The Sierra Club’s Kansas Chapter has announced its fast-track endorsements for friendly incumbents in the Kansas state legislature.

While more endorsements are forthcoming, these legislators have proven track records of voting to protect our environment, develop alternative energy solutions, and create clean energy jobs.

The Sierra Club joins with other progressive organizations in Kansas in urging members to participate in this year’s Republican primary elections.

In Kansas state Senate races, two Republican incumbents, Terrie Huntington (Dist. 7, Fairway) and Jean Schodorf (Dist. 25, Wichita), will have challengers from the extreme right of their own party. At least four other moderate Republicans in the Senate are expected to have similar challenges. The Political Committee is reviewing all of these races, and more endorsements are expected.

It is critical for members to pay attention to this year’s Republican primaries for offices in the state legislature. Only a couple of Senate seats in Topeka stand between us and a free-for-all assault on the environment.

The message from the Kansas Sierra Club to its members, and anyone who cares about the environment, is to register and vote in the Republican primaries. Moderate Republicans like Huntington and Schodorf have been willing to face tough criticism from within their own party in order to do the right thing by voting against the proposed Holcomb II coal-fired utility plant. These are seats we cannot concede to Tea Party Republicans.

We also urge members to do more than vote. Pro-environmental candidates all over the state will need volunteers to walk neighborhoods, phone-bank, and help get-out-the-vote for the primary and general

See Endorsements on page 7
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 Pettengill
785-331-5556
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

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.

Protect our animal friends; because once gone, they’re gone. Join Sierra Club now.
Strange March Weather Allows Early Flint Hills Burn

In each of the past three years the wholesale burning of rangeland in the Flint Hills in April has caused exceedances of the ozone-smog standard in Wichita, Kansas City and/or Topeka. Not this year. The eerily warm weather in March allowed landowners to complete almost all their burning in the last week of March, before the ozone monitors were turned on to measure any health impacts. The official ozone season starts April 1.

Hopefully the early burn eased the impact on grassland birds whose declining populations have been linked to the intensive grassland burning practices in the Flint Hills. We will get some idea on that point after the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism completes their annual count of prairie chickens later this year.

You can watch the daily advance of the burn on a slide show we prepared and posted on the Chapter website. It a large file, 11 MB, so wait a few seconds for it to load.

http://www.kansas.sierraclub.org/FlintHills/index.html

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Topeka Group Honors Member Phil Morse

By Paul Post, Topeka Group Membership Chair

On March 27, at the regular monthly membership meeting of the Topeka Group, Phil Morse was recognized for his many years of service to the Topeka Group and the Kansas Chapter. Phil served on the Topeka Group ExCom from 2005 to 2011, and was the group Energy Chair and Political Chair during those years. He was instrumental in obtaining the “Cool Cities” designation for Topeka in 2006, and for Shawnee County in 2007. Phil chaired the monthly Energy Committee meetings for the Topeka Group, and the question always on his mind was, “How can we get the word out?” Phil strongly believes that the problems of global warming can be addressed and solved through education, and global warming solutions were the “word” that Phil wanted to convey to the public. In this vein, Phil was the sparkplug behind many of the Topeka Group’s public outreach efforts, including booths and tabling events at the annual Topeka Lawn and Garden Show, the annual Cider Days Festival at the Kansas Expocentre, the annual Green Fair at the Topeka and Shawnee County Library, and many other events.

Phil also served on the Kansas Chapter ExCom and was state Political Chair for two years. Phil’s committee was in charge of endorsements for candidates seeking public office, and to facilitate this process, Phil developed detailed information on

Phil Morse receives appreciation from Paul Post (right) and the Topeka Group. The entire Chapter has benefitted from Phil’s dedication to our Kansas environment.

incumbents’ voting records and candidate positions on issues of importance to the Sierra Club. One ExCom member commented at a meeting in 2008 that Phil’s work concerning information gathering on political candidates was one of the most thorough and helpful ever developed by a political chair.

Phil has always been interested in the outdoors and the environment, but he put on his activist boots after attending a Topeka Group meeting in 2005 where Charles Benjamin, former chapter legislative coordinator, spoke about the planned development of the Holcomb coal plant (then planned for three units) and the massive amounts of greenhouse gases that would be pumped into the atmosphere if the plant were ever built. That was when Phil decided he had to “do something” to help stop Holcomb, and as a result he became committed to this cause.

For health reasons, Phil stepped down from his Sierra Club offices, but remains a committed Sierra Club member. Phil was presented a plaque by the Topeka Group honoring his years of service and tireless effort on behalf of the Topeka Group, the Kansas Chapter, the Sierra Club, and the environment.
Giants Path Water Garden Memorial Walk

By Bill Cather

The people who are Sierra Activists are nothing short of heroic. The Southwind Group dedicated the first four wetland flower gardens in appreciation of two living activists and two departed activists. However there are many others we should honor particularly, Margaret and Paul Miller well known for their “Citizens For Recycling” and the recycling facility. It is less well known that Margaret was editor of the Kansas Sierra newsletter. They have many other splendid achievements, including their children who are activists as well. I would like to also honor DeEtte Huffman, founder of Ark River Coalition and Frank Smith former parks director for Wichita. However there are many other.

On May 5th, a group of Sierrans assembled at the “Old Goat Ranch” and honored Tom Kneil for his life time of serving environmental groups: President of the Kansas Canoe Association, Chapter ExCom and representative to the National Council of Club Leaders, Ark River Coalition officer, gentleman, scholar and professor. Also honored was Larry Ross, particularly honored for his courage in the face of intense criticism for his determined effort on the Wichita Metropolitan Planning commission opposing building houses in ponding areas and flood plains.

We talked about Kansas Sierra Club’s former lobbyist, lawyer, county commissioner and college professor Charles Benjamin. He was a lawyer veteran of the Wichita Trash Wars and Hog Farm Wars in western Kansas. Many flowers were planted by those in attendance in his memory.

Another honoree was Ann Morris who led Southwind in opposition to Vulcan Chemical Company prior to the clean Water Act and Clean Air Act, both of which congressional republicans want to repeal. It should be remembered that republican president Nixon signed those two laws.

The attendees camped and at the end of the “Giant Trail” is Mike Davis’ cabin along with a small greenway park where we sat around a campfire to roast marshmallows and share food together. The “Giants Trail” is so named because these honorees truly are giants. Mother Nature favored us with a full moon – “Super Moon.” Mike led the hike under the brilliant night sky. They reported seeing their shadows at midnight and told tall tales about climbing “fourteeners” in Colorado and bear encounters.

Maybe we should dedicate more wetland gardens to honor other truly deserving “Giants” in the environmental struggle. People like the eagle and raptor rehabilitator Ken Lockwood and Ellie Skokan. Let me know if you have an honoree in mind.

The entire crew stood around the statue of David. Thanks to Tom Kneil for his discretion.
Sierra Club Applauds President Obama’s Support of Production Tax Credit for Wind

Today, President Obama visited a manufacturer of wind turbine blades in Newton, Iowa to call on Congress to renew the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind energy. The PTC helps level the playing field and is critical for providing the certainty that the wind industry needs for continued growth. While the wind industry today employs approximately 75,000 Americans, if the PTC is not renewed, half of these jobs will be lost.

A recent poll shows that almost two-thirds – 64 percent – of Americans agree with President Obama that the PTC’s vital job-creating benefits should be continued.

In response, Michael Brune, President of the Sierra Club, issued the following statement:

“The Sierra Club applauds President Obama for his continued effort to double down on a clean energy economy. By supporting the critical Production Tax Credit for wind energy, the President is showing his commitment to creating thousands of American jobs while keeping our families healthy.

Wind power already provides 20 percent of Iowa’s electricity and is on track to produce 20 percent of the nation’s electricity by 2030. Yet some in Congress would rather throw tax giveaways at billionaire big polluters who are raking in huge profits while pedaling dirty energy that makes our kids sick.

There’s no reason big polluters should get any more of our money when we have the opportunity to support a clean energy economy that creates new jobs while also protecting our air, our water, and our families. Iowans know it, President Obama knows it, and the vast majority of Americans agree – extend the critical production tax credit, let the wind blow and help our economy grow.”
Endorsements, continued from Cover

elections. Let your representatives know that you want to help. If you’re not sure who to call, then get in touch with me or one of your Group leaders. We’re all listed in the Planet Kansas directory.

The primaries fall on Tuesday, August 7, this year. Kansas voters have until July 17 to register to vote in the Republican primary. More information on how to register or change party affiliation is available through local county boards of elections and by visiting this website: http://www.kssos.org/forms/elections/voterregistration.pdf

We can’t move to another planet when we’re done with this one. Participating in the elections as a voter and volunteer may be the most important action you take this year to preserve the environment.

2012 Fast-Track Friendly Incumbent Candidate Endorsements

Kansas State Senate:
- Terrie Huntington R  KS Sen 7  Fairway
- Marci Francisco D  KS Sen 2  Lawrence
- Jean Schodorf R  KS Sen 25  Wichita
- Anthony Hensley D  KS Sen 19  Topeka
- Oletha Faust-Goudeau D  KS Sen 29  Wichita
- Laura Kelly D  KS Sen 18  Topeka
- Kelly Kultala D  KS Sen 5  Kansas City

Kansas State House:
- Barbara Ballard D  KS Hs 44  Lawrence
- Tom Burroughs D  KS Hs 33  Kansas City
- Paul Davis D  KS Hs 46  Lawrence
- Sydney Carlin D  KS Hs 66  Manhattan
- Nile Dillmore D  KS Hs 92  Wichita
- Gail Finney D  KS Hs 84  Wichita
- Geraldine Flaharty D  KS Hs 98  Wichita
- Stan Frownfelter D  KS Hs 31  Kansas City
- Annie Kuether D  KS Hs 55  Topeka
- Judith Loganbill D  KS Hs 86  Wichita
- Ann Mah D  KS Hs 53  Topeka
- Annie Tietze D  KS Hs 56  Topeka
- Ponka-We Victors D  KS Hs 103  Wichita
- Jim Ward D  KS Hs 88  Wichita

Bob Sommer serves as Kanza Group Chair and Kansas Chapter Political Chair.

Earth Day Events in Wichita.

Richard Mabion came down Friday and spent the day at our Earth Day event. He ran a booth and during the lunch period spoke with others on stage about Sustainability.

It was a great day. Many of the Southwind’s members got to meet Richard and discuss many issues. Thanks to Richard for coming to Wichita.
Kanza Group’s Silent Auction Most Successful Yet

By Bob Sommer, Kanza Group Chair

The Kanza Group’s 2012 Silent Auction set new records in attendance and revenue. More than 120 members and guests attended this year’s event, which netted over $8,300 in proceeds.

This year’s gathering took place at the Lenexa Conference Center on May 5th. The event featured a wealth of auction items, generously donated by members and regional businesses. Artwork, jewelry, concert tickets, camping equipment, food items, rare books, and much more were all up for bid during the silent auction.

Dr. Wes Jackson, founder and President of The Land Institute in Salina, was the keynote speaker for the program. He addressed the subject of “Why Agriculture Must Take the Lead Toward a Sustainable Future.” In this election year, Jackson further urged members to set aside differences within the environmental community in order to support President Obama.

The Kanza Group also recognized Johnson County Commissioner Ed Peterson with the Sierra Club’s Eco-Advocacy Award. (See related article on page 10.)

Throughout the evening, well-known artist Jim Hamil painted a watercolor artwork, later won at the live auction by Dr. Margaret and Frank Drinkwine. Other live auction items included three vacation cabins, generously donated by Sheila Shockey, Jill Dewitt and Charles Wurrey, and Kanza ExCom member Bob Fritsch, and a full season of Community Supported Agriculture groceries from Hen House and Good Natured Family Farms.

All evening auction patrons enjoyed live music by Soular, featuring Craig Wolfe and Randy Deutch. The duo’s repertoire featured original songs by Craig Wolfe that evoked a sense of urgency about environmental activism. The pair kicked off the live program with the song “Solar Prayer,” a powerful musical invocation, which they followed with “Stand Up!”, an engaging musical and visual experience that rallied the gathering to its feet.

Without doubt, this year’s Silent Auction was in every sense the Kanza Group’s most successful event ever.
Left: Folks always gather at the food and wine. Below: Shelley Brodie is careful to follow Margaret Drinkwine’s persuasive instructions. Left middle: Artist Jim Hamil works on his donation on-site, a treat for us to watch!!

Above and left: Randy Deutch and Craig Wolfe team up to form music group “Soular.” Their video that interprets their songs Solar Prayer and Stand Up are at www.Soular.co.
Johnson County Commissioner Ed Peterson Recognized by Sierra Club-Kanza Group

By Bob Sommer, Kanza Group Chair

Johnson County First District Commissioner Ed Peterson received the Sierra Club's Eco-Advocacy Award at the Kanza Group's annual Silent Auction on Saturday, May 5th.

The Eco-Advocacy Award is given periodically to elected officials who demonstrate outstanding service on environmental issues. Past recipients include former Congressman Dennis Moore and former Johnson County Commissioner Anna Beth Surbaugh.

Now in his third term, Commissioner Peterson has also served on the City Council and as the Mayor of the City of Fairway.

Peterson was selected for this award because he consistently demonstrates great leadership on regional environmental issues.

He promoted expansion of Johnson County's fleet of alternative-fuel vehicles and championed the development of energy-efficiency. Peterson also showed great courage in publicly opposing Sunflower Electric's proposed coal-fired power plant in western Kansas. He was the only County Commissioner to stand up against the recent elimination of the County's Environmental Department.

The Sierra Club's Eco-Advocacy Award recognizes Commissioner Ed Peterson for his courage as a political leader and commitment to protecting public health and the environment.
The Kansas River Water Trail vs Expanding Dredging

By Laura Calwell, Kansas Riverkeeper for Friends of the Kaw

Friends of the Kaw is working to get people to care about the river - and to connect the dots between water quality and their own daily activities and choices. It helps to get them involved with the river. Better river access is one way to do this.

The U.S. Department of Interior listed the Kansas River Water Trail as one of their 101 projects for 2012. Increasing signage to get folks to the ramps, promoting river recreation and education on river safety are the priorities that the KS Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism is exploring with the National Parks Service.

In May of 2012, the Kansas River (also known as the Kaw) was also listed by American River's as one of the ten Most Endangered Rivers in the country. A proposal to increase sand dredging on the Kaw being considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the reason for this listing. The Kaw is truly at a crossroads and decisions made later this year will affect the future of one of our most precious natural resources. Visit the Take Action page at KansasRiver.org and let the USACE know your opinion on these important matters.

This spring a new boat ramp was constructed under the Turner Bridge in Kansas City, Kansas and will be open for use this summer. The Turner Bridge ramp is 9 miles upriver from the access at Kaw Point Park and just over 8 miles downriver from the Edwardsville boat ramp making two nice day trips. Between Edwardsville and the Turner Bridge is the WaterOne coffer dam – a 500 foot portage path is on the north side of the river. Paddling over the low water notch is not recommended. The next access ramp that FOK will partner on is with the city of Belvue just 10 miles downriver from Wamego.

Friends of the Kaw has helped eight communities construct eleven river access points in the past eleven years. These access ramps are located in Junction City, Ogden, St. George, Wamego, Kaw River State Park and two ramps at the Coffer Dam in Topeka, De Soto, Edwardsville, and the Turner Bridge and Kaw Point in Kansas City, KS. Three additional ramps have also been constructed in Manhattan, Lecompton/Perry, and Olathe. With the ramps constructed prior to 2000 in Manhattan, Topeka, Lawrence and Eudora there are a total of 19 ramps on the river. Four more ramps are in the planning process in Belvue, Shawnee and at the Maple Hill, and Willard Bridges. Once these access ramps are constructed, we will have an access ramp about every 10 miles on the entire Kansas River and complete a 171 mile linear park.

Check out Friends of the Kaw’s web site at www.KansasRiver.org for more information on how to get to each existing access ramp and for more information on paddling safely on the river. We recommend that novice paddlers stay off the river during high water events. FOK also hosts group educational float trips and welcomes folks with their own canoes or kayaks to join any of these trips. Every year, we take several hundred adults and children on the river and introduce them to its beauty, as well as safe recreational practices and water quality concerns. We stop on a sandbar for a hot dog and marshmallow roast as well as a short educational “sandbar seminar.”

You can make a difference in what the future holds for the Kaw. Please visit our web site at www.KansasRiver.org, and let the USACE know that further damaging the bed, banks and structures on the river is not acceptable.
Celebrate the Clean Water Act

By C. Elaine Giessel, Kansas Chapter Marine Chair

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Thanks to the CWA, the quality of water across our nation has improved dramatically since the 1960s, when rivers caught fire and the Houston Ship Channel was virtually devoid of sea life. The next decades under the CWA will be just as critical as global climate change contributes to regional water quantity and quality issues.

There is no doubt that the CWA has reduced pollution from industrial pipes and wastewater treatment plants through nationwide permitting programs. There have also been major improvements in dealing with nonpoint source pollution from stormwater runoff in cities and agricultural communities.

However, there is still much work to be done. Full implementation of the CWA can protect our headwater streams, which are often critical drinking water sources. The CWA can protect our disappearing wetlands, which act like kidneys to clean surface waters of pollutants and sediment. These wetlands also store water, slow flooding and provide critical wildlife habitat. The CWA can help protect our Midwest groundwater resources, so critical for agricultural production, where confined animal feeding operations and hydraulic fracturing for fossil fuels pose contamination threats.

Unfortunately, what happens in the Heartland does not stay in the Heartland. We send polluted surface runoff to the sea via the Missouri and Mississippi watersheds, contributing to the oxygen-depleted “dead zones” and toxic “red tides” that exist along the coast. Pharmaceuticals, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, fertilizers, even our precious prairie soil, travel thousands of river miles from farm fields, animal feed lots, waste water treatment plants, industrial outfalls, and urban storm drains to the Gulf of Mexico, impacting local economies and marine habitats. There, the Loop Current carries pollutants to the Gulf Stream and the Atlantic, our links to the great World Ocean.

The hydrologic cycle ties us to the ocean, which controls weather patterns on the planet. The sun evaporates pure water from the oceans; precipitation provides clean rain and snow for our re-use. The pollution we send downstream stays in the ocean – great for us; bad for marine organisms.

As rising greenhouse gas levels continue to warm Earth, the water cycle churns harder. Recent research estimates that every extra degree increases the amount of water moving around by 8 percent. More water moved into and out of the atmosphere in 2000 than in 1950, making saltier parts of the world’s oceans saltier and fresher waters less salty. (“Oceans’ salinity changed over last half-century: Warmer atmosphere may be to blame for changes in water cycle,” Science News, Web edition: Thursday, April 26th, 2012)

Ocean salinities, critical in determining healthy marine habitats, are not the only things impacted. The cycle that occurs over water extends over land as well. Dry lands across the globe are likely to get drier in the future, as wet places get even wetter.

Coal-fired plants emit mercury to the atmosphere. Precipitation returns the mercury to watersheds where it is biomagnified in aquatic food chains. Many water bodies in the Midwest are already posted with fish consumption advisories due to mercury content in the flesh of native fish. In the oceans, the large predatory fish at the top of the food chain, like tuna and mackerel, prompt similar consumption advisories.

Carbon dioxide emissions, from Midwest coal-fired electrical generating plants and from fossil fuels burned for transportation, are causing the level of greenhouse gases to rise. The ocean has already absorbed huge amounts of carbon dioxide and heat energy, buffering the rate of climate change.

But, it has done so at a price. Ocean temperatures are increasing, sea levels are rising, global weather patterns are changing, and seawater is becoming more acidic. Coral reefs and marine fisheries are threatened. Human societies living near sea level are already facing more floods.

Although we live far from the coast, we benefit tremendously from the ocean’s “free” ecological services. In addition to the water we receive from ocean-driven weather systems, much of the oxygen we breathe comes from photosynthesis of marine plants. We use the seas for food, recreation, and transport of Midwest products worldwide by barge and ship. The benefits to our U.S. economy are enormous.

As a marine ecologist and educator, I am excited that the public marine aquaria planned for the KC metro area will help connect people in the Heartland to the oceans. My concern
Sierra Club and Allies Mobilize Hundreds of Thousands in Support of First-ever Proposed Limits to Dangerous Carbon Pollution from New Coal Plants

CHICAGO and WASHINGTON DC. – Hundreds of Sierra Club activists and community members packed two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) public hearings today in Washington, D.C. and Chicago to demonstrate their strong support of the agency’s proposed protections from dangerous carbon pollution produced by new coal-fired power plants. Sierra Club activists joined health professionals, labor union leaders, parents, faith leaders, and public officials in testifying in favor of EPA action to adopt carbon pollution standards, which will help clean up and modernize the way we power the country and prevent life-threatening air pollution like toxic mercury, dirty soot and the smog that triggers asthma attacks. Until now there have been no national limits on the amount of carbon pollution being spewed into the air by the nation’s largest sources, dirty coal-fired power plants.

“We are here today to thank the Obama administration, and to show our ironclad support for limiting dangerous carbon pollution being dumped into our air,” said Mary Anne Hitt, Director of the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal campaign, who testified at the Washington, DC hearing with her 2-year-old daughter, Hazel. “These standards will allow EPA to focus on the industry that creates the lion’s share of the nation’s carbon pollution – Big Coal. For the sake of our kids and families who need clean air to breathe, workers who need good jobs, and all of us who need a stable climate, we urge the EPA to quickly finalize strong carbon pollution standards.”

At today’s hearings, hundreds of Sierra Club members and other concerned Americans asked the EPA to protect them from dangerous carbon pollution and to ensure that new power plants will meet public health standards. Hundreds of people packed the rooms in Chicago’s Metcalfe Federal Building and EPA Headquarters in Washington, including moms with small children, sportsmen in camouflage and activists with signs and banners.

In Chicago, leaders scheduled to testify in favor of the carbon pollution standards include:

- Alderman Daniel Solis of Chicago’s 25th Ward
- Jennifer Hirsch, Ph.D.
- Reverend Clare Butterfield, Executive Director of Faith in Place and the Illinois Interfaith Power & Light
- Brian Urbaszewski, American Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago
- Bryan Grochowski, member of Service Employees International Union Local 517
- Steve Frenkel, director of the Union of Concerned Scientists’ Midwest office.

In Washington, D.C., testifiers included:

- Mary Anne Hitt, director of the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal campaign
- Molly Rauch, an activist with the Mom’s Clean Air Force,
- Laura Anderko, RN, PHD, Endowed Chair at Georgetown University School of Nursing & Health Studies

In the weeks leading up to the public hearings, more than 1.3 million Americans submitted public comments supporting EPA action to adopt carbon pollution standards. Since the EPA public comment period began April 13, the carbon pollution standard has already generated more supportive comments than any other EPA standard in history.

Background:

Carbon pollution is the main contributor to global climate disruption and is linked to life-threatening air pollution like smog – making it a serious hazard to Americans’ health and future. Doctors, nurses, scientists, and leading public health groups like the American Lung Association have linked carbon pollution to smog pollution that triggers asthma attacks, damages and reduces the function of the lungs, and can cause heart attacks and even premature deaths. Children and seniors are particularly susceptible to the health consequences of air pollution and climate disruption.

The comment period for the proposed EPA carbon pollution standards concludes June 25.
A Symphony of Activism  

Eating As Though The Earth Matters”  

By Judy Carman  

Here in Kansas, not only do we have the Symphony on the Prairie to brag about, but recently a new kind of symphony appeared in our state. The first annual Great Plains Conference on Animals and the Environment (www.gpcae.org) took place the last weekend of April in Wichita. Why do I call it a symphony?  

In this column we’ve talked a lot about the many activist movements, what they have in common, and the importance of mutual respect and cooperation among the movements as we work together to re-create a world in which all living beings can thrive. The harmony that results from that cooperation can indeed create a kind of symphony.  

The conference was a beautiful example of how that can be done. The overarching theme was that so many issues relating to animals and the environment are interconnected and require a holistic approach by us all and a willingness to listen to each other and work together.  

The sponsors were: Advancing Compassion Together, an intergenerational Roots & Shoots affiliate group which works to empower people to make a difference in assisting human and non-human animals and the environment; the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita; the Humane Society of the United States—“a national animal protection organization that helps animals by advocating for better laws to protect animals; conducting campaigns to reform industries; providing animal rescue and emergency response; investigating cases of animal cruelty; and caring for animals through sanctuaries and wildlife rehabilitation centers, emergency shelters, and clinics.” The fourth sponsor was the Union for Humans, Animals, and the Environment which is a “student organization at Fort Hays State University dedicated to promoting solidarity, equality, consideration, and respect for all life.”  

A wide variety of topics were addressed, and yet always on the minds of attendees were the intricate connections between them all. Subjects included: cruelty to animals used in entertainment and in scientific experiments; animal ordinances in Kansas; the dire consequences of a meat based diet on animals, the environment, and our health; preparing for emergency response to local disasters; endangered and threatened species with emphasis on Great Plains species; environmental sustainability and how our lifestyles, including our dietary choices, threaten the earth; compassionate responses to feral and stray cats, while addressing their impact on wildlife; gardens, including restoring native plants; history of animal rights; animal shelter, rescue and foster programs; wildlife rehabilitation; and philosophical perspectives.  

Folks behind the scenes and the speakers themselves, including Dianne Waltner, Brendan McCampbell, Sheri Barnes, Midge Grinstead, Parendi and Arvynish Birdie, and many others (see the entire list of speakers on the website) really did create a symphony. Each speaker had his or her own specialized focus, and like so many different instruments, we could all see by the end of the day, the beautiful music we can make when working together toward a common vision, each bringing our own skills, interests, and gifts.  

In addition to speaking at this ground breaking conference, a week later I spoke at a conference at The Farm in Summer-town, Tennessee. The Farm is famous for starting out with around 1,000 young folks who followed Stephen Gaskin in a long caravan of old school buses from California to Tennessee in the early ‘70’s. They had been listening to Gaskin talk about living in harmony with the earth, and they were all determined to “walk their talk.” They moved onto the forested land without a lot of survival skills. They had to learn how to garden very quickly as you can imagine.  

They were all committed vegans and started one of the first soy/ tofu dairies in the U.S. I must say that while I was there, I had the best soy yogurt I’ve ever eaten. I was in Kansas City the following weekend at the Spring Plow and Seed Conference. I was surprised to hear that soy and tofu sales had doubled since the late ‘80’s.  

During those years raising my kids, but I remember the same commitment among my environmentalist/anti-nuke friends to be vegetarian.  

The modern animal rights movement was just getting under way. A lot of the shocking undercover footage of the cruelty and pollution at factory farms and slaughterhouses had not yet come to light. So the commitment to not eat meat had more to do with our desire to eliminate violence from ourselves and our world—it just seemed to go hand in hand with shutting down nuclear plants and saving baby harp seals.  

We were finding together a way to express our inner turmoil about the condition of the world. We questioned authority—not just in one specialized area, but in all areas—because the authority in charge was (and is) profiting from dominating and exploiting people, animals, and the earth.  

So it thrilled me to attend the Great Plains Conference on Animals and the Environment and to hear its symphony. I believe this is a sign that we are coming around full circle. Eating As Though the Earth matters (the name of this column) expresses it so well. Eating a plant-based, nonviolent diet is the fulcrum point, because the consequences of that one lifestyle change impact every single aspect of our work—the seas, the waters, the air, wildlife, the soil, and as I said in the April-May issue—our health. May we all once again embrace each interconnected issue with the clear understanding that we need each other if we are going to restore this sacred earth and raise the consciousness of humanity.  

In the words of Wendell Berry, “We must change our lives, so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption that what is good for the world will be good for us… We must abandon arrogance and stand in awe. We must recover the sense of majesty of creation, and the ability to be worshipful in its
presence. For I do not doubt that it is only on the condition of humility and reverence before the world that our species will be able to remain in it.” (from The Long Legged House)

**And to celebrate, here are some great recipes:**

(please use as many fair trade, organic, and local ingredients as possible)

**Jackie Chan’s Corn Chowder**

- 5 medium potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 3 cups water or vegetable broth
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup plain soy milk
- 2 ½ cups corn kernels

In medium saucepan, boil the potatoes in water or broth for 20 minutes. While potatoes are cooking, heat oil in frying pan. Add onion, celery, salt and pepper. Cook until just tender, about 5 minutes.

When the potatoes are soft, remove them from the saucepan and reserve the stock. Blend the potatoes with the soy milk in a blender or food processor until smooth. Return the soup to the saucepan and stir in the corn, onion mixture, and enough of the stock to achieve a creamy, thick consistency. Heat thoroughly before serving. Makes 6 servings.

**Healthy Chocolate Mousse (from Main Street Vegan)**

- ¼ cup pitted Medjool dates soaked for 10 to 30 minutes
- ¼ cup pure maple syrup
- ¼ tsp vanilla extract
- ¾ cup mashed avocado (believe it or not—you won’t taste it)
- ¼ cup cocoa
- ¼ cup water

In a food processor mix dates, syrup and vanilla first. Then after these are mixed well, add the avocado, cocoa, and then the water. Mix until creamy and smooth.

This can be spooned into small dessert bowls and topped with soy whipping cream and strawberries or smoothed into a pie crust. You will be amazed how yummy it is.

**Judy Carman, M.A., is the 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.**

# Chapter & Group Leaders

Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craig Wolfe*</td>
<td>Chair, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Communications Chair</td>
<td>(913) 299-4443, <a href="mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org">info@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Cardinal*</td>
<td>Vice-Chair</td>
<td>(785) 550-2432, <a href="mailto:ccardinali@gmail.com">ccardinali@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yvonne Cather*</td>
<td>Conservation Co-Chair, Council Delegate</td>
<td>(913) 522-4741, <a href="mailto:yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org">yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Lubow*</td>
<td>Conservation Co-Chair, Global Warming Chair</td>
<td>(913) 299-6620, <a href="mailto:craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org">craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Kneil***</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>(316) 744-1016, <a href="mailto:Thomas.Kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org">Thomas.Kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Smith****</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>(785) 621-7227, <a href="mailto:wizard13@cox.net">wizard13@cox.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolores Daniels*</td>
<td>Education Co-Chair</td>
<td>(913) 621-7227, <a href="mailto:daniels_dolores@yahoo.com">daniels_dolores@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Kirkbride*</td>
<td>Officers, Committee Chairs</td>
<td>(913) 642-1371, <a href="mailto:david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org">david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Spease*</td>
<td>Legislative Chair</td>
<td>(913) 492-2862, <a href="mailto:spease4kc@everestkc.net">spease4kc@everestkc.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Cutler***</td>
<td>Chapter Group Rep</td>
<td>(785) 379-9756, <a href="mailto:spudspla@yahoo.com">spudspla@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duane Schrag***</td>
<td>Chapter Group Rep</td>
<td>(785) 263-4002, <a href="mailto:schrag.duane@gmail.com">schrag.duane@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Schefter***</td>
<td>Chapter Group Rep</td>
<td>(913) 780-6878, <a href="mailto:purpleroc1@gmail.com">purpleroc1@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Anderson****</td>
<td>PAC Treasurer, Cool Cities Chair, Endangered Species Chair</td>
<td>(785) 246-3229, <a href="mailto:ganderson1963@gmail.com">ganderson1963@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaine Giessel*****</td>
<td>Environmental Justice Co-Chair</td>
<td>(913) 888-8517, <a href="mailto:elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org">elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Griffith******</td>
<td>Energy Chair</td>
<td>(913) 772-8960, <a href="mailto:bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org">bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Volland*****</td>
<td>CAFO Chair, Trade Chair, Agriculture Chair, Air Quality Chair</td>
<td>(913) 788-7336, <a href="mailto:volland@kansas.sierraclub.org">volland@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**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, wizardl3@cox.net

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

**Topeka Group**
- Gary Anderson*, Chair, Program Chair, (785) 246-3229, ganderson1963@gmail.com
- Jim Tuchscherer*, Vice Chair, (785) 272 5633, jimtuch@earthlink.net
- Bill Cutler*, Secretary, Treasurer, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 379-9756, spudspla@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, nmközisek@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, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com
- 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
General Meetings

Kanza 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@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
July 10. 6:30 pm.
Beyond Coal Campaign
6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.
7:00 pm - Scott Allegrucci will provide an update for National Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign (BCC), which got a major shot in the arm from Mayor Bloomberg's $50 Million donation to Sierra Club to fight coal. Scott is the Campaign's Senior Regional Representative for Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa. You may remember Scott from his recent gig as Executive Director for GPACE in Kansas. BCC is doing big things, so join us to find out what is happening.
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.

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
August 14. 6:30 pm.
Carbon Fee & Dividend Presentation
6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.
7:00 pm - Craig Wolfe will discuss Carbon Fee & Dividend, a legislative initiative to address the most serious problem that our Planet faces…climate change. Given that the U.S. must lead the Planet on this issue, and given our sad state of affairs in Congress, a truly brilliant idea must enable us to, indeed, take action in Congress and move us from our denial and ignorance on this topic. Carbon Fee & Dividend is that brilliant idea!!
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.
Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)
June 8. 6:30 p.m.
Southwind Annual Picnic
The Annual Southwind Picnic will be held at the Belle Plaine Arboretum. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)
June 9. 8:00 a.m. (public 9:00 a.m.)
Walk with Wildlife
The Great Plains Nature Center will host their annual Walk with Wildlife on June 9th. The Nature Center locates stations next to walking paths in Chisholm Creek Park which feature various native Kansas animals. Volunteers from various organizations are assigned to the stations to provide information and answer questions from the public regarding each animal. The Southwind Group has been providing volunteers for the event for many years. If you would like additional information or to volunteer to help with the event, contact Tom Kneil at 316-744-1016 or Thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org.

Topeka Group
June 26. 7:00 p.m.
Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant
6:00 pm - Jenny Hageman, Corporate Communications/Staff Specialist at Wolf Creek will share a video and give us an update on our nearby nuclear power plant. She will be available for questions so bring them to educate yourself and others about this power generation. Join us for an educational evening.
Where - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, 4775 SW 21st St., Topeka.
Contact - Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

Topeka Group.
July 24. 7:00 p.m.
Movie Night-Koch Brothers Exposed
We will show the recent documentary on the Koch Brothers. It brings out information about their involvement in areas not well known. It also alerts us to organizations that they either created or support which influence their messages. Bring your information and we'll add to it. Bring your questions and we'll see if we can answer them. It's time we got to know more about this Kansas corporation.
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
June 2. 11:45 am.
July 7. 11:45 am.
August 4. 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.

We'll stay overnight at the scenic Camp Wood YMCA – bring your tent or stay in a comfortable cabin – and have a horseback trail ride on Sunday morning! This is a great weekend for kids and camping newbie's! Overnight camping and riding fees apply at Camp Wood. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

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

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

How many times have you taken a hike in a wildlife area and not seen any wildlife? Well, come on out Saturday June 9 and we'll bring the animals to you! As you walk a 1 mile handicapped-accessible loop of our trail system here at Chisholm Creek Park, visit stations set up along the way and see more critters than you can shake a stick at! Sierra Club members will be at several of the information stations. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

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

The National Outings Program

Part of the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, Sierra Club Outings provides environmentally-friendly outdoor adventures—from Tahoe to Tibet—for people of all ages, abilities, and interests.

Trip Types
We launch new trips four times a year based on this schedule.

International Travel:
Spot rare birds in Costa Rica, unveil the secrets of ancient religions in Turkey, or hike to mountain monasteries in Bhutan. With 50 active itineraries each year, our international excursions visit all corners of the globe. View the full list of upcoming international trips.

Domestic Travel:
Toting along a gaggle of little ones? Try one of our popular family outings. Searching for remote wilderness? Embark on one of many backpacking trips. These and other activities we offer are below. Just click on a trip type for more info and a list of what's available.

We also offer trips for specific audiences, including women, beginners, seniors, and multigenerational families...

Backpack, Base Camp, Bicycle, Canoe, Family, Kayak, Lodge, Raft, Sailing, Service (volunteer vacations), Snow (ski, dog mushing, and snowshoe), and Supported Trekking

We've been doing it for more than a century, ever since Sierra Club founder John Muir discovered an essential truth while out hiking the high country: If you want people to go...
to bat for the environment, you’ve got to get them into the wilderness. “If people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish,” he said back in 1901.

That’s always been the guiding principle here, and it’s resulted in a lot of excellent trips, year after year. But there’s another thing that sets our program apart: the volunteer leaders who scout, plan, and lead all of our outings. Nobody pays them for their efforts. They do it out of an appreciation for these special places, and a passion for sharing them with you.

Got a question about a trip? Our leaders have the answers, and they’re more than willing to fill you in. Just check the biographies at the bottom of our trip brochures for the leader’s e-mail address. If you’d prefer to speak to a leader by phone, just contact us and we’ll set you up.

There’s no shortage of reasons to travel with us, but here’s a final one. No matter where we are—whether swinging from a zip line in Costa Rica, repairing a trail in New Mexico, or puffing up a switchback in the Cascades—we never forget the Sierra Club’s mission: to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet. Over the years, we’ve found that these ideals mesh pretty well. Why not join us on a trip and find out for yourself?

Happy travels!
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.

### Apr - May 2012

**Out** June 1-3. Car camp, Flint Hills, Tall Grass National Preserve, Strong City, KS. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

**GM** Jun 2. 11:45 am. Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-5556, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com

**Out** Jun 2. Day hike & picnic at Clinton Lake Lawrence KS. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

**CM** June 3. 5:30 pm. Executive and Fundraising Committee. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Out** Jun 9. Bike Ride to Powell Garden, Kingsville, MO. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

**GM** Jun 12. 6:30 pm. An Update on the Latest in Solar Trends. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Out** Jun 23. Wakarusa River Canoe Trip, Desoto, KS. Kanza. Bill Nichols, nichols4848@sbcglobal.net

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

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

**GM** Jun 26. 7:00 pm. Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

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**CM** Jul 1. 5:30 pm. Executive and Fundraising Committee. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

**GM** Jul 7. 11:45 am. Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-5556, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com

**GM** Jul 10. 6:30 pm. Beyond Coal Campaign. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

**CM** Jul 14. 9:15 am. Chapter ExCom Meeting. Chapter. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

**GM** Jul 24. 7:00 pm. Movie Night-Koch Brothers Exposed. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

**CM** Jul 26. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

**CM** Jul 26. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211, rsommer@kc.rr.com

**GM** Aug 4. 11:45 am. Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-5556, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com

**GM** Aug 14. 6:30 pm. Carbon Fee & Dividend Presentation. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org