <a href="mailto:eileen4250@sbcglobal.net">eileen4250@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>6:30 pm. A Real Solution: Citizens Climate Lobby. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; <a href="mailto:gjanderson1963@gmail.com">gjanderson1963@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Out</td>
<td>June 1-3</td>
<td>Car camp, Flint Hills, Tall Grass National Preserve, Strong City, KS. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, <a href="mailto:randri@kc.rr.com">randri@kc.rr.com</a></td>
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<td>Out</td>
<td>Jun 2</td>
<td>Day hike &amp; picnic at Clinton Lake Lawrence KS. Kanza. Michael Reed, <a href="mailto:mereed@runbox.com">mereed@runbox.com</a></td>
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